



Pen City Current

Monday, December 17, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 10



A visit with St. Nick

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jillian Menke sits on Santa's lap and gives him some insight into her good behavior this year and what she'd like for Christmas. Jillian was visiting Santa and making cookies at the Fort Madison YMCA Saturday morning with her family.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



A typical day off turns a bit atypical

Ginnie and I try to do things together on her days off. Often in the middle of the week, we go to movies, shop, and have lunch out. Since it might be a Tuesday or Wednesday, in all likelihood, we will be the only ones in the theater, which I sort of enjoy, like we're getting away with something. Unusual things happen, you can't make this stuff up. Ginnie has learned to expect the unexpected, to go with the flow.

On her last day off we stopped at a convenience store for a pit stop. We were standing in line at the checkout when we saw an ambulance pull up to the store, it's lights whirring. We wondered if there was a medical emergency that we were not aware of. The paramedics got out of the ambulance, went around to its rear and opened the door. A man with nothing on except a medical gown, got out of the ambulance, and walked hurriedly into the convenience store to use the restroom. The back end of his gown was flapping open, exposing his rear portions, as is typical of medical gowns. Evidently, the patient was being transported and had to use the restroom. Ginnie and I were speechless.

We decided to have coffee. We were sitting in their little break area when a convenience-store clerk came up to wipe off the tables. I noticed something on her lip that I thought she was unaware of. I figured she might like to know, so I pulled out my hankie and offered to wipe it off. She said, "Oh, that's my lip-ring hole. You're the second person today that's tried to do that." Ginnie just about cracked up.

As a special treat, I took Ginnie to a book store/coffee house that also serves food. It's a great atmosphere for reading, sipping latte, and having lunch. The place was very busy as it was the noon hour. I couldn't help but notice that there was a gentleman sitting very quietly by himself in the middle of the room. He had his eyes closed and his hands folded in this lap. I watched him for a few minutes. I came to the conclusion that he was meditating. A person who was leaving came up and tapped the meditator on the shoulder. The fellow didn't

See **SWARM**, page 3

WEEKEND SPORTS RECAP

Nikes hand FMHS two Saturday losses

Lady Hounds battling illness, injuries in seeking first win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - Fort Madison Head Coach Todd McGhghy said with a smile after his Lady Hounds dropped a 60-42 loss to Burlington Notre Dame Saturday night, "We're close."

When pushed to explain how 0-8 Fort Madison is close, McGhghy said the Lady Hounds are 10% away from a win. Ten percent more points a quarter, 10% fewer turnovers, and 10% more rebounds.

"I told the girls in the locker room, we're close and they said, 'How close' and I told 'em...10%,"

See **GIRLS HOOPS**, page 4



MCGHGHY

Hounds can't keep pace with hot-shooting Nikes

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - It wasn't the same team that pulled away from Danville earlier this week when Fort Madison junior Jayden Fedler hit a career high 41 points.

The Bloodhounds boys basketball team was beaten in just about every aspect of the game as Burlington Notre Dame ripped off a 72-40 win over Fort Madison Saturday Night at Father Minnet Gym in Burlington.

Fedler sat half the game on the bench after Notre Dame's Ryle Koenig blocked two of his first shots

See **BOYS HOOPS**, page 5



WILSON

Advertiser Index

Classifieds	P.6
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry	P.3
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....	P.5
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.4
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center	P.2
Harvestville Farm.....	P.3
Lee County Health Department	P.7
Pen City Current	Ps.3,6
Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....	P.5
Professional Services	P.6

News Index

Current-Lee	P.3
From the front.....	Ps.3,5
Lottery Numbers.....	P.4
Opinion	P.3
Sports	Ps.4-5
Weather	P.5

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Opinion/Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

Tree of Love Gatherings

The Lee County Health Department is hosting a series of gatherings to help with holiday healing after a loss. The events are on Wednesday Dec. 19th from 2 to 3 p.m. at 3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison.

Downtown Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison downtown Enchanted Forest will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G on Dec. 22 with visits with Santa from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information. The December luncheon will not be held due to the Christmas holiday. The next luncheon will be held January 22, 2019.

Fort Madison Day at Carver-Hawkeye Arena

Tickets are now on sale for the Iowa vs. Bryant University on Dec. 29, 2018 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the Fort Madison Partners office at 614 9th Street through Dec. 13. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth and \$5 if you want to ride a Trailways Bus to the game.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded. December's BINGO games will be held Wednesday, January 9.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.



