

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 47



www.pencitycurrent.com

Dempsey floats boat



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

One more donation

Central Lee kindergartner Dempsey Wagner and Lee County Crimestoppers' President Tammy LeMaster accept a check from Lee County Supervisor Rich Harlow who donated \$1,000 from the memorial fund of his wife, whom he lost in December to cancer. Deputies Jordan Maag, Evan Bentley, far right, and a K-9 officer join in the photo. Dempsey's efforts through Feb. 15 raised enough money for the Lee County Sheriff's Rescue boat motor and all the equipment including side sonar for searches.

FM SURVEY

Beautification group looking for community input

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Beautification Foundation is a new 501c3 nonprofit corporation that was established in 2020 as a catalyst for change in the area of community aesthetics.

The small group of determined volunteers desires to collaborate with

other organizations to beautify, restore, and revitalize the greater Fort Madison area to enhance the quality of life for its residents.

In the group's first year we have taken steps to improve the downtown pocket park. The old gazebo was removed which was replaced by an airy pergola,

the landscaping was refreshed, the benches were given new life and trash containers were replaced. Wi-Fi has also been installed for people using the park.

The group is now looking for infor-

See INPUT, page 4

Bloodhounds suffer one-and-done at substate

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MT. VERNON – Mt. Vernon's is a pretty one-dimensional team. Set up on the perimeter and let it fly. But when it works it's almost unstoppable.

And in the first half of Monday's Class 3A Substate 5 basket-

ball game on the Mustang's home floor it was – almost unstoppable.

The Mustangs ended Fort Madison's season 77-62, but not before the Hounds all but wiped out a perimeter spectacle from Mt. Vernon in the first half.

See HOUNDS, page 8

BROADBAND BUILD-OUT

Fraise says more data needed to start action

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – With Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds looking for a \$150 million annual commitment for rural broadband infrastructure funding over the next three years, the roadmap for how to use the funds is still a bit fuzzy.

Lee County Economic Development Group President Dennis Fraise said Tuesday having projects that are ready to move are key to accessing some of the funding.

If the Iowa legislature approves the funding as part of the upcoming fiscal year budget and budgets beyond, they could be used to leverage additional federal funds as well as local private resources to try and not only identify what 'real' service looks like, but ultimately connect the county and the state.

"We've been taking a look at all the options in Lee County and identifying areas that are under-served, that don't have access or have minimal access," Fraise said.

"In other words, the census block mapping which says if one building, say a school, has Internet service, then the whole block has service, which just isn't the reality."

Fraise said the \$450 million request over the next three years is a big step forward, but admitted that it's still a relatively small amount when you're considering rural service for all of Iowa.

Reynolds, along with Danville Telecom CEO Tim Fencil have said projects that are geared toward 100 mpbs speeds for upload and download should draw the attention of grant and funding providers.

Fencil has been very vocal about building systems that can carry that speed, and not putting up slower networks, just for



FRAISE

See BROADBAND, page 4

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
WED 24 Feb.....Scattered Clouds, 40° F/ 28° F
THU 25 Feb.....Overcast, 40° F/ 27° F
FRI 26 Feb.....Sunny, 46° F/ 29° F

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Obituaries/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/22/21 – 2:56 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jacob Daniel Cochran, 24, of Oquawka, Ill., on Storms Court on a charge of driving under the influence, interference, drug narcotic and equipment violatios. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 02/22/21 – 4:20 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 02/22/21 – 11:26 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/ theft on Harmony Court.
 02/22/21 – 2:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Theodore Kokjohn, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 02/22/21 – 3:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Robert Levi Carson, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of 38th Street on a charge of domestic abuse assault-impeding breathing. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/22/21 – 3:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue D.
 02/22/21 – 3:46 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1300 block of Avenue F.
 02/22/21 – 8:46 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Tyson S. Waetzig, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 3300 block of Avenue D, on charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/22/21 – 3:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawn Lee Cockrell, 54, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's dept. on a charge of assault with bodily injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

