HTC project ahead of schedule

Thursday morning hoist puts 46-ton wall with cross on northern face of $6 million elementary school

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - Construction crews with SG Construction out of Burlington hoisted a 46-ton slab of concrete and metal into place on a chilly Thursday morning as the sun peaked over the houses south of the square in West Point.

It took a five-story hydraulic crane and another smaller crane to pick the two-story wall off a truck bed and swing it into place. As the wall was lifted into place and about 50 people stood on street corners watching the work, the morning sun lit up the cross that was embedded in the precast wall. Video of crew lifting the slab into place can be found at https://youtu.be/9D5l-biecV4.

Dennis Menke, who chaired the committee that is raising funds for the construction of the building said crews are ahead of schedule.

"Right now there about two weeks ahead of schedule," Menke said. "We hope to keep it that way."

The building was constructed out of prefab two-story concrete walls that are shipped in on flat bed trucks and then lifted with the larger hydraulic crane into place where they are anchored with metal grips and then will be welded into place later in the construction.

Menke said he didn't know when the roofing would start but he said work would take at least a couple weeks. He said the roof would be welded into place later in the construction.

He said officers then canvassed the area and discovered the vehicle abandoned in an alleyway and impounded the car.

When officers contacted the owner of the plates on the vehicle, they discovered that the plates belonged on a different car in Donnellson and the owners had not discovered until then, that their plates had been stolen.

"We're continuing to follow up on the theft and we have some people of interest, but no suspects yet," Sittig said.

The area has seen a rash of stolen vehicles in September, but Sittig said those vehicle have all been accounted for and we're juveniles taking cars that had keys left in them. He said those cases have been wrapped up and those arrested are now in the juvenile court system.

Area restaurants team up with local United Way

KEOKUK - United Way of the Great River Region is excited to announce Restaurant Days. During the month of October, a variety of area restaurants have graciously agreed to donate a portion of their day’s receipts to United Way of the Great River Region to go directly to our Fall 2018 Campaign.

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BY PCC STAFF

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United Way to get part of October restaurant sales

FUNDRAISER - Continued from Page 1

The United Way is asking residents to support the restaurant of their choosing and part of the bill will go back to the United Way. Karen Thie, executive director of the UWGRR said additional restaurants may be joining the promotion so residents should check the most updated calendar on the United Way of the Great River Region’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/UWGRR/

“We are so excited to have so many generous establishments in our 3 county service area,” Thie said. “What a great way to raise money for a great cause. Get together with your family and friends to enjoy a meal and help others at the same time! Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and reminders.” Twelve Lee County restaurants are participating: Fort Worth BBQ, Beef, Bread & Brew, V’s Restaurant & Brew Pub, Hawkeye Restaurant, Java River Coffee House and Bakery, Dr. Getwell’s, McDonald’s, and Wendy’s and Pizza Hut in Keokuk; Buffalo 61, Cottage Café and The Palms in Fort Madison. They are joined by Hotel Nauvo in Nauvoo, El Camino Real and Hamilton Family Restaurant in Hamilton representing Hancock County.

If you are interested in having your restaurant participate and it’s located in Clark, Hancock or Lee county please contact Karen Thie at United Way of the Great River Region at 319-524-4504 or by email at director@united-waygrr.org.

The United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

New school taking shape in West Point

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

of weeks, and then electricians and plumbers would be able to get in the building and start on that portion of the work.

The $6 million project kicked off with a private fundraising campaign in January of 2017 and will completely replace the elementary learning spaces and cafeteria. The new building is being built right next to the current gymnasium on the southwest corner of 4th and Avenue C in West Point.

In January, the committee indicated they were about $250,000 short of the needed funds to complete the project. The funds to build the school have come completely from private donations and commitments to the project.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 03 Sep  Scattered Clouds  High – 61.5º F | Low – 41.6º F
MON 04 Sep  Moderate Rain  High– 51.3º F | Low – 49.0º F
TUE 05 Sep  Light Rain  High– 74.0º F | Low – 57.9º F
WED 06 Sep  Clear Skies  High – 79.5º F | Low – 69.4º F
THU 07 Sep  Light Rain  High– 77.5º F | Low – 65.9º F

OpenWeatherMap
Hounds looking to end three-game slide

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Last year a winning sea-son for the Bloodhound football team may have hinged on a homecom-ing game against a 1-5 Fairfield team on Oct. 7. But prior to game time, the Hounds learned that they would be without their top running back in Alex Gully, who was suspended for the game after running into some legal troubles. And then a special teams injury turned what should have been an even game, into alopsided 33-6 loss by the Hounds.

