

Biden tells West Point crowd to "Get Up!"

Former VP's lead in Iowa shrinks to single digits over Warren, Buttigeig

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - Former Vice President Joe Biden told about 130 people at Small Grand Things in rural West Point Thursday it was time to get up.

It was a phrase his father used when Biden was a young boy.

"It's not that you get knocked down, it's how well you get back up. So get up Joey," Biden said recalling his father's words of wisdom.

Biden had a stuttering problem as a child and needed special classes to overcome it, while putting up with ridicule from his classmates.

The 76-year-old former senator from Delaware, who grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, said America is being ridiculed around the world at the hands of President Donald Trump.

"My dad made what some of you have to make, the longest walk up a short flight of stairs to say, 'Honey, you can't go to that school anymore. You can't play on that Little League. Daddy and Mommy lost their jobs and we have to leave."

Biden said his father moved to Delaware and then sent for Biden's mother and brothers.

"It's a hard thing to do, to ask for help. The good news was my grandpop had the same values as my dad. It wasn't hard for grandpop to say yes because it's family," he said.

"Today, too many hardworking middle class working class folks can't look their children in the eye and say it's



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

2020 Presidential candidate and former vice president Joe Biden meets with members of the crowd after his address Thursday afternoon at Small Grand Things in West Point. Biden's lead in Iowa has shrunk to single digits over Sen. Elizabeth Warren and South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Biden was on a day swing through the Hawkeye state.

going to get better...and mean it."

He said Wall Street didn't build America, people like those in Iowa, Scranton, part of the "great middle class" built America.

"There used to be a basic bargain in the country. If you contributed to the well being of the operation you worked for, you got to share in the benefits. Everything went up...everybody won. Management got a raise, labor got a raise. That's not happening anymore."

He said families in lower and middle class have no

breathing room and statistically speaking more than half of the people in this country are afraid that their children will not have the same quality of life as they do.

"Folks, we have to rebuild the middle class. I'm not talking about it just because of economic fairness, but because the middle class has what's allowed us the political stability, the social stability, and the economic stability of this country. Other countries' democracies

See BIDEN, page 5

Verdict expected today in McCain murder trial

Judge sets hearing for in the case of a 25-year-



MCCAIN

Madison. McCain is charged in the death of CaLove Sackman, then 27, in Keokuk. The two had been in a relationship and have one daughter together.

times in the front and back of her torso and on her hands. Prosecutors showed that Sackman and McCain were having an argument in a vehicle that night after McCain drove down from Fort Madison during a night of freezing rain and picked Sackman up at her home on Concert Street. According to testimony, the two began arguing and Sackman tried to get out of McCain's white Monte Carlo, when

1 p.m. on Thursday for possible verdict

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – Prosecutors learned Wednesday that a verdict could be handed down as soon as Thursday afternoon



Chief Judge Mary Ann Brown of District 8B took the case last Thursday in

the South Lee County Courthouse in Keokuk, after one and half days of testimony in the case of Adam Golden McCain, who was staying with family on the west side of Fort

Sackman was found by Nadene Sestito, a passerby, at about 10 p.m. on Feb. 5 of this year. Sackman had pulled herself onto the sidewalk on the north side of River City Mall's parking lot in the 200 block of Main Street in Keokuk. Sackman had been stabbed multiple

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Local News/From the Front



Helenthal, Hoenig make state cheer squad

AMES – Fort Madison High School Senior, Chloe Hoenig was selected for the Iowa All-State Cheerleading squad Sunday in Ames, Iowa. Sophomore Mandy Helenthal was selected as a honorable mention, which will place her on the alternate list.

The Iowa All-State Cheerleading Squad is an ICCA/IHSAA sponsored, select team. Any varsity cheerleader of an ICCA member team can tryout for the team. Tryouts are held in October every year. Candidates are judged on their motions, jumps, dance ability, and gymnastics. A team of 20-45 of Iowa's best cheerleaders are chosen. Over 200 cheerleaders try out each year.