02/18/21 – William F Dees, age 30, of Quincy, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original Gharges of Domestic Battery. Dees remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting

his next court appearance.
 02/19/21 – Dalton W Branham, age 28, of Warsaw, 11 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 remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 02/20/21 – IC F Christy, age 33, of Argyle, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Aggravated Domestic Battery and Possession of Methamphetamine. Christy was released on bond and given a future court date.
 02/20/21 – Samson K Padilla, age 33, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Drug Paraphernalia. Padilla remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting his next court appearance.
 02/20/21 – Karley R Schmitz, age 27, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession

of Methamphetamine. Schmitz remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting her next court appearance.
 02/20/21 – Olivia D Skinner, age 21, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Skinner was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 02/21/21 – Chevy A Frueh, age 38, of Ft. Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Burglary. Frueh remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting his next court appearance.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

02/20/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one building full of smoke, and a trash can fire.
 02/21/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls
 02/22/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and one assist.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT C. CULLEN

Robert "Bob" C. Cullen, 65 of Ft. Madison passed away on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 11:31 AM at his home.

He was born on April 2, 1955 in Ft. Madison to Robert J. and Elda Holtkamp Cullen. On June 23, 1989 he married Kelly Kaltefleiter in Ft. Madison and they later divorced. During his younger years he worked for the family business, Cullen Petroleum. Bob worked at Ft. Madison Community Hospital in maintenance for several years and retired in 2018. He had a beautiful singing voice and was in musicals during high school. Bob's love of music continued throughout his adulthood including performing in the River City Review. He enjoyed fishing, the Iowa Hawkeyes and listening to music, especially rock and roll. Bob always had a smile and a contagious laugh. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with friends and family by whom he was fondly known as "Tumble".

Survivors include one daughter, Mackenzie (Matthew) Barton of Kansas City, MO; one son, Chase Cullen of Davenport, IA; one granddaughter, Elle Barton of Kansas City, MO; two brothers, Mike (Christy) Cullen of Windsor Heights, IA and Mark (Julie)Cullen of West Des Moines, IA; two sisters, Connie (Doug)Sorenson of Upper Marlboro, Maryland and Karen (Bob) Moore of Austin, TX; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister Maureen and a brother, Roy.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 4:30-6 PM on Friday, February 26, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A Celebration of Life will be held following the visitation at 6 PM with Rev. John Simpson officiating. There will also be a gathering of Family, Friends and Food at the Eagles Club from 11AM-3PM on Saturday, February 27, 2021. A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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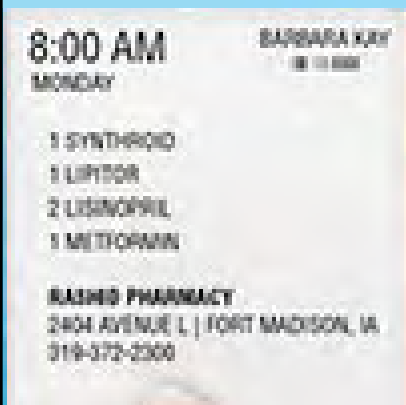
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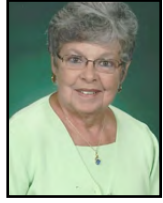
Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARTHA J. BARCLIFT

Martha Jane Barclift, 82, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

She was born January 13, 1939 in St. Joseph Hospital, Keokuk, IA to William John and Janie Grace Veatch Sigmund, the second of three daughters.



BARCLIFT

She was educated in the Keokuk Public Schools and attended American Institute of Commerce in Davenport, IA.

She was employed at The Hubinger Co., later J.C.Penny Co. and Keasling's Drug Store. In 1978 she took over her family business after the sudden death of her father. She also helped start up Sew N Works while continuing to run Sigmund Brothers, later moving Sigmund Brothers into her home. She also was employed by her son-in-law and daughter at Winners Circle.

During her lifetime she was involved in the Boy and Girl Scouts. She was a homeroom mother and PTA member during the years of her children's education. As well as being a faithful member of St. Francis and All Saints Parishes, she was on the Parish Council and President for a year. She was a TTT member and held many offices. She was on Main Street Keokuk Board. For many years, Martha was on the board and held the office of President at Parkridge Sheltered Workshop in Montrose, IA. She also had been on the board of the Keokuk Area Group Home (later named the Mary Sue Jackson Home) as well as a member of the Keokuk Building and Housing Advisory Appeals committee.

