

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 41



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## Snow, frigid temps slow city



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Frigid temperatures and regular snow fall continues to dominate the weather scene as snow is starting to pile up on Fort Madison street corners. National Weather Service forecasts call for sub-zero windchills for the next three or four days with snow ending Wednesday, but picking up again possibly Sunday.

### CITY COUNCIL

## Ave. G businesses want action in wake of shooting

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council is slated to hear an update on a shooting that took place early Sunday morning in the heart of downtown Fort Madison.

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff is scheduled to give an update on the investigation, and business owners could make an appearance during the public comment time at Tuesday's regular City Council meeting.

At a very short meeting held last Wednesday at the Fox Theater attended by about 40 people including owners of businesses in the downtown area, Rohloff, City Manager David Varley, city council members Rebecca Bowker and Rusty Andrews, a statement was read and the meeting was adjourned.

See **AVENUE G**, page 6

Business owners were asked to sign a petition asking for "aggressive action" against operations being conducted by a group of three men that own and operate

Jus' Try It.

The owners of Jus' Try It – Dillen Eaves, Jon Eid and TJ Jones were present at the meeting and said they were just looking



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Jus' Try It, a Fort Madison event business located in the 800 block of Avenue G, is the focus of attention of other business owners in the area regarding a shooting that took place after an event 10 days ago. The two store fronts to the east, Elliott Test Kitchen and Dana Bushong Jewelers, were damaged by bullets.

### FMCH NEWS

## Howard named FMCH EOM for December

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Donna Howard as their December Employee of the Month. Donna works in the FMCH Clinics in Patient Access. She has been with FMCH for twenty-one years. She was recognized with this nomination:

This employee has been a true team player for months helping out in the ER. She has been covering days, nights and weekends, whenever we need her. She does not complain and is always willing to help out whenever she is needed. She often moves her entire schedule around to cover for coworkers who call-in unexpectedly. She never seems to mind being asked to help and is willing to do whatever is asked of her. She has been a great part of the ER Registration team throughout the COVID crisis.

See **FMCH**, page 8

### BUDGETS

## Alliant offers tips for conserving energy during cold snap

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – February 15, 2021 – As this extended cold streak continues to impact the nation, Alliant Energy is offering tips for customers to stay warm and safe while reducing their energy usage. By remaining focused on its Purpose-Driven strategy to serve customers and build strong communities, Alliant Energy is committed to ensuring customers can safely heat their homes and take care of their families.

While demand for natural gas has increased, Alliant Energy is projecting sufficient supply to meet the needs of natural gas and electric customers and is prepared to keep the lights on and gas flowing. Crews are always prepared to

See **SAVINGS**, page 2

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### WEATHER

TUE 16 Feb..... Cold with Light Snow, 12° F/ -6° F  
 WED 17 Feb..... Cold with Light Snow, 19° F/ -1° F  
 THU 18 Feb..... Cold and Cloudy, 19° F/ 1° F

OpenWeatherMap



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# Obituaries/Education News

## OBITUARIES

### JAMES M. FUGET

James "Jim" M. Fuget, 83 of Ft. Madison, passed away at 4:39 PM on Sunday, February 14, 2021 at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital.

He was born on December 14, 1937 in Ft. Madison to Elmer and Estella Walker Fuget. On June 17, 1961 he married Beverly Shacklett in Ft. Madison. Jim was a Fireman for the City of Ft. Madison and retired in 2000 after thirty four years of service. He served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict.



FUGET

Jim loved spending time on the farm and being outdoors. On his days off from the Fire Department, Jim worked construction, roofing houses and helping Vern Peck. He enjoyed woodworking and his daily trips to Casey's and Hy-Vee for coffee. His greatest love of all was his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly Shacklett of Ft. Madison; two sons, Curt (Dana) Fuget of Streator, IL and Shawn (Deb) Fuget of Ft. Madison; five grandchildren, Andy, Brad, Kyle, Justin and Kendra and one sister, Sharon Schiver of Copperas Cove, TX. He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Kevin; brother, Tom and brother-in-law, Jimmy Shacklett.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Jon Heyland officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Scooter's Grand Opening

The Fort Madison Ambassador Club stepped out in the frigid temperatures with some hot drinks Friday morning as part of the new Fort Madison operation's grand opening. The drive-thru coffee outlet, headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska now has locations in Burlington, Fort Madison, and Keokuk.

