





#### **SPORTS:**

Hounds move to 1-2 after splitting weekend games.

See page 4

# Pen City Current Sunday, December 8, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 255

# Friday deadline passes on vehicle abatements

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – More than 80 abatement letters were sent out last month to resident in Fort Madison to move abandoned vehicles within city limits.

The deadline for moving the vehicles Friday and City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said the city's gotten some good and bad reactions.

"We've gotten a lot of response on both sides of

this thing," he said.

"Some people moving vehicles, some saying they should have taken care of it before, and some still there."

Krogmeier said residents had 10 days to appeal the abatement letters and 10 additional days to resolve the issue for a total of 20 days.

He said the city has sent letters of abatement like this in the past, but this year they have the support to take action against those that don't resolve the issue.

"We haven't had the support to get that many

resolved in the past. But the Police Department is jumping on it right now and Matt Mohrfeld was instrumental in giving this a push," he said.

Krogmeier said police are working with residents to get the issues resolved, but eventually some will have to be towed per city code.

Mohrfeld, the mayor-elect, and current city councilman, campaigned in part of increase efforts to clean up properties in the city and push other

See VEHICLES, page 3





Santa Claus gets a few ideas from Serenity Rippenkroger Saturday at The Enchanted Forest on Avenue G in Fort Madison. The forest is open from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays before the holiday in the Old Lee County Bank building. At left, visitors vote on their favorite tree.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



## Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg, Pen City Current - Editor

# Tidying up city has to include downtown

Not being able to go down Eighth Street is a bigger pain than I thought it would be.

I didn't realize how many times I turned up or down that street chasing stories.

But that's the byproduct of a different problem. The building at 8th and G is an eyesore in town and having it completely surrounded by red and white city barricades is even worse.

Avenue G is now barricaded in front of the building because City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said if something were to happen to the interior of the structure while a "shoring" wall is being built, it could cause an unsafe change in air pressure and blow out the windows.

Good grief.

The building is owned by Bryan Humphrey, who also has property that is barricaded off in the alley between avenues G and F west of 9th Street. A wall literally fell out of a garage and that, too, is now barricaded.

The city is currently in the process of abating about 80 nuisance vehicles on private and/or public property because City Code section 6-4-1 allows them to do so.

I took a drive with mayor-elect Matt Mohrfeld this fall and looked at dilapidated property, unkempt property, and nuisance property. Mohrfeld was adamant that a lot of the properties can be renovated with the right program and assistance, but said the city had to start taking steps to clean up its image.

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#### **Obituaries/Lottery Numbers**

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### ROBERT W. ANDERSON

Robert W. Anderson, 51, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2019 at his brother's home in Fort Madison. He was born on October 22, 1968 in Fort Madison, IA to Robert & Bonnie Wright Anderson.



ANDERSON

Knerr.

He was a painter at Pipeline Cleaners and was an avid Chicago Cub & Dallas Cowboy Fan. He enjoyed all sports and spending time with his family & friends.

Bob is survived by: 2-brothers: David (Carolyn) Anderson & Michael Anderson both of Fort Madison, IA; several nieces & nephews and 6-special friends: Chauncey Harrison, Roger Newbanks, Bill Krogmeier, Keith Copeland, Rhonda Edgington & Christi Kentch Newbanks. He was preceded in death by: his parents & 1-sister: Denise

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. No services are planned at this time. Online condolences to Bob's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: <a href="www.kinglynk.com">www.kinglynk.com</a>.

#### 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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#### **OBITUARIES**

#### WILLIAM "BILL" KERR

William "Bill" Kerr, 98, of Fort Madison, formerly of Farmington, Iowa, passed away Friday December 6, 2019.

Born July 19, 1921 in Scotland County, Missouri, he was the son of Wesley Emer-

son and May Elizabeth (Nelson) Kerr.

On May 27, 1944 he married Mary Weaver who preceded him in death. On December 26, 1964 he married Mae Hufford. She also preceded him in death.

Survivors include his children: Gary (Diane) Kerr of Woodside, California, Bev (Bob) Stelk of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, Lin

(Lee) McAtee of Portland, Oregon and Marcia (Stan) Huff of Castle Rock, Colorado. Stepdaughter: Pat (Jerry) Schulz of Fort Madison, Iowa. Thirteen grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wives Mary and Mae, one stepson Gerald Hufford, one step grandson, one sister and one brother.