Martha loved cooking and baking. She made wonderful sour cream coffee-cakes, soups, "snifla" dumplings and pies. She once entered a pie baking contest and won first place for her pineapple pie. Martha lived on Middle Road for many years, where she was known to her neighbors as "the Mayor of Middle Road". She enjoyed working in her yard and spent hours tending to it. She deservedly won the Keokuk Pride Award twice. She was also a skilled seamstress. She enjoyed vacationing in the Ozarks and loved her boat, Ka-Mar-Ru. She also loved her Pepsi and cigarettes. Martha was a people person and never met a stranger. She had a zest for life and her laugh and smile were contagious. She enjoyed going out to lunch with her four different lunch groups. Martha was a devoted mother who raised her children on her own and with the grace of God. It was the time spent with family that she treasured most and never missed an opportunity to spend time with her grandchildren, who were her life. She also loved her grand dogs.

She is survived by the loves of her life, her four children. James Stephen (Pam) Barclift, Jane Kathryn (Lync) Fellows, Sgt. Richard William (Becky) Barclift and Julie Lynn (Brent) Fischer, nine precious grandchildren who called her "Grannie", Daniel, Jennifer and Megan Fellows, Chris Barclift, Lindsey Fischer, Brittany, Brooke, Jonathan and Maggie Barclift and a great-grandson, Clay. Also surviving is one sister, Ruth (John) Gazzola of New York as well as cousins, uncles and many friends.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, maternal and paternal grandparents, her sister, Kathryn Ryan, aunts, uncles and many dear friends.

According to her wishes, she was cremated.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 4-6 p.m. A vigil service will be held at 6 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, at All Saints Parish with Father David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating. A celebration of life and burial in Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk will be held at a later date. The funeral mass will be lived streamed and may be viewed on the Church of All Saints Facebook page or on their YouTube site which can be found at www.allsaintskeokuk.org/live. Masks are required and social distancing requirements will be in place at both the church and the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Animal Shelter or Quincy Notre Dame softball.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

PAULA A. GRAHAM

Paula Anita Graham, 88, formerly of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 8:32 a.m. Sunday, February 14, 2021, at Memory Care in New Braunfels, Texas.

She was born on September 24, 1932 in Bonaparte, Iowa, the daughter of Isaac and Opal (Shoemaker) McCracken. On October 26, 1951, she married Roy Thompson Graham in Farmington, Iowa. He preceded her in death.



GRAHAM

Survivors include her three daughters: Teresa (Don) Losey, Lucinda (Dan Peters) Graham and Annette (Tom) Peitz; seven grandchildren: Jennifer Graham, Carrie Cline, Emily Cline, William Cline, Jessica Krogmeier, Alex Peitz and Mariah Peters; seven great grandchildren: Savannah, Willow, Brynneleigh and Henry Cline, Gabrielle Riley, Owen Krogmeier and Emerson Krogmeier and one sister: Lueene McCracken.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Roy; son: George Graham; eight brothers and sisters.

Paula received her Bachelor of Arts in History and Government at Parson's College. She taught at St. Mary's and Clark County School District. She was a member of the Democratic Party and Missouri State Teacher's Association. She was an author of two books "Spirits" and "Poems Forever". After working at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, she dedicated years helping employees that worked on nuclear lines receive compensation and medical care under EEOICPA. She was recognized by the US Congress for her tireless work on this for former employees and their families.

Family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

A private family service will be held at Schmitz Funeral Home Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington with Nancy St. Clair and Sally Barrett.

Burial will be at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Farmington Library.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington 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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Fort Madison man arrested for Hancock County burglaries

BY PCC STAFF

NAUVOO – Nauvoo Police Department Chief of Police Mike Boley reports the arrest of Chevy Alan Frueh, 38, of Fort Madison, Iowa. Frueh was arrested on Sunday February 21, 2021, in Nauvoo.

Frueh's arrest comes as a result of an investigation by the Nauvoo Police Department into a burglary that occurred in Nauvoo, on Saturday February 20, 2021. As a result of that investigation, all items that had been taken were recovered at multiple addresses in Fort Madison, Iowa.



FRUEH

Frueh is currently charged in Hancock County with the following charges:

- One (1) count of Burglary, a Class 2 Felony
- One (1) count of Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Class 4 Felony

Frueh is being held in the Hancock County, Illinois Jail in lieu of a \$20,000 bond on those charges.

Assisting the Nauvoo Police Department in the investigation was the office of Hancock County State's Attorney Rachel B. Mast and the Fort Madison, Iowa Police Department.

Frueh is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Governor wants \$450M in funding over next three years

BROADBAND - Continued from Page 1

the sake of making the connections.

