No titles but Hayes, Kruse, Settles head to DM

FMHS senior Sam Hayes throws Iowa City High's Jason Lemus to the mat in the semifinal round Saturday. Hayes would get the pin shortly after rolling Lemus up on the mat. Hayes took 2nd at the district meet and will be wrestling at the state meet for the first time next week.

Cordray's bid for 3rd trip to state stopped in OT

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CEDAR RAPIDS – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds didn't come away with a title at the district state qualifying meet on Saturday, but the Hounds will be sending Elton Kruse, Sam Hayes, and Danen Settles to the state tournament next week.

Fort Madison had three others capture 3rd place and two fifth place finishers for a total of 147 points and a fourth place finish overall at the Class 3A District wrestling tournament at Cedar Rapids Prairie High School.

The top two finishers in each division get to participate in the state tournament next week.

Senior Elton Kruse will represent Fort Madison at the district's Prairie's Jack Holvorson up in the air in the quarterfinal round Saturday. Lauber would win with a pin at 1:21 and would go on to finish fourth on the day.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – National data shows that students taking career and technical education courses in high school are faring better in earnings and career readiness than those who excel academically, but stay away from the CTE offerings.

February is national CTE Month, a public awareness campaign from the Business Professionals of America in conjunction with the Association for Career and Technical Education.

Fort Madison Principal Greg Smith will be holding a breakfast on Feb. 22 to recognize those leaders in the area that have helped contribute to one of the leading CTE schools in the state.

Fort Madison High School has had welders, building trades, and family science classes compete and win awards at the state level in CTE coursework. Smith said it's been the support of the board and the district's ability to attract skilled instructors that is setting it apart from other schools in the area.

He said the district's vision is success for every student after they graduate and the CTE programs help target that goal to a higher percentage of the students.

Senior Alex Lauber gets Cedar Rapids Prairie's Jack Holvorson up in the air in the quarterfinal round Saturday. Lauber would win with a pin at 1:21 and would go on to finish fourth on the day.

Note: The CTE program is included in the 2019 CTE Index.

See HOUNDS, page 5

See page 4
FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to Pen City Current.

State Farm – Thomas Klann Agency announces February “Quotes for Good”
State Farm – Thomas Klann Agency is excited to help out another Non-Profit Organization in our community. In February 2019 we will be giving back to Lee County K-9 Association by donating $5 for every new Auto Insurance Quote in the month of February 2019. So tell all your non-State Farm family/friends/coworkers to reach out to us for a quote and share this event to spread the word! If you are a current State Farm auto insurance customer, reach out to us for a Life Insurance or Disability Income conversation and we will donate $5 for that also. Contact Jess or Sam at 319-372-5982, 2623 Ave L Fort Madison, or email: jess@fortmadisoninsurance.com or jamantha@fortmadisoninsurance.com.

Fish & Shrimp Fry this Friday
The FM Eagles Club is hosting a Fish & Shrimp fry this Friday to benefit the Fort Madison Food Pantry. Dinner is served 5-7:30pm. Music by The Hillsiders starts at 5pm. 50/50 Drawing, Live Auction starts at 6:30pm. Auction items include 4-2019 Cardinals’ box seats tickets; Sheaffer Golf Course Greens Fees & Cart, 25 Punch Card, and 10 Punch Card; and more! Desserts provided by The Kensington, Kim’s in West Point, & others! 4821 Avenue O (Behind Burger King), Fort Madison.

Local artist on display at SCC
Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her “Raptors and Other Birds of Prey” series.

Evening with Chuck Long
Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, Feb. 12 for presentation, including a social hour and dinner with doors opening at 4:30. The social hour and dinner will be from 5 to 6 and Long will speak at 6 p.m. with a question and answer to follow. For more information, contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 or by email mcmillan@sheaffer-golf.com.

Ribbon-Cutting
A ribbon cutting for The Kingsley Inn and River Rocks Bar & Grille will be held on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck
(319)371.1670
LISA KATHLEEN TOLMOSOFF

Lisa Kathleen Tolmosoff, 56 of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at UnityPoint Health in Keokuk.