A choreographer is hired and the team practices on four different Sundays from January to March. During the IHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament, March 13, 2020, the team comes together and performs during half time of two of the Friday games. The last performance is during the 1A final.

This half time performance is televised and team members are presented with medals.



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McCain facing life in prison without parole

MCCAIN - Continued from Page 1

he pulled her back in and stabbed her with a butterfly knife. The girl was able to get out of the vehicle, but McCain then drove around to where she was on the ground, got out and stabbed her again repeatedly.

Prosecutors then tried to paint a picture, including using video, of McCain trying to run into her on the sidewalk with the car, but Dr. Dennis Firchau, a forensic pathologist with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said no injuries supported that claim.

McCain's trial originally began as a jury trial, but three hours into jury selection, McCain and his legal team of Kendra Abfalter and Joseph Beres, both of Burlington, decided a bench trial would be in McCain's best interests.

Testimony began last Tuesday, Oct. 15 and wrapped up on Wednesday when the prosecution rested its case and the defense only called McCain to the stand for about 5 minutes before closing arguments. Beres' focus during his argument was that McCain was acting in a child-like manner and didn't have premeditation in the killing, which could trigger a conviction of 2nd-degree murder.

In Iowa 1st-degree murder carries a penalty of life imprisonment with no chance for parole. Second-degree murder is a 35-year minimum prison sentence.



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For the Record/Obituaries

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/22/19 – 9:14 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of 20th Street. 10/22/19 – 10:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Christopher Mikchel Flores, 38, listed as homeless, at the police station on warrant for 5th degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 10/22/19 – 2:03 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Andrew Xavier Cortez Hunter, 26, of Fort Madison in the 4000 block of Avenue L, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was released on a promise to appear. 10/22/19 – 3:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft, reported at the police station. 10/22/19 – 3:28 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L. 10/23/19 – 7:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report

of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/22/19 – 9:31 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thomas William Cale, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. He was released on a court order. 10/22/19 - 6:04 p.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested at 17-year old male juvenile at the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center on a charge of simple assault. He was held at the center pending a court appearance. 10/22/19 - 6:10 p.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Brooke Ashley Wylie, 25, of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of 340th Street on a charge of driving while barred. She was released upon citation. 10/22/19 – 7:52 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 3000 block of Hwy. 218. According to the report, deputies were on patrol

and came upon a disabled vehicle that had struck a racoon causing disabling front end damage. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 10/22/19 – 8:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rhonda Denise Howes, 58, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Hwy. 218 on a warrant for 5th degree theft. She was released on a promise to appear. 10/22/19 - 8:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Nicole Howes, 20, of Keokuk in the 3000 block of Hwy. 218 on a warrant for failure to appear. She was released on a promise to appear. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report 10/21/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to seven medical calls. 10/22/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls and one false alarm.



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OBITUARIES

SHANE ALLEN BEEBE

Shane Allen Beebe, 28 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Monday, October 21, 2019 at his home. He was born January 24, 1991 in Ottumwa, Iowa, a son of Mary Adler and Wayne Beebe.



Shane had unusual pets, reptiles and snakes. He enjoyed the outdoors and working on motors; 4-wheelers, motorcycles, and cars. He adored his children.

He is survived by his mother, Mary Adler of Fort Madison; his father, Wayne Beebe of Lockridge, Iowa; four children: Lusaferr, Hayven, Hannah, and Braydon; one sister, Kayla Parrish of Fort Madison; his girlfriend, Kai Kempker of Fort Madison; grandparents: Mary

BEEBE

Schmieg of Winfield, Iowa; LeRoy Beebe of Lockridge; Mable and Don Byers of Lockridge; great grandmother, Maxine Schmieg of Burlington, Iowa; several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his great grandfather, David Schmieg.

His family will greet friends and celebrate his life from 3:00 – 5:00 pm Friday, October 25, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Beebe family and an online guest book may be found at <u>www.</u> <u>barrmemorialchapel.com</u>.

