



# Pen City Current

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**Opinion**

## Beside the Point – It's all fake news

Consumption is a choice.

We can choose, as is our American right, to consume what we want, legal or illegal. It's the consequences that people tend to forget in the passion of the consumption.

Take Jameson for example. It's one of my more leisurely and casual consumptions. How casual you ask?



About a bottle every three months. That's pretty casual. I'm sure my liver is wagging it's finger at me, but after three fingers over four ice cubes in a short, heavy glass I'm reminded that being a hard worker and a good father and husband entitles us to simple pleasures. A simple pleasure my wife tolerates. (She may think it's handsome but I don't push that. I'll take what I can get.)

Again, my choice. If it's a steak over a nice piece of fish, or choosing no dessert in favor of picking at my wife's bacon

Analyze **DISAGREE** Thought **DISCUSS** Opinion **RESPECT** **ARTICULATE**

cheeseburger she never finishes. It's a consumption I choose...at my pace. So is what we read.

As I read through Facebook in the morning to catch up what my friends are doing, wish the list of birthdays "Happy Birthday" and see what is considered news for the day, I pass on the mundane. I consume what I choose, typically MSNBC and the Washington Post.

I also look at the time of the posts. I've learned that most things posted between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. are probably best avoided. Entertaining I'm sure, but I would imagine most people posting at that time are either suffering from one too many shots of tequila at the local watering hole, or are suffer-

ing from insomnia. Either way... discretion and a good mouth-to-touchpad filter at that point is probably best.

Every time I see a headline that interests me I look at the link or website that generated the article and then usually pass on by. It's not that I don't think there's, at a minimum, something factually correct with each of the stories, but what makes me pass is that it's surely slanted or as the nation has come to call it in the last six months - fake.

And there is the deeper discussion. Do we choose to consume fake news? I think we do at almost every turn.

When you click on

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Submitted photos

## Honoring development

At top, Todd Schneider, far left, receives a 1000 Friends of Iowa award for the Best Renovated Residential Project and, above, Jenny Steffensmeier of Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing, second from left, receives her award for the Best Development Award for Renewable Energy. The two were honored on Jan.19 at the State Capitol Building in Des Moines.

## FM boys get balance in win

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It's a season of feast or famine for FMHS' varsity boys basketball team.

The Hounds are 10-6 on the season with five games left before districts and wins are coming with an average margin of victory of almost 17 points, but two 30 point losses to Mt. Pleasant have pushed the margin of defeat to about the same gap.

On Friday FMHS easily dispatched of Central Lee 67-40 in a non-conference

matchup, putting four players in double figures, a factor that Head Coach Ryan Wilson says is a must for the Bloodhounds to rack up more wins.

"How many times have we had four players in double figures and won those games," Wilson said. "We don't have that one player that dominates the game, putting up 30 points per game. It has to be offensively and defensively a team effort for us to win."

Which is exactly what he got in an uptempo game that featured plenty of scoring and kept

Central Lee on its heels most of the night. Wilson started in a man-to-man defense with full court pressure and kept the tempo throughout the first half.

"I think when we go man-to-man it gets us in the flow quicker," Wilson, who could be seen clapping on many occasions from the sidelines Saturday. "I think with our guards we're good enough to guard the full court most of the time. We like to push the speed and the tempo."

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## CL puts down Hounds

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Central Lee got 23 points from sophomore shooting specialist MacKenzie Northup, including a 3-pointer at the buzzer in the 3rd quarter, to put FMHS away 52-39 on Saturday at the Hound Dome.

The Hounds, who had the lead for the better part of the first quarter before Central Lee went on an 8-2 run to end the quarter, seemed poised to take the game back from the Lady Hawks, but Northup's buzzer beater seemed to quash the momentum.

The second quarter the Hounds got within eight points two minutes into the quarter and then both teams went cold, and scoreless, for five full minutes before the Hounds scored to make it an 18-24 game. Each team would add a bucket for a 20-26 Central Lee lead going into the lockerroom.

Fort Madison applied pressure and got some

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**From the Front/Local News**

# News is built for sale, so buy what you want

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an article, or pick up a newspaper, you're choosing to read it. Whether it be Breitbart or Mashable or Politico or USA Today...whatever...it's all slanted one way or another based on the ownerships' leanings. Most of you have your favorites, the ones that prepare the dialogue to be specifically consumed by you. The number one priority is not informing you...it's selling it to you. They sell it, obviously, by creating an audience and selling advertising to the companies that need their message in front of you. You choose to read it because it conforms to your political and socio-economic preferences.