She was born October 31, 1962 in Escondido, CA the daughter of John and Sally Sharp Tolmosoff.

Lisa graduated from Ramona High School in Ramona, CA.

She had been employed by Lexington Square in Keokuk as an LPN for many years.

Lisa enjoyed quilting, crocheting, knitting and sewing. She was an avid reader and especially enjoyed reading romance novels, true crime books and mysteries. Lisa loved caring for her birds and loved her four legged friend, Boltz.

She is survived by one son, Andrew Harvey (Jordan McCredie-Harvey) of Hamilton, IL, four grandchildren, Brooklyn Harvey, Bentley Melcher, Camden McCredie and Wyatt Harvey, two sisters, Cindy Snyder (Terry) of Hamilton, IL and Debbie Henson of Keokuk, one brother, Larry Tolmosoff of Ramona, CA and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one son, Michael Harvey, her mother and step-father, Sally and Dale Walker, her father, John Tolmosoff and one sister, Shirley Pollard.

There will be no services held at this time.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

DONALD E. MAYER

Donald E. Mayer, 85 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Thursday evening, February 7, 2019 at his home. He was born November 8, 1933, in Farmington, Iowa a son of Alvin C. and Mary Edna (Byers) Mayer.

Don graduated from Farmington High School in 1951. While still in high school, he worked with a local carpenter/contractor. During this time and after graduation, he rebuilt his parents’ home. On July 5, 1953, a tornado damaged their home and extended the building process. His work was showcased in the Des Moines Register’s Picture Magazine.

Don served in the U.S. Army in West Germany from 1956-1958. He then served in the U.S. Army Reserves until 1962. Don was a retired carpenter/contractor.

Don joined the Claypool/Fort Madison Masonic Lodge #13 on July 25, 1969. He was also the builder of their current building. Don served in the Grand Lodge of Iowa in several offices and committees including being Grand Master 2004-2005.

On November 9, 1988, he married Rose Marie (Koehler) Coleman at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Don is survived by two daughters, Allison (Mark) Box of Fort Madison, Iowa and Diane (Scott) Day of Muscatine, Iowa; two grandchildren, Axel Box and Hailey Day. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and two sisters, Ruth and Roma. Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. His family will greet friends from 1:00 – 2:00 pm Sunday, February 24, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Grand Lodge Masonic Memorial Service will follow and begin at 2:00 pm Sunday at the funeral home. A private burial will be at the Green Glade Cemetery, Farmington, Iowa at a later date. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Mayer family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy
The Current runs obituaries 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.

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Wellness Center begins Campus Recreation and the University of Iowa School in six events at Kirk Gymnasium, as the state competes.

HTC gives fun send-off to state swimmers

Members of the Burlington High School swim team, including HTC juniors Jacob Mohrfeld and Wyatt Hellman, sent off first and second from right, Kale Schuff of Danville, and Blake Wyrick, of Central Lee, fourth from right, get high with silly string at Friday’s send-off at HTC.

BHS head coach Jeff Kristensen said the experience of past meets will help the squad this year.

“Those are pretty good swimmers since it’s the second year for three of them. The first year you realize how many people there are and how loud it gets in the stands. This year that will be secondary, and they’ll be able to concentrate on what they’re doing.”

Complete recap of 2019 district wrestling meet

Members of the Burlington High School swim team, including HTC juniors Jacob Mohrfeld and Wyatt Hellman, sent off first and second from right, Kale Schuff of Danville, and Blake Wyrick, of Central Lee, fourth from right, get high with silly string at Friday’s send-off at HTC.
Wiseman, Cordray and Lozano all take 3rd place

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

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Kruse got a bye in the first round and ended up facing McBride in the semifinal match. Kruse was then pinned by top-seeded Austin Kegeley of Prairie at 1:09 in the title match sending Kruse to the 2nd place match where McBride had slipped into the wrestle back by beating Iowa City High's Reese Hayden. But Kruse had already beaten McBride, so by rule, he was awarded 2nd place.

