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#### **SPORTS:**

Bloodhounds look like new team entering regular season.

See page 7

# Pen City Current

Monday, Nov. 25, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 248

## Project could bring back islands, eco-tourism

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – In the late 1800s islands were as much a part of the Mississippi River ecosystem and economy as the water itself.

Fort Madison's Jim Noll thinks resurrecting those islands could be a boon to those systems around what is known as Lake Cooper.

His thinking comes with precedent...and plenty of it.

Noll has been working officials in all arenas, from economic development, to business, to political in an effort to re-establish what was once the Mississippi River in this area prior to the construction of dams, specifically Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk.

He said the dams are ultimately responsible for raising the water levels and with an assist from what is called wind fetch, has caused a clouding, or turbidity, in the waters which hinders sunlight from reaching underwater vegetation and ultimately has changed the personality of the river.

"The simple definition is that we want to put those islands back where they were before they flooded the pool," Noll said Sunday.

"I'm not sure the dam totally inundated those is-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jim Noll speaks with U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack in October at the Lee County Conservation Center about establishing a refuge along the Mississippi River to help bring back islands and the river's ecosystem pre-1900.

lands, but it did it enough that the wind fetch from the waves flattened 'em."

By rebuilding the islands, Noll thinks that would put the dynamics of the river pre-1900 back in effect which could create more opportunities for outdoor recreation, such as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing – or ecotour-

The designation Lake Cooper comes from Hugh L. Cooper who designed and financed Lock and Dam 19 in Keokuk in 1913.

He said the implementation of crest gates on

Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups ............ P.4

See **REFUGE**, page 7

# Pool 19 Lake Cooper NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM NATIONAL WIL

The Kensington ......P.3

#### 

#### EMPTY NEST





## Give your day a good pull

They, the omniscient "they," say that when you retire the majority of your time is taken up with doctor visits and funerals. I'd like to slap a gag order on whomever said that. Back in my working-and-family-rearing days, when I heard that statement, I thought, "Nope, that won't be me. I'm a Renaissance Man. I'm more 'enlightened."

Well, I'm here to say, it's true. Looking back over the past week, Ginnie and I have been to one celebration of life, two funerals (in two days, one in which we helped out), the doctor and chiropractor three times (Medicare is wonderful), visited one friend in a nursing home and one house-bound person. Whew!

We also found time for entertainment, and squeezed in two movies with dinner: "Midway" and "Ford v Ferrari," both of which we highly recommend. Oddly, or not so oddly, the afternoon matinee of "Midway" was filled to overflowing with gray hairs just like us. Hmm.

Life has never been so crazy-busy. We go like a house-o-fire, 24/7. When did we ever find time to work? Between exercising, service work, grandkids, reading, writing, building sculptures, baking and going to political rallies, I told Ginnie, "We need to go back to work so we can rest up!" We fall into bed at night exhausted, only to rise early the next morning to do it all over again. I can't believe it when I hear from some retired people that they have nothing to do. Really?

Ginnie and I are both "semi-retired." I don't know why the Word Makers placed the word "tired" in "retired." The implication is that we lay around, wore out, sleeping all day. Ha! Ginnie "retired" from her job as a laboratory technician only to be called back to work two days a week. With all that's going on, she hardly has time to breathe!

George Bernard Shaw said that "Youth is wasted on the young." Amen! Just when we get this thing called "Life" figured out, we realize we only have, what?, 20 or so more years to live? That's a heart beat. It's not fair! Just when we're comfortable in our own skin, and know who we are, and where we're going, boom, it's time to cash in the chips.

#### News Index

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#### **Opinion/Lottery Numbers**



## Retirement gives no chance for wasted time

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

There's no more wasted time. We cant take a single day for granted. I used to spend a lot of time contemplating my navel. What's it all about? No more. The confusion is gone. I was so drug down with the grind of going to work every day and making a living that I would have to take an occasional "mental health day." That doesn't fly anymore. I start every day now with a list of things to do that could choke a horse. My daily devotion tells me that every day is valuable, "to make the most of what we have today: family, friends, talents, possessions." If I encounter a few spare minutes, I fill it with something productive. (Reading is productive. Hugging a grandchild is productive.) I find that if I do a little everyday, after a short period, I can look back and see where a lot of progress has been made. I'm working on my third book, a little each day—in the morning when my mind is fresh: my most creative time, alone with God and my thoughts.

