



# Pen City Current

Sunday, February 12, 2017 | 10 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 46



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## At the scene

The Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, along with the Lee County Sheriff's office, is investigating a dead body found around 11 a.m. Saturday in the Indian Path Park just past the Des Moines / Lee County line on the north side of the highway along the Skunk River. The Iowa State Patrol, Lee County Ambulance Service, Wever Fire and the Des Moines County Sheriff's Department assisted at the scene. DCI will be handling the investigation.

## ON TO STATE!

## Steffensmeiers punch tickets to Wells Fargo

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MT. PLEASANT - The Fort Madison boys will send a familiar name to Wells Fargo Arena next week, but the familiar name will be attached to not one, but two Bloodhound wrestlers.

Harlan Steffensmeier and Ryan Steffensmeier will represent Fort Madison in the state wrestling tournament that runs Thursday-Saturday in Des Moines. The two claimed

championships at 138 lbs. and 113 lbs. respectively Saturday at the state Class 3A, District 5 tourney in Mt. Pleasant.

Ryan capitalized on a first-round bye and then pinned Michael Santoro of Iowa City High in just 49 seconds punching his ticket for the championship match against Nathanael Shoemaker of Ottumwa. Steffensmeier won the title and earned his trip to the state tourney when he scored a

See **STATE**, page 10

## Leake helps plan the beginning, but has no end in sight

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Most people people in the beauty business fight age, but Madeline Leake just reached her platinum birthday and isn't afraid for people to know.

"Most people hide how old they are. I've got no problem with people knowing I'm 75 and I'm still here getting it done."

Leake owns the The Colony Shop and Bridal Loft at 720 Avenue G, a specialty shop filled with glamour worn in ivy, gray, tan, blue and even burgundy and other celebratory fringe colors. The shoppe just passed its 45th anniversary and Leake is still looking to the future.

Upon entry to the store front, a worker from

Floors, Decor and More Abbey Carpets was seen vacuuming freshly laid gray, black, and white carpet in the window displays. Leake's husband, Chuck, was just putting away painting supplies after applying a new coat of matching paint on the trim. A new window display that would soon be reset by Leake and Bonnie Howard who had stopped in to give a hand that day.

Howard, recently retired from The Bookmark just west down the street said she was just in to give Madeline a hand for the day. Howard's retirement is full of planned time for travel and grandchildren, an ambition for most business people who look forward to making those memories after serving customers for most of their life.

When asked when



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Hard at work

Madeline Leake, owner and operator of The Colony Shop and Bridal Loft, takes a call Friday from a customer. Leake just celebrated 45 years in business on Feb. 4. CONGRATS MADELINE!

enough will be enough, Leake just smiles and after a brief moment replies as anyone, any age who goes to work, but doesn't really

go to work.

"I love it as much as I ever did."

Leake, was selling on the road for the Minne-

sota Woolen brand and started thinking about doing her own business.

Leake started looking for a building in 1971

and said there were no spaces available on 6th, 7th or 8th streets. So she

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5 oz.....2/\$13

**16 oz. Heart Shaped Ribeye Steaks**  
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Limit 10 Please

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**OPINION**

## "We got the joy"

Submitted by Lanette Van  
Pastor Fort Madison United Methodist Church

Romans 8:31-39  
Nehemiah 8:9-10  
Give me a "J" -- J!  
Give me a "E" -- E!  
Give me an "S" -- S!  
Give me a "U" -- U!  
Give me an "S" -- S!  
Who do we got? JESUS!  
What do we got? JOY!  
Cheer leading pom poms make me smile with memories of

- Pep rallies and Friday night football games;
- Cheerleaders and team mascots;
- The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

That's the way life goes. There are winners and losers; the ones who come home with a trophy and a title and those who come home empty-handed.

There are the conquerors and the vanquished. In the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah, we read the story of the return from captivity of the Jews. When they returned to their homeland as a vanquished people still under the rule of the Persian Empire with permission of the King of Persia to rebuild the temple of God and found the city of Jerusalem and the Temple had been completely trashed, reduced to rubble and ruin.

Their new neighbors were not happy with their return. They sabotaged the rebuilding efforts and complained to the King of Persia. The results were work delays and finally a royal edict to stop all reconstruction efforts. Under Ezra and later Nehemiah, they got back on track. After Nehemiah arrived, the people asked for a day of celebration where the word of God from the scroll of Moses (the first five books of the new testament in our bible). Knowledgeable people were scattered among the crowd to help people understand what they were hearing. When the reading ended, the people gathered there wept.

Common understanding of this is that they were confronted with how far they had wandered away from God's Law of love and living as the people of God, and so they mourned. I wonder if some cried because they realized the glory of the past would not return or if some were overwhelmed and maybe a bit frightened by the work that still lay ahead.