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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Sports/Weather

Bloodhounds shake off rocky start to advance

Fort Madison to take on Burlington Tuesday night

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – A first-set loss was enough to wake Fort Madison High School's volleyball team out of an early slumber.

Jillian Wiseman's kills kept the Bloodhounds awake. Fort Madison advanced in the Class 4A regional tournament with a 23-25, 25-7, 25-22, 25-23 win in Wednesday's first-round match.

The Bloodhounds (15-23) will play at Burlington (24-5) in Tuesday's 7 p.m. semifinal.

It was a sloppy first set for the Bloodhounds.

"We missed five serves, we had about five hitting errors, and it got away from us," Fort Madison coach Kent Bailey said. "I give Keokuk credit. They kept putting the ball in play, and we kept trying to hit it harder instead of hit it smarter.

"It woke us up a little bit. We had to fight a little bit harder."

The second set was all about the Bloodhounds. They built a 14-6 lead, then after a block by Keokuk's Michenna Davis, scored the final 11 points of the set.

Fort Madison seemed in control of the third set. The Bloodhounds led 23-16, but the Chiefs (9-19) scored six consecutive points to gain momentum. But a kill from Fort Madison's Reyna Lampe ended the run, then the Bloodhounds served out the set.

Keokuk made similar runs in the fourth set. Fort



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Anna Lynk (10) battles Keokuk's Isabel Vandenberg (9) at the net in the first game of the Hounds' 3-1 win in Class 4A Regional 8 volleyball Wednesday night.

Madison led 19-8 before the Chiefs scored six consecutive points, then later in the set Keokuk scored seven of the next eight points to get to within 22-21. But Wiseman and Lampe had back-to-back kills to get to match



Keokuk's Miracle Ailes, (1) goes over the Bloodhound defense in the first game of the Hounds' 3-1 win over Keokuk Wednesday.

point. The Chiefs scored the next two points, then Lampe finished the match with her ninth kill of the night.

"Give Keokuk credit," Bailey said. "They made us work."

Wiseman led the Bloodhounds with 24 kills.

"She's one of the best hitters in southeast Iowa," Bailey said. "She's pretty good. She's got the ability to hit the ball on the outside as well as anyone we've had here in a while. She's 5-foot-11 and she's got jumping ability, and she puts that on display."

The Bloodhounds are 0-3 against Burlington this season.

"When we're playing well, we don't have a lot of hitting errors and we pass the ball well," Bailey said. "We did a pretty good job of that tonight, and if we can get the ball to Jillian in her spots, we can do good things."



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From the Front

Former VP says junior colleges can change debt picture

BIDEN - Continued from Page 1

got in trouble without a strong middle class. That's never been the case here no matter how bad it's gotten."

He said part of that rebuilding process will be expanding on the Affordable Care Act. Biden said his health care program would allow a public option to choose Medicare if you want it, or a public competition that will bring premiums down.

"The money is there to pay for it, it is less than \$30 trillion, \$3.4 trillion a month. It's 1/30th of the amount and it can be paid for without raising taxes on anybody in the middle class, period."

He said the cost of his plan would be \$740 billion over 10 years.

"That's a lot of money, but we can eliminate so many of these existing tax cuts that don't generate any progress for America," Biden said.

"Not in five years or ten years, my competitors are very well meaning, but they don't tell you how Medicare for All is going to be paid for. \$3.4 trillion a year is more than the federal budget."

He said the country also has to rebuild its education system and states have undercut funding for education.

"My wife Jill says it best...any country that out-educates us is going to out-compete us in the 21st century."

Biden outlined plans to reduce the cost of college debt including revamping repayment options and allowing forgiveness of remaining debt after a decade of repayments and service for different public service occupations including teachers.

He proposes not requiring repayments for any students that don't make more than \$25,000 per year.

Biden also said he wants to give every single person access to the country's community colleges and cutting the cost of a four-year degree in half.

He said Trump inherited a strong economy from the Obama Administration and is now squandering that.

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"Look what his trade policy has done. No benefit to anybody," he said.

Biden said manufacturing is in a recession across the board and across the country.

