

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Tuesday, January 19, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 21



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## Kids 'grades' may go away

**STANDARDS:** Schools in transition phase to move away from traditional grade

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A shift may be coming in how your students grades are reported in Fort Madison School District.

At Monday's regular board meeting, the board heard from the district's four building principals on how each school is migrating toward the new way of reporting student progress.

In other words, grades may eventually be a thing of the past.

Kim Harmon, the district's curriculum director said the transition to a Standards Based Learning system was hung up with the COVID pandemic and the fluid nature of learning this year.

"It's been an odd year in terms of learning, but one of the

things is that out of all this, we have poised ourselves to take on the challenges this year has presented," she said.

Harmon said the language will be new to parents and students, but educators have been having conversations for several years.

For years, teachers in the elementary school have used reporting systems like S for Satisfactory, S+ for students doing better than satisfactory. That system could be converted to a 1-4 point system where 1 would be no evidence of learning, 2 would indicate developing and three would be proficient. A 4th point is being considered for advanced students.

The points would be assessed on well-defined learning objectives and standards, Harmon said.

District elementary principals Adrian McKay and Tracy

See **GRADES**, page 2

### AG NEWS

## Farmers to get added CFAP assistance

WASHINGTON D.C. – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide additional assistance through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), expanding eligibility for some agricultural producers and commodities as well as updating payments to accurately compensate some producers who already applied for the program.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has left a deep impact on the farm economy, and we are utilizing the tools and monies available to ease some of the financial burdens on American producers to ensure our agricultural economy remains strong, independent and a global leader in production," said Secretary Perdue. "As part of implementing CFAP 1 and CFAP 2, we identified new areas of support and Congress recently directed us to provide additional relief. This additional assistance builds on to the \$23.6 billion in assistance already provided to our farmers and ranchers impacted by the pandemic, and we will continue to implement other provisions enacted by Congress."

Background:

Expanded Eligibility for CFAP 2

Contract producers of swine, broilers, laying hens, chicken eggs and turkeys who suffered a drop in revenue in 2020 as compared to their 2019 revenue because of the pandemic now are eligible for assistance. Producers could receive up to 80% of their revenue loss, subject to the availability of funds.

Producers of pullets and turfgrass sod also now are eligible for CFAP payments. The commodities were not explicitly included in the initial CFAP 2 rule. Payments are based on eligible sales, and the payment calculation in the updated rule includes crop insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) payments.

## Young artists take over FMAAA gallery

BY BRIAN RIGGS  
FMAAA Director

This exhibition is always a fan favorite for many Fort Madison Area Arts Association patrons and a must see with high numbers of examples of creativity from Central Lee, Holy Trinity, and Ft. Madison Public school systems.

Needless to say it has been a challenging time for art educators that typically rely on the hands-on studio environment. People will be mesmerized with the exceptional talent that is pecculating in our region. Mobile Nursing Services is the sponsor for this month's exhibition.

The Budding Artist Exhibition has been one of the anchors for the FMAAA art education and enrichment mission with participation that hung from ceiling to floor for nearly twenty years now in two gallery locations. The other anchors were not to be seen last

year with April Regional High School completion, as one of two features lost due to Covid shutdown at FMAAA. The other traditional anchor being cancellation of Kid's Art Summer Camp in July. The popular piano and music lessons have been on hiatus as well, hopefully returning back to the FMAAA gallery very soon.

Which makes it so amazing that in such a challenging educational environment what our local art educators have accomplished with another chapter of this engaging exhibition. FMAAA still had to pull additional display units from the back to get all the work appropriately hung in the feature gallery! A reception will be extended on January 23rd from 1:00-5:00pm so as not to encourage a high number congregation at any set time for the gallery. Masks are required on entry. In