Ezra responded to them: "Go home and prepare a feast, holiday food and drink; and share it with those who don't have anything: This day is holy to God. Don't feel bad. The joy of God is your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:10)

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Joy is that feeling deep, deep down in the very core of our being that is our spirit's witness to the truth that God is on our side. It is that affirmation that Jesus is

See JOY page 9



## From the Front/Local News

### Bridal business changing with the brides

LEAKE - Continued from Page 1

"Data now shows that 65 percent of weddings are not in churches and destination weddings are popular."

-Madeline Leake  
Owner, Colony Shop & Bridal Loft



#### Hard at work

The Colony Shop and Bridal Loft celebrated its 45th anniversary the same week that owner Madeline Leake celebrated her 75th birthday.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg



stopped into the Merle Norman store where her shop is currently located. The owner there said she "hadn't heard of anything" but would keep her mind.

"I didn't know what rent would be so I came in here. The very next morning, she called me and said, 'Well I knew I was closing but I wanted to notify the landlord first'. And this was the size I wanted. I didn't want big, I wanted small."

Then we started putting together money and who really helped us was Harold Mohrfeld, Tom's dad and he was a VP at Fort Madison Bank & Trust and he hooked us up with the Small Business Association so we went to Des Moines and they said they would do it with a participating loan from a bank so they did that for us.

So with a loan of \$10,000 she set out on her own providing brides and grooms with all their clothing.

"To begin with we rented. We rented the downstairs and they rented the upstairs to someone else. Two or three years later we bought the building and in '85 we put the bridal upstairs and then we had the whole building and we could do whatever

we wanted." Madeline said sticking with a couple very reliable suppliers has made her journey easier.

"I've always carried Morilee bridal and bridesmaids. I picked up other lines, but I've never let go of them. If they say a dress is available you know that dress will be there in 6 to 7 days."

She also has stuck with Elise men's and women's fashions.

Trends in the business have come full circle as now Leake says ivory color is back and she's selling more of that than any other color. But she says weddings are not the church-filled congregational events they once were.

"Data now shows that 65 percent of weddings now are not in churches and destination weddings are popular.

"When you have weddings outside a lot of brides don't even want trains anymore. So the dresses have changed a

lot." Leake also said she has just recently started using social media and boosts to help advertise her products, especially prior to shows. She uses bridal shows to make contacts with prospective brides.

"These younger brides, even 30s and 40s aren't reading papers, they are doing this with their thumbs and so we've just started using that. I really don't understand it but I've got some people that help with it."

With regards to the current business climate, Madeline had sage advice for those looking to start a business.

"Start small because you have a bigger hand in it and you can control it better," Leake said.

"We definitely need to get younger people involved. I think it's important for Fort Madison people to shop locally. And we're not unique in that. Towns all over are competing with the Inter-

net and big boxes." She did say she thinks Fort Madison's downtown is in need of another restaurant that stays open all day serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. And efforts like that help protect the business districts of smaller towns.

"Back when we first opened and we there weren't any locations available, we didn't have to deal with the Wal-Marts and Targets so that's how people did their shopping...in districts just like this."

Madeline and Chuck have three sons Rob of Fort Madison, Joe of Burlington and Vern, of Corona Del Mar in California.

## #PCCPawwsomePets

Vote for your favorite at [www.pencycurrent.com/pets](http://www.pencycurrent.com/pets) or click this ad. The pet with the most votes will be recognized in an upcoming issue of Pen City Current and on our website. We're also collecting donations for P.A.W. Animal Shelter. 100% of donations will be given to P.A.W. at the end of the promotion. Voting is open through Tuesday, February 14th.



Princess Maggie Sapphire



Jack & Sky



Mr. Francois Bartholomew McMeow



Charley



Lucy



Nuggles



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# Fall in love with these beautiful homes



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**3 car garage • 3,723 sq. ft.**

Splendor in the woods...with privacy...AND a view... AND an AMAZING home. Call today on this brick beauty perched atop a hill overlooking Ft. Madison with a view of the Mississippi River and almost 6 acres of ground. Offered are 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, a formal living & dining room, a large great room/kitchen/breakfast room combo and a study/den with beautiful cherry cabinetry & bookshelves lining the walls. All of this with STUNNING hardwood floors. This beautiful home offering top-of-the-line features throughout.

**Listing #20160805 • \$460,000**

## DREAM HOME!



**3 BR, 3 BA, 4.3 ACRES**

**3 car garage • 1,635 sq. ft.**

Amazing cedar log sided home in a quiet and private setting, a well-appointed guest house, and 26x32 metal building. The main home offers beautiful hardwood flooring with a awesome open floor plan. Enjoy summer evenings on the nice walk-out patio area. This is a dream home!!!