Bill was a World War II Army Veteran and a member of the Bonaparte American Legion for 58 years. He attended the Farmington United Methodist Church. Bill was a lifelong family man, farmer, fisherman and friend. In retirement he specialized in expert woodworking, gardening and indulging his grandchildren.

The family will meet with friends from 12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. Tuesday at the Farmington United Methodist Church.

Funeral services will be held 1:30 P.M. Tuesday December 10, 2019 at the Farmington United Methodist Church with Pastor Sally Barrett officiating.

Following the service a private family burial will be held in the Anson Cemetery in Anson, Missouri with full military rites by the Bonaparte American Legion.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Farmington EMT's or the Anson Cemetery.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at <a href="www.schmitzlfuneralhomes.com">www.schmitzlfuneralhomes.com</a>. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball <sup>®</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>™</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm



**12/6** 20 31 40 46 61 Mega Ball: 20 Megaplier: 5 pick?

12/6 MID-DAY 2 2 0 12/6 EVENING 0 9 7



**12/6 MID-DAY** 4 8 6 4 **12/6 EVENING** 2 2 5 1

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

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**Pen City Current** 

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#### **Obituaries/For the Record**

#### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

12/5/19 - 6:32 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61. 12/5/19 - 8:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Michael Robert Scott, 40, of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/5/19 - 3:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue D. 12/5/19 - 7:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Anthony Bernard, 30, of Donnellson, in the 700 block of Sixth Street, on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/6/19 – 12:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Michael Anthony Weldon, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue D, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Lee County

Sheriff's Report 12/3/19 – 7:59 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehice accident in the 3100 block of Hwy. 16. According to the report, a grain trailer driven by William Harry Brookhiser, of Wever was rear-ended by a vehicle driven by Billy Lynn Perry, 72, of Wever. The report indicated a third driver of a vehicle waved Brookhiser down to let him know his rear tire was blown and he had no tail lights. During the stop, Perry's vehicle slammed into the back of Brookhiser. Perry was transported to the Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transferred by air to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics due to his injuries. Brookhiser was cited for stopping on a traveled way. 12/4/19 - 2:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of West Point Road. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jenifer Ellen Schmid, 37, of Wever, struck a deer that had jumped and the deer entered

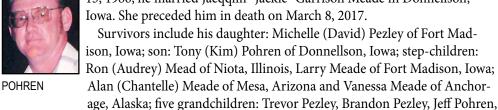
the driver's side windshield. She was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital for injuries. 12/5/19 - 3:50 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brayam David Chaparro Gardner, 30, of Ruskin, Fla., on Hwy 2 near 240th Street on charges of possession with intent to deliver, speeding, drug tax stamp violations and possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/6/19 - midnight - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jamal Terry Anderson, 48 of Houston, Texas, on Hwy 61 at X32 on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 12/6/19 - 6:45 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kristen Lee Lynn Grelk, 23, of Fort Madison at the sheriff's office on a warrant for controlled substance violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### GARY R. POHREN

Gary R. Pohren, 75, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 6:17 p.m. Thursday, December 5, 2019, at Southern Hills Specialty Care in Osceola, Iowa.

He was born on May 18, 1944, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Willard and Opal (Anthony) Pohren. In 1964, he married Norma Bender. They later divorced. On June 15, 1986, he married Jacqqlin "Jackie" Garrison Meade in Donnellson,



Casandra Munford and Matthew Munford and two great grandchildren: Devina Pohren and Avalon Munford.

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife: Jackie. Gary was a member of the Donnellson United Methodist Church. He retired from Henniges in Keokuk. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, gardening, working in his yard and riding his John Deere mower.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Monday, December 9, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor David Barrett officiating. Burial will be at Oakland - Sand Cemetery in Vincennes, Iowa A memorial has been established in his memory. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzlfu-<u>neralhomes.com</u>.

#### Residents can rectify abatements by repairing/enclosing vehicles

#### **VEHICLES** - Continued from Page 1

beautification efforts.

Mohrfeld was unable to be reached Saturday for comment.

City officials put residents on notice in November that the abatement stickers and letters were coming.

The move is intended to get vehicles the city deems abandoned off the streets and even private property if they aren't stickered and functional, as part of ramped beautification efforts.

Residents can rectify the abatements, by either putting the vehicle in an enclosed building, getting the vehicle operable and with proper registration or removing the vehicle.