I've been keeping an exercise journal. It started out with notations on how far and fast I ran, my weight, and what my goal for the next day was. The journal has progressed into a list of things to do, what's going on, and how my body and mind feel—a diary really. (I find that a pulled muscle that used to take a day or two to mend, now takes weeks! Ah, Youth. Where art thou?) The bottom line on each daily entry is now, "Give this day a good pull!"

If you haven't seen "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" yet, it's a must see. Just think, we of retirement age (65 or over), can tell our grandkids, "By golly, we've seen the rise and fall of the Shopping Mall!"

They'll probably ask, "What's that?"

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at <u>curtswarm@yahoo.com</u> or visit his website at <u>www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com</u>.



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#### **Lotto Drawings**

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
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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



11/23 4 5 18 43 46 Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 3



11/23 28 35 38 61 66 Powerball: 23 Power Play: 3



11/23 MID-DAY 4 2 6 11/23 EVENING 5 8 5



**11/23 MID-DAY** 4 0 5 3 **11/23 EVENING** 7 9 4 9

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#### **Sports**

### Bloodhounds in shape for regular season

BY CHUCK **VANDENBERG** 

FORT MADISON -Fort Madison boys head basketball coach Ryan Wilson must have found a Metropolis phone booth at an auction somewhere in the offseason.

This year's version of the Bloodhounds aren't superhero's by any stretch, but they certainly have gone through a metamorphosis, that has Wilson



usual. Wilson said the

Hounds are as deep and

talking

er than

even fast-

experienced as they've ever been and the chemistry may just be right this year for a run at a conference title.

"This is a tight group of kids. We've got six or seven seniors this year which is the most I've ever had," Wilson said, who's entering his fifth season as head coach.

"They're great vocally and as leaders and its awesome to see the seniors get along and mesh so well with sophomores that are dressing. If you see them on or off the court you'd think they were all seniors they get along so well."

Wilson said the Southeast Conference should be wide open this year and with Burlington being added to the mix, it should be a very competitive year. The Hound lost to a young Burlington squad last year by six.

Fairfield, Washington and Mt. Pleasant took five of six games from the Fort Madison last year, with the Bloodhounds only win against those three coming against the Panthers on the road.

The Hounds finished last year 7-14 and gave Washington a spirited game at districts ending the season with a 50-54 loss.

Senior Jayden Fedler tweaked his diet and commitment to his body and shaved anywhere from 30 to 75 pounds depending on who you talk to. Right now he's officially listed at 6'5" and 220 lbs.

Fedler was second in the conference in scoring last year at 14.5 points per game and shot a league best 58.5% from the field for those with more than 100 attempts. He was fourth in the league in rebounding right at six boards per outing.

"I'm not gonna lie but I'm expecting a lot out of this team," he said. "We're young, but we have the players and talent to get us places. I'm expecting a conference title this year.

That's what were shooting for."

who sat

out last

year after

transfer-

ring from

his fresh-

man year,

Holy

Trinity

Fedler

isn't the

tallest on

the team.

Eaves is

a lanky

three

With the addition of junior 6'6" Jake Eaves



**FEDLER** 



**DENNING** 

or four forward, who's a threat from outside. "I feel like I'm

quicker

and have faster moves and I can stretch my game outside a lot."

The Hounds will also rely heavily on sophomore Dayton Davis, who jumped on the scene last year as a freshman averaging just under nine points a game. But Davis is quick off the dribble and led the conference in steals. He was also sixth in assists.

Davis sprouted about three inches during the offseason. A byproduct of the quick growth spurt, in addition to added depth of play, could be a minor

calf injury that has Wilson handling him with gentle gloves during the presea-

"Dayton has only gotten better and hasn't lost a step. He's got a minor calf injury so I've played it pretty cautiously," Wilson said. "There was a conversation him where we just said it was early in the season let's rest ya and get you better."

As a freshman, Davis was looked to by the Hounds for his defense, and ability to score and move off the dribble, but he said he doesn't look at himself as a leader.

"I don't see myself as a

main leader of the team, but I feel, again like my teammates can rely on me to step up when we need it," he said.

"I feel like we have a lot better depth this year in our lineup and we should be able to make a run for the conference."

Wilson said he's starting lineup will feature Davis, Fedler, and senior Parker Denning. He said sophomore Miles Dear, who made an impact late last year off the bench running the offense, will take the point guard spot.

The fifth starter, Wilson said, could be made on a game-by-game basis

with the depth on the this year's team.