**Listing #20161863 • \$299,000**

## BEAUTIFUL PERIOD HOME



**5 BR, 3 BA**

**3,119 sq. ft. • 14,500 sq. ft. lot**

From the period wrought iron fencing to the amazing stained oak staircase...from the impressive arches to the large wrap porch, this beautiful turn of the century (20th) home offers all the beauty and elegance of that era. This is a beautifully appointed home with all the modern conveniences. There is an extra large lot for your family to enjoy!!!

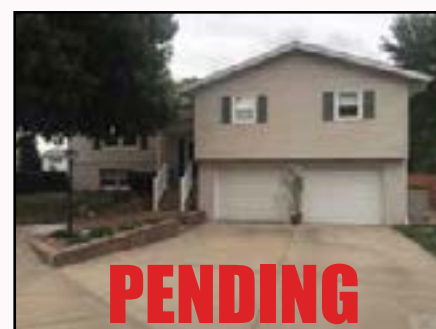
**Listing #20162159 • \$164,000**



**3BR • 2.50 BA • 2 car garage • 2,400 sq. ft. • 10,150 sq. ft. lot**

Lovely tri-level home on a quiet cul de sac offering numerous upgrades. There are 3 bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths, a large living room, dining room and open kitchen with newer stainless steel appliances and a breakfast bar. Newer windows, HVAC, new floor coverings on main and lower level and freshly painted throughout. The large backyard is completely fenced and has a 24 x 16 patterned concrete patio. Don't miss out on this wonderful family home.

**Listing #20163404 • \$167,500**



**4BR • 3BA • 2 car garage • 1,349 sq. ft. • 9,160 sq. ft. lot**

From the inviting entrance to the serene back yard, you will enjoy it ALL and everything in between!!!! This very well maintained 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has everything your family will need to call this Home. There is a beautiful screened porch and a deck off the back of the house, all overlooking a meticulously landscaped large yard. Call today on this amazing home situated on a quiet, safe cul de sac!!!

**Listing #20163339 • \$164,900**



**3 BR • 2 BA • 2 car garage • 1,168 sq. ft. • 0.54 acres**

Lovely family home comfortably situated at the end of a cul de sac, where you can enjoy the woods and the privacy! There is an inviting deck off the back of the home overlooking the woods and beautiful vinyl fencing. There are newer mechanicals and a newer roof, 2 fireplaces and lots of storage!! Don't miss out on this beauty.

**Listing #20163951 • \$139,000**



**4 BR • 1.75 BA • 3 car garage • 2,052 sq. ft. • 8,700 sq. ft. lot**

Beautiful 4 bedroom home with large rooms, recently redecorated and ready to move into. This home features stainless steel appliances, main floor laundry, eat in kitchen and formal dining room, main floor office or bedroom, open staircase, large living room and big bedrooms. Newer roof, siding and gutters on house. 24' X 36' insulated garage and workshop, plus carport. Large wrap porch great location near Old Settlers Park.

**Listing #20163776 • \$129,500**



**3 BR • 1 BA • 1 car garage • 1,248 sq. ft. • 0.37 acres**

Well-kept ranch on a beautiful, large corner lot in West Point, IA. New wooden privacy fence surrounding the entire back yard. There is also an attached garage and storage shed. A large wooden deck leads to the front door where you can sit and enjoy those beautiful Iowa summer sunsets! PLUS a covered deck in the back for those rainy days. This house is a rare find.

**Listing #20164234 • \$119,900**



**5BR • 2.50BA**

**2 car garage**

**2,834 sq. ft.**

**14,868 sq. ft. lot**

Amazing family home on a large corner lot in Farmington, IA. 2 fireplaces, beautiful woodwork, a beautiful open front porch, a large yard and an oversized garage!!

**Listing #20164117 \$127,500**



**3BR • 3BA**

**2,754 sq. ft.**

**3,550 sq. ft. lot**

Gorgeous, turn-key home with large patio minimum maintenance. UPDATES GALORE!!! Practically perfect in every way, this 1841 home includes the latest improvements while keeping its Victorian charm.

**Listing #23006122 \$99,999**



**2 car garage • 2,527 sq. ft.**

UNIQUELY beautiful 9.38 river bluff acreage. This home boasts many updates including complete master suite, heat and A/C, Septic system, deck, roof & gutters, flooring, and the list goes on. This private property includes fenced in barn area for animal lovers, mature fruit trees plus trees have been dropped for a beautiful panoramic river view that will last for years! Owner also plans to leave a John Deer mower and new snow blower!!

**Listing #20162733 • \$269,000**



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2 car garage  
868 sq. ft.