"This was great making it there, but now I want to go up there and do something," Senior Sam Hayes, who's been hampered by injuries most of his career including a fractured shoulder his junior year, before, "Hayes said. "I majored him last year, before, "Hayes said. "I didn't want to square up with him and go upper body. I wanted to defend his style. When he got me in the headlock I just tried to keep my hips up so I could get two, but it just didn't happen," Settles said.

Smith said he was proud of the kids' effort and couldn't really ask for much more.

"I can't fault our effort tonight," Smith said. "It goes back to what I said before districts, we needed good attitude and good effort and I think we saw that about 99% of the time today," Smith said. He said Cordray's match was one of the tougher one's on the night.

"He was down by like 5 with about half a minute left and just gave it everything he had and tied it up at 9 to force the overtime. That was a tough one," he said.

Freshman Gavin Wiseman came up short against 126-lb top-seeded Keaton Speicher of Iowa City West. Speicher rolled Wiseman to the mat at the 1:34 mark and was able to pin the two seconds later, forcing Wiseman to wrestle back.

Freshman Gavin Wiseman has the upper hand on Burlington's River Bergler in opening round action Saturday. Wiseman went on to finish 3rd in the 126 lb. bracket, just missing a bid to the state tournament.

"Wiseman pinned Iowa City High's Michael Santoro in the 3rd place match but fell to Samuel Stevens in the 2nd place match by an 18-5 major decision," Wiseman said it would have been nice to go to Des Moines, but he said he's learned a lot and enjoyed the atmosphere of districts.

"It was pretty nice, the excitement, the crowd," he said. High school is a whole new level with wrestlers but the experience was great. I'm not happy, but I'm content. It would have been better if I had won and went to state, but overall, I did decent today," Wiseman said.

Senior Dayne Cordray also finished third after falling in sudden victory 11-9. Cordray, who qualified for state as a freshman and a junior said he knew he was going to have pull something off in the waning moments of the 2nd place match.

"The last match going into the third period I knew I was down by quite a bit and had to pull something big. I saw the opportunity for the cradle and hit it but I couldn't get his shoulder to the mat. It was setting on my shoulder and, looking back, if I had adjusted I could have gotten it," he Cordray said.

"He's a really good kid, but I just left my shoulder up in the extra period and didn't get squared up, that's all it was. It's a bitter pill to swallow, but just like cross-country, I got a lot out of it!"

The state tournament starts on Thursday night, Feb. 14 in Des Moines at the Wells-Fargo arena.
The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E, effective 1/1/2019; Pizza Hut, 1123 Avenue H, effective 2/1/2019; Palms Supper Club, 4920 Avenue O, effective 2/1/2019; and Liquor Renewals: Palms Supper Club, 4920 Avenue O, effective 2/1/2019; Pizza Hut, 1123 Avenue H, effective 12/20/2018 and La Casa Salas, 4821 Avenue O, effective 1/1/2019.

On motion, Council adopted the Agenda: Minutes of 12/4/2018; Payment of Claims, Resolution No. 2018-63, permitting the City to submit section of the agenda for payment and/or filing as submitted. Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at the Council Chambers of City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding an amendment to the City of Fort Madison Zoning Code, Section 10-1: Title: Purpose, and Chapter 10, Administration.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at the Council Chambers of City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding an amendment to the City of Fort Madison Zoning Code, Section 10-1: Title: Purpose, and Chapter 10, Administration.

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Room, Central Office – March Work Session at FY2019-2020 discussion

Sales Tax Bonds

8 - Pen City Current - Sunday, February 10, 2019

new Paddle Boats

Riding Lawn Mower

of a new Heating and Air

move the Old LCCB Office

Budget

Report

the staff to research the mat-

regular agenda, but may ask

matters not included on the

The Board cannot take for-

County Conservation Board.

meeting that a citizen may

from January 8, 2019

March 4, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

XI. Announcements

X. Legislative update

14. Project Updates

10. Approve Installment

6. Approval of Financial

5. Approval of Bills

4. Public Input

3. Approval of minutes

2. Oath of Office

CONVENING TIME:

9:00 A.M.