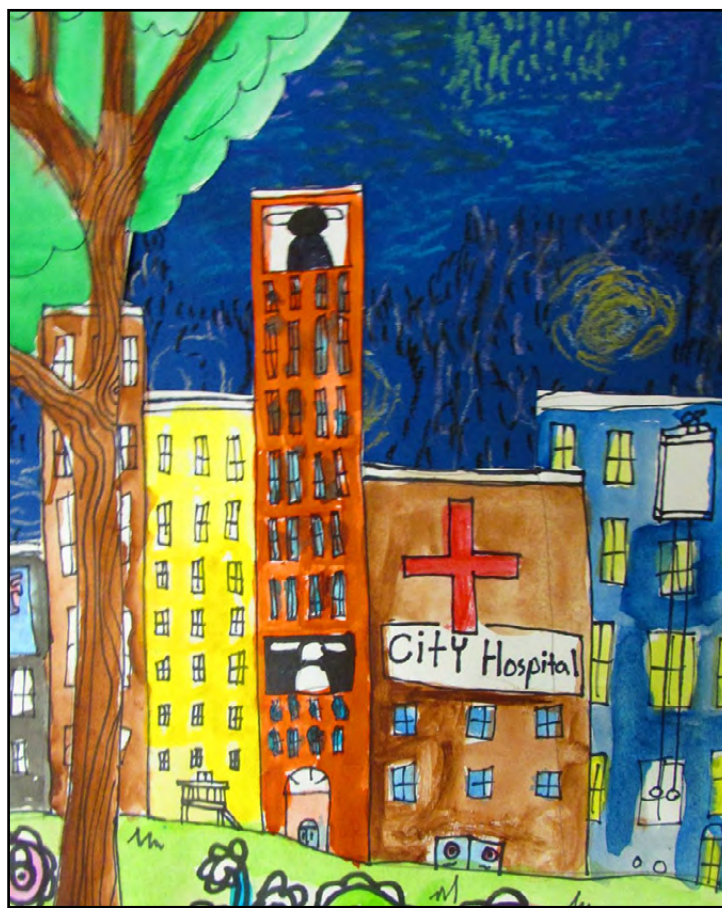


Photo courtesy of FMAAA

This watercolor from Hudson Tweedy of Central Lee is just one of the many young artist works on display this month at FMAAA.

fact, FMAAA recommends attending the show as a family at any time of the month during gallery hours Tuesday-Thursday-Friday-Saturday from 12-7 p.m. and the feature will remain until February 6th so that everyone has plenty

of opportunity to view the work this year. For an added bonus for your budding artists, paint a ceramic piece in the FMAAA glaze studio when coming to see the show. Perfect art enrichment when it's cold outside to be had at 825 Avenue G.

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### WEATHER

TUE 19 Jan ..... Light Snow, 32° F/ 17° F  
WED 20 Jan.....Clear Skies, 41° F/ 24° F  
THU 21 Jan.....Broken Clouds, 41° F/ 29° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

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PICK 4 01/17 EVENING.....2471

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DORIS M. STIGALL

The sun set for Doris M. Stigall, 93 of Ft. Madison, IA on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 10:45 PM at her home.

The sun rose for Doris on October 22, 1927 in Ft. Madison as the daughter of William and Ruth Shore Fruehling. On June 28, 1947 she married Vincent Lee Stigall in Ft. Madison and he passed away on November 5, 2002. Doris was a former member of the Santa Fe United Methodist Church where she was very active in many aspects and a current member of the Ft. Madison Methodist Church. Doris was also a member of PEO BS Chapter and the King's Daughters. She was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan and was the Grand Marshall of the Charlie Korschgen Kiddie Parade in 2017. Doris was the co-founder of the Antique Show and Sale through the King's Daughters. She and Vince loved to travel, they especially enjoyed wintering in Hawaii for twenty five years.

Survivors include one daughter, Cindy (Tom) Green of Granger, IN; two sons, Steve (Connie) Stigall of Ft. Madison and Spencer (Marty) Stigall of Rotonda West, FL; four grandchildren, Stephanie Stigall, Allison Stigall, Andrew Stigall and Allie Smith; three great grandchildren, Alyvia, Carter and Bryce. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and two brothers, William and George Fruehling.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory. There will be a private family service held and burial will be in Oakland Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 from 4-6 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Masks and social distancing will be required for those attending. Due to current COVID restrictions a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in her memory and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com). Cards may be sent to Steve Stigall at 32 Storms Court, Ft. Madison, IA 52627.