"The governor has been all about that, too," Fraise said. "Not building today's technology that will be obsolete in a few years. Her preference will be for 100 speeds up and down and we will be talking with providers about that."

"We don't want to be short-sighted in this because I don't think we'll get another bite of this apple anytime soon."

Fraise, who sits on the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa's Rural Broadband Task Force, said things are changing very rapidly and pointed to Elon Musk's Starlink, which is already "lighting up sectors of Iowa".

The LCEDG president said he thinks in three to five years, Iowa will have a much improved rural broadband structure because of the different technologies out there.

Starlink is a low-orbiting satellite network that is the equivalent of a space net that can provide Internet service to rural areas from the sky rather than towers or fiber optic cable.

But Fraise said it's going to take all those systems to help connect rural Iowa, specifically rural Lee County.

"It will take both of those to get the rural area served," he said. "If someone is a mile or two from the nearest fiber, the cost to run that cable that extra mile or two is astronomical and there's little to no payback in it," he said.

"That's where Starlink could be a game-changer for a lot of people."

When asked what people of Lee County should know now about what's happening that they don't, Fraise said they just need to understand that it's a moving target, but one that's getting more attention now than it ever has.

He said there still isn't a full grasp of the real numbers in Lee County and one of the challenges is still better mapping.

LCEDG spearheaded an effort to create new mapping by using student information at the three public schools to help identify where real service is – and isn't – in Lee County.

"That's going to take some effort, and going door-to-door if you will, to understand where we are right now. And I don't think we really know that yet," he said.

"I don't think anyone does."

The other challenge is making sure there are workers to start the projects once they are in the pipeline, Fraise said.

"Everyone wants to do the build now if the funding is there, but we need to have people lined up to do the work."

Foundation looking for input for FM beautification efforts

INPUT - Continued from Page 1

mation from the public on what future steps to take and input on the ongoing work.

Those willing to offer opinions in a quick survey are encouraged to do so before March 10 at the following Survey Monkey link. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3NCMTN8>.

If you'd like to get actively involved with efforts of the group, contact Tim Gobble at tgobble@fortmadison.com. You can also make a tax deductible contribution by clicking Donate Now. or by sending a check to FMBF 614 7th Street, Fort Madison, IA 52627.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

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**HELP
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Starting Salary:
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**COMBINED UTILITY SYSTEM
WEST POINT, IOWA
52656 TUESDAY
February 9th, 2021
AT 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Trustees of the West Point Combined Utility System of the City of West Point, Iowa, met in regular session at the West Point City Hall, 313 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa, 52656, on February 9th, 2021. Board Chairman Randy Welding presided via telephone and called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m.

ROLL CALL: The roll was called by the Utility Director and the Board Members responded as follows: Present: Board Chairman Randy Welding present via telephone. Board Member Brian Schmitz was present. Board Member Ted Vonderhaar was absent. The Board Chairman reported that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda was approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS/CUSTOMERS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None present

UTILITY REPORTS: The following indicated Utility Reports were presented as follows for Board information and consideration. No Report
Delinquent Accounts: Board Members reviewed and discussed the status of delinquent accounts by reviewing the Aged Trial Balance report as prepared and submitted by the Billing & Collection Clerk.

Field Report: Board Members reviewed and discussed the field report as presented by Utility Superintendent.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Next Utility Board Meeting is scheduled for March 9th, 2021

BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS: No Report
UTILITY DIRECTOR REPORT: Utility Director had prepared a letter that was in the packets and was reviewed by the Utility Board.

Further discussion was held on the demand charges pertaining to Arctic Glacier. Dave Hardy reached out with concerns in how we are coming up with these numbers. Terry Simons will be reaching out to

our Utility Superintendent to evaluate the meter and confirm the demand reads. We will follow up with this at next months meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The following indicated Old Business was reintroduced, considered, and acted upon by the Board as follows:

a) Trend Data Report
NEW BUSINESS:
a) Resolution 202-21, "An Amended Resolution Adopting an Investment Policy for West Point Municipal Utilities". This was tabled until all utility board members are present to discuss. Will review at the next Utility Board meeting on March 9th, 2021.

b) Discussion was tabled until all Board Members are present to further discuss section 10 of the Investment Policy. Will review at the next Utility Board Meeting on March 9th, 2021.

c) Discussion was held on the interconnection & net metering application for 508 2nd Street. Motion was made by Board Member Brian Schmitz and seconded for Board Chairman Randy Welding for approval. Board Member Brian Schmitz advised that the Planning & Zoning Committee become a part of the decisions being made pertaining to solar customers and the placement

of panels. Board Member Brian Schmitz would like to see a resolution set forward from the Planning & Zoning Committee with guidelines pertaining to future solar customers.