## Alliant has tools to help save during cold snap

### SAVINGS - Continued from Page 1

respond to any event that impacts energy services to its customers.

As customers use more energy to heat their homes during the cold snap, heating bills are likely to increase. Alliant Energy continues to inform customers about ways to lower their bills and encourages customers to apply if they need financial assistance with their energy bill. Customers needing support to help pay their bill should call 211 or visit [alliantenergy.com/energyassistance](http://alliantenergy.com/energyassistance) for details about available options, including the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Hometown Care Energy Fund.

Customers are also encouraged to track their energy usage through My Account. By setting up usage alerts, customers get notified when they use a specific amount of energy and avoid surprises on their bills.

Here are tips for customers to stay warm, reduce

energy usage safely and maintain inside temperatures as furnaces are running more to keep homes warm.

- Turn your thermostat down at night and when you're away.
- Open shades during the day to let the sun come in. Close the shades at night to help retain heat.
- Seal windows and block drafts around doorways.
- Turn off fans. Kitchen and bath ventilating fans can blow out heated air if they are left on.
- Keep garage doors closed.
- Limit opening exterior doors.
- Make sure air vents and radiators are not blocked or obstructed.
- Keep the intake and exhaust clear of ice and snow.
- Do not use your oven or a grill to heat your home.

Alliant Energy offers additional energy saving suggestions at [alliantenergy.com/energyefficiency](http://alliantenergy.com/energyefficiency) and [powerhousetv.com](http://powerhousetv.com). More safety information is available at [alliantenergy.com/safety](http://alliantenergy.com/safety).

## ISU Extension offers class for women managers

DONNELSON - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Lee County is offering a five-session course of Women Managing for Today and Tomorrow program. This program will discuss decisions made during business, estate, retirement, and succession planning to form a farm transition plan. Classes will be held on Mondays starting March 8 and continuing March 15, March 22, March 29 and April 5 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Lee County Extension Office, 414 North Main Street, Donnellson, IA. A light meal will be served at 5:30 pm.

This course is for participants of all ages and experience levels. It will help empower women to confidently set goals, nurture effective family or non-family conversations, and define the farm legacy. Planning ensures the farm can continue to the next generation as a productive agricultural business.

The cost of this program is \$75.00 per participant; however, Lee County residents will receive a registration scholarship of \$75.00 for attending all five classes. Lee County residents will need to contact the Lee County Extension Office at 319-835-5116 before registering online. Registration deadline is Monday, March 1 and can be done online at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/womeninag/2020/donnellson>. For questions regarding the program, please contact Whitney Weisinger at 319-835-5116 or [weisinge@iastate.edu](mailto:weisinge@iastate.edu).



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## PEN CITY CURRENT

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### BILLIE L. BRECHEEN

Billie Lee Ann Brecheen, 82, of Montrose, IA died from Metastatic Breast Cancer Friday, February 12, 2021 at her home with family.

She was born January 5, 1939 in Wichita Falls, TX the daughter of Thurmond Oscar and Frances Mildred Martin Roberts. She graduated from Wichita Falls High School.



BRECHEEN

On May 14, 1960 she was united in marriage to Joel Stanton Brecheen in Wichita Falls, TX. He survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, JoDee Ann Krotz and her husband, Douglas of Montrose, IA, one son Byron Brecheen of Lawton, OK and two grandchildren, Jake and Emme Krotz of Fort Worth, TX.

Billie was a skilled seamstress who was an active member and co-founder of "SEW Touching." The group was founded to make fidget quilts for Alzheimer patients. She was also a member of the Arlington Quilt Guild and created beautiful quilts many of which were distributed to sick children at Cooks Children's Hospital. The quilt she made her daughter "Sunshine On My Shoulders" gleaned a second place ribbon from her Quilt Guild in Texas.

