FMHS carpentry team takes first place at state...again

Electrical squad takes 2nd place at competition

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - For the second straight year, the Fort Madison building trades program has brought home a title.

Two teams from Fort Madison, a carpentry team and an electrical team, participated in the competition put on by the Association of the Building Contractors of Iowa. Students Elijah Barnes, Eliot Kruse, Bradley Sporkman, and Brandon Reichelt captured the state title in the carpentry competition, while AJ Nolting and Jordin Gerdes won second place in the electrical competition.

It was the third year that Fort Madison has entered the contest with shining results. The first year, 2015, the Bloodhounds took 2nd place in the carpentry division and last year they won the competition, repeating as champions this year.

Building Trades instructor Clint Kobelt said this year was especially exciting for him and the students as the Hounds won in the face of some stiff adversity. Kobelt, who is relegated to just observing during the 4.5 hour competition, said this year was taxing for the Bloodhounds. The team placed 2nd place in the electrical competition.

New Dimensions hairstylist Jenny Craft finishes up with Army Veteran Bill McClain, who served 33.5 years in the service. New Dimensions gave free haircuts and styles to any military veteran free of charge on Sunday afternoon.

WP extends shared policing six months

Council also approves agreement with utility

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - An extension to an agreement that provides shared police services with West Point and Donnellson was approved by the West Point City Council at their last regular meeting of 2017. According to West Point Mayor Paul Walker, the agreement was extended through the end of June to allow both communities to get the agreement included in the upcoming budgeting season.

"We met with the Donnellson's representatives in Donnellson a couple weeks ago and our public safety people from here were there. And we had a discussion on how this was working and so far everyone seemed happy. We tweaked a couple things that night and they approved it late last week. We need to approve it this week so it can go to the state," Walker said.

"The reason why we went with another six months was so we can discuss the budget now and we can get it in the budget in July. That way we don't have to amend the budget and things like that. We can set wages which affects their wages also," Walker said.

West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts said the arrangement is working well for both communities. "The council meeting last week was a good meeting and they're moving forward with that. They are looking at maybe replacing one of their cars and that won't affect our end of it, but I think they're happy with the services we're providing," he said.

In an unrelated matter, the council approved a resolution setting a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with West Point Municipal Electric System. The agreement will provide a monthly payment of $5,171, which is based on the utilities' net revenue of $1,551,411 for the previous calendar year ending Dec. 3, 2016.

See COUNCIL, page 8

FMHS building trades instructor Clint Kobelt shows points to joist work in the class' new hydroponic addition on the ag building Monday afternoon. Four members of the class took first place at last week's state high school carpentry competition.

Students Elijah Barnes, Eliot Kruse, Bradley Sporkman, and Brandon Reichelt captured the state title in the carpentry competition, while AJ Nolting and Jordin Gerdes won second place in the electrical competition.
5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 12 Dec
Light Snow
High – 24.8°F | Low – 22.4°F

WED 13 Dec
Clear Skies
High – 36.3°F | Low – 23.7°F

THU 14 Dec
Light Snow
High – 34.4°F | Low – 26.8°F

FRI 15 Dec
Light Snow
High – 30.8°F | Low – 27.3°F

SAT 16 Dec
Clear Skies
High – 46.8°F | Low – 32.0°F

Ugly sweaters, happy trails

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph, with ceremonial scissors at left, cuts the ribbon on Phase II of the PORT trail on 48th Street Sunday. As part of the celebration, an Ugly Sweater 5K was also held. At left are some of the smiles and sweaters...and treats.

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Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph, with ceremonial scissors at left, cuts the ribbon on Phase II of the PORT trail on 48th Street Sunday. As part of the celebration, an Ugly Sweater 5K was also held. At left are some of the smiles and sweaters...and treats.

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Steffensmeiers finish 1-2-3 at “The Munch”

BY FCC STAFF

PONTIAC - Harlan Steffensmeier took the title at “The Munch” Pontiac Invitational Friday and Saturday in Pontiac, Ill., and the Hounds just missed bringing home a trophy with a fifth-place finish overall.