STIGALL

## Principals moving toward Standards Based reporting

**GRADES** - Continued from Page 1

King both said the transition is underway and the shift will be somewhat easier at that level than the higher levels.

McKay said the elementary schools stayed with the 3-point system this year due to the pandemic's impact on learning.

"We're still in somewhat of a traditional level, despite not being focused on letter grades. We're poised to shift to Standards Based Learning. We were on our way and didn't realize it," he said.

King said the system won't only be used on the math, science and traditional coursework, but also on the PBIS systems so parents can see how their children are doing with respect to behaviors at school.

"Not only do they get the academics of it, but they get the social and emotional as well," she said.

She said the goal is to ultimately get the new platforms to PowerSchool so it can be updated weekly.

Fort Madison Middle School president Todd Dirth said this first year was rough because the district's online course vendor Canvass didn't perform well in the PowerSchool platform.

"Canvass and PowerSchool didn't play well together so the first trimester was a mess. Nothing worked out the way we wanted."

But he said the school was in good shape to be able to move more fluidly now in the second and third trimesters since those problems have been identified.

"We're in good shape to provide that evidence of proficiency - developing - proficient learning, we just need to know what, mechanically, it will take to get teacher data in (PowerSchool).

Fort Madison High School Principal Greg Smith said it's a bit tougher for secondary educators to let go of traditional models of learning that interrupt their curriculum.

"Secondary teachers look at things differently and they focus so much on content it's difficult to look at that and take things out. That's a hurdle for us," Smith said.

But he said a big plus of the program is that it takes the competition out of the process.

"One of the huge benefits is it takes the competition out of the school. It's very black and white and specific to the standard. Kids will struggle with it at first, but in the long run they will feel like they are getting feedback that's important to them and parents as well."

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said the transition is a big process and the district will keep the board informed of the progress.

### Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

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Founded in 2016  
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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# Lady Hounds string nine together with win over HTC



Fort Madison's Camille Kruse (21) drives on Holy Trinity's Kayla Box as Raquel Schneider looks on in the Hounds' 63-46 win Friday night.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison girls basketball team continued its string of nine wins with a 63-46 win over host Holy Trinity in the annual cross-town affair. But Head Coach Tony Sargent said the Lady Hounds (10-1) have yet to put together a complete game and have some tough competition coming up.

“It’s the way we play. We start some times fast and some times slow and then we put a good stretch in there and then we put some bad ones in there too,” Sargent said.

“I guess sometimes we don’t like prosperity.”

Fort Madison ramps up the level of competition starting this week with Fairfield (5-1, 3-0 SEC). The Trojans have only played six games this year, but are undefeated in the Southeast Conference.

The Hounds also have Keokuk (4-5, 3-1 SEC) and a good Clark County squad on the slate this week. Next week brings another matchup with Fairfield and Iowa City Liberty (2-4, 2-2 Mississippi Valley).

Holy Trinity put up a strong start going up 4-0 and holding for an 8-7 lead in the first quarter, but Fort Madison would get its bearings with a 11-0 run in the final three minutes of the quarter for an 18-8 lead at the end of one.

The Bloodhounds Malarie Ross, who finished with a game-high 31 points on the night, was held to just six in the second period, but Irelynd Sargent took some of the pressure off with a couple of three pointers to start the second period as Fort Madison quickly pulled away.

The Hounds would take leads as big as 23 before going into the locker room up 40-23 after Holy Trinity slowed the pace a little and closed with an 8-2 run in the final three minutes led by senior Bailey Hellweg’s two buckets.

Fort Madison would stretch the lead back to 20 at the end of three and Holy Trinity would mount one final small rally in the fourth when they cut the lead to 16 at 60-44 during a cold spell for the Hounds from the floor.

Holy Trinity Coach Tony Johnson said the team has been playing without junior Kassi Randolph who’s nursing a sore ankle, and the team is looking for leadership.

“We’re playing the young ones a bunch and they’re responding. We’re going to keep going with that and hopefully the older ones will catch on,” he said.

“I’m just turning them loose. Somebody has to take charge and we’re searching for a leader. Maybe that will help these young ones become a leader for the future.”