7,000 sq. ft. lot  
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Rare opportunity to own a renovated home at a great price!! Large, shaded yard and a 2 car garage. Located in a nice neighborhood on a corner lot. Seller is motivated and offering a 1 year AHS Home Warranty!  
**Listing #20163035**  
\$52,000



**PENDING**

**2BR • 1BA**  
2 car garage  
1,330 sq. ft.

7,250 sq. ft. lot  
REDUCED BY \$13,100!! Affordable with lots of potential!!! Nice size kitchen with breakfast bar plus dining area, spacious living room w/fireplace. Sits on a corner lot.

**Listing #20160368**  
\$59,900



**3BR • 1BA**  
1 car garage  
928 sq. ft.

1,087 sq. ft. lot  
Very nice maintenance-free home by Lincoln School with a 75 X 145 fenced yard, nice patio, fire pit and child's play set! Some very nice built-ins, some original hardwood flooring, full basement including laundry area. Also find extra parking, garage and carport area on the paved alley.  
**Listing #20164148**  
\$72,500



**5BR • 1.75BA**  
1 car garage  
1,904 sq. ft.

1,903 sq. ft. lot  
Great family home on large corner lot in the middle of Ft. Madison. Large living / dining area with original craftsman woodwork and built-ins, 14 x 22 garage on the alley with 2 additional storage sheds. Nice front porch, rear deck, and a great sunroom on the East.  
**Listing #20162346**  
\$86,950



**3BR • 1.50BA**  
1,460 sq. ft.  
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Reasonably priced home has had new doors installed, new bathroom fixtures, and freshly painted. With it's vinyl siding and fenced rear yard, it's ready for your family!!  
**Listing #20162025**  
\$25,500



**2BR • 1.25BA**  
1,119 sq. ft.  
0.17 acres

Brick rancher on Ave E close to Old Settlers Park, has full basement mostly finished, picket fence, newer windows, roof, etc.  
**Listing #20162502**  
\$88,900



**2BR • 1.75BA**  
2 car garage  
679 sq. ft.

6,500 sq. ft. lot  
Nice, small home. Seller has purchased and remodeled. Excellent condition.  
**Listing #20164161**  
\$62,500



**2BR • 1BA**  
2 car garage  
930 sq. ft.

7,280 sq. ft. lot  
This 2 bedroom home in Montrose has been a rental property and sells as is. Priced way below assessed value to sell quickly!  
**Listing #20164279**  
\$38,500



**Land**  
50.82 acres  
2,213,719 sq. ft.

Ideal 50 acre m/l parcel to develop. Close to new 4-8 Middle School and Baxter Rec Plex. TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY.  
**Listing #20162779**  
\$559,020



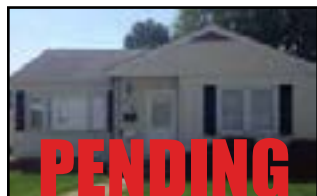
**3BR • 1.75BA**  
1 car garage  
888 sq. ft.

9,450 sq. ft. lot  
RARE RANCH with large fenced back yard and attached garage! Updated windows and kitchen, newer HVAC and water heater. Family Room in the basement. Just waiting for your own personal touch!  
**Listing #20163423**  
\$74,900



**Land**  
14.65 acres  
638,514 sq. ft.

Just outside city limits, perfect for housing development or small farm for horses or small livestock, over half tillable. City water is available. 30' X 60' building is totally insulated, heated and air conditioned with 200 amp service.  
**Listing #20162574**  
\$249,000



**PENDING**

**2BR • 1.50BA**  
2 car garage  
1,366 sq. ft.

3,300 sq. ft. lot  
Immaculate, well-kept ranch has family room with fireplace on the main floor, finished Rec Room, 2nd laundry room, 1/2 bath, and storage room with shelving all in the basement. All windows are vinyl replacement.  
**Listing #20162507**  
\$109,900



**2BR • 1BA**  
1 car garage  
733 sq. ft.

9,116 sq. ft. lot  
Country living in the city! Large fenced lot with garden including blackberry bushes, grapes, rhubarb, and asparagus, along with apple and peach trees. Large shop attached to the garage and a storage shed. Sit on the front deck and enjoy the country scenery! In Farmington.  
**Listing #20163103**  
\$39,999



**PENDING**

**Multi-family Duplex**  
2,672 sq. ft.  
7,250 sq. ft. lot

Income property. Potential for \$875/month income or more. Side-by-side duplex with 2 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartments. West side has a long term renter and east side is vacant.  
**Listing #20162154**  
\$49,500