If the city tows the vehicle, owners can reclaim the property after paying towing fees and providing a place to store the vehicle other than a yard perpetuating the nuisance.

Fort Madison City Code 6-4-1 governs city staff on handling property nuisances and abatements.



#### **Sports/Classifieds**

## Hounds fall to MP Friday night

Fort Madison boys win Saturday night 73-61 over visiting Centerville

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - When a basketball team struggles to control the ball and put points on the board, it's best it happen early in the season.

Fort Madison boys have committed 38 turnovers in the last two games and are now 0-2 after Friday's 47-39 loss to Mt. Pleasant at home.

Head coach Ryan Wilson said the game didn't come down at all to Xs and Os, but about will... and want.

"I can't wait to watch film to see how many loose balls they got because we wouldn't get on the floor," Wilson said.

"It wasn't Xs and Os tonight. It was wanting it more and just going to get the ball."

Fort Madison' Jayden Fedler (54) scores inside with the Panther's Brody Bender (10) getting a piece of him in the first quarter Friday night in Fort Madison. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Despite the 19 turnovers, Fort Madison was within striking distance down just three with four minutes remaining when senior Jayden Fedler hit a couple free throws after the Panthers' Brody Bender collided with him in the

Mt. Pleasant would call a time out on their next possession to set up the half court and work some



Fort Madison's Jayden Fedler (54) scores inside with the Panthers' Brody Bender (10) getting a piece of him in the first quarter Friday night in Fort Madison.

time off the clock. Mt. Pleasant worked the ball around the perimeter including a couple skip passes before senior Keegan Kohorst got free above the free throw line for an 18-foot jumper that put Mt. Pleasant up 43-38.

The Bloodhounds would then commit three turnovers in the next three possessions trailing by five. Sophomore Dayton Davis would convert the first of a one-and-one situation with :30 seconds left to cut the lead to four.

Fort Madison would then go into

foul mode trying to regain possession and sent Mt. Pleasant to the free throw line three times in the final:30. The move could have paid off when the Panther's missed the back-end of two of the one-andones, but got offensive rebounds on both misses.

"Two consecutive times and we give up an offensive rebound. That's effort. That's effort," Wilson said.

Kohorst would convert two free

See **HOUNDS**, page 7

## the classifieds

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625

**DECEMBER 9, 2019 MEETING NOTICE** TENTATIVE AGENDA

5:00 P.M. - FCS MEAL/ WORK SESSION HIGH SCHOOL **ROOM 107** 

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Board Workshop High School Leadership Team
- 3. Architects' Presentation
- 4. Adjourn

7:00 P.M. - REGULAR **MEETING** CENTRAL LEE **EDUCATIONAL** SERVICES CENTER

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Approve agenda
- 3. Receive Visitors:
- a) Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda
- b) 7-12 Science Presentation
- 4. Superintendent's Re
  - a) January Board Meeting - January 6, 2020 (Time TBD)
  - b) Leadership Essen-

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#### HOLIDAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. at our Donnellson, Iowa location

The service will include lighting a candle for those we have lost this past year & a glass ornament will be given to each family in remembrance of your lost loved one. If you're unable to attend the service, you may receive your ornament at the following locations:

> Schmitz Funeral Home, Farmington, IA Thursday, December 12, 3-4:30 p.m.

Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home, Nauvoo, IL Friday, December 13, 3-4:30 p.m.

> Schmitz Funeral Home, West Point, IA Saturday, December 14, 9-10 a.m.



#### We hope you find peace during this season.

Sincerely – Brian Schmitz, Mitch Beals, Wendy Vonderhaar, Jan Loges, Cody Warth, Dave Dingman, John King, & Lyndsey Schmitz



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#### **Classifieds/Public Notices**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

tials for School Boards - 1/15/2020: 5:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Fairfield

c) 2020-2021 District Calendar Planning

d) IASB Day on the Hill - 2/28/2020

e) Finance Update f) Vacancies

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

(Motion) (Exhibit I)

- a) Approve minutes b) Financial reports: General and Schoolhouse funds,
- Clearing account, Hot Lunch c) Approve prepaid bills
- d) Approve monthly bills
- e) Overnight Trip Re-
- a) All-Iowa State Dance Competition -3/9/2020 - 3/14/2020, Des Moines, IA b) Girls' State Bas-
- ketball Tournament -3/2/2020 - 3/7/2020, Des Moines, IA
- c) Boys' State Basketball Tournament - 3/9/2020 - 3/14/2020,