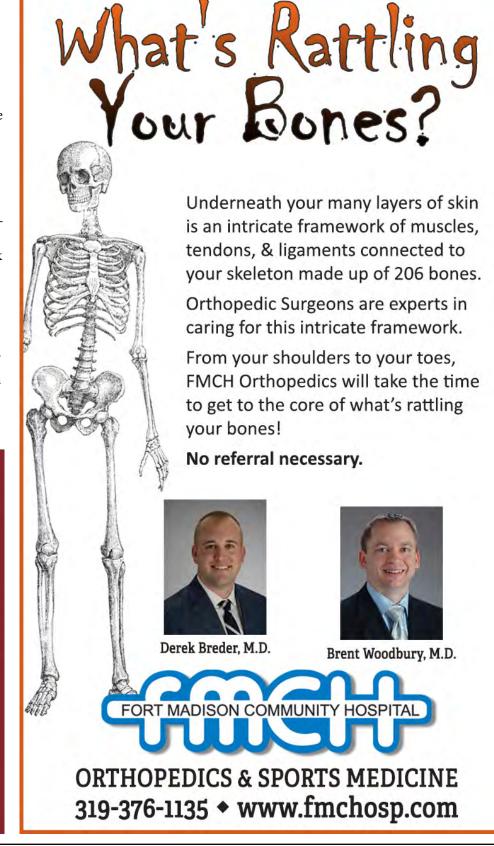
"One day it could be Mike Mosena and we go fast and small, and the next it could be Julian Navarro or Jake Eaves and we go big," Wilson said.

"Jace Burgher is also another option there who brings a whole other physical dynamic. It's really kind of exciting."

Fort Madison has 32 players from 9th-12th grade, another figure that's a first for Wilson's five years.

Denning, also a senior, said the transformation of

See **HOOPS**, page 7





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#### **Pen City Current**

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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

## the classifieds

#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

#### PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 11/19/2019

The Fort Madison City Council met in adjourned session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Randolph presided with Council Members Greenwald, Morawitz, Rink, Andrews, Mohrfeld and Lair present. Council Member Cangas was absent.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 11/4/2019; Payment of Claims, Liquor License Renewal: Pizza Hut, 1123 – 24th Street,

effective 12/20/2019; October Financial Report; and Setting public hearing for Tuesday, 12/3/2019 at 5:30 P.M. to amend Title 10, Zoning, Chapter 4 General Provisions, Section 5, Supplementary District Regulations, by adding fence regulations on reverse corner lots, and Chapter 12, B-1 Business District, Limited Retail, Section 3, Permitted Uses, to change the definition of Schools/ Educational Facilities.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-70, approving and authorizing Amendment to Loan and Disbursement Agreement by and between the City of Fort Madison and Iowa Finance Authority, and authorizing and pro-

viding for the reissuance of the \$9,672,000 Water Revenue Capital Loan Note, Series 2009A. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-71, approving and authorizing Amendment to Loan and Disbursement Agreement by and between the City of Fort Madison and Iowa Finance Authority, and authorizing and providing for the reissuance of the \$1,306,000 Water Revenue Capital Loan Note, Series 2009B. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2019-72, accepting P.I.P. 2019-04, Avenue L Reconstruction, 35th to 36th Street. On motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance vacating a portion of City-owned rightof-way located in the 3500

11/15/2019

\$457,601.21

249,479.24

72,485.98

12,157.69

\$792,251.07

318.05

178.73

block of Avenue L.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with HR Green for Avenue H/ Business 61 Reconstruction Project – 6th Street to 10th Street, for a cost not to exceed \$451,800. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's appointment of Ron Knoke to the Airport Commission, filling an unexpired term, term expiring 9/30/2021.

At 6:28 P.M. on motion, Council adjourned until December 3, 2019, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Bradley A. Randolph, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

\$45,314.73

56,943.77

46,448.71

29,695.79

56,265.40

28,185.57

19,935.86

229.69

\$283,019.52

11/8/2019

4,573.99

26,462.49

29,152.43

38,632.83

11,962.94

486.54

3,557.54

\$291.591.94

\$176,763.18

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LISCO, PHONE .....2,066.05 LYNCH DALLAS P.C.,

LYNCH DALLAS P.C., NEGOTIATIONS ......1,083.33

MARTIN EQUIPMENT, FILTERS/OIL/SEAL .....467

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CLOSED LANDFILL	29,695.79	
4,073.49	WATER 56,265.40	
PERMAR SECURITY SER-	SEWER 28,185.57	
VICES, SECURITY	SOLID WASTE	
190.80	19,935.86	
POEPPING STONE &	AIRPORT706.42	
BACH, PROF FEE -	STORM WATER 229.69	
FLOOD REPAIRS	TOTAL276,386.61	
17,222.35		
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CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	NOV 2019	
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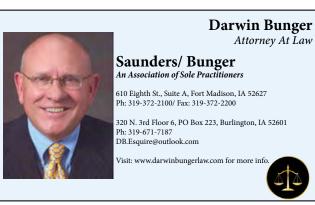
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#### From the Front/Weather