**2BR • 1BA**  
1,144 sq. ft.  
3,625 sq. ft. lot

Move-in ready with many updates including kitchen WITH appliances, fresh paint, newer electrical (100 AMP breaker), new water lines at street and more! The home is clean as a whistle and ready to move in!  
**Listing #20161431**  
\$42,500



**2BR • 1BA**  
1 car garage  
1,224 sq. ft.

7,250 sq. ft. lot  
A house with character! Wrap-around porch, original hardwood in formal dining room/living room combo, main floor laundry, nice size eat-in kitchen including appliances, dining room has original fireplace, basement and 1 car garage.  
**Listing #20162543**  
\$53,000



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## Prep Basketball

# Rashid scores early and often in Hounds win

BY CHUCK  
VANDEMBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FAIRFIELD - Logan Rashid started Friday's game at Fairfield with a trey for the Hounds' first three points less than a minute into the game. And Logan Rashid wrapped up the Hounds scoring with a trey with less than a minute remaining in the game.

Fort Madison held off a pesky Fairfield team to win the last Southeast Conference game of the year 62-48. Logan Rashid scored a season high 23.

"He's playing with a lot of confidence right now and knocking down some big shots," said Bloodhounds Head Coach Ryan Wilson. "He's come a long way since the beginning of the year."

The sophomore came into Friday's game av-

eraging 5.6 points per game, but over the last three games has averaged 16 points. Rashid is part of a starting back court that includes junior Kaleb Cresswell and CJ Richardson. Kresswell is 2nd in the conference in scoring at 15.3 points per game and Richardson averages right around 11.

The Hounds found themselves in a battle out of the gate and had early trouble containing Tristin Waugh, a Trojan sophomore who plays in the post. Waugh scored the first three buckets for Fairfield and had eight points in a first quarter that ended with Fairfield on top 15-14.

Rashid, almost on script, dropped in another 3-pointer to start the 2nd quarter. Then he converted the back end of two free throws for the first four points of the quarter.

Cresswell drained one of his four 3-pointers on the night to give the Hounds a 21-15 advantage before the Trojans even got on the board. But then Waugh went back to work and scored eight straight points unanswered by FMHS to give Fairfield a 2-point advantage 23-21.

But Cresswell started a counter by the Hounds when he converted another trey and Richardson added a couple of 3s of his own, while Rashid completed a 3-point play on a drive in the lane, all part of a 12-0 run by the Hounds to enter the locker room up 10, 33-23.

Out of halftime, it was Fairfield's turn to counter with a 14-8 run that pulled the Trojans to within two points at 39-37. Wilson called a timeout to regroup the troop and switched to a zone press to stop the run.



### On the move

Senior CJ Richardson drives for one of his 10 points on the night as the Fort Madison Bloodhounds disposed of Fairfield 62-48. At right, Head Coach Ryan Wilson regroups the troops.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

“It's just confidence. Ever since I've been able to knock down some shots, it just builds confidence. I'm getting better looks from the guys.”

-Logan Rashid  
FMHS sophomore

"We went to a zone press and mixed it up between 1-2-2 and 2-2-1," he said. "We had to switch it up and give them a different look and it worked."

Yep. It sure did as

Fairfield only managed to score nine more points the rest of the game and the Hounds took advantage of the press and some solid play from senior Austin Rose....Rashid who threw in eight more in the final period to help seal the deal.

Rose made his presence known inside on offense and helping keep the ball moving around the perimeter while perched at the free throw line. Rose scored four points in the final four minutes for the Hounds.

"Austin's a kid that plays hard every night and you never have to question his intensity. Some things he needs to do different mentally and not be so handsy on defense, but he had a nice fourth quarter," Wilson said.

Rashid said his play of late is attributed to the

team seeing him better and his own confidence.

"It's just confidence. Ever since I've been able to knock down some shots, it just builds confidence. I'm getting more decent looks from the guys," Rashid said. "I look back in time and I'm slowly getting better. I was getting 0 points every other game to now getting double digits so I know it's getting better."

Wilson said Rashid isn't just shooting better, but playing better.

"He plays hard. There's a few things I'd like to see him do better, but he's in a zone right now," Wilson said. "He's just shooting with confidence, he's aggressive and he's active on defense. He got a few steals tonight and made some buckets in transition and he comes out and hits that three to

open the game. He's just playing well."

Rounding out the scoring for the Hounds: Richardson had 10, Cresswell had 14, Landon Bentley added a bucket and Treavor Kokjohn had 6. Rose finished with seven.

The Hounds improve to 13-7 on the season with their only conference losses coming to Mt. Pleasant on two occasions.