MONTHLY REPORTS: The following indicated Minutes; Monthly Reports; and Monthly Warrants Payable were introduced, considered, and acted upon by the Board as follows

Minutes of Prior Regular January 12th, 2021: Minutes of prior regular Board Meeting of January 12th, 2021. Motion by Board Member Brian Schmitz and seconded by Board Chairman Randy Welding.

Treasurer's Report for January 2021: The Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2021 was presented for Board approval and, after review and discussion, Board Member Brian Schmitz moved that the referenced Treasurer's report be approved for the month of January 2021 as presented, which was seconded by Board Chairman Randy Welding.

Warrants Payable for February 2021: Warrants payable for the month of February 2021 were presented for approval consideration and, after review, discussion and due deliberation, Board Member Brian Schmitz moved that the referenced warrants payable be approved for payment

as presented, which was seconded by Board Chairman Randy Welding; and, after due consideration thereof by the Board, the Chairman put the question upon the adoption of the motion and the Board Members voted unanimously in the affirmative. Whereupon, the Chairman declared the motion duly adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business introduced for Board Member consideration or action.

ADJOURNMENT: All known business having been conducted, Board Member Brian Schmitz moved that the Board Meeting adjourn which was seconded by Board Chairman Randy Welding and which carried unanimously.

Whereupon, Board Chairman Randy Welding declared the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the West Point Utility System of the City of West Point, Lee County, Iowa, adjourned at 6:05p.m., February 9th, 2021.

WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM
Randy Welding, Chairman
West Point Municipal Utility Board
Dennis McGregor, City Administrator

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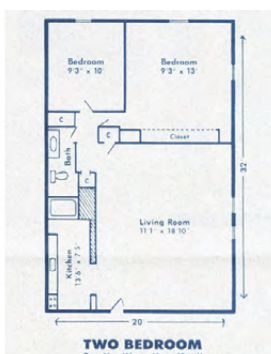
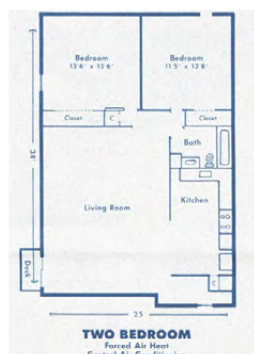
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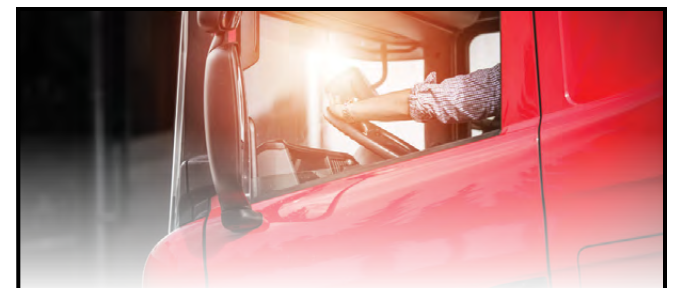
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QUALITY PLUS FEEDS

Sports

Rebounding, not hot start, doomed Bloodhounds

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 1

Mustang senior Jayden Meeker hit four straight threes to start the game. Fort Madison tried to hang around in the long-range contest with Tate Johnson and Miles Dear both answering as the game itself started with six 3-balls.

Meeker would rim out his next shot, from about 21 feet on the right wing, and classmate Keaton Kutcher would miss inside in back-to-back possessions, while Dear would find the range at the other end for a 12-10 Mt. Vernon lead in the early going.

Kutcher and Meeker combined for 47 points in the win. Meeker has shot 47% from the field for the year.

The Mustangs would start to pull away finishing the first period on an 11-1 run with Kutcher hitting back-to-back 3-balls.

Tate Johnson tried to answer right in front the Mustang bench from 3-land, but the junior was the victim of a mid-air mugging to no whistle trying to cut the lead to three.

Senior Collin Swantz got in on the 3-point action at the other end after Fort Madison's Dayton Davis scored his first point on the back end of a two-shot foul.

After a Hounds turnover, Meeker scored on a layup for a 23-13 lead.