Freshman Mary Kate Bendlage was one of the underclassman Johnson turned loose. The freshman had a season-high 21 points, 11 in the first half, against a Hound defense that’s allowing just over 39 points a game.

Another freshman Natalie Randolph had eight on the night for HTC.

Fort Madison got 10 from Camille Kruse and eight from Sargent.

The Crusaders fall to 4-12 on the year and hold at 3-8 in SEISC. They play host to Van Buren on Tuesday and Class 3A No. 7 West Burlington comes to town on Friday.

Tony Sargent said the Hounds upcoming schedule will really show where the team is at with four weeks til districts.

“It sets up pretty good for us as we’ve got some tough games coming up in a row and it’s going to show what we got or what we don’t. We’ll take some games and we’ll take some lumps,” he said.

“But when you play teams like that, you have to play the whole game.”

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## For the Record

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

01/14/21- 5:47 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at 53rd Street and Ortho Way.  
 01/14/21 – 2:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Eric Eugene Fortune, 53, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of serious assault. He was released on a promise to appear.  
 01/14/21 – 3:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 700 block of Avenue G.  
 01/15/21 – 8:17 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue E.  
 01/15/21 – 4:18 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.  
 01/16/21 – 12:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Avenue D.  
 01/17/21 – 4:25 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of 303rd Avenue.  
 01/17/21 – 6:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue H.  
 01/17/21 – 10:45 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2800 block of Avenue L.  
 01/17/21 – 11:40 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Avenue G.  
 01/18/21 – 1:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Mason Williams, 18, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while suspended.  
 01/18/21 – 5:53 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 100 block of 2nd Street.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/12/21 – 11:50 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 3000 block of Hwy. 61. According to reports, a vehicle driven by Laurie Ann Mullins, 60, of Keokuk, was headed southbound on Hwy. 61 when another vehicle driven by Cary William Hancox, 60, of Columbia, Mo., allegedly failed to stop at stop sign and yield the right of way, striking the side of Mullins' vehicle. Hancox was cited for failure to yield. No injuries were reported.  
 01/13/21 – 5:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 2 at Bluff Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Carson Leon Schroeder, 19, of West Point was headed eastbound on Hwy. 2 slowing to turn onto Bluff Road, when another vehicle driven by McKenna Joyce Allison, 18, of Fairfield struck the back of Schroeder's vehicle. No injuries were reported. Allison was cited for failure to maintain control.  
 01/15/21 – 3:38 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jessica Kim Bower, 30, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 01/15/21 – 7:07 p.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarod Christian Silhavy, 21, of Springfield, Mo., on a warrant for disarming a peace officer. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.  
 01/16/21 – 1:36 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Caleb Jade Himes, 24, of Harrah, Okla., in the 2600 block of Hwy. 2, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.  
 01/16/21 – 2:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Angel Gonzalez from Choctaw, Okla., on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine.  
 01/16/21 – 2:29 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric Wayne Leffler, 40, of Keokuk, in the 1200 block of Blondeau, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail.  
 01/16/21 – 3:26 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Andrew Thomas Bowers, 30, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Hwy. X23 in West Point, on charge of driving while barred.  
 01/16/21 – 10:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested

a 15-year-old male juvenile from Davenport, at the Southern Iowa Juvenile Detention Center, on a charge of assault with injury to law enforcement officer. He was held in custody.  
 01/16/21 – 10:19 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 16-year-old male from Davenport, at the Southern Iowa Juvenile Detention Center on a charge of assault with injury to law enforcement officer and disorderly conduct. He was held in custody.

#### Hancock County Sheriff's Report

01/11/21 – Chelsey R Mills, age 19, of Mt. Pleasant, IA was arrested and charged with Theft. Mills was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 01/12/21 – Jace E Hill, age 19, of Mt. Pleasant, IA was arrested and charged with Theft. Mills was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 01/12/21 – Christian J Jones, age 49, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Jones remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting

his next court appearance.  
 01/12/21 – Alexander X Luna, age 32, of Ft. Madison, IA was arrested on an Iowa DOC Warrant charging him with Escape of a Felon, Controlled Substance, and Possession of Methamphetamine. Luna was released to Des Moines County, IA authorities.  
 01/12/21 – Mary E Griggs, age 41, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Drug Court Violation. Griggs remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting her next court appearance.  
 01/13/21 – Michael G Robinson, age 64, Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Robinson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 01/14/21 – Dalton W Branham, age 27, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Criminal Damage to Property and Disorderly Conduct. Branham was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 01/14/21 – Daniel S Treadwell, age 31, of Hamilton, IL was Sentenced to Department of