Billie enjoyed art, collecting antiques and sewing. She was a nature lover and enjoyed watching birds. She was generous with her time and talents and was a willing volunteer. She always saw the beauty in all circumstances and was the apple of her family's eye.

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose, IA. Private family burial will follow in the Montrose Cemetery, Montrose, IA. Masks will be required and social distancing is encouraged.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to the Montrose Riverfront Inc.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

The Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose is assisting the family with arrangements.

### KATHY R. WALLJASPER

Kathy Rosanna Walljasper, 60, of Saint Paul, Iowa, passed away at 10:29 a.m. Sunday, February 14, 2021, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

She was born on January 18, 1961 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Edward and Rosanna (Stohlmeier) Schinstock. On April 28, 1984, she married Wayne Walljasper at St. John the Baptist Church in Houghton, Iowa.



WALLJASPER

She is survived by her husband: Wayne; one daughter: Michelle Walljasper (J.D. Hoover) of Wever; one son: John Walljasper of St. Paul; two granddaughters: Suttyn and Paxstyn; three brothers: Dale (Terri) Schinstock of Urbandale, Ken Schinstock of West Point and Randy (Sharon) Schinstock of Mount Pleasant; sister-in-law: Sue Schinstock of Danville; mother-in-law: Mildred Walljasper and Aunt: Sr. Dorothy Stohlmeier. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, cousins, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother: Larry; sister; Joan Margaret and father-in-law: Ralph Walljasper.

Kathy was a 1980 graduate of Marquette Catholic High School. She worked at Metromail, Alaniz and Innovairre for a total of thirty-five years. She was a member of St. James the Less Catholic Church, the Altar and Rosary Society of the Church, and the Daughters of Isabella. Kathy enjoyed playing cards, reading books and especially being a grandmother.

Friends may call between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. Thursday, February 18, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa.

A Rosary will be recited at 10:30 a.m. Friday, February 19, 2021, at St. James Catholic Church in St. Paul.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 19, 2021, at St. James Catholic Church in St. Paul with Father Dan Daron as celebrant. Mass will be lived streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on her obituary Tribute Wall on our website following the service at: [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

Burial will be at St. James Cemetery in St. Paul.

A memorial has been established in her memory for St. James Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com). Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

#### 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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## Sports

# Bloodhounds falter in 2nd half, fall to BHS

*FM shoots just 2 of 19 in second half in loss to Grayhounds*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – When you shoot 2-19 in a half and hit a couple free throws, things gonna be tough.

The Fort Madison Bloodhounds 4-6 in the Southeast Conference and 8-9 overall, completely shut down offensively in the 2nd half at Don Gibbs Gym in Burlington Friday night falling 66-35 to the Grayhounds.

“Couldn’t hit the broad side of a barn,” Head Coach Ryan Wilson said at the end of his post-game interview.

Fort Madison got down 6-2 in the early going but chipped away at the Grayhounds. The Grayhounds favored transition over setting up a half court offense – something that wasn’t lost on head coach Ryan Wilson after the second half shooting woes.

“When you shoot that bad you don’t give yourself a chance to set a press or a defense or anything. Give (Burlington) credit, they played hard.”

But the quick pace can also be a detriment when things get too loose. Burlington committed back-to-back turnovers and then were whistled for consecutive fouls with just over two minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Matt Hopper caught the first foul in the paint on a nice move inside, but would miss both freebies. Junior Dayton Davis would tip the rebound back to himself and score on a putback to cut the lead to three 11-8.

Davis would then make two free throws on the next possession after a defensive stop in the middle of 6-0 Fort Madison run.

Hopper would score inside on a nifty assist from Miles Dear off the dribble in the paint to give Fort Madison its first lead at 13-12.

Senior Michael Alexander would answer for the Grayhounds after slipping through the Fort Madison press to take the lead back. Davis would be fouled on the next possession for the Bloodhounds and sink both to take the lead 14-13.

