School district’s 2017 efforts focused on defining FMHS graduate

FORT MADISON - Personal growth, defining district graduates, and internal alignment were the main focuses of the Fort Madison School District in 2017. Fort Madison Superintendent and school board president Tim Wondra agreed that the past year has been filled with many moving targets, but the process of dealing with those has been one of collaboration and standard alignment.

With state and federal assessments for teaching standards in transition, not to mention the uncertainty of funding in the district, school officials have stayed focused on keeping teachers aligned at all grade levels to one objective.

“There’s been a huge shift over the past 18 months. There’s been a huge shift over the past 18 months,” Wondra said.

Slater said STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and now STEAM, adding the arts, has been a main focus of teaching efforts.

“Almost immediately out of the gate, when Slater was hired in early 2016, there’s been a push to specifically identify what a Fort Madison High School graduate will look like when they leave the district.

And the programming through bi-weekly Wednesday early outs, advisory committees, the school board professional development, and other programming is helping to define that graduate spec.

And successes are starting to be seen at all four district buildings.

Lincoln and Richardson

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**CURRENT-LEE**

**BY PCC STAFF** - Lee County Crime Stoppers will be holding a chili fundraiser at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk Hy-Vee locations on Jan. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used for expenses and criminal payouts.

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**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>High-Temp</th>
<th>Low-Temp</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Light Rain</td>
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<td>11.9º F</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Scattered Clouds</td>
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<td>33.4º F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Jan</td>
<td>Light Rain</td>
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<td>38.0º F</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 12 Jan</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>18.2º F</td>
<td>5.7º F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Middle School

The PACK Program is one of the top achievements at the Fort Madison Middle School in 2017. "The kids are learning the STEM stuff without it being 'this is science class,'" Wondra said. "They are learning without knowing they are learning. It's fun." He said five to seven years ago, outside play time was just a free-for-all on the playground, which kids needed as a release, but now the school has capitalized on that and turned it into the two-hour cycle each day that integrates learning and teamwork. "Here they're getting play time but it is structured so they are learning something, not just running out and playing. You get all that brain work and you need a break and it does give the kids a chance to exhale, but they're still absorbing." Slater said there is still a STEM focus outside of the PACK program. "Fourth grade has done a couple things where they build airplanes of paper and straw. But if you said to a fourth grader what do you think of physics, they wouldn't know how to answer. But this is a higher level thinking. Now they're studying creating homes that could withstand natural disasters, fires, floods and having contests to see immediate results of an attempt to do something." She said eighth grade projects including working on manufacturing concepts in IT classes and a 7th and 8th grade robotics team went to Iowa City recently. "Here they're getting play time but it is structured and said, 'you WILL get these hours in' and everyone agreed. So this year will be interesting." Slater said there is still a STEM focus outside of the PACK program. "Fourth grade has done a couple things where they build airplanes of paper and straw. But if you said to a fourth grader what do you think of physics, they wouldn't know how to answer. But this is a higher level thinking. Now they're studying creating homes that could withstand natural disasters, fires, floods and having contests to see immediate results of an attempt to do something." She said eighth grade projects including working on manufacturing concepts in IT classes and a 7th and 8th grade robotics team went to Iowa City recently. "The advanced pursuit team traveled to Iowa City in October as part of a LEGO project in water cycles. These are opportunities for students that aren't available to the younger students to see what's going on in the real world."

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### FMHS

Slater said there is a strong push to provide leadership opportunities and community involvement at the high school. "We really want to provide students with leadership opportunities beyond the classroom and trying to make sure our students are becoming better leaders. When the board did professional development, we developed goals where the leading question was 'what do you want an FMHS graduate to look like?'" Slater said. The board approved several student trips in 2017 including DECA, the business-based student club, and FFA leadership conferences. A volunteer hour requirement has continued to grow with the requirement increasing for this year's freshman to 20 hours over 10 hours the past several years. "When we first implemented 10 hours of mandatory volunteer hours the students had trouble getting them in," Wondra said. "This year it has changed to every time I go to an event there are high school students being a part of that and doing well with that. It's nice to see that change. I think the school has done a nice job making it easier for outside organizations to say we need help." "It will be interesting to see this year's numbers," Slater said. "We had a lot of seniors who thought, 'you know they aren't going to make us do it,' but (high school principal) Greg Smith and I stuck to our guns and said, 'you WILL get these hours in' and everyone got them in. So this year will be interesting." She said the service hours are supposed to be outside the school walls and outside the particular activity. "Key Club singing Christmas Carols - that's part of the club activity. This is beyond even that, it's unstructured work that you have to go out and get." One of the neatest things Wondra said is happening at the high school is Bloodhound TV. What just happened...
From the Front/Lottery Numbers

FMHS seeing success on multiple fronts

Review. Continued from Page 2

four months ago was an idea has now become an elective class at the high school, where students put together a news broadcast that is uploaded via YouTube for anyone to watch. Students in the journalism class are now putting together news broadcasts that are uploaded via YouTube for anyone to watch. The high school has also re-invigorated a drama club that put on a theatrical presentation in the fall in the school’s theater. Along curriculum lines, the high school has added AP classes in Geography, English, History, and entrepreneurship with dual credit courses with the University of Iowa. But Slater was quick to point out that the district’s priority was the goal of higher level thinking and not necessarily to help offset some of the ever-increasing costs of college.