#### Petition may come to support refuge

#### **REFUGE** - Continued from Page 1

the Lock and Dam 19, as opposed to roller gates, has also added to silting in the bottom of the river. Crest gates cause water to flow over the top of the dam which causes silt to fall to the bottom before the water flows over. Roller gates are at the bottom of the dam and roll allowing bottom water to flow through the dam which keeps silt moving.

"If you take those two things - that helped decimate the islands to the point where they were unrecoverable," he said.

But he said a private effort to make corrections would be a \$10 million project, and to do it locally would cost \$3.5 – \$4 million in local match funds. However, if the area were to be declared a refuge then it could be 100% funded by the government.

"This is coming. We're gonna do this. I mean we're gonna go make a stab at it," Noll said. "I won't quit with my efforts until everything falls down.

"People just need to know what it is and it's going to be with us if we want it to be with us. We just need to have some enthusiasm about it."

He said there was no promise of the ecotourism, but he said that's exactly what's happened in places that have done the re-engineering of the river.

"In a lot of these projects, that's exactly what it's brought with it. Up in northeast Iowa, I'm telling ya, that's a big business up there. Kayaks, canoes, and clubs that travel doing that, they get hotel rooms. That's why I call it retail enhancement."

"If you get in the refuge it's even more prominent, the refuge people, the fish and wildlife, they promote the economics of it for people."

Noll has been making presentations on both sides of the river and points to more than 30 projects and refuges in Iowa that start about 37 miles north including Dubuque, and even more locations in Wisconsin and

**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST** 

Minnesota.

The projects then begin again south of the Missouri/ Iowa border essentially leaving a hole in activity on the river in Lee and Des Moines counties in Iowa, and Henderson and Hancock counties in Illinois.

He said he's done diligence with politicians and US Fish & Wildlife Service and has been told that Pool 19 doesn't qualify for refuge status because it's more than 20 miles from the nearest refuge, which is 37 miles north on the river.

With this being what Noll calls a "no" project, he asked for the reasons in writing and now is focusing his efforts on advocating for a waiver of Fish & Wildlife policies.

He said he's not asking for the government to spend more money on the Pool 19 project, but to reallocate funding from some of the other projects that have already come to fruition, to help spawn some activity in Pool 19.

Noll has formed a not-for-profit Friends of Pool 19 Lake Cooper and is now working on getting the basics of the program out to residents. The point of that effort will be at some point, to start a petition to be submitted on behalf of the project.

He said right now there are two pathways to get the project started. The first would be to come up with some smaller project that the region could help support financially for the 35% to 40% match, while at the same time working governmental channels and agencies to get a waiver and have the Pool declared a refuge.

"We just need to let people know what this is and how they can get involved going forward," he said.



#### FM boys kick season off Monday at WB

**HOUNDS** - Continued from Page 1

Fedler and Davis' growth spurt make the same Hound team from last year, a completely different team this year. Fort Madison lost starters Logan Rashid and Brandon Keester from last year's team.

"I think it's a real possibility for a conference title. We're really lengthy and athletic this year so I think we have the opportunity," Denning said.

"I think, especially with Jayden, he'll be more mobile and he'll be faster than most big guys we'll face. Dayton is way longer this year, so he'll have more steals and should be able to take it to the hoop more often than he did last year."

News that broke this year of confrontations with Wilson and Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater over playing time of upperclassman, including her son, as well as a video of Slater's husband confronting Wilson at a camp, is behind the Hounds head coach,

"The past is behind us. These guys are hungry and ready to go and compete for conference title and that's very realistic," Wilson said.

The Hounds unofficially kick off the season in the Hall of Pride game Monday night in West Burlington. They open the regular season Dec. 3 in Ottumwa.







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#### **MON 25 Nov Broken Clouds** High- 52.7° F | Low - 40.3° F TUE 26 Nov Moderate Rain High- 49.8° F | Low - 42.5° F WED 27 Nov High- 39.8° F | Low - 33.3° F THU 28 Nov -₋ight Snow High- 34.3° F | Low - 30.7° F FRI 29 Nov **Moderate Rain** High- 40.1° F | Low - 40.0° F

**OpenWeatherMap** 

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