Fort Madison, who doesn’t have a senior on the squad, then got a 3-ball from junior Reiburn Turnbull



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The Bloodhounds’ Miles Dear (1) goes up for the hoop as BHS’s Jordan Lowe goes for the block in the 2nd quarter Friday night.

from the right wing. Turnbull’s shot went in, rimmed up and round and slipped back through the net.

Nate Spear would answer with a 3 from the left baseline off a kickout pass from the lane. Turnbull would heat up at the other end with another 3-ball at the 5:22 mark of the second and Fort Madison had a 20-16 lead.

Jackson Carlson and Jordan Lowe would each score inside for Burlington and Philip Goldie would miss on a leaner at the bucket with 4:45 left and the game was tied at 20.

After a Burlington timeout, the Grayhounds came out with some full court pressure and forced a couple quick turnovers as Fort Madison tried to adjust. Burlington would capitalize in transition on each turnover for a 24-20 lead.

Davis would put back a Turnbull miss to cut it two, but Burlington would start to pull away from that point on.

Davis would score four more points for a team-high 16 on the night all in the first half, but Burlington would pull ahead for a 33-29 lead at the half, which included Turnbull’s third 3 of the night just before the buzzer.

Fort Madison would then get just two buckets and two free throws from Miles Dear in the final 16 minutes of play as Burlington ran away with game from the opening third quarter inbounds.

After Davis’ 16, Turnbull finished with nine, Dear had eight, including a nice fake to the left backing down a Grayhound defender in the lane and pulled back for an 8-foot fade away in the fourth quarter, but the game was out of reach at 53-35.

Matt Hopper finished with a couple to round out Fort Madison’s scoring.

“In the second half we just weren’t there. We got beat on the boards, gave up three rebounds on one possession which ends up in a made three, had 10 turnover and then act like we haven’t seen a 1-2-2 press all year,” Wilson said.

“We’ve seen that press darn near every game, so those things are frustrating. But we just didn’t take care of the ball, throwing lazy passes, long lazy lobs over the top that quick athletes will go get – and that’s what they did tonight.”

The Grayhounds improved to 7-3 in the Southeast Conference, but are just 8-10 overall.

Fort Madison plays at Muscatine Saturday and then rounds out the regular season on Tuesday at home with Ottumwa.

The Hounds then open post season play with a Feb. 22 tilt with Mt. Vernon (12-5) at Mt. Vernon. The Mustangs play in WaMaC and are 12-3 in loop play there and 13-5 overall. They are a perfect 7-0 against teams below .500 on the year.

The winner of the game will play the winner of Mt. Pleasant and Keokuk in the bottom half of the bracket in Mt. Vernon on Feb. 25. Both games are 7 p.m. starts.

On the top half of the draw is Davenport Assumption (11-6) v. Fairfield (5-8), and Marion (12-7) vs. CR Xavier (7-9). The winners there will play Assumption on 2/25, with the substate final game TBD on March 1.

## FMHS freshman Cottrell places at state swim meet

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Bloodhound John Cottrell competed at the Iowa High School Athletic Association state swim meet over the weekend.

Cottrell, just a freshman at FMHS, swims with the Burlington Grayhounds as part of a co-op pro-

gram with Fort Madison.

Cottrell qualified in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard butterfly at the district qualifying meet on Feb. 6.

On Saturday, Cottrell finished 21st in the 200 meter free with a time of 1:48.32. He qualified with a seeding mark of 1:48.05, which was good for 20th overall in the state.

The Hound also finished 22nd in the 100 butterfly with a mark of 54.17. He qualified at districts with a time of 54.01 which seeded him 18th overall. Cottrell had laps of 24.83 and 28.75.

Keokuk freshman Brendan Worster took 29th in 100 breast stroke with a meet time of 55.91 and a qualifying time of 55.51.



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# Sports

## Central Lee girls advance in regional quarterfinal

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – It wasn't known until about 3 minutes left in the third quarter whether Central Lee's season would end Saturday or not.