“If the goal is for kids to get higher level thinking,” she said. “It’s a bonus if they get the four or whatever credits and can save some money, but our job is to get them to that point when they cross the stage where they have that higher level deeper thinking.”

District officials are waiting on state and federal government standards from the state and federal education officials that reflects current teaching standards and initiatives.

Slater said it’s difficult now to gauge success with data alone because the country and state are in flux as to what assessment tool best reflects current teaching. So she said the district is focusing on internal alignments that have teachers coming together on Early Out Wednesdays in teaching groups to analyze and evaluate what is working best in the schools.

“There are so many standards from the state and federal government that it’s difficult to prioritize,” she said. “With Early Out Wednesdays teachers can get into content or grade level groups to make sure we are teaching similar things regardless of the teacher you have. Then we come together to look at assessments,” she said.

“This didn’t start this year, this has been going on for 18 months or so. If we’re not aligned and we’re teaching the same class, it’s just education lottery. Who gets you, who gets me. We need to be teaching to the same standards and assessing them the same way so when we come together and look at those and one teacher has five students who get the learning and another class where most of the class didn’t get the learning, we can look at what we need to better. We can teach different ways but we have to reach that same standard.”

“Before you’d have three different teachers grading the same essay, you get three different results, but now they’re working all together so we get a closer assessment and grading and that will be more helpful to the students as well,” Wondra said.

The district’s new P3 Campus software, which allows students anonymity and privacy in reporting threatening or disrupting activities, has proven successful in 2017. Although it is unknown how many reports have been received, the district’s threat assessment team did direct a school lockdown prior to the winter break as a result of several reports on the same issue.

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Lotto Drawings

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Pen City Current - Monday, January 8, 2018 - 3
## Sports

### Fort Madison grapplers take one of four duals at North Scott

**BY FCC STAFF**

ELDRIDGE - The Fort Madison wrestling team took one of four dual meets on Saturday at the North Scott High School duals.

The Hounds downed Davenport West 54-15 highlighted by pins from Aaron Steffensmeier at 145 lbs, Harlan Steffensmeier at 152 lbs, Sam Hayes at 195 lbs, Dayne Cordray at 120 lbs, and Dalton Mabeus at 285 lbs. Fort Madison also garnered points from five forfeits.

The Hounds lost a close match against Central Dewitt 45-32. Aaron and Harlan Steffensmeier started the dual with back-to-back pins with Harlan in just 18. Then Losses by Keaton Poe at 160 lbs, Chance Hocker at 170, and Martin Vineyard at 182 lbs, all by pin, put the Hounds in a deficit.

Aaron Steffensmeier, Hayes, and Cordray had the only wins in the Bloodhounds in the North Scott match. While Aaron and Harlan Steffensmeier, Hayes, Steffensmeier, and Cordray all scored points for the Hounds against Hempstead.

Prior to the winter break, Iowa Wrestled and The Predicament, both state wrestling ranking publications had Harlan Steffensmeier ranked 4th in the state at 152 lbs and Harlan Steffensmeier ranked 4th in the state wrestling ranking.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Board Meeting Agenda
Great Prairie Area Education Agency
January 9, 2018
5:00 PM Board Dinner - Conference Room A
5:30 PM Regular Board Meeting - Conference Room A
GPAEA Fairfield Office, 2000 West Jackson, Fairfield, Iowa
GPAEA Board Zoom
Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: https://zoom.us/j/420666315
Or join by phone: +1 646 568 7788 (US Toll) or +1 415 762 9988 (US Toll)
Meeting ID: 420 666 315

AGENDA

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD PRESIDENT

II. OPEN FORUM

III. BOARD APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. BOARD APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

V. BOARD APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVOICES PAYABLE

VI. EDUCATION REPORT - SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS - SETH DENNEY

VII. BOARD ACTION ON EMPLOYEE RESIGNATIONS:
   a. Joseph Hudson, COTA
   b. Virginia Van Auken, Assistant Foreman
   c. Charlene Doyle, Four Plus Instructor
   d. Jill Fugate, Printing Technician
   e. Linda Gittins, Receiving/Billing Clerk
   f. Connie Hammond, Bookkeeper-Payroll
   g. Deborah Mueller, COTA
   h. Mary O’Brien, Printing Technician
   i. Vickie Parker, Early Childhood Consultant
   j. Gina Rappenecker, Speech and Language Pathologist
   k. Larry Thompson, Custodian
   l. Administrator’S COMMENTS:
      I recommend approval of the applications for Early Separation as presented.
   m. Thomas Buhrow, Four Plus Instructor
   n. Virginia Van Auken, Assistant Foreman
   o. Charles Liddle, COTA
   p. Virginia Van Auken

