



# Pen City Current

Monday, January 29, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 38



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The United Way of the Great River Region handed out close to \$125,000 on Wednesday as part of their annual fundraising disbursement. The event was held at the First Christian Church in Keokuk and 26 agencies were allotted funds in 2018.

## Twenty-six agencies get funds from UWGRR

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - More than 26 county agencies were given funds as part of the annual United Way of the Great River Region on Wednesday.

Funds totaling more than \$125,000 were handed out as part of the annual luncheon held at the First Christian Church.

Jason Dixon, the new president of the group said the group is still working it's way through the merger process that began in March of 2016 when the United Way agencies throughout Lee County, Iowa, Hancock County, Illinois and Clark County, Mo. banded together under the new flag and consolidated services and fundraising activities.

Dixon said the group is looking at the future of the fundraising campaigns and is open to new ideas.

"We would eventually like to have some events in each county, with the potential of increasing the amount of assistance we can provide. But we're still working through a lot of this merger," Dixon said.

New director Karen Thie, who was hired in December after Jaclyn Lansing left the post this summer, said the agency was able to help 26 groups this year.

"We obviously had a lot of applications this year. We gave different amounts based on need and the grant process. We would like to be able to give all these agencies more money but we work with what we have," she said.

Several fundraisers are being planned this year including the annual golf outings and corporate campaigns. Officers from local industries were also recognized at the event for spearheading United Way employee campaigns throughout the year. Thie said this year's corporate campaign will begin in September.

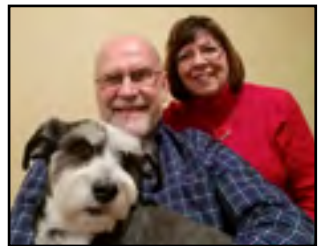


At left, Denise Fraise and Sarah Clendening accept a check from UWGRR President Jason Dixon for the Kiwanis' school backpack program.. At right, Fort Madison Food Pantry director George Gaudette is presented with funding.



## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



## Granting Grant a second look

It's been a tough winter. But tough winters, with the accompanying housebound syndrome and flu, is perfect for you know what—yes, reading! Here's my recommendation for keeping the howling north wind and frigid temperatures at bay, "Grant," by Ron Chernow. I read Chernow's "Hamilton" and "Washington," so it was only fair that I should follow up with "Grant." It's 1,100 pages long. No fooling. It took me well over a month to read, and my satisfaction is akin to the feeling one gets after completing a 10,000 piece puzzle. Just reading the monster was an accomplishment. But boy, oh boy, did I receive an education.

Like most people, I had a "ho-hum" attitude about Grant, largely formed from my public-school education—that being he was a do-nothing drunk president and Northern Army General whose victories were mainly due to superior numbers. I had even read a book years ago that unabashedly theorized that Grant was complicit in the plot to assassinate Lincoln. God forgive me. Grant hero-worshiped Lincoln and was crushed by his death. Grant's only goal was to complete the job Lincoln had started. Grant led the charge to ratify the 13th 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution that abolished slavery, established citizenship, and granted voting rights to all people born in the United States.

British historian James Bryce assigned Grant "the front rank of presidents with Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln." The historian Sean Wilentz stated, "The evidence clearly shows that Grant created the most auspicious record on racial equality and civil rights of any president from Lincoln to Lyndon B. Johnson." Grant oversaw the creation of the Justice Department, whose first duty was to bring thousands of indictments against the Klu Klux Klan.

See **SWARM**, page 6



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**SPORTS**

# Central Lee hands FMHS boys tough loss

DONNELSON - The Central Lee Hawks came back from a 10-point deficit to knock off Fort Madison Saturday night in high school boys basketball action.

Central Lee senior Evan Doyle connected on two free throws with 1:11 left to tie the game at 59 and then the Hawks tied up Fort Madison's inbound pass which went back to Central Lee. Senior Jared Brisby then scored inside on the Hawks possession to take a two-point lead with about 45 seconds remaining.

For Madison scored inside on their next possession when junior Logan Rashid found Treavor James-Kokjohn under the basket.

Central Lee got the ball in quickly and found Isaac Moeller on the run for a layup to go up by 2 63-61. The Hounds turned the ball over past the half-court line and Brisby raced to the other end where he was fouled before getting to the hoop. The senior converted both for a four point lead with just over a second remaining and the Hounds couldn't get a shot before the buzzer.