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Harvestville Farm

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People watching makes for an interesting double day off

SWARM- Continued from Page 1

budget. I have never witnessed a person meditating in public before. I thought one usually did that in private. Maybe he had missed his morning meditation and needed to catch up. Different strokes for different folks. Ginnie thought it unusual also.

While Ginnie and I were reading and eating, there were two separate groups of people standing in the middle of the busy room, doing nothing but conversing. They stood there for the longest time, not bothering to sit down, just yakking it up, having a gay old time, like long lost friends. I was pleased to see, in our fast paced, interconnected world, people still talking and enjoying each others' company.

A homeless person came in to warm up. No one seemed to mind. I was quite impressed when one of the members of the yakking-it-up group, stopped and bought the homeless person a cup of coffee. The homeless person was quite appreciative, sipping the coffee and warming his hands around the cup. He had on fingerless gloves. I have never understood the purpose of fingerless gloves, unless you're trying to be cool. When I'm outdoors doing chores, it's my fingers that get cold first.

The meditator came out of his trance and, wouldn't you know it, went for his smartphone first thing. Electronics win!

Ginnie wiggled her eyebrows up and down—just another one of her days off, with Curt, in the middle of the week.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.



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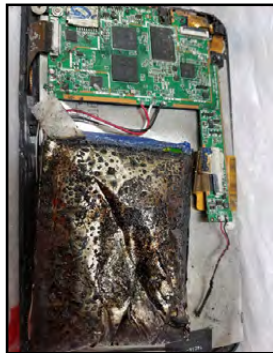


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McGhghy: Hounds close to first win

GIRLS HOOPS - Continued from Page 1

McGhghy said. He is in his first year in a re-boot of the FMHS girls basketball team.

Fort Madison hung with the Nikes in the first period with the game just two points apart at 12-10 with 1:24 remaining.

Senior Braxtyn McGhghy hit a three pointer at the 2:08 mark from the left wing to give Fort Madison a 10-7 lead, but Notre Dame responded with a 3-ball from Maddie Stutsman. Fort Madison committed back-to-back turnovers and then the Nike's Taylor Ackerman converted from just outside the lane to give Notre Dame its first lead of the game at 12-10.

Fort Madison called a :30 time out to quash the momentum and then Kylie Cashman committed a foul right out of the time out and Ackerman converted both free throws.

Brandy Walker, who's starting to find her stride shooting inside the lane in traffic, converted to cut the lead to 12-14 but three straight turnovers led to an Ackerman 3-pointer at the top of the key to

set the first quarter with Notre Dame up 17-12.

The Lady Hounds shooting then went cold for about two periods. Aside from a Walker bucket, where she yanked down a rare offensive rebound off an Anna Kester miss, FMHS wouldn't convert another bucket until the 5:51 mark of the third period when senior Jassmine Bass scored inside. But with that bucket, the Hounds were down 40-23.

Bass would convert a free throw at 4:31 in the third as the only other point in the quarter for Fort Madison as the Nikes pulled away 44-24 at the end of three.

The Hounds' leading scorer, Maddie Rashid, was held to just four points in the first half. She got hot in the fourth quarter when Fort Madison had cut the lead to a dozen. Rashid scored on a drive from the right side and was fouled by Notre Dame's Molly Johnson. Rashid missed the freebie but the bucket cut the Nikes' lead to 47-35 with five minutes left.

The Bloodhounds held Notre Dame without a bucket in the fourth quarter until Johnson scored from about 8 feet along the baseline at the 4:37 mark. Then the Nikes' Riley Todd hit a long 3-pointer to shut down the Fort Madison comeback attempt.

Kester and Rashid led Fort Madison with 10 points each. Bass had eight points and Walker added seven. Nadia Boeding and McGhghy each finished with three and Dalyn Wondra added a free throw.

McGhghy said he was impressed with the effort the girls gave and said getting that first win is key to the girls' confidence they can play with the other schools in the area.

"Again, they didn't give up. They played 32 minutes," he said. "We got some really good looks at shots again, and those baskets will come. We just need to get that win. We thought we could get one here and there were others here the past week or so that we should have won."



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Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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12/15 EVENING
 5 0 0



12/15 MID-DAY
 0 3 9 0
12/15 EVENING
 7 7 0 6

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Sports/Weather

Wilson: Bloodhounds lacked urgency and will to win

BOYS HOOPS - Continued from Page 1

leaving Fedler visibly frustrated. So much so at one point, Head Coach Ryan Wilson met him at the free throw line on a time out to try and motivate his post player.