LOCATION:

Correctional Center

2538 255th Street,

Montrose, IA

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Agenda

Approve Tuesday, Febru-

ary 5, 2019 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of

Claims

Public Input

Consider Approval of

Consulting Engineer-

ing Contract with Calh-

oun-Bums and Associates

Consider Approval of

Resolution Increasing Credit

Card Limit for Assessor’s

Office Employee Consider

Approval of Resolution

Compromising Taxes on

Property at 522 Timea

Kokook

Consider Approval of

Resolution Setting Public

Hearing to Present Sale

of 1225 25th Street Fort

Madison to the City of Fort

Madison

Canvass the Tuesday,

February 5, 2019 Kokook

School District Special

Election

Personnel Actions

A. New Hire-Sheriff’s

Office (Replacement)

B. Step Increases-Health

Department (3)

Reports:

A. Sheriff’s Monthly

Report

B. Treasurer’s Report

C. Auditor’s Report of

Feeds Collected

Commission or Commit-

tee Reports

Closed Session Pursuant
to Iowa Code Section 21.5
c) “To discuss strategy

with counsel in matters that

are presently in litigation or

where its disclosure would

be likely to prejudice or

disadvantage the position of

the governmental body in

that litigation.”

Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING

CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assist-

ance available upon request

Contact Title VI

Administrator’s Com-

ments: Dennis Gourley,

Chief Financial Officer, will

review our proposed budget

for Great Prairie AEA for


IV. DISCUSSION CON-

CERNING THE 2019-2020

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Administrator’s Com-

ments: At this time the Pres-

ident should ask any visitors

if they have any questions

regarding the proposed

Budget.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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OBITUARIES

MARVIN EDWARD MERSCHMAN

Marvin Edward Merschman 79, of West Point, Iowa, formerly of St. Paul, Iowa, passed away at 6:40 a.m. Friday, February 8, 2019, peacefully at his home in West Point.


Survivors include his wife: Betty of West Point; five daughters: Lora (Jeff) Wellman, Derek (Hannah Fox) Wellman, Lindsey (Tom) Brockhaus, Josh Watznauer, Portia Watznauer, Kelsey Watznauer Jessica (Cory) Bohnenkamp, Jenna Freesmeier, Jordan (Mat) Nelson, Amy (Zack) Chase, Ashley Ames, Brandi Ames, Kaci Ames, Camrey (Travis Opel) Saye, Shelay Saye, Gabby Saye; nine great grandchildren: Gracie Paisley, Elle, Lexi, Braxton, Blake, Bryce, Brinlee, Luci; four sisters: Bernice Pomberg of Fort Madison, Laverne Cox of St. Paul, Helen Moeller of West Point and Joann Harold of Bueno Vista, Arkansas.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: Carl and Jim.

Marvin served in the National Guard. He owned and operated Merschman Carpet Center for thirty years. He was a member of St. James Catholic Church and the Houghton Knights of Columbus. He served on the Marquette School Board and St. Paul Volunteer Fire Department. Marvin enjoyed golfing, playing cards and games (especially when he won). He also enjoyed sports and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cubs fan.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at St. James the Less Catholic Church in St. Paul.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at St. James Catholic Church in St. Paul with Father Bruce DeRammelaere as celebrant. A memorial has been established in his memory for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be made at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

DEBORAH L. HIGGINS

Deborah L. Higgins, 69, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 10:16 a.m. on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at her home. She was born on November 13, 1949 in Keokuk, IA to Robert & Betty Roberts Brookhart. She married Peter A. Higgins in February of 2007 in Fort Madison, IA. She worked at several jobs over the years, lastly as a truck driver.