The Hounds found themselves behind early on being down by as much as four in the first quarter, but back-to-back 3-balls by senior Kaleb Cresswell put the Hounds up 15-13 with about 1:40 left in the first quarter. Cresswell, who finished with 15 points in the first half, all on 3-pointers, was held to just two points in the

second half.

The Hounds, in the middle of a 13-0 run, got a couple of free throws from James-Kokjohn and a 3-pointer from Brandon Keester off the bench to stretch the lead to 22-15 in the second quarter. Cresswell would hit again from long range to make it a 10-point lead and then the two teams traded buckets the rest of the way through the period. Central Lee got a couple of 3-pointers from Doyle and junior Sam Himer to help the Hawks cut the lead to eight at 36-28 at the end of the half.

James-Kokjohn hit from the right side outside of the arc for a 39-28 lead to start the second half. The Hawks chipped away at the lead and had it down to eight points with 2:19 left in the period before the Hounds were whistled for four straight personal fouls, letting the hosts score six unanswered. The run had the game 48-46 before Keester hit again from long range giving the Hounds a 51-46 lead. Rashid scored on a drive in the lane, but Central Lee's Jake Fraise hit a 3-pointer from the left to make it a four-point game going into the final period.

The Hounds got four open looks on the first posses-



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS' Logan Rashid gets inside for a couple points while Central Lee's Evan Doyle looks on Saturday night at Central Lee.

See FMHS BOYS, page 6

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Founded in 2016



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## Scene Around Town/Lottery Numbers



Kumar Wickramasingha accepts a check on behalf of Elliott Test Kitchen from Jason Dixon of the UWGRR at Wednesday's luncheon.



Fort Madison YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson accepts a check from Jason Dixon of the UWGRR at Wednesday's luncheon.



Sara Clendening of the Fort Madison Public Library accepts her funding check from Jason Dixon of the UWGRR at Wednesday's luncheon.

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## Sports/ Classifieds

# Bloodhound girls still looking for first win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - Some tenacious defense from the Fort Madison Bloodhounds gave Central Lee some fits in a 35-26 Hawks win Saturday at Central Lee.

The Hounds held MacKenzie Northup, the second leading scorer in the Southeast Iowa Superconference South Division at 16.9 point per game, to just six points on the night, but the points came early and knocked the Hounds on their heels out of the gate.

"We had a pretty good game plan, but the Northup girl came out and hit a couple three's at the start," said Head Coach Charlie Knipe

Northup's long balls were the key to a 8-2 first quarter. The Hawks are averaging about 17 points per quarter, so the

half-court zone defense was able to keep the Hounds within reach most of the game.

"We ran a 2-3 and tried to keep them off the boards and we were pretty successful. We just missed a lot of baskets," Knipe said.

The Hounds hung with Central Lee in the second half being outscored only 12-9. Senior Taylor Shannon scored three unanswered with about two minutes remaining in the 2nd quarter to cut the lead to 7 at 10-17, but freshman Mya Merschman hit a 3-pointer with :20 left in the half. Senior Kamryn Bailey got the ball inside with :04 left and was fouled by the Hawks' Daly Brisby, but only sank the front end of the two freebies and the Hounds trailed 11-20 at the end of the half.

The Hounds shooting went cold in the third quarter going just 2 for 12, despite



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS senior Kamryn Bailey works inside for two of her 10 points on the night in the Hounds 35-26 loss at Central Lee Saturday night.

Shannon having five steals in a period of about two minutes in the middle of the period. Fort Madison couldn't convert

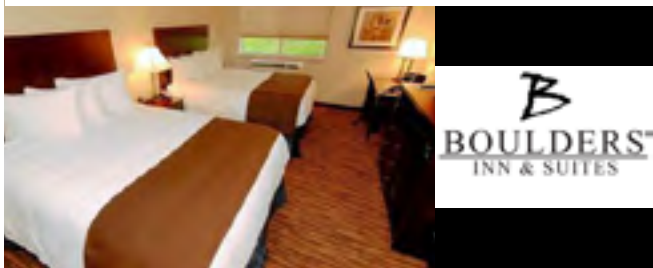
the buckets in transition. Neither team could find the basket in the first half of

See **FMHS GIRLS**, page 6

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## From the Front/Weather

# Last minute turnovers doom Hounds

**FMHS BOYS** - Continued from Page 2

sion of the 4th period off three offensive rebounds, but couldn't convert and Central Lee raced down and got another 3 from Fraise to cut the lead to one 53-52. Lorezno Riles scored on a nifty assist from Cresswell and Head Coach Ryan Wilson called a time out.