IX. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

A. OATH OF OFFICE

X. ADJOURNMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County Conservation Board
Meeting Agenda
January 9, 2018
2:00 p.m.
Lee County Conservation Center
2652 Highway 61

Montrose, IA 52639

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from January 4, 2018
3. Election of Officers for 2018
4. Public Input
   This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board.
   The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters included in the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent agenda.
5. Approval of Hills
6. Approval of Financial Report
7. LCBC Bylaws Discussion
8. Lee County Pheasants Forever Sponsorship
9. Staff Reports
10. Board Member Comments
11. Adjournment
   Next regular meeting will be February 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. (winter meeting time)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County Iowa Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY, January 9, 2018
MEETING CONVENING TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: North Lee Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, IA 52627

Consider Approval of:

North Lee Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, IA 52627
BUDGET WORKSHOP
1:30 Veteran Affairs
1:45 Health Department
2:15 IT
2:30 Community Services
3:00 Treasurer
3:30 Conservation
4:00 Secondary Roads

Times are tentative

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME
Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI
Administrator 319-372-3705
County Website: www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County, Iowa Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY, January 9, 2018
MEETING CONVENING TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:

Consider Approval of:

North Lee Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, IA 52627

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Approve Tuesday, January 2, 2018 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input Appointment of County Attorney
Oath of Office Appointment of Assistant County Attorney

Consider Approval of Contract and Contractor’s Bond for PCC Paving Project
North of 205th Ave in St Paul
Consider Approval of Replacing Assistant Foreman in Secondary Roads
Consider Approval of Amendment to Agreement with Advanced Correctional Healthcare for Inmate Health Services
Receive Compensation Board Recommendation
Consider Approval of Tax Abatements Resolution (9)
Personnel Actions: A. Step Increase-Treasurer’s Office
   B. Position Transfers
   -Secondary Roads Reports:
      A. Treasurer’s Report of Fees Collected
      B. Treasurer’s Semi Annual Report
      Commission or Committee Reports
      Adjourn

Budget Workshop to Follow
   A. Security
   B. Human Services County Attorney Sheriff
   C. Recorder Maintenance
   D. Board of Supervisors

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME
Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI
Administrator 319-372-3705
County Website: www.leecounty.org

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1301 37th St
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1301 37th St
Larry Holtkamp
Fort Madison, IA 52627
Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:

- Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste.
- Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.
- Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.
- Place all recyclable products loose in bins.
- Do not recycle wrapping paper.
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. Click Here for more guidance!

For your convenience:
- Convenient Drop-Off Locations in 10 cities
- Curbside Recycling Bins are available at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations
- HHW Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Hounds rebound with win over Albia Saturday

BY PCC STAFF

ALBIA - The Fort Madison boys basketball team had three players in double figures Saturday in their 70-57 win over Albia on the road.

Senior Kaleb Cresswell paced the Hounds with 17 points. Trevor James-Kokjohn added 13 and Logan Rashid had 11 from his point guard spot.

The Hounds got to the free throw line 30 times on the night converting 21 including 20 in the second half. Fort Madison raced out to an 11-4 lead half way through the first quarter but Albia wasn’t able to get to the free throw line as the Blue Demons began to foul to try and stay in the game.

James-Kokjohn, Cresswell, and Shey-mouth Redd-Donald each nailed 3-pointers in the first half. Albia was able to cut the lead to just eight at the end of the third period as senior guard Nick Maddison, who was averaging just under 14 points per game, lit up the Hounds for 21 points in the second half. The Blue Demons closed the gap to five with seven minutes to go in the fourth quarter, but Fort Madison was able to start pulling away with a 6-0 run in the next minute and then were able to get to the free throw line as the Blue Demons began to foul to try and stay in the game.

Keester finished with nine points, Redd-Donald had 8, senior Lorenzo Riles had seven points, and sophomore Jayden Fedler added five.

The 7-4 Hounds sit in second place in the Southeast Conference behind 8-2 Mt. Pleasant. Fort Madison has won four of their last five and travel to Keokuk for a Friday night boys/girls doubleheader.

More Saturday wrestling stats

DUALS - Continued from Page 4

OCTOPUS (DUHE) over Mason Schau (DUHE) (Fall 1:32) 120: Dayne Contray (FOMA) over Marian Obermosing (DUHE) (Fall 1:45) 126: Joe Pits (DUHE) over Ryan Steffenhagen (FOMA) (Dec 0:47) - 132: Charlie Hayes (FOMA) over Steven Blosch (DUHE) (Fall 1:35) 145: Mason Contray (DUOMA) over Keaton Poe (FOMA) (Fall 1:02) 220: Joe Pits (DUHE) over Ryan Naraja (FOMA) (Fall 1:32)

Hounds travel to Keokuk Friday

CLOSE - Continued from Page 4

Dalyon Wondra and Elesha Estrada each scored two points for Fort Madison who falls to 0-11 on the year.

The Hounds travel to Keokuk on Friday night for a boys/girls varsity doubleheader.

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