#### Des Moines, IA **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Introduce 800 Series Board Policies.
- 2. Second Reading of Board Policy: (Exhibit II)

(Motion)

- a) 202.6 School **Board Representative**
- 3. SBRC Modified Allowable Growth Request for Open Enrollment (Exhibit Ill) (Motion)
- 4. Approve Dropout Prevention Budget and Modified Supplemental Amount (Exhibit IV)(Motion)
- 5. Approve Alumni Recognition Programs (Exhibit V) (Motion)
  - a) Academic Hall of Fame
  - b) Fine Arts Hall of Fame
  - c) Athletics Hall of Fame
- 6. Approve the following Committees and Members: (Motion VI) (Motion)
  - a) Personnel Commit-
  - b) Student Achievement Committee
  - c) Board Operations Committee
  - d) District Facilities Committee
- 7. Discussion and Consideration of High School At-**Risk Coordinator Position** (Motion)
  - 8. Resignation: (Motion) a) Darrell Krehbiel

- Head High School Softball Coach

9. Contract Approval: (Motion)

- a) Hollie Weber High School Instructional Coach (2020-2021)
- 10. Board Reports
- 11. Closed Session Evaluation of the Superintendent - Per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i)

12. Adjourn (Motion)

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Lee County, Iowa **Board of Supervisors** Agenda **DATE: TUESDAY,** 

December 10, 2019 **MEETING CONVENING TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**LOCATION: Correctional Center** 2530 255th Street, Montrose, IA **AGENDA** 

Pledge of Allegiance Approve Agenda Approve Tuesday, December 3, 2019 Board Minutes Consider Approval of Claims

Public Input Recognition of Retired Lee County Assessor Teresa Murray

Consider Approval of Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Application with Governor's Office of Drug Control

Consider Approval of Proposal for Design Services For Bridge Green Bay 75 Project No. FM-C056(105) - - 55-56

Safety Update

Consider Approval of Mike Hellige as Medical Investigator

Personnel Action: A. Step increases for

Health Department (3) Reports:

A. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected

Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

Workshop to Follow PUBLIC MEETING CITIZENS WELCOME

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www.leecounty.org

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Lee County **Conservation Board** 

Agenda December 10, 2019 Workshop 3:00 p.m. **Regular Meeting:** 4:00 p.m. Lee County

**Conservation Center 2652 Highway 61** Montrose, IA 52639 **Regular Meeting** 

Agenda

1. Call to order

- 2. Approval of minutes from November 12, 2019 and November 18, 2019 (workshop)
- 3. Public Input

This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Board on any matters pertaining to the Lee County Conservation Board. The Board cannot take formal action at the meeting on matters not included on the regular agenda, but may ask the staff to research the matter or have the matter placed

- on a subsequent agenda. 4. Approval of Bills
- 5. Approval of Financial Report
- 6. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Assistance Programs
- 7. Approve Summer Positions: Beach Conces-

sionaire and Conservation Technician

- 8. Approve Step Increase for Naturalist from Class VI Step 4 to Class VI Step 5
- 9. Roadside Program Plan
  - 10. 2021 Budget
  - 11. Staff Reports
- 12. Board Member Comments
  - 13. Adjournment
- Next regular meeting will be January 14, 2019

Hearing and vision assistance available upon request. Citizens are welcome to all LCCB meetings.

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#### **From the Front/Sports**

# City on right path with beautfication

#### **DOWNTOWN** - Continued from Page 1

We agree.

But that can't just be neighborhoods. We have to include livelihoods and that means the downtown. We've reached out to Bryan Humphrey on several occasions to talk about what he's doing with his property simply because the city feels they're dangerous enough to keep barricaded. Those calls haven't been returned.

We all have rights when it comes to our property, but we have responsibilities, too. That's a big building and would be a handful to maintain, but somehow or someway it needs to be done for everyone downtown.

Building Director Doug Krogmeier and the city are keeping close tabs on the work, but haven't inspected anything on the inside since the building began to crumble in November. But a private engineer has been hired by the owner to help get the building secured. Let's hope that happens so we can open up the sidewalks and the streets.

On the brighter side, I saw a gentleman outside sweeping the sidewalk in front of the Victorian Art gallery downtown and was reaffirmed that people are aware that a cleaner image is good for business.

