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Fort Madison boys, HTC girls get Friday wins.

See pages 6-7

City Current C

Connection's Burlington facility underway

New location off Roosevelt will house bank, insurance services with full staff

> BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -Connection Bank is making another connection with southeast Iowa.

The banking and insurance company has broken ground on a new office in Burlington just south of the Sonic Drive-In along Highway 61.

According to Connection Bank President and CEO Matt Morris, concrete has already been poured at the Burlington location and he said vertical construction should begin soon.

'It's started. We've got concrete down and bids in," Morris said. "We should start going vertical in the next two to three weeks."

The new office will be the home for the Burlington banking and insurance services. Morris said the Hy-Vee branch will close and the staff will be integrated into the new location.

"We decided we would bring those two business lines together in one building," he said.

In 2011 then-Fort Madison Bank and Trust purchased Valley Bank in the Burlington Hy-Vee and operated as such until 2016 when the bank changed names to Connection Bank after merging KSB Bank in Keokuk with Fort Madison Bank and Trust.

Morris said the company was looking for a place

See **BANK**, page 6



An employee of Frank Baxter Construction prepares the construction signage in Friday's frigid temperatures for Connection Bank's new Burlington location.



HTC Royalty

Holy Trinity Catholic seniors Collin Thornton and Maya Rashid were named Homecoming King and Queen during Friday night's coronation ceremonies prior to the varsity boys and girls basketball games against WACO.

Pen City Current joins our readers and advertisers in congratulating Collin and Maya!

Beside The Point Chuck Vande

Chuck Vandenberg, Pen City Current - Editor

Purple stars mean "nervous atmosphere"

Have you ever looked up at the stars when you're away from a city and thought you saw purple stars?

It's some atmospheric condition known informally as a "nervous atmosphere".

That's extremely apropos in my house right now. The purple is out, and there is a growing nervous atmosphere as 40 some years of waiting for the Vikings to get back to the Super Bowl hang in the balance.

Photo by Ava Peitz/PCC Intern

I'm a freaky avid Vikings fan...when they're winning. I've learned to suppress my emotions when they're bad. I'm pretty good at that. I'm a Reds fan, too. But there's something different about football only playing one time a week. The Reds lose ALL the time. You get desensitized to it. I don't swear as much as I used to, but I'm still pretty good at it.

My comfy clothes are typically purple, because I've

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Obituaries/From the Front

Vikings should be first to play Super Bowl at home

VIKINGS - Continued from Page 1

been a Minnesota Vikings fan since 1977 when the Purple People Eaters lost to the Oakland Raiders and Ken "The Snake" Stabler in Super Bowl 11. I don't remember much about the game, I was eight at the time, but I remember Fran Tarkenton tearing up after the loss in the post-game interview. Seriously, I think it was in black and white. My television was anyway. But I felt bad for him so I became a fan.

And since that day, these Norseman have let me down year, after year, after year.

I remember Darrin Nelson getting tackled at the 1 1/2 yard line against John Riggins and the Washington Redskins on 4th down keeping them from a Super Bowl in 1987. In 1999, I remember screaming at the television when Denny Green casually walked off at halftime and giving up on a shot at a field goal indoors with Gary Anderson kicking from about 50. Minnesota was up 20-14 at the time and Anderson hadn't missed all year. The Vikes lost by three - Idiot.

Don't want to talk about the 41-0 pasting at the hands of the New York Giants in 2001 and the Vikes wouldn't return to the NFC championship until 2010 when they went to the Superdome in New Orleans and lost in OT. It's a tale that will stand the test of time in my household. My family suggested firmly that we leave the pizza joint where we were watching the game because Reggie Bush fumbled a punt and I jumped up and yelled "Ball!". The place was kind of full and everyone was socially gobbling their pizza and I think I scared everyone in the place as it went quiet. I looked down at our table after realizing I was standing up, and my youngest daughter jumped under the table while both my oldest daughter and wife pulled their hoodies over their head.

"Maybe we should watch the rest at home," Lee said.

Taylor had that timid half smile working and we began to box things up to go home at halftime. We all know the rest of the story, Head Coach Brad Childress perpetrated a fraud on the taxpayers of Minnesota, pretending to be a head coach. Favre was Favre running around be a hero and throws a pick. This time Taylor's screaming at the TV. Even this kid who doesn't watch football that often knows this is not good.

Anyway, the Saints win in OT and my dreams are crushed. I think I teared up before the last possession because I thought this was the year. Then I teared up because it wasn't it.

But I think this year those purple stars are lining up. The Super Bowl is in Minnesota this year and never has a team played a Super Bowl on their home turf. The closest to a home field advantage occurred when San Francisco won the Super Bowl played at Stanford Stadium in northern California.