But with 3:24 left in the 3rd and Mya Merschman, the state's leading scorer, on the floor with three fouls. Things didn't look good.

Then Merschman sank a free throw, only her fourth point of the night. Her second free throw missed, but junior Alivia Myhre slipped behind Mid-Prairie's Alyssa McDowell for a rebound and put-back along the baseline to light the Lady Hawks wick.

From then on it was all Central Lee as the Hawks' (7-6, 13-8) downed the Golden Hawks 49-41 to advance out of the Class 3A Region 8 quarterfinal.

Following the made basket, the Hawks went into a 1-2-2 press and forced back-to-back turnovers. Merschman, who would finish with 20 on the night, after just one 3-pointer in the first half, would score off a Mid-Prairie turnover. Makayla Morrison would

then create a steal at half court and race in for another bucket.

That series erased a 17-22 Golden Hawk lead in the third.

Mid-Prairie would get one more lead just into the 4th quarter at 30-29 when Phelan Hostetler would score inside and get fouled. She would miss the freebie and then Central Lee would go on a 8-1 run capped by a couple of Merschman free throws.

Hostetler would score inside again, and get fouled again, and would miss again – cutting the lead to four at 37-33.

Central would push the lead with Merschman repeatedly going to the free throw line hitting seven of eight down the stretch to put the game away.

The senior said she had to get back in the game despite playing with foul trouble, picking up her third just before the end of the first half.

"I was like – I have to do something otherwise this is not gonna be good. So I told myself to try and stay out of foul trouble as best I could, which worked and then I started scoring, which opened up my teammates and they started scoring," Merschman

said.

Head Coach Jay Baldwin said the message at halftime was not getting Merschman more touches, but playing solid defense.

"We told them that defense was going to win the game. We've been preaching that all year," he said. "We're not going to make every shot we shoot, but if we play good defense good things happen."

He said the 1-2-2 press was a little wrinkle he threw in the second half to compliment some early half court pressure the Hawks utilized.

"We wanted to see how they handled our pressure. It's like a boxing match, you kinda punch at each other and then in the second half we would throw a couple wrinkles at them."

Baldwin said it was a great team win and some of the more crucial moments weren't in the stat sheet.

"I thought Ella (Sanders) played a heck of game and did some things that you don't realize," Baldwin said. "Mid-Prairie has some big girls and Ella was able to go in there against them."

In the third period with Central up by just two, Sanders went baseline

around a Golden Hawk and got caught up in the lane, but then whipped a pass back out to the top of the key where Myhre buried a 3-ball for a five-point advantage.

"It was a just a great team win tonight," Baldwin said.

Myhre finished with 13 on the night, while Morrison had nine, Macy Watkins had five and Sanders finished with a couple key free throws down the stretch to help seal the win.

The Hawks now get a third shot at West Burlington, who dismantled Albia (6-14) 62-27 in West Burlington Saturday afternoon.

The two will face off Wednesday at 7 p.m. in West Burlington's gym.

The Lady Falcons already own two wins over Central Lee, a 59-46 affair on Dec. 4 and a 59-44 win on Jan. 15

"They're good. Hopeful-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Central Lee senior Mya Merschman posts up Mid-Prairie's Phelan Hostetler in the first quarter of Saturday's first round Class 3A regional game in Donnellson. Merschman, the state's leading scorer in all classes, finished with 20 on the night.

ly we can stay on the court with them. We've won seven out of eight now so I think we're peaking at the right time," Baldwin said. "Who knows, we'll see."

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## From the Front/Classifieds

# Police Chief set to give update to City Council Tuesday

**AVENUE G** - Continued from Page 1

for a fair shake from the area owners.

Owners have been upset with the business since it opened with noise complaints and allegations of illegal alcohol consumption.

A confrontation that happened after a customer was escorted from an event on Saturday night, escalated into shots being fired damaging windows at area businesses and apartments.

Dana Bushong's Jewelry and Elliott Test Kitchen both had bullet holes in their windows as did Jus' Try it, all in the 800 block of Avenue G. Other unconfirmed damage occurred to upper level apartment building glass.