Steffensmeier won all five of his matches at 152 including a bye in the first round on Friday. In the quarterfinals on Saturday, Steffensmeier pinned Al’Evon Pittman of Kankakee in a mere 5-22 to advance to the 3rd place match after placing third in the 195 lb. division and Courtney Six in the 113-123 lbs. division.

Complete results for the meet are listed below.

Steffensmeier scored a 13-3 major decision against DeAvion Sloan of TFN and caught Shepherds’ Eric Muhammad in a pin in just 12 seconds to advance to the title match where he suffered a fall at :53 at the hands of Austin O’Donohue of Lincoln.

The Bloodhounds took a 3rd place finish at 145 pounds when Aaron Steffensmeier scored a major decision against Prairie Central’s Seth Travis 12-2. Steffensmeier got to the 3rd place match after scoring a 10-0 decision over Sam Fletcher of Riverside-Brookfield. Civic Memorial’s Peyton Betchtold scored a 19-10 major decision over Steffensmeier.

Ryan Steffensmeier captured 2nd place at 126 with a 3rd place finish after scoring a 13-3 major decision against Prairie Central’s Boson Detratt (Prairie Central) (MD 11-0). Cons. Round 4 - Ashan Guzman (Marion) over Owen Kruse (Fort Madison) (TF 16-12-3). 120: Dayne Cornday (Fort Madison) - 4th Champ. Round 1 - Dayne Cornday (Fort Madison) over Caleb Johnson (Prairie Central) (MD 3-2). Champ. Round 2 - Dayne Cornday (Fort Madison) (over Lezbe Merkle (Kankakee) (Fall 1:19)). 126: Round 1 - Dayne Cornday (Fort Madison) over Zaylan Hardnett (Champaign Central) (TF 16-12-3-2).SEMIFINALS - Vincet Roko (Herschler) over Chance Cornday (Fort Madison) (Dec 9-3). 3rd Place Match - Caleb Nagler (Bishop McNamara Catholic) over Dayne Cornday (Fort Madison) (Dec 7-2). 120: Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) - 3rd Champ. Round 1 - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) received a bye. Champ. Round 2 - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) over Anderson Ryan (Normal Community) (Fall 0:40). Quarterfinals - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) over Daven Strom (Thornton Fractional North) (MD 12-3). SEMIFINALS - Eric Muhammed (Shepton) (Fall 0:12). 1st Place Match - Austin O’Donohue (Lincoln) over Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) (Fall 0:53). 126: Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) - DNP Champ. Round 1 - Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) received a bye. Champ. Round 2 - Andrew Start (Bishop McNamara Catholic) over Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) (TF 21-6-3-2). 132: Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) - 1st Champ. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) received a bye. Champ. Round 2 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) over Ron Smith (Thorwood) (Fall 1:12). Quarterfinals - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) over Alvin Pitman (Kankakee) (Fall 3-0). SEMIFINALS - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) over Jeyahn Royal (Prairie Central) (Fall 2:43). 1st Place Match - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) over Blake Johnson (Thornton Fractional North) (Fall 2:53). 170: Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) - 2nd Champ. Round 1 - Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Champ. Round 2 - Jordan Perez (Joliet Central) over Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) (Fall 1:40). Champ. Round 2 - Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Champ. Round 3 - John Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Champ. Round 4 - John Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Cons. Round 1 - Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Cons. Round 2 - Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Cons. Round 3 - Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye. Cons. Round 4 - Chance Hocker (Fort Madison) over a bye.

FMHS jv grapplers place at Keokuk

KEOKUK - Quinton Ross placed second in the 127-138 lb. division at the Keokuk Invitational Saturday day. Will Larson took 3rd in the 133-143 lbs. division and Courtney Settles took 4th place in the 113-123 lbs. division. Complete results from the meet are listed below.

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Throughout high school, "I'm interested in this after high school and I knew it would be a good program. I really like the teacher," Kruse said.