In 2000, when the Baltimore Ravens won the Super Bowl, they had an average to above-average offense but a top-ranked defense. They won with a ho-hum quarterback in Trent Dilfer. The Vikings have an even ho-er, hum-er quarterback in Case Keenum, but a topranked defense.

So here's where I'm at. After the Saints game in 2010, I was ready to put the whole Vikings package on eBay. I wanted to file a class action suit on behalf of Minnesota taxpayers, but I lived in Iowa. That'll draw a flag. So everything - the blankets, hoodies, cards, posters, coffee cups, koozies, the whole batch should have gone up for sale. Probably could have made five bucks. But I didn't. I just put it all away. On occasion the family would pull out the blankets when it got cold in our old drafty house.

Now, It's all out again. Someone's wrapped up in purple and gold at some point on any given day. I've got all the hoodies out, the blankets, the sweats, the pajamas - everything.

It just feels right this year. I don't really know why, other than defense wins championships. There's no Favre to make us nervous, no Peterson to cough it up, No Denny Green. We've got a coach, a decent back, the best defense in the league.

The Cubs won the World Series so hell's already frozen over. That hurdle's been cleared. All I need is for the football gods to smile faintly on Valhalla and give me just one title. SKOL VIKINGS. Let's goooo.

OBITUARIES

MARCINE "MARCY" E. HUFFMAN

Marcine "Marcy" E. Huffman, 57 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 10:23 pm Thursday, January 11, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison. She was born September 26, 1960 in Fort Madison, a daughter of Harvey B. Sr. and Darlene E. (Alliman) Huffman.



Marcy spent most of her life in the Fort Madison area. She earned her RN degree from Southeastern Community College. She spent more than 30 years in nursing and worked at several of the local care centers. She was Director of Nursing at River Hills and Donnellson Health Center for a period of time before her health changed. She loved fishing and her animals. Marcy cared more about her family than anything else. She is survived by two brothers, Harvey "Bud" Jr. (Karen) Huffman

HUFFMAN

and Scott E. Sr. (Luanne) Huffman, both of Fort Madison; six nephews:

Michael, Scott Jr. and Megan, Tyler and Brittney, Austin, Brandon and Chelsi, and Tanner; two great nephews: Aiden and Owen; three great nieces: Taylor, Abagayle, and Samantha; aunts, uncles, and special friends, Homer and Kathy Brooks. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Her family will greet friends from 9:30 - 10:30 am Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A memorial service will follow and begin at 10:30 am Tuesday at the funeral home, with Reverend Dean Graber officiating. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for PAWS Animal Shelter, Fort Madison, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Huffman family may be made at <u>www.barrmemo-rialchapel.com</u>.

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Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm









1/13

like a wildman thinking he's all that, when all he had to do was take a slide. But no, he has to run around trying to

New location should be open before summer

BANK - Continued from Page 1

in Burlington and decided on the property in the Burlington Crossing Development. "We really like that spot. It's right in the middle of town along Highway 61, so we decided to make that investment and have all our markets right along Highway 61. We encourage everyone to come and take a look at it when it's done. It will be a little different than what people are used to seeing."

Morris said the facility will be a full service location with two full time insurance agents and market manager, and the staff from the current location at Hy-Vee.

"We're hoping to be open in the second quarter of 2018," he said. "We made the strategic decision to set the bank up to grow and we love southeast Iowa. That's where we want to be and we have no aspirations of being a huge bank. We just love our river towns."

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8 5 5	5824
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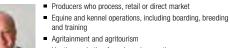


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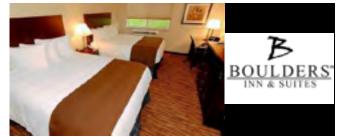
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Sports/Weather

FMHS boys win at Keokuk

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Kaleb Cresswell fired in 20 points to lead Fort Madison past Keokuk 60-49 in boys Southeast Conference basketball action Friday night.

The Hounds stand at 8-4 on the year and in second place in the conference behind 10-2 Mt. Pleasant.

Fort Madison capitalized on some longrange first quarter shooting with four different players connecting on 3-pointers in the quarter en route to an 18-12 first quarter lead, while six different players scored in the quarter.

The balanced scoring continued in the second period with Fort Madison putting up 17 with five different players scoring highlighted by Cresswell's five points. Keokuk's Dre Moody put in six in the quarter for the Chiefs. Cresswell broke out in the third quarter with 10 points including two 3-pointers to help put the game out of reach as Fort Madison went on a 17-11 run.

Seniors Treavor James-Kokjohn and Cresswell are second and fourth in scoring in the Southeast Conference. James-Kokjohn is averaging just under 17 points per game, while Cresswell is right at 14 through Tuesday's games. Cresswell and junior Brandon Keester are 1st and 3rd in 3-pointers made on the year with 23 and 22 respectively. Mt. Pleasant's Brady Sartorius is tied with Cresswell at 23. James-Kokjohn leads the state in Class 3A rebounding with 156 total or 14.2 per game.