Head Coach Tony Shiffman is hoping Fort Madison can shake it’s season since 2010. But to do that the Hounds will have to find a way to cage the Trojans' 6’2” 240lb senior Tristan Waugh, who can dominate play on both sides of the ball. Fairfield features a tandem at running back with Waugh, who has 498 yards and eight touchdowns on 100 carries. Waugh also is averaging 39 yards per reception, but has done the damage on just five catches out of the back-field for 195 yards. The other back, junior Leon Gichure has 414 yards on 67 attempts and a couple of TDs.

Waugh also leads the team in tackles from his defensive line position with 30 on the year including seven for losses and four sacks.

"He was their best player last year and he's their best player again this year. He's a good physical athlete," Shiffman said. "I think he's all-district in most sports he plays. He's a big, physical runner, and a good defensive lineman" Waugh had 328 yards running the Blood-hounds' homecoming last year, included four touchdowns on a whooping 52 carries.

"You gotta know where he's at all times. We definitely underestimat-ed him last year and he made us pay. We're hope-fully better prepared for him this year. We'll be ready," Shiffman said. FMHS junior Diego Lozano will surely be spying Waugh out of the backfield. Lozano has 37.5 tackles on the sea-son including 11 for loss and three sacks. Junior Romeo Maestro leads the team with four sacks and junior Quentin Schneider is second on the team in tackles with 25.

Shiffman said the Trojans don't do a lot five step drops on offense. Senior signal caller Carson Crile has completed just 29 passes on the season for 463 yards and three scores.

"There gonna try to run it and run it and throw play-action. They don't do a lot of straight up drop-back passing, but they're tough. That's what they want to do is run it."

Junior Landon Kooi-ker leads the Trojans in receiving with 2,40 yards and a touchdown, but Crile has hooked up with eight different receivers on the year, so the Tro-jans can spread it around a bit.

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Hounds getting most production through the air

PREVIEW - Continued from Page 4

But the Hounds know a little about spreading the ball around, too. Senior quarterback Len

non Barker, who sat the second half of last week's 49-6 loss to No. 3 ranked
Solon, has close to 1,000 yards through the air this year and has hooked up with eight different receivers for a couple of scores. Seniors Dom Frantz and Sheymouhr Redd-Donald each have more than 200 yards in the air. But juniors Mi-

chael Mosena and Parker Denning, and senior Trey Kuntz each have more than 100 yards. The Hounds have struggled a little with a run this year. Only 25% of the FMHS offense has come via the rush, but Shiffman said that's a by-

product of different athletes in the skill positions and depth on the line.

“We knew we'd be like that this year. We knew this would be a pass-
to-set-up-the-run year, whereas last year we ran the ball around. So we need to get it out to our athletes in open space.”

The Hounds have run the ball 112 times including quarterback sacks and have passed the ball 170 times, which represents a 40/60 split in run to pass plays. Most of the Hounds on offense switch over and play defense and Shiff-

man said that dynamic, although not uncommon, causes problems in 3A schools with limited players.

“The middle stretch of the schedule you saw more one-way guys on the other teams. But it's more that they have more depth. So if say a Clear Creek quarterback plays better, it's like a breather he can get one. We're still trying to get our numbers up and it's one of those things that your trying to get a cul-

ture shift and get people to buy into the program.”

But he said he's happy with the numbers the program has halfway through his second year.

“I'm happy where we're at with numbers. It could be better, but it could be worse, too,” he said. Shiffman has said since the first day of practice last year, that the pro-

gram has to overcome the mental fatigue of seven straight losing seasons.

He said once they come out of that funk, gets some wins and have some success, the program will grow.

“I've talked with many coaches who say the second year is harder than the first,” he said. “It is a mental thing. They've gotta get over the three-
game murderers row we just had. We still have every opportunity to finish on a high note and a winning record.”

The Hounds and Tro-
jans square off at Rich-
mond Stadium starting at 7 p.m.

SHIFFMAN

They've gotta get over the three-
year murderers row we just had. We still have every opportunity to finish on a high note and a winning record.”

-Tony Shiffman
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