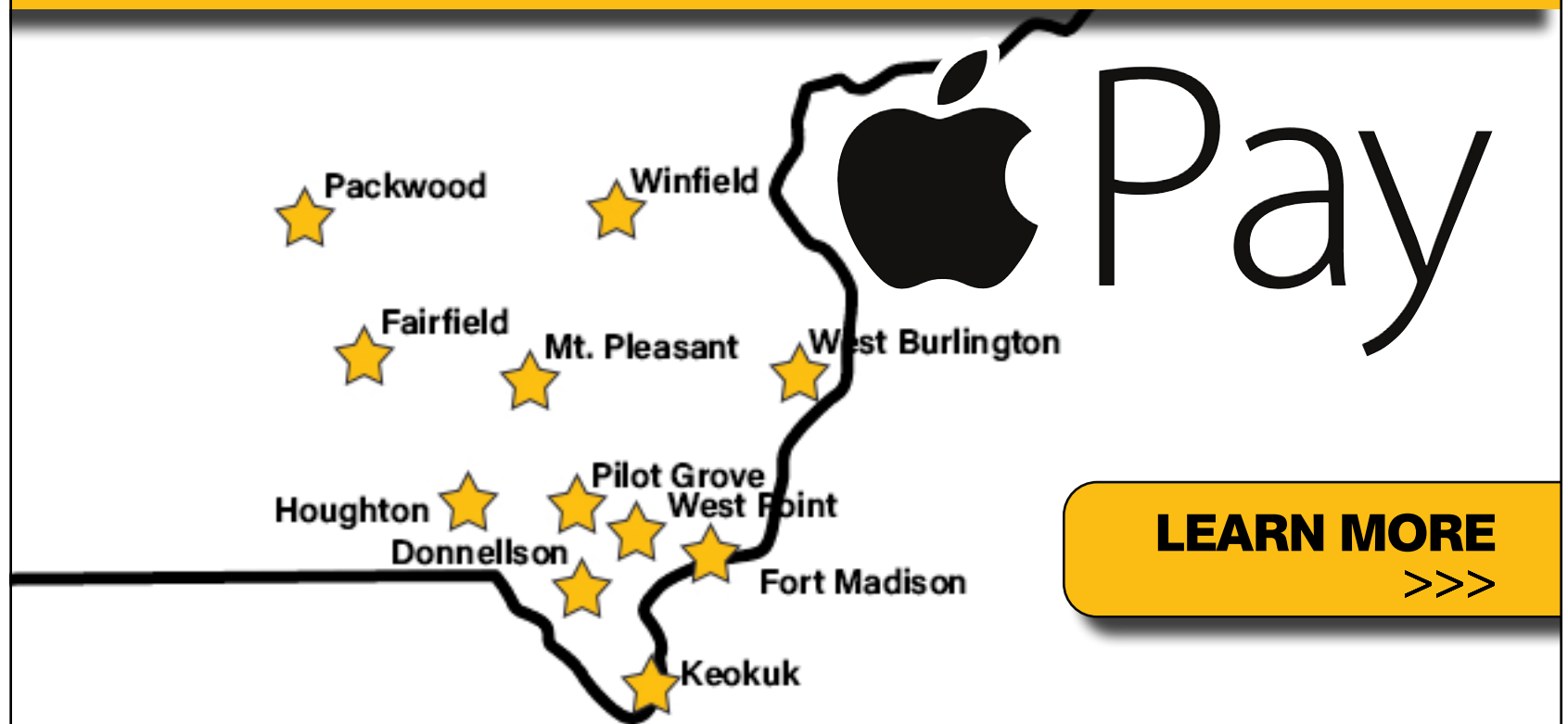
Corrections on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Treadwell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting Department of Corrections.  
 01/15/21 – Ashley L Horton, age 36, of Jacksonville, IL was arrested on a Greene County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Horton was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.  
 01/15/21 – Joshua T Rouse, age 34, of Hannibal, MO was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked, Fleeing, and Reckless Driving. Rouse was also arrested on a Pike County IL Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While Suspended. Rouse was also arrested on a Missouri DOC Warrant charging him with Absconding. Rouse remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his initial court appearance.  
 01/16/21 – Travis M Keever, age 35, of Cedar Rapids, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with

Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Keever was also arrested for Petition to Revoke or Modify Sentence on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Keever remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his initial court appearance.  
 01/16/21 -Deahjae D Seay, age 19, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended, Unlawful use of Weapons in a Vehicle, and Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Seay was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

01/15/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls, a smoke detector alarm, illegal burn complaint.  
 01/16/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to a false alarm, and three medical calls.  
 01/17/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and a lift assist.

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## Sports/Classifieds

# Hawks just miss upset bid at WB

PCC SPORTS

WEST BURLINGTON – Central Lee would win a hard luck award if one was given out at the season's end.

The Hawks are 5-8 on the year and 5-5 in the South-east Iowa Superconference South division this year. They dropped another heartbreaker to West Burlington (9-3, 8-2) 65-63 Friday night.

The Central Lee boys have lost six of their games by less than six points and three by two points or less, including one point losses to Fort Madison and Davis County.

The Hawks had their eyes set on knocking off the Falcons on the road, after they manhandled Van Buren 76-53 earlier in the week.

Central Lee had a slim 14-13 lead in the final minute of the first quarter, but a 3-ball from the Falcons put West Burlington ahead for good.

West Burlington would build leads as big as 12 at 43-

31 in the third period and held a 10-point lead with six minutes left in the game, but Central Lee would go on a 15-7 run in a four-minute span to cut it two at 63-61 with two minutes left in the game.

Three 3-pointers, two from Jaxon Betker and another from Bronson Sargent, who led the Hawks with a game-high 21, got the rally started for Central Lee.

Sargent and Seth Mayes each converted a couple free throws to keep the game close, but Ethan Eliers, who finished with 10 on the night got a couple buckets late inside to put allow the Falcons to hold on for the win.

Betker had 15 for Central Lee, followed by Dylan Stuecker's 11. Kade Myhre and Mayes both had six on the night, while Alex Sandoval added three and Derick Denning scored one to round out the Hawks scoring.

Marvion Jackson led West Burlington with 16. Colten Sherwood had 13 and Darion Johnson scored 11 for the Falcons.

The Hawks host Danville on Tuesday night in another SEISC matchup.

# Holy Trinity girls tripped up in Friday loss at Cardinal of Eldon

PCC SPORTS

ELDON – The Holy Trinity Catholic girls led the entire game until the last two minutes when Cardinal of Eldon rallied for a 40-38 win in Eldon.

The Comets erased a 7-point deficit in the fourth quarter and the Crusaders went two of six from the free throw line in the final eight minutes to squander the win.

Junior Racquel Schneider hit a 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter to give HTC a 30-23 lead, but a 5-0 run by the Comets got a rally started that Head Coach Tony Johnson's club couldn't put a stop to.

HTC still had a five -point lead with four minutes

left, but Cardinal (3-8, 2-8 SEISC South) would score five unanswered to tie things up at 35 with just two minutes left.

The Comets got to the free throw line 12 times in the final period converting half as part of the rally.

The Lady Crusaders held a slim 38-37 lead with less than a minute to go. Cardinal usually goes to senior guard Kolbie Bass out on the perimeter, but got the ball to Alexia McClure for a 3-ball that set up Cardinal's win.

No HTC player scored in double figures. Natalie Randolph led the way with nine points. Mary Kate Bendlage had eight and Schneider had seven on the night. Bailey Hellweg and Brooke Mueller each had four points, while Kayla Box and Ali Robu had three apiece to round out the scoring.

HTC (4-11, 3-8) hosts Fort Madison Saturday night in the annual HTC cake night auction with girls starting at 5 p.m. and auctioning taking place at the halves and between games.