The incident remains under investigation by Fort Madison Police with one arrest and others anticipated.

The business was established as a center for kids, teens and adults to come in and socialize, game, and listen to music. Cover charges are usually in place and Eaves said never have teens or youth, and adults been combined at any event. They've also held adult events that run to 2 a.m.

He also said staff uses a wand on everyone that comes into the adult events to make sure no weapons are brought onto the property.

On Saturday night, Jones said he had to escort out one person who is alleged to have been involved in the shooting incident.

"As soon as we saw there was some trouble, he was

asked to leave immediately," Jones said.

Eaves said they can't control what's happening outside their business anymore than any other establishment in Fort Madison.

"I'm not sticking up for the guy that did this. In no way shape or form is this acceptable," Eaves said. "We took every precaution we could to make sure that something like this wouldn't happen at our business. But we can't control what happens when they leave," Eaves said.

10th Street Station owner Dave Taylor said the business owners need to have some kind of protection from property damage associated with activities at the business.

"I've never been in a community that doesn't have policies in place. So we'll pull it together and we'll help. The intent and idea is good there, and if you want to have events like this - that's great and wonderful. You just have to have a permit process in place," he said.

Taylor said there should also be some kind of insurance policy in place to protect businesses from this type of incident.

A petition was presented to those in attendance to sign on their way out of the five minute meeting claiming that patrons coming to events at Jus' Try It, "engage in unregulated consumption of alcohol without liability for the business."

"Our investment in the business district depends on our patrons and their children feeling safe in their surroundings. For this reason, and many more, we call on local leaders to take aggressive action to eliminate this problem

by whatever means necessary," the petition read.

Eaves said the ownership was fined \$400 by the Lee County Health Department for selling a \$5 cup to adults at one of the events where alcohol was given away at no charge.

"There was some gray area there, but we didn't dispute it and paid the fine. We didn't sell alcohol. We gave it away," Eaves said.

Jones said they may consider opening the business earlier to allow more people to come in and see what's happening and what they are trying to do.

"Our intention I thought was more clear than it was. Over a period of time it was getting skimmed over and people were picking and choosing what they thought it would be, rather than what it was," Eaves said.

The venue has a pool table and big screen for gaming in the back portion. They also have a service counter where snacks and pizza's are sold and seating. Eaves said at no point has alcohol been on site when youth or teens were on the premises.

He also said the business has hosted 12 to 15 adult events already, but the public only hears about the three where there were some issues.

"You only hear about the bad ones because they don't want us to do that here. Their reason is the crowd it draws, and that crowd isn't from Fort Madison," Eaves said.

Jones said that's what's really causing the issues.

"Fort Madison is just not used to that to be blunt," he said.