He said the country needs to reverse Trump's tax cuts for the super wealthy and the corporations.

"They didn't need them in the first place. They were doing very, very well," he said to applause.

He said corporations have taken their profits and repurchased trillions of dollars in their own stock so the remaining stock has increased value.

"That's how CEOs get paid. When Ronald Reagan was president, the average corporate CEO of a Fortune 500 company made something like 300 times as much as the average employee. Know what it is today, it's over 456 times as much. What happened? The bargain has been broken."

He proposed moving corporate tax back at 28%, which is still competitive and creates additional revenue for the country. He also want to double capital gains from 20% to 40%.

"Folks it doesn't effect capital gains when you sell your farm or property, only income based on investments," he said.

He also said the country has to stop violence. Biden said he has shotguns, but said more than 50% of NRA members don't think you should be able to walk around with an assault rifle, or clips that have more than 100 rounds in it. "If you need to hunt with something that has more than a 100 rounds in it, you shouldn't be hunting." Biden said.

He proposed biometric marks on triggers.

"How is that violating anyone's second amendment rights? Folks I'm gonna tell ya, I've taken on that lobby before and I've beat 'em and I'm gonna beat 'em again," Biden said.

In wrapping up, Biden said this is America and he's tired of people walking around with their heads down like 'whoa is me."

"This is the United States of America. There's not a damn thing we can't do. Well it's time for us to get up. There's not a thing we can't do if we do it together. We should not postpone any longer what we need to do, so let's do it."

Leslie Carpenter of the Iowa Mental Health Advocacy said she was a little swayed by Biden after taking with him after the event.

She said she has been talking to all the candidates about mental health plans because Iowa is 51st in the country when it comes to beds with only 64 out of 200.

"We, as a country, have abandoned people with mental health. So we have gotten Pete Buttigieg to come out with a very good mental health plan that has substance to it," Carpenter said.

She said other candidates such as Amy Kolbuchar have good plans. She said Cory Booker is working with her group to get amendments and bills in front of Congress even before the election.

Don Panther, of West Point, said Biden made some good remarks including taxation and gun control. He also was taken in by Biden's comments on education.

"I think we do need to do something about schools. I'm still undecided but he's right in there with the rest."

Lee County Supervisor Ron Fedler said he was making an endorsement for Biden prior to the event.

"If the legislature is not going to do what needs to be done, we have to do with our votes," Fedler said.



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Lady Hawks advance with win over WB

Central Lee takes on West Liberty Tuesday night; HTC to host Notre Dame Monday

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON - Central Lee advanced in Class 3A District 8 volleyball Wednesday with a 3-1 win over West Burlington in the Lady Falcons gym.

The Lady Hawks (23-10) had to come from a game down to advance, but rose to the occasion with a 20-25, 25-13, 26-24, 25-20 to end WB's season at 15-16.

Central Lee will take on West Liberty on Tuesday night in West Liberty at 7 p.m. The Comets beat up on Mid-Prairie 25-11, 25-14, 25-8 to advance in the bracket.

For Central Lee, Mya Merschman led the Lady Hawks at the net going 23 of 24 hitting with 19 kills, seven blocks and was a perfect 17-17 serving with 12 digs.

Abby Wellman was 26-30 hitting with 12 kills and block at the net. She served 13 of 14 with two aces and had 18 digs on the night.

Meghan Hopp also had a big night offensively going 29 for 34 attacking with 11 kills, two blocks, and served 24 for 24 with an ace and seven digs.

Zoe Eschman had 57 assists, 1 block assist, served 18 for 19 and had 16 digs. Chloe Weber served 9 for 12 with an ace and had 13 digs.

On the bottom half of the District 8 region, Albia (28-9) swept Chariton (3-21), while Davis County (19-16) swept Centerville (10-17) in three. Albia and Davis County will also play Tuesday night and that match will be played in Albia.

In the Class 1A, Region 8 action, Holy Trinity Catholic will face Burlington Notre Dame on Monday night at HTC after the Nikes (18-18) knocked off Winfield Mt. Union in three. Notre Dame and HTC have split matches this year with the Nikes getting the last win 2-1 on Oct 12 in Mt. Pleasant.