The Hounds next and final regular season game has been moved from Tuesday to Monday as a favor to Illini West who's girls team won sectionals and plays Tuesday. The Monday game will be senior night for the boys squad. The Hounds also drew Chariton in the first round of regionals and that game will be played on President's Day, Feb. 20 in Mt. Pleasant.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Quit shovin'

Logan Rashid goes up for one of his 23 points on the night and gets a pushing foul here. Rashid completed the three-point play and the Hounds went on to win 62-48.

# HTC boys fall short in Shootout with Pekin

BY CHUCK VANDEMBERG  
PCC EDITOR

PEKIN - After failing to score for the first four minutes of the game, the HTC Crusaders came flying at the Pekin Panthers opening up a 12-5 first quarter lead only to fade in the third and suffer a 52-60 loss in the Southeast Iowa Superconference shootout.

Seniors Bailey Merschman and Nick Pothitakis kept HTC close in the first half combining for five 3-pointers while fellow senior Cory Hopper got his engines going. Hopper is averaging 19 points per game but only managed five in the first half. The second quarter started quiet with Pekin converting a bucket and HTC nailing a 3-pointer in the first minute and then both

teams went quiet for the next two and a half minutes. Pekin then went on a 12-8 run to end the first half trailing by three at 26-23. The third quarter proved to be the Crusaders undoing as the Panthers outscored HTC 16-6 in the quarter.

The Crusaders couldn't play catch up as Pekin kept them at a safe seven to 12 point deficit throughout the quarter, despite Hopper putting up 18 in the half to finish with a team high 23.

"We had a great first quarter and a decent second quarter," Head Coach John Hellige said after the game "But then we came out flat in the third period. Kids played hard, but weren't able to stay focused in the 3rd quarter. That was a tough loss to a good Pekin team," Hellige said. "Now, it's time to get ready for the dis-

tricts."

Rounding out the scoring for the Crusaders was Merschman with 10 points, Pothitakis and Collin Thornton each had six, Connor Hellweg added 3, Milo Orton and Jack Stinson each had two for HTC.

The Crusaders fall to 10-11 on the season and face a tough Notre Dame team on Thursday on the Nikes home court. Watch for a preview of the regional match next week in the Pen City Current.

In the junior varsity match, HTC won 55-46 behind a whopping 32 points from Brant Holtkamp who went 17-18 from the free throw line.

Quentin Schneider scored 9 points, Matt Hellige added six and Reed Fehseke had five. Kyle Bredemeyer had two points and Blake Crabtree added one.

## Sports/Opinion



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Inlet pass

FMHS' Taylor Shannan lines up an interior pass for the Hounds in the first quarter, while Amber Dilsaver is poised to catch and score. Dilsaver finished with 18 in the Hounds' loss to Fairfield.

## Hounds give No. 15 Fairfield 1st half battle

BY CHUCK  
VANDEMBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FAIRFIELD - It was a first half that made Head Coach Charlie Knipe proud. But it was the second half that made him crazy.

utilizing a strategy of pressure defense on the guard court and a full-court press for most of the game.

"We had a great first half," Knipe said. "We were happy. We were running our offense. We were overcoming the full court pressure well...I don't think I would have changed a thing in the first half."

Fort Madison had a 4-0 lead to start the first quarter as Fairfield's sharpshooters Kylie Kurtz, Sami Fritz and Nicole Burch struggled to find range in a wide open Fairfield offense comprised of using perimeter passing until someone was open for a three. Rarely did a Fairfield player on offense hold the ball for more than three seconds inte-

grating skip passes and moving the ball inside and out to find the open shooter.

Meanwhile Fort Madison held onto a 6-5 lead with just over four minutes left in the first quarter before Fritz, who averages 16 points per game, heated up and converted two inside buckets after the perimeter passing opened driving lanes, and then nailed a 3-pointer with just over a minute left to put the Trojans up 16-12. Fort Madison's Emily Mitchell countered from just outside the lane on the left, but Burch dialed in from long-distance to put Fairfield up 19-14 at the end of one.

Burch connected quickly in the second quarter, but Fort Madison freshman Anna Kester countered with a 3-pointer to pull the Hounds back within four at 21-17. Burch then connected on a three and Fritz scored inside before Brittney Harris got hacked in the act and converted the 3-point play.

She scored on the next possession as well and then Dilsaver did her work inside a couple times and the Hound were in business at 26-29 at the end of the half.

Knipe said his team was playing well and he didn't want to change up strategies for fear that Fritz would take over scoring on penetration.

"Well we really can't change anything at that point because if we give something up (Sami) Fritz is going to score in the middle," Knipe said.

Fairfield got after the Hounds quickly to start the third period when Burch his a three on the

second trip down the floor and Fritz scored on a drive and then went outside for a three pointer to spearhead an 8-0 run that had the Hounds down 37-26. The Trojan press now was giving the Hounds fits as Fort Madison didn't get the ball across the time-line into their set offense for over three minutes.