Team was one person short

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| compared to last year. "In all honesty, the day before the competition this was a five-man team. Thursday when we left for Des Moines Ryan Reese got sick," Kobelt said. "They had been practicing and working as a team and sort of had the division of labor figured out. Everyone had their strength and to lose 20% of your team, that's like losing your point guard. They had to adjust to pick up the slack. The ability of those four young men to adjust on the fly and pick up that slack and put out the product they did was amazing." The Bloodhounds went up against 12 other schools that had signed up for the competition. Kobelt said he thinks the level of competition scares off a lot of schools from competing because they don't have the programing that the other schools have.

"Fort Madison has made a conscious decision to move toward industry standard training and away from the traditional woodshop classes where you build a bird house. That takes a significant commitment in staffing and courses. That's no small feat." The contest involved getting a set of blue prints and a stack of materials and the teams then have a four-and-a-half-hour time limit to build the project, which this year was an oversized dog house. Kobelt said he can offer no help to the students.

He said the win is even more impressive when you consider Fort Madison is on a tri-semester schedule and not the traditional semester class rotation.

"Well, Fort Madison is kind of a disadvantage that we're on trimesters. Most schools are on semester schedules and they've been together since August," Kobelt said "Now these kids have only been together functioning as a team for the first time, but have had other classes together so they know each other pretty well."

Several of the team members, including Kruse, a junior, said the competition is using skills taught, but also that the school's put us in a good position. "I think this says, first, that we have a really good teacher, but also that the school's put us in a good situation to be able to go up there, compete, and win," Barnes said. Barnes has taken many courses in the building trades curriculum and said he thinks it will eventually transition into a career for him. However, he is considering going to junior college to play football and some of the juco programs that are looking at him have solid construction programs.

He said finding out the team would be one short didn't distract them from their goal of repeating as champions. "We just had to redistribute where the work had to go," Barnes said. "But we went in with the mindset that we were going to win. Being there last year I knew what to expect and what was going to happen. So I was thinking of how we could be the most efficient with the work we had to do and in the time we had to get it done." The electrical team also had four-and-a-half hours to complete their task of wiring four switches, two-three.