Dear, who finished with 13 on the night, would exchange fire from 3-point land to cut the lead to seven as the Hounds looked to regain their footing from the early long-range barrage.

Davis then went to work defensively coming up with two steals in Mt. Vernon's half court sets and converted them into four straight points cutting the lead to just three at 25-22.

With just seconds left in the first, Swantz missed on bucket inside, but got his own rebound and put it back in just before the buzzer for 27-22 first quarter lead.

Swantz would start the second with a 3. Dear would slice into the lane and miss for the Hounds, but junior Matt Hopper would gobble up the rebound and put it back in with a foul to keep Fort Madison close at 30-25 just into the 2nd period.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mt. Vernon's Keaton Kutcher gets a little of everything as Fort Madison's Dayton Davis drives in the third quarter of Monday's season-ending loss for the Hounds.

With Fort Madison trailing 32-27, Meeker would miss on the back end of two free throws, but Kutcher snared the rebound and whipped it out to Swantz who again filled it up from beyond the arc for a nine-point lead. The Mustangs would hold that margin the rest of the first half and take a 45-36 lead into the locker room.

Fort Madison Head Coach Ryan Wilson told the Hounds at the break the Mustangs weren't going to get 10 more threes in the second half.

"Just weather the storm," Wilson said. "10 threes in the first half, some teams don't do that in a whole season, we just had to play our game and weather that storm."

The forecast was almost right on as Fort Madison would clamp down on the Mustang's perimeter game with some added pressure and traps of Kutcher and Meeker.

Mt. Vernon hit on just 2 of 13 in the 3rd quarter. Unfortunately, the Hounds also went cold making 4 of 13. A couple of free throws from the Mustangs kept the lead at nine at 56-47 after three.

The Mustangs would go to the free throw line 24 times in the game, to Fort Madison's 11.

In the fourth, Meeker started with a 3 to open Mt. Vernon's biggest lead at 12, but it would be the last three Mt.

Vernon would get as Fort Madison wasn't leaving the facility without one last run.

Kutcher would add a bucket inside for 61-47 lead, but then Junior Reiburn Turnbull, who led Fort Madison with 16 points, hit a three with 6:34 left in the game.

The Hounds defense would get a stop, Hopper would score off a nice interior look from Dear. Kutcher would miss at the other end, and Davis would score in transition slicing through the middle of two Mustang defenders in transition.

Brady Ketchum would miss a couple free throws after Turnbull was whistled for a foul. Fort Madison would get the rebound and rush up floor with Turnbull pulling up deep and missing. Dear would sneak inside the taller Mustang seniors and snag the board and put it back in with a fadeaway 4-footer to make it a seven-point game 63-56.

Mt. Vernon would miss two free throws when Turnbull was whistled for his fourth foul. but the Mustangs would grab not one, but three offensive boards in a row and still fail to convert.

Davis would finally snap out the rebound and get up court, but missed in transition under the basket. Mt. Vernon failed to score on the way back down and then Tate Johnson hit a three from the right baseline to cut the lead to four at 63-59 prompting a Fort Madison time out with just 3:18 on the clock.

The Hounds were whistled for back-to-back fouls in the next two possessions out of the break, and the Mustangs hit all four to get the lead back to eight.

Fort Madison would commit a couple big turnovers on their own end of the floor trying to force some shots and Mt. Vernon took advantage with Kutcher and Jensen Meeker each scoring off the miscues to put the game away.

Turnbull would end the Hounds scoring with, of all things, a 3-ball from the left wing to set the final score.

Wilson said the difference in the final quarter was taking advantage of Mt. Vernon's missed shots.

"We didn't rebound. Gave up three offensive rebounds in a row, off two missed free throws and gave them 13 offensive rebounds in the second half."

"They had to remember this feeling. They'll all be back next year and we don't want to be in this situation again."

Wilson pointed to a one-point loss to Burlington where they went 15-34 at the line - a game where they blew an 8-point lead at Washington to lose by three, and then a buzzer beater loss to Fairfield.

"We keep those games in control and we're not a seven seed playing up here," Wilson said. "I'm excited to see what next year brings."

To go with Turnbull's 16 points, Davis had 14, Miles Dear had 13 and Tate Johnson had 11. Matt Hopper would finish with five and Goldie would round out the Hounds scoring with three points on the night.

Fort Madison finishes the year 8-12 with a 4-6 Southeast Conference record.

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