The Hounds take on Burlington in non-conference action Tuesday night at the Hound Dome beginning at 6 p.m.

Schneider gets 17 in HTC loss to WACO

BY PCC STAFF FORT MADISON -Despite getting 17 points from sophomore Quentin Schneider, the Holy Trinity boys basketball team lost its seventh game in a row, with Friday's 64-52 loss to WACO on homecoming.

The Warriors raced to a 20-9 first quarter lead highlighted by Nik Coble and Braden Hammond's six points. Hammon connected on two from 3-point land.

HTC hung with WACO in the 2nd period with 16 points but trailed 36-25 at the end of the first half led by Schneider's seven points.

The Crusaders closed the gap to nine at the end of the third period highlighted by four 3-pointers in the period, two from Schneider, and one each from Brant Holtkamp and Reed Fehseke. Holy Trinity wouldn't get any closer as the Warriors put up 13 in the final period to Holy Trinity's 12.

Matt Hellige had nine points for the Crusaders, while Holtkamp finished with eight points, Fehseke had seven points, Adam Rauenbuehler had five, while Blake Crabtree and Jake Eaves each added three for the Holy Trinity boys.

CURRENT-LEE

BY PCC STAFF - Lee County Crime Stoppers will be holding a chili fundraiser at both the Fort Madison and Keokuk Hy-Vee locations on Jan. 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used for expenses and criminal payouts.

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.



FMHS girls doubled up by Chiefs

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Fort Madison got eight points from Braxtyn McGhghy in their 40-20 loss to Keokuk Friday night on the road.

The Chiefs jumped out to a 12-8 lead in the first quarter, including eight by senior Michaela Davis, who scored 17 to lead the 7-6 Chiefs.

The Hounds would manage only four points each in the next three quarters. The Chiefs raced out to a 29-12 first half lead behind Davis' 11 points.

Both teams went into a shooting slump in the second half with only 19 points total scored in the final two periods. Fort Madison converted just one field goal in the second half, a bucket by senior Taylor Shannan in the third period. The rest of the points came on 6-of-10 free throw shooting in the half.

Senior Kamryn Bailey led the Hounds in rebounds with eight on the night, including six on the defensive side of the court.

Anna Kester had three points for Fort Madison and two points each from Bailey, Shannan, Eleesha Estrada, Maddie Rashid, and one point from Kylee Cashman.

The Hounds traveled to Monmouth-Roseville today for a 5 p.m. junior varsity/varsity double header.



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Sports

HTC girls put up 27 in 3rd quarter for win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A 63-35 win over WACO gave the Holy Trinity Catholic girls three wins in their last four games and momentum going into the last half of the season.

Brett Schneider led the Crusaders again with 20 points on the night. Schneider is currently third in the Southeast Iowa Superconference south division in scoring at 15.7 points per game. Holy Trinity sits 6th in the Division behind 6-6 West Burlington, which comes to town Tuesday night.

Following coronations for the Holy Trinity homecoming festivities, the Crusaders came out and slapped a 10-5 first quarter lead on the Warriors with Schneider and junior Emily Box converting all 10 HTC points.

A flat defensive second quarter gave the Warriors a chance to get back in the game. The Warriors Aubrey Gamsey fired in seven points including a 3-pointer leading WACO to an 18-11 second quarter run and a two-point half time lead.

Head Coach Tony Johnson made some corrections in the lockerroom and HTC returned the favor in the 3rd period outscoring the visitors 27-1 picking up the tempo of the game, which typically puts the ball in Schneider's hands. The senior guard, who gives other ball handlers fits in the press, scored 10 points in the quarter to give Holy Trinity a 48-24 lead going into the final period. The Crusaders scored nine points in the last minute of the quarter.

Johnson said the third quarter defense was some of the best defense he's seen all year from his squad.

"It was probably the best overall team defense this season," Johnson said. "We had some early issues getting our minds right after homecoming coronation but the team defense was great and we ran a very controlled second half offense."

HTC then slowed the game down in the fourth quarter and got the ball inside to posts Box and Madison Mohrfeld and sophomore Avery Hopper. The three combined for 14 of the Crusaders' 15 points in the quarter.

Box is currently fourth in the conference in rebounding at eight boards per game. She's also fourth in the conference in blocks with 20.

Box finished with 16 for Holy Trinity followed by Ashlynn Haas with eight, Avery Hopper and Eryn Anderson each scored six points, Madison Mohrfeld had five, and Katie Denning added a bucket.





At top, HTC senior Brett Schneider is in unfriendly territory Friday night during the Crusaders' 63-35 win over WACO. Schneider scored 20 to lead Holy Trinity. At left, junior Eryn Anderson gets fouled as she goes to the hoop in first half action.



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