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Candidates must minimally be 20 years of age and have a high school diploma. Must also have an acceptable background history and valid driver's license. Will be required to successfully complete a POST exam and physical agility test in Fort Madison to enter the process. Testing standards can be found on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website. Non-certified applicants must attend the four-month academy paid for by the department.

TO APPLY: Contact [jgray@fortmadisonpd.com](mailto:jgray@fortmadisonpd.com) or pick up an application packet at our lobby M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Application deadline is February 5th, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

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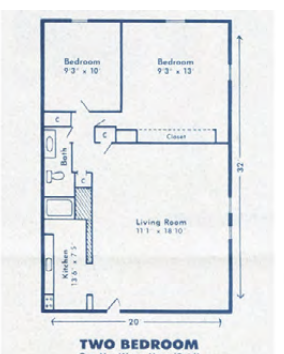
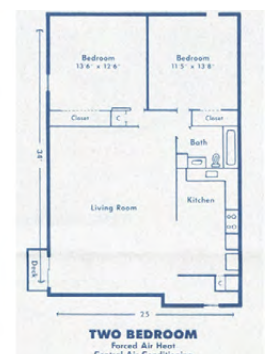
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## Friday Sports

# Central Lee girls hang around with No. 7 Lady Falcons

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON – Central Lee learned Friday night they can play with one of the best team's in the state.

But the Hawks couldn't stay with Class 3A's No. 7 team the whole night. West Burlington (13-0, 10-0 in the SEISC South) pulled away in the final five minutes for a 59-44 win in West Burlington.

It was all Mya Merschman again for the Hawks as she scored 31 to lead all scorers, including all eight first quarter points as the Falcons jumped out to a quick 17-8 lead.

Central Lee went just 3-of-9 shooting in the period, with no shots falling from outside 10 feet, and Merschman doing all the work maneuvering inside.

West Burlington's McKenna Marlow capped the first quarter with a 3-pointer from the right baseline to end the first.

The Hawks would outscore West Burlington in the 2nd quarter 17-12 with Ella Sanders and Makayla Morrison each hitting long balls to pull West Burlington's zone



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Central Lee's Macy Watkins (11) blocks out West Burlington's Abby Bence in the third quarter of the Hawk's 59-44 loss on Friday.

defense out.

Morrison's 3-ball with 1:36 left in the half cut the lead to just three at 24-21.

Central would get a stop on the next possession. Merschman would get fouled moving inside and convert both free-throws to cut the lead to one.

West Burlington then scored five straight including Natalie Vandenberg's 3-pointer to push the lead back to six. Merschman would slide from the right side into the lane and convert a runner in the lane at the buzzer for a 29-25 halftime score.

Baldwin said the Hawks did a much better job rebounding against the bigger Falcons this time around. West Burlington beat Central Lee 59-46 in Donnellson

on Dec. 4.

"We did a much better job on the boards this time. Last time they really took it us," he said.

A bucket by Macy Watkins out of the break cut the lead to two. Sydney Marlow, one of four Falcons to finish in double figures for the night, scored back to back to make it a 7-point game, but Merschman would return fire with her own 7-0 run including a three-point play.

Merschman had blocked shots on two Falcon possessions in the rally and then would tie the game at 34 with a put-back off her own missed shot inside.

Annika Harris got a bucket for West Burlington at the other end and then McKenna Marlow would get a steal off full court pressure on the inbounds and score to make it 38-34.

West Burlington took over from there holding Central Lee scoreless the remaining three minutes of the third period and outscored the Hawks 15-10 in the final period.

A Merschman bucket on a two-step hop in the lane cut the lead to five at 49-44 with about five minutes to play, but that would be the final Hawks points.

"We showed that we could play with them. They are one of the best teams around," Baldwin said.

"We just need a confidence booster. We just haven't learned to fight through the problems and that causes us to played scared sometimes."

Aside from Merschman's 31, Morrison had five, Maura Watkins and Ella Sanders each had three and Macy Watkins finished with 2 points on the night.

Sydney Marlow, Vandenberg, Harris and Abby Bence all had 10 points for the Falcons, who's 13 wins are best in the state in Class 3A.

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