She is survived by: her husband: Peter Higgins of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Jeffrey Rains of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Nadine (Rob) Burgtorf of Michigan; 3-grandchildren & several great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned at this time. Online condolences to the family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Bill would provide child care at VA facilities

WASHINGTON – Congressman Dave Loebsack released the following statement today after the House passed HR 840, The Veterans’ Access to Child Care Act. This legislation will make permanent, and expand, the VA’s Child Care Pilot Program to ensure our veterans have access to convenient, safe and cost-free child care when they have VA medical appointments, including mental healthcare appointments. The pilot program was established in 2010 at four VA facilities. From FY2015 through FY2018, more than 13,000 veterans with children have used the program. Currently, women veterans are the fastest growing population of veterans and 42 percent of the women seeking care at the VA have said it is hard to find child care to attend medical appointments.

“I am very pleased that Congress is acting to ensure our veterans have the support they need to successfully transfer from the military to civilian life. It is very important that we not allow anything to stand in the way of our veterans receiving the care and benefits they earned and deserve,” said Loebsack.
Funding hurdle keeps CTE program from growing locally

Those same students also see higher earnings, including a 3.2% wage increase in CTE concentrations. Another statistic that stands out is that 80% of students taking a curriculum that includes CTE coursework met college and career readiness benchmarks that only 63% of students with the same academic core work had, but didn’t include the CTE courses.

Smith said the district’s been able to hire top notch quality instructors like Building Trades Instructor Clint Kobelt, whose construction students have taken state titles in skills competitions. The district also recently hired Chris Bolander, after the closure of Dresser-Rand in Burlington, who has 16 years and a complete list of certifications in welding to replace Jim King in that department. A new automotive instructor fully certified by General Motors has also joined the staff. With Governor Kim Reynolds touting Future Ready Iowa programming at every stop in the state, Smith said these efforts lead straight to those goals, but funding is still the highest hurdle in reaching more kids.

“I’m really frustrated that there’s such a need on every side you talk to. If it wasn’t for funding, I’d have four or five more programs going,” he said. “The (Fort Madison School) board is very supportive, but it’s a money issue. Everyone of those guys you bring in has 16-20 years experience but we put them on a teacher’s salary level. Even though they don’t have the education at the master’s level, we still try to give them credit for the years in the field. That’s where they’d be if they were still in the private sector.”

He said some of the CTE instructors come in at $50,000-$60,000 a year. But when he talks with local legislators they ask what they can do.

“It’s not a lack of support. I talk to (Rep.) Jeff Kurtz and (Sen.) Rich Taylor and those guys, they ask what do you need from us and I hate to say money all the time, but what I need is a way to hire these guys that level the playing field a little. We want to do what you want us to do, the governor’s all about it, so let’s get together and figure out how we do this. I don’t know what the answer is, but it always seems to come down to dollars.”

Internal data from the district eight years ago said the curriculum was upside down as far what students needed were. Smith said everything was still focused on collegiate paths, yet 40% of the students weren’t going to college and had no concrete plans after high school.

“If we don’t have curriculum that fits our needs, are we doing what’s best for our kids or what’s best for a slim majority,” he said.

Smith recently sat with the board of the Southeast Iowa Builder’s Association to figure out what certifications graduating seniors should have if they want to get their resume on top of the pile.

“We approached them to help us to determine what certificates are important. To make a long story short, we’re going to meet with HR folks in those industries and say, if you want to look at a kid right out of high school, he’s gonna be green, but what else do you need. Would an OSHA 13 certification help, or an ACI concrete national certification, there are all kinds out there,” Smith said.

He also credited the Lee County Economic Development Group’s Grow Lee program for helping him with contacts and finding subcommittees to continue to advocate and learn about what industries are looking for from the educational community.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 10 Feb
Snow
High– 23.1º F | Low – 18.4º F

MON 11 Feb
Light Snow
High– 30.9º F | Low – 26.3º F

TUE 12 Feb
Light Snow
High– 31.4º F | Low – 20.4º F

WED 13 Feb
Light Rain
High– 30.3º F | Low – 29.6º F

THU 14 Feb
Moderate Rain
High– 38.2º F | Low – 36.2º F

OpenWeatherMap