More results from the Keokuk junior varsity meet

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<td>over Arya Patel (Fairfield) (Fall 2:25)</td>
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<td>over Chance Decker (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Zack Nugent (Kirksville) over Chance Decker (Fort Madison) (Fall 2:30)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Bryna Angle (Burlington) over Chance Decker (Fort Madison) (Fall 2:47)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Chase Mitz (Galesburg) over Chance Decker (Fort Madison) (Fall 1:35)</td>
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<td>over Austin Haas (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Dylan Jeffers (Kosciusko) over Austin Haas (Fort Madison) (Fall 1:34)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Drake Smith (West Burlington/Notre Dame) over Austin Haas (Fort Madison) (MD 12-1)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Austin Haas (Fort Madison) over Oscar Lopez (Mount Pleasant) (Fall 1:24)</td>
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<td>over Dawson Hunt (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Collin Ingham (Madison) over Dawson Hunt (Fort Madison) (Fall 2:14)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Dawson Hunt (Fort Madison) over Tommy Jones (Fairfield) (Fall 0:42)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Dawson Hunt (Fort Madison) over Tros Myrdahl (Kosciusko) (Fall 2:27)</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Austin Khsitikhare (Kosciusko) over Gunther Johnson (Fort Madison) (Fall 5:24)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Heman Garcia-Lopez (Kirksville) over Gunther Johnson (Fort Madison) (Fall 1:50)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Ty Lutjens (Kosciusko) over Gunther Johnson (Fort Madison) (Fall 2:35)</td>
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<td>over Logan Kaarmo (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Logan Kaarmo (Fort Madison) over Toby Oliver (Fairfield) (TF 18-2 3:08)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Logan Kaarmo (Fort Madison) over Martin Vineyard (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Logan Kaarmo (Fort Madison) over Martin Vineyard (Fort Madison) (MD 12-4)</td>
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<td>over Chance Wheeler (Crichlow/Winfield/Kosciusko) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Alex Lauder (Fort Madison) over Chance Wheeler (Crichlow/Winfield/Kosciusko) (Fall 5:51)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Alex Lauder (Fort Madison) over Colton Nearing (New London) (Fall 1:17)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Alex Lauder (Fort Madison) over Colton Nearing (New London) (Fall 5:16)</td>
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<td>over Keaton Poe (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Owen Gange (Burlington) over Keaton Poe (Fort Madison) (Dec 8-6)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Keaton Poe (Fort Madison) over Keaton Poe (Fort Madison) (Fall 2:27)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Keaton Poe (Fort Madison) over Keaton Poe (Fort Madison) (Fall 5:17)</td>
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<td>over Mason Schau (Fort Madison) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Mason Schau (Fort Madison) over Dagan Gurne (Kosciusko) (Dec 4:4)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Mason Schau (Fort Madison) over Dagan Gurne (Kosciusko) (Dec 4:2)</td>
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<td>over Jacob Bland (Fairfield) - DNP</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Jarrett Settles (Fort Madison) over Jacob Bland (Fairfield) (Dec 4-2)</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Jarrett Settles (Fort Madison) over Jacob Bland (Fairfield) (Dec 5-1)</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Mason Schau (Fort Madison) over Jacob Bland (Fairfield) (Dec 4-2)</td>
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Consider Approval of Resolution Combating the Opioid Epidemic
Receive Recorder’s Appointment of Compensation Board Member
Personnel Actions:
A. Step Increase-Engineer’s Office
B. Step Increase-Audit-tee’s Office (2)
Reports:
A. Treasurer’s Report of Fees Collected
B. Recorder’s Report of Fees Collected
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME
Workshop to follow
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I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT
II. BOARD APPROVAL OF AGENDA
III. BOARD APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
IV. BOARD APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVOICES PAYABLE
V. EDUCATION REPORT: BASES PROGRAM FUNDING
VI. BOARD ACTION ON EMPLOYEE RESPONSE
VII. BOARD ACTION ON THE 2017-2019 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the employee resignation as presented.
VII. BOARD ACTION ON THE 2017-2019 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN UPDATE
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
I recommend approval of the plan update as presented.
VIII. BOARD ACTION TO ELECT THE AEA BOARD MEMBER FOR THE IASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATOR’S COMMENTS:
Two individuals are up for nomination to represent Iowa’s AEAs on the IASB Board of Directors: Ken Krumwiede, Mississippi Bend AEA and Elizabeth Brennan, Heartland AEA. After your decision I will cast the vote on behalf of the Board by December 21, 2017.
IX. REPORTS TO THE BOARD
X. ADJOURNMENT

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City Administrator Gary Menke said the agreement was set up because a lot of the buildings being used are exempt from taxes and the city does provide services to the utility and this is a fair way to recoup some of those costs.

The resolution also calls for a yearly review of the calculation.

In other action,
- the council approved the sale of three parcels of land with unanimous votes on all three parcels. Those purchasing the property are Thad and Angie Boeding with two parcels totaling $1,383.05 and one parcel to Bernie and Ann Abolt for $1,776.80.
- Each city councilman and mayor were sworn in including newly elected councilman Joseph Loving who replaces Larry Buchholz. Roberts, Menke, and City Clerk Diane Smith were also all sworn in. Buchholz said he will miss serving the residents of West Point.

“I’m gonna miss it. I really am,” he said. “People like Gary back there, and Paul, and all the council make it real easy,” Buchholz said. “I want to thank everyone for all the support they gave.”

The councilman approved the sale of three parcels of land with unanimous votes on all three parcels. Those purchasing the property are Thad and Angie Boeding with two parcels totaling $1,383.05 and one parcel to Bernie and Ann Abolt for $1,776.80.

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The resolution also calls for a yearly review of the calculation.

In other action,
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IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:36 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>9:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto America™</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:45 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>9:40 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Don’t throw away your Electronics!!! Help us prevent fires in the landfill!”

GRRWA will be closed Christmas Day & New Year’s Day

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office:
2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

12/11
16 37 46 47 48
Lucky Ball: 9

12/11 MID-DAY
2 7 2
12/11 EVENING
4 6 0

12/11 MID-DAY
6 3 8 2
12/11 EVENING
2 5 0 1

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.