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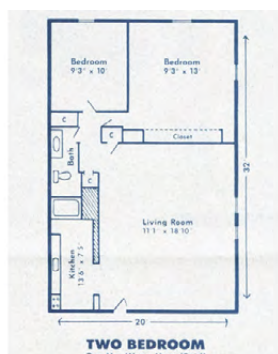
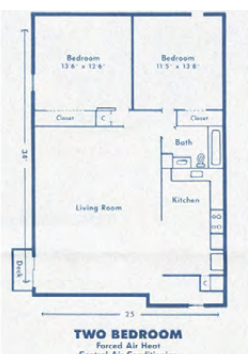
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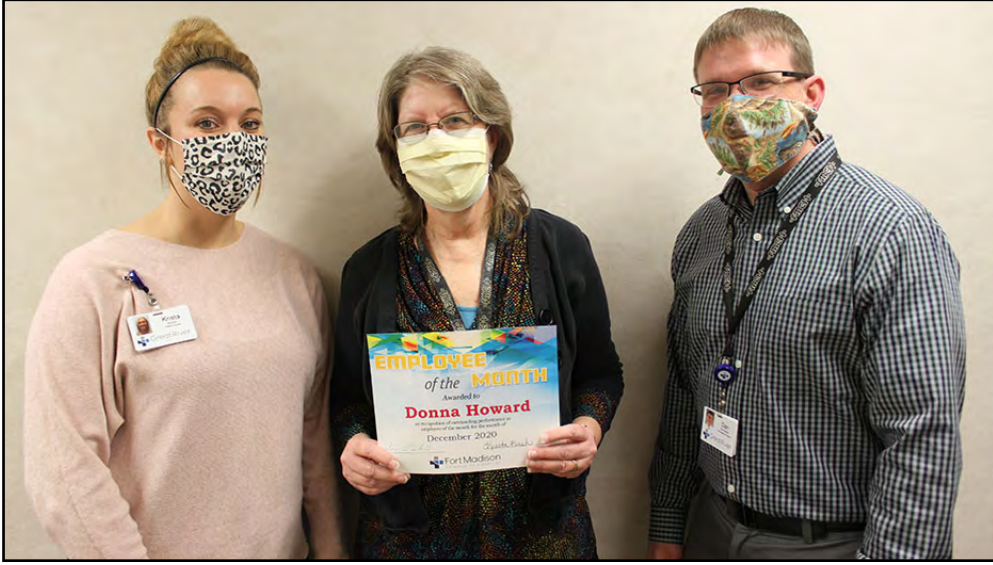


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Krista Bash, Manager of Patient Access, and Dan Linhart, Vice-President of Finance, present Donna Howard with the FMCH December Employee of the Month certificate.

### Howard learns from clinic managers

**FMCH** - Continued from Page 1

When asked if there was anyone Donna wanted to recognize for making a difference in her career at FMCH, she responded, “clinic managers from Patty Harvey (who hired me and showed me the ropes) to the current team (Matt, Chad, Krista, and Brandy). Each has a unique set of skills and I have learned from each and every one of them.” Donna went on to say her favorite part of working at FMCH was the support of her co-workers and the ability to reach

out to management when she has a question or problem.

When not at work, Donna is busy spending time with her family. She also enjoys reading, doing puzzles and shopping on-line.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above, and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

## Sargent earns District Coach of the Year honors; Hounds win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison girls basketball team wrapped up the regular season in neat little blow despite giving up 27 points in the 4th quarter to finish the season 17-2.



SARGENT

Malarie Ross put in a game-high 31 and Brandy Walker scored 16 in the win. Ross finished the regular season nine points shy of 400 at 391. Walker was second on the team at 239.

Earlier in the week, it was announced Head Coach Tony Sargent was named District Coach of the Year by the Iowa Girls Coaches Association. Sargent ushered in a remarkable turnaround from a Fort Madison team that won eight total games in the two years before Sargent arrived in 2019.

“The girls and my coaching staff and the parents made this happen,” Sargent said of the honor.

The Lady Hounds actually trailed by five in the early going down 7-2, but then held the visiting Grayhounds without a point for the next seven minutes building a 20-7 lead behind Ross’ 14 1st quarter points.

Fort Madison wouldn’t look back extending their lead to 21 at 35-14 at the half.

Burlington would regroup after the break and outscore Fort Madison 38-30 the rest of the way, but the deficit was too much to overcome. Sargent also went to the bench early in the second half to rest the starters for Saturday’s game with Missouri Class 3A’s No. 1 Monroe City.

However, school officials were informed early Saturday that Monroe City would not be making the trip to Fort Madison and the game was cancelled ending the Hounds’ regular season.

Camille Kruse added five points for the Hounds, while Molly Knipe had three and Maddie Rashid, Nadia Boeding, Kylee Cashman, Delanee Seay and Lauren King each had two points to round out the Lady Hounds scoring.

Fort Madison could see Burlington again next Saturday when they host the winner of the Burlington/Fairfield game in Class 4A Regional semifinal in Fort Madison. That game will be played at 7 p.m. The winner will face the top half of the bracket where North Scott received the bye and will play the winner of Keokuk/Mt. Pleasant in North Scott. The highest remaining seed will host the Region 4 final on Feb. 23.



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