The Hounds held the Hawks on the next possession, but turned the ball over in transition on the way down. Central Lee missed on its pos-

session and then Rashid scored to push the lead to five with 4 minutes left in the game, Fort Madison again was whistled for a couple of personal fouls, putting Brisby back at the lane where he converted both freebies.

Moeller scored again inside to make it a one point game setting up the last minute theatrics for the home team.

Wilson said the Hawks used pressure in their man-to-man defense

to help contain red-hot Cresswell.

"They just stepped up their man-to-man defense by not letting him get any open shots.

The loss was the second in two nights for the Hounds after falling to Mt. Pleasant on Friday.

Wilson said after the game the team had to get better.

"We'll get back to practice. We have to get better," he said.

Cresswell led the

Hounds with his 17, Rashid had 14, and James-Kokjohn had a dozen. Keester and Riles both finished with eight points and Jayden Fedler rounded out the scoring with a bucket.

Brisby led all scorers with 19 points on the night and Doyle had 10.

Central Lee travels to Burlington Notre-Dame on Tuesday while the Hounds put their 11-6 record up against Washington at home on Friday.

# Some scholars rate Grant at the top

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

On a personal note, I appreciated all the period language used by Chernow, not only in quotations, but in his normal flow of writing. For example, "raconteur," "cant," "quondam," "strabismus," "refractory," "truculence," "grapeshot," "schadenfreude," "gauche," "brevet," "panache," "ennui," "amalgam," "patent" (adjective), and "caviling" are just a few of the words that kept my fingers busy calling up the internal Kindle dictionary.

Grant's father "hornswoggled" a West Point appointment for his son, Ulysses, because it was a free education and Ulysses didn't seem adept at doing anything else. Ulysses, early on in his military career, showed his gratitude by being drummed out of the army for drunkenness and insubordination. He then tried a series of private business ventures with his father and brother and was a drastic failure at that, also. When the Mexican-American War came along, Ulysses offered up his services as an experienced military officer, and his military career was off and running. It appears that Ulysses had an innate ability to command brilliantly while under fire, but not when the pressure was off—which was when he would succumb to alcohol. An interesting detail about Grant's alcoholism is that he didn't seem to be plagued by hangovers. He could go on a four-day bender, come to, dust himself off and take charge without missing a beat. He took the oath of temperance many, many times.

When the South seceded, Grant was appalled. In his estimation, the only states that had that right were the original 13. The other states had been purchased and were property. Grant's opinion, however, soon changed to the benefit of the slaves—they had human rights just like everyone else.

Such a respected and popular figure was Grant, that he nearly obtained a third term as president—and would have if he had campaigned. Campaigning for one's self was generally frowned on at the time.

My next cold-weather challenge, "Leonardo Da Vinci," by Walter Isaacson.

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

# Tough 3rd quarter defense not enough for FM

**FMHS GIRLS** - Continued from Page 4

the quarter, but the Hawks started to get back on track with a bucket by Anna Krehbiel to give the Hawks a 22-11 lead.

Shannon answered with a free throw and Eleesha Estrada hit to cut the lead to eight, but the Hawks Cloey Davis hit on a 3-ball to extend the lead to 11 and the Hounds wouldn't get much closer the rest of the night.

"We were trying to get some movement on offense," Knipe said. "I'm really proud of how these girls played

against one of the best teams in the state in their class," said head coach Charlie Knipe.

Bailey led the Hounds with 10 points from the post position. Shannon had seven on the night and Anna Kester added five. Braxtyn McGhghy and Maggie Rashid each had a bucket for the Hounds.

Fort Madison is off until Friday when they play host to Washington at the Hound-Dome.

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High- 28.9° F | Low - 16.0° F

**TUE 30 Jan** Scattered Clouds  
High- 33.4° F | Low - 22.4° F

**WED 31 Jan** Light Snow  
High- 47.9° F | Low - 30.1° F

**THU 01 Feb** Snow  
High - 21.8° F | Low - 15.8° F

**FRI 02 Feb** Clear Skies  
High- 14.1° F | Low - -0.8° F

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