So let's start there. We all know that news isn't produced to inform, but to sell. Kind of hypocritical coming from me considering my company provides news, sports, opinion and advertising space for smaller local companies to reach people in the local market. What I try to do that is different is not to spin. I just fill in the gaps between quotes from the people that are supposed to be in the know and then let you, the reader, at your choosing, consume it. They will, without a doubt, do the spinning. The reader is charged with consuming that information from that assumption - that we aren't talking against your grain, it's our sources that may be. We're just giving them the space to do so.

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That's generational and spans the history of American media. But that's Beside the Point.

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# Hounds bounce back Friday loss

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

**In close**

FMHS' Kaleb Cresswell usually does his work from behind the 3-point arc, but Saturday he worked inside drawing fouls and going 12-for-12 from the free throw line as the Hounds dropped Central Lee 67-40.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

**Lane work**

Landon Bentley drives for one of his 15 points on the night Saturday vs. Central Lee.

The Hounds had extended that lead in the 3rd quarter to 61-26 and Wilson moved the Hounds into a matchup zone defense and began substituting liberally from there on out.

Other scorers for the Hounds were Landon Bentley with 15 including three 3-pointers, CJ Richardson with 11, Logan Rashid had 6 and Austin Rose and Lorenzo Riles with 2 points apiece.

Evan Doyle led Central Lee with 9 points.

In Friday's game, the Mt. Pleasant Panthers rolled Fort Madison for the 2nd time this season.

"We didn't play a good first half and we got into a 21-point deficit," Wilson said. "You know we shot 8 of 15 in the first half but we committed a ton of turnovers. Say we don't commit six of those turnovers and we score on four of them, that's potentially a 16 point swing and it's a whole different ball game."

As it was the Panthers dropped the Hounds 78-41 behind a 26-point game from Mt. Pleasant's junior Brady Sartorius. The Hounds found themselves down by 12 with just four minutes gone in the game and never recovered.

They were led by Treavor Kokjohn's 11 points and CJ Richardson's 10.

Junior Kaleb Cresswell, who had just one 3-point-er and a bucket but converted 12-of-12 from the free throw line, led all Hounds with 17 points.

The Hounds jumped out to 10-4 start midway through the first period before Central Lee seemed to want to make a game of it and pushed back to end the period at 15-12. However Wilson and his team continued to cause the Hawks trouble in transition and only gave up three 2nd quarter points to the visitors while going on a 25-3 run, spearheaded by Treavor Kokjohn's 14 first half points. He didn't score in the 2nd half.

# Northup's 3 does in Lady Hounds

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timely shooting from senior guard Mercedes Trimble to outscore the Hawks 7 to 3 until the final minute of the period, where the Hawks got a quick bucket with less than 20 seconds left and then forced a turnover giving the ball back to the Hawks. Northup forced the ball up the court and navigated to the three-point arc where she calmly pulled up and let fly with no time on the clock.

"The Northup girl's a tremendous shooter and very quick with the ball," said FMHS Head Coach Charlie Knipe after the game. "But we knew she was that good,

we just couldn't contain her."

The shot seemed to give the Lady Hawks that momentum they needed to put the game away as they outscored FM 18-12 the rest of the way, despite 11 points from Mercedes Trimble in the second half.

Trimble, who's been very hot from the field of late, still is having trouble getting open looks, even with the Lady Hounds imposing front three of Amber Dilsaver, Emily Mitchell and Brittiney Harris.

"We've been working with Mercedes to try and take more shots," said Knipe. "In the last six games she's shooting 82% from the three point line (including a 4 of 4 night against Danville on the 24th). She's learning that we need her to shoot."

The loss takes the Lady Hounds to 4-14 on the season with three games left in the regular season starting with a road trip to Washington on Friday.

Trimble led all FMHS scorers with 19 points. Mariah Trimble had 6, Harris added 5, Emily Mitchell had 4 points, Anna Kester had 3 and Taylor Shannon added 2.

In Friday's game vs. Mount Pleasant, Mercedes Trimble and Dilsaver led the Lady Hounds with 13 and 12 points respectively as Fort Madison fell 55-42 after giving up a first quarter lead. Kester had 5 points in that game followed by Mariah Trimble, Harris and Shannon all with four points.

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