Fort Madison was able to cut the lead back to nine a couple times in the quarter all on inside scoring with Dilsaver, and Mercedes and Mariah Trimble doing most of the scoring inside.

But the Trojans kept getting to the free throw line and the Hounds were forced to come out and guard the perimeter. The move allowed Fairfield to penetrate for driving buckets and trips to the charity stripe.

"We gave up two quick buckets in the third quarter and now we're down by 10 and we hung our heads a bit and just never really recovered," Knipe said.

"We just made silly, silly mistakes, I would bet we had 20 turnovers. We are playing so much better than we were last month. I'd like to get a win against Keokuk and then have another shot at 'em," he said.

Fort Madison plays Keokuk at Keokuk in the first round of Class 4A regionals on Wednesday with a 7 p.m. tip off.

Rounding out the scoring for the 5-16 Hounds were Dilsaver with 18, Harris with 7, Mercedes Trimble with 6, Emily Mitchell and Mariah Trimble each had five points and Kester added her 3. Fritz led Fairfield with 25 points.

## Root for Team Jesus!

JOY - Continued from Page 3

not just on the sidelines couching us through everything that is thrown at us, but he is also out on the field of life right beside us.

God's word from Romans 8:37 tells us that we are more than conquerors through God's unconditional, never give up on us, just because he wants to love we experience as members of Team Jesus.

More than conquerors!

Conquerors do not remain conquerors. Someone comes along who is bigger and more powerful to defeat them. And no matter how mighty they may be, they cannot triumph over death. Eventually the earthly kingdoms they fought so hard to acquire and dominate will fall into ruins and their wealth and their tombs will be plundered. All that will be left will be dust and rubble, a few legends, and a brief footnote in the history of the world.

We who have the joy of the Lord will overcome and not be overcome by anything, for the witness of Christ's joy in our deepest most core of our being is our strength and our salvation. For I am convinced and I am more than confident that nothing, absolutely nothing in life or death can ever separate us from the love of Christ. Not hardship, distress, danger or financial problems. Not angels, government leaders or world politics. Not the burdens of the past or the unknown of the future. Whether we're at the top of our game or find ourselves in a deep, dark pit, Jesus and the love of God is right there with us. (based on Romans 8:35-39)

Joy is the strength of enduring grace. It gives us hope and helps to persevere. It gets us through to see that the light at the end of the tunnel is the result of God working for good in our lives and not just another train to run us down.

Is there something that is blocking that joy? Give it to Jesus and open your heart and mind to the feast of joy God has prepared for you. Taste of it, and you'll find it is rich and sweet.

Then go, and share it with those that haven't found it yet.

In all things, celebrate! The joy of the Lord is our strength, and on team Jesus, we got the joy!

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### Running scoop

Mariah Trimble scores on an easy drive with a layup in the second half of the Hounds' 62-44 loss to Fairfield. The Hounds were only down three points to 15-ranked team in the state at the end of the first half.

## District Wrestling

# Harlan making 3rd trip to DM, Ryan gets first entry

**STATE** - Continued from Page 1

major decision 16-3 over Shoemaker.

"I'm really happy for Ryan and Harlan," Smith said. "Ryan's really been focused on that so that has really been burning in him. And Harlan he's been there two times so we're really happy for him, too. This will be his third run at state and that's a great accomplishment."

Harlan, who finished 7th in the state as a freshman and 5th as a sophomore, shook hands with Micah Blair of Iowa City West, the two tussled for about 8 seconds before Harlan rolled him to the edge of the circle and cradled him for a pin in a total of 21 seconds. In his semifinal match he pinned Mt. Pleasant's Nate Wallace. In the championship match, Steffensmeier decided Cedar Rapids Prairie's Casey Hogan 7-0 to claim the title and his entry into the state tourney.

The Hounds were close to getting a third Steffensmeier into state when Aaron Steffensmeier won his first match at 132 by fall over Michael Clark of Ottumwa in just under four minutes. Joey Harney

of Iowa City High pinned Steffensmeier in 3:12. Steffensmeier then decided Mount Pleasant's Avante Henley 7-0. He would have had a chance to wrestle back for 2nd place but since Joey Harney had already defeated Steffensmeier at the tourney, he wasn't required to wrestle Steffensmeier again and was declared the winner by rule.

"As I look at the other districts, there are other kids that are going that Aaron was as good as, but we just had a tough district and that's the way it goes sometimes," Smith said.

"With Ryan, I hope he'll look at this as fuel for state."