But Notre Dame kept Fort Madison's entire team at bay as the Hounds only managed 15-44 shooting on the night. Senior Logan Rashid was just 4 of 15 on the night, but finished with 12 points to lead Fort Madison.

The Hounds fell behind quickly 9-0 on three straight 3-pointers, two from Gavin Kies and one from Mitchell Brent. Hound freshman Dayton Davis countered with a 3-ball, but the Nikes' Ryle Koenig hit one of his own to keep Fort Madison at bay. Fort Madison would miss its next four shots from the field and trail 3-17 before senior Brandon Keester would score underneath and get fouled by Koenig. Keester missed the free throw and Notre Dame would race to the other end and feed Axel Tjaden for a bucket and a comfortable 19-5 lead for the Nikes.

Davis would connect on another 3-ball for Fort Madison, but that would be all the scoring they would get in the first quarter as Notre Dame, on a 7-0 run to end the quarter, held a 26-8 lead.

Head Coach Ryan Wilson said the Hounds had no urgency and hung their heads after the early poor start.

"Our effort was horrible," he said. "From the tip we just acted like we didn't even wanna be here tonight. We were content beating Danville by nine on Thursday and we were just going through the motions. We thought Notre Dame was gonna come in and lay down. We hung our heads. We had no urgency... no nothing."

The shooting woes continued for Fort Madison as it seemed the quick, lanky Nikes had an answer for every drive, every quick pass, and every scheme the Hounds

set up. Fort Madison hit just 2 of 12 from the field in the second quarter as Notre Dame raced out to a 42-13 lead at halftime behind Koenig's eight points.

Fedler started the second half with a quick bucket in the lane, but then Fort Madison committed two quick turnovers on the Nike end and another block of a Fedler inside move had the Hounds on their heels again. After Kies scored to make it 46-15, Rashid and Fedler would get back-to-back buckets, but Notre Dame's Nick Skerik would have an answer for that with a 3-pointer from the left wing. Kies would hit another 3-ball. Parker Denning would get on the board with a jumper from about 11 feet to make it 23-52. Notre Dame would go on a 9-4 run through the final four minutes for a lopsided 63-28 lead at the end of three.

The Hounds only got seven shots off in the final period and couldn't make a dent in the large Nike cushion and Wilson began substituting heavily with about three min-

utes left in the contest.

Fedler finished with 11 points, followed by Davis' eight. Keester had six on the night and Denning had three to round out the scoring for Fort Madison.


Wilson said the Hounds practiced everything the Nikes could throw at them, but just couldn't get anything going and they knew the Nikes would key on Fedler early.

"When you come out and score 41 points, of course they were going to be ready for you," Wilson said. "But we talked about everything these guys were going to do to us and our kids knew what they were going to do. We just didn't execute. There was a huge lack of urgency and will out on the floor tonight I thought."


The 3-4 Hounds host Washington on Tuesday night at the HoundDome and then travel to Mt. Pleasant to wrap things up before the holiday break. The Bloodhounds will have played nine of their 21 regular season games before the break.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 17 Dec

 Sunny
High- 35.5° F | Low - 21.2° F

TUE 18 Dec

 Mostly Sunny
High- 40.3° F | Low - 32.9° F

WED 19 Dec

 Sunny
High- 42.6° F | Low - 36.5° F

THU 20 Dec

 Sunny
High- 34.8° F | Low - 29.4° F

FRI 21 Dec

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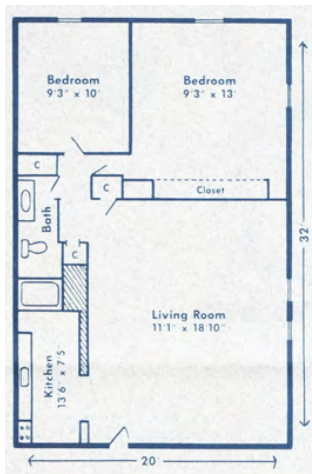
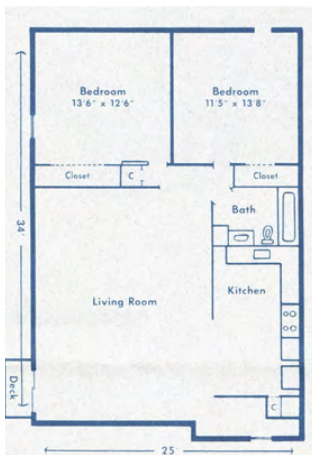
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