Also winners in that bracket were New London, Seymour, Wayne, North Mahaska, Keota, and WACO. New London (27-8) will face off against Keota (5-16) in New London. WACO (22-11) will go against North Mahaska (16-11) at WACO, and Seymour (15-16) and Wayne (9-17) will tangle at Centerville High School, all Monday night at 7 p.m.



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42" stamped, twin blade deck 18 HP Kohler® engine Hydrostatic transmission; no shifting

\$1599

FT 24

12" forward-rotating stamped steel tines Cub Cadet 208cc OHV engine Adjustable 13"/22"/24" tilling width

NOW: \$399

RT 65

Self-propelled, with forward and reverse 13" dual directional, self-sharpening tines 18" tilling width

NOW: \$699

SNOW BLOWERS

1X™ 21" LHP

from the operator's station lets you

propelled drive system allows

you to go at your own speed

In-dash headlights

1X SINGLE STAGE

\$649.00

1X[™] 21" HP **1X SINGLE STAGE** \$549.00

Easy push-button electric start 179cc OHV engine. High-performance augerpropelled drive system allows you to go at your own speed. You're covered winter after winter with a premium 3-year limited residential and 1-year limited commercial warranty



2X™ 24" 2X TWO STAGE \$899.00

Easy push-button start 243cc OHV engineLED headlights that offer superior illumination regardless of chute location.Trigger-control power steering for unmatched control, effortless maneuverability and single-hand operation. You're covered winter after winter with a premium 3-year limited residential and 1-year limited commercial warranty



3X[™] 28" **3X THREE STAGE** \$1399.00

Trigger-control power steering at your fingertips for unmatched control, effortless maneuverability Push-button electric start 357cc OHV engine New dual LED headlights offer superior illumination regardless of chute location

SNOW BLOWER

STAGE ONE \$56.25 *PLUS PARTS*

STAGE TWO S67.50 *PLUS PARTS*

STAGE THREE *PLUS PARTS*

GEAR UP FOR COLD WEATHER \$35.99 **POWER ZONE** PARABOLIC HEATER Parabolic Infrared Halogen Heater 9948605 800W Mr. Heater \$54.99 **MR HEATER LITTLE BUDDY** \$74.99 **ALL THREE** MRHT0259325 LOCATIONS 3,800 BTU **MR HEATER BUDDY** INDOOR SAFE PROPANE MRHT3388014 4,000 - 9,000 BTU INDOOR SAFE PROPANE FREE FOOD **GIVEAWAYS** \$119.99 \$99.99 GREAT SALES **MR HEATER COMFORT ZONE HEATER** AND MORE! Infrared Cabinet Heater HUNTING BUDDY HOBE725256 ANNUAL 6,000 - 12,000 BTU MRHT132035 INDOOR SAFE PROPANE PURCHASE A TRAEGER WIFI GRILL AND RECEIVE \$120 HUFFMAN'S GIFT CARD (WITH 575 PURCHASE) \$150 HUFFMAN'S GIFT CARD (WITH 780 PURCHASE) CHAINSA TO USE TOWARDS TRAEGER ACCESSORIES! \$169.99 **DEWALT CORDLESS HEATER** DAYS EVENT 6.000 - 12.000 BTU INDOOR SAFE PROPANE MRHT100336 DEWALT OCTOBER 26TH, 2019 \$174.99 1 CLEANE **DEWALT FORCED** FACEBOOK PAGE **PROPANE HEATER** 90,000 BTU CHECK OUT OUR EVENT INDOOR SAFE PROPANE PAGE ON FACEBOOK TO MRHT540715 TRI STAY UP TO DATE ON DEWALT OUR CHAINSAW DAYS **GIVEAWAYS!**



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остовея 23RD - остовея 29TH, 2019 www.huffmansfarmandhome.com

*Some items may not be available at all locations. Seasonal items limited to quantity on hand. Sale price not valid on previous purchases.