Full results of the district meet are as follows:  
IHSAA 3A Dist. 5 Results for Fort Madison  
106 - Elton Kruse (12-19) placed 5th and scored 6.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Corbin Broeker (Mount Pleasant) 19-17 won by decision over Elton Kruse (Fort Madison) 12-19 (Dec 11-5)  
Cons. Semi - Elton Kruse (Fort Madison) 12-19 received a bye ( ) (Bye)  
5th Place Match - Elton Kruse (Fort Madison) 12-19 won by decision over Daniel Mora (Pella) 13-21 (Dec 4-2)

113 - Ryan Steffensmeier (27-10) placed 1st and scored 23.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-10 received a bye ( ) (Bye)  
Semifinal - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-10 won by fall over MICHAEL SANTORO



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Close to the end

Junior Ryan Steffensmeier has Michael Santoro in a cradle in the semifinal match at 113 lbs. Saturday at the Class 3A district meet in Mt. Pleasant. Steffensmeier went on to win the weight class and punched his ticket for the state tournament for the first time.

(City High) 17-22 (Fall 0:49)  
1st Place Match - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-10 won by major decision over NATHANAEL SHOEMAKER (Ottumwa) 27-18 (MD 16-3)

120 - Nathan Steffensmeier (9-24) placed 5th and scored 8.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - RYAN CEYNAR (City High) 13-29 won by decision over Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 9-24 (Dec 9-2)  
Cons. Semi - Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 9-24 received a bye ( ) (Bye)  
5th Place Match - Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 9-24 won by fall over Matthew Widmar (Pella) 13-26 (Fall 1:42)

126 - Skylar Schau (8-29) placed 6th and scored 5.50 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Rashaun Braggs (Osaloosa) 16-11 won by fall over Skylar Schau (Fort Madison) 8-29 (Fall 1:27)  
Cons. Semi - Skylar Schau (Fort

Madison) 8-29 won by tech fall over Jamie Johannes (Mount Pleasant) 2-12 (TF-1.5 3:20 (15-0))  
5th Place Match - Hunter Davis (West) 20-29 won by fall over Skylar Schau (Fort Madison) 8-29 (Fall 0:44)

132 - Aaron Steffensmeier (27-17) placed 3rd and scored 14.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Aaron Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-17 won by fall over MICHAEL CLARK (Ottumwa) 8-19 (Fall 3:53)  
Semifinal - JOEY HARNEY (City High) 40-10 won by fall over Aaron Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-17 (Fall 3:12)  
3rd Place Match - Aaron Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-17 won by decision over Avante Henley (Mount Pleasant) 14-18 (Dec 7-0)  
2nd Place Match - JOEY HARNEY (City High) 40-10 won by rule over Aaron Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 27-17 (RULE)

138 - Harlan Steffensmeier (43-3) placed 1st and scored 24.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 43-3 won by fall over Micah Blair (West) 4-26 (Fall 0:21)  
Semifinal - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 43-3 won by fall over Nate Wallace (Mount Pleasant) 24-16 (Fall 1:06)  
1st Place Match - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 43-3 won by decision over Casey Hogan (Prairie) 23-13 (Dec 7-0)

145 - Dalton Woolever (17-20) placed 6th and scored 5.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Alex Kooker (City High) 30-16 won by fall over Dalton Woolever (Fort Madison) 17-20 (Fall 2:30)  
Cons. Semi - Dalton Woolever (Fort Madison) 17-20 won by major decision over Tyler McCoy (Ottumwa) 10-18 (MD 13-1)  
5th Place Match - Jo Dixon (West) 16-28 won by decision over Dalton Woolever (Fort Madison) 17-20 (Dec 8-1)

182 - Diego Lozano (18-19) placed 5th and scored 10.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Preston LaGrange (Prairie) 35-9 won by fall over Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 18-19 (Fall 1:17)  
Cons. Semi - Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 18-19 won by fall over Tyler Yoerger (West) 7-9 (Fall 5:10)  
5th Place Match - Diego Lozano (Fort Madison) 18-19 won by fall over BRYAN CORDOVA (Ottumwa) 22-19 (Fall 1:59)

195 - Danen Settles (11-15) placed 6th and scored 4.00 team points.  
Quarterfinal - Stuart Boston (Prairie) 18-16 won by fall over Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 11-15 (Fall 1:53)  
Cons. Semi - Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 11-15 received a bye ( ) (Bye)  
5th Place Match - Dalton Bass (Mount Pleasant) 27-11 won by fall over Danen Settles (Fort Madison) 11-15 (Fall 2:34)



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### 3 points..and then the fall

Junior 138 lb. champion Harlan Steffensmeier puts a quick pin on Micah Blair of Iowa City West in the first round Saturday.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Along for the ride

Aaron Steffensmeier, 132 lbs., finished 3rd at the meet despite having the upper hand on Michael Clark in the quarterfinal round Saturday.

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