Whether that's a neighborhood or the image we offer when looking back from the

park, or possibly in the near future, an Amtrak Depot or additional cruise ships.

I've spoken to people who've come off the ships who say what a beautiful, historic view Fort Madison has from the riverfront. One lady told me it made her want to live here. But I can't help but wonder if she felt the same way when she got back on the boat.

I take Mayor-elect Mohrfeld at his word that he wants to lead Fort Madison to a more tidy city and cleaner image. Pulling cars off properties is a solid first step, especially if city departments are all in.

But we can't forget about the people trying to make a living downtown. And there are people working hard down there to market those businesses that would benefit from beautification efforts there as well.

We're certainly not exposed to all the internal conversations that take place between business owners, advocates, and city officials. We just hope the downtown is part of the plan, too.

And if you haven't had the chance, stop down for a cookie on Saturdays between 2 and 4 p.m. at the Enchanted Forest. There are some awesome trees and displays down there. And that bearded elf in a red suit makes an appearance for Christmas

## Fedler leads Bloodhounds with 16 points

**HOUNDS** - Continued from Page 4

throws to ice the game and Mt. Pleasant was able to run out the clock on their next possession.

Wilson said it's a long season and the Hounds will look to get their first win tonight at home vs. Centerville, but they have to find a way to limit turnovers and control the ball in the half-court offense.

"We didn't score in the last two minutes of the 1st and 2nd quarter and scored one point in the final four minutes. That's a whole quarter with one point," Wilson said.

"And we have to take care of the ball. We had 19 turnovers tonight and that's what we had on Tuessday night. You're not going to win many basketball games with 19 turnovers."

The game started physical when Jayden Fedler was knocked to the ground on the opening possession. But Fedler converted the strong move inside and was able to complete the 3-point play to give the Hounds a head start.

The two squads would battle to a 9-9 tie at the end of the first quarter and continue to play neck and neck throughout the half. Junior Brevin Wilson would score two consecutive buckets to give the Panthers a 15-13 lead, their first of the night with 5:10 to go in the second.

Bender would score after a Fedler free throw and then Fort Madison's Jace Burgher would score on a fast break to make it 16-17. Mt. Pleasant would miss two on the next possession and sophomore Miles Dear would hit a 3-ball for Fort Madison to put the Hounds back on top 19-17 with 2:56 left in the half.

Both teams would miss a free throw and a shot from the field in the final three minutes to end the half.

Mt. Pleasant's shot was a heave from Brevin Wilson at about 3/4 court at the buzzer that just missed off the back of the rim.

The Panther's Jaxon Hoyle would hit a three pointer to give Mt. Pleasant an early lead in the third quarter, but a lead they would not give up the rest of the game. The closest the Hounds would get would be 32-34 at the end of the third period when Fedler hit a couple more free throws.

Fedler finished with 16 points on the night with four field goals and 8-of-9 shooting at the free throw line. Davis finished with 10 points, while Dear had five, Julian Navarro had six and Burgher had two.

Wilson said Fedler, Davis, and Navarro, who is seeing his first real playing time as a senior, all had good nights.

"Jayden had a good night and I'm not going to take anything away from him. But he's a senior leader and he has to go get those rebounds," Wilson said.

"Julian's doing his job and we got a find a way to keep him on the floor. It just comes down to certain matchups at certain times. He's not fancy or crazy, but he's getting the job done."

Kohorst led all scorers with 17 on the night. Wilson finished with eight. Mt. Pleasant improves to 1-1 on the year after an season-opening loss to Cedar Rapids Xavier.

Fort Madison falls to 0-2 after a Tuesday drubbing by Trae Schwartz and the Ottumwa Bulldogs.

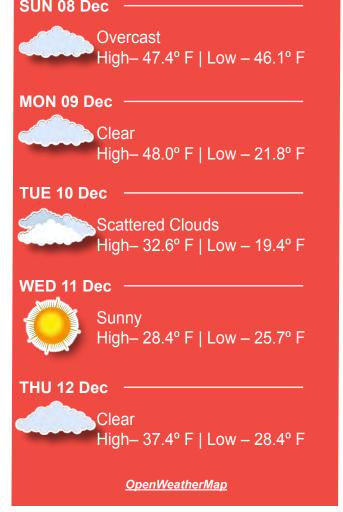
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