



Pen City Current

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Hopper hits 28 as HTC wins 3rd in a row

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity boys basketball players have a lot to smile about of late.

The Crusaders dropped visiting Mediapolis 63-42 in a non-conference matchup on Monday night giving them three wins in a row. To add to the stats, the HTC boys have won five of their last six, including a win over then 11-2 West Burlington and are three games over .500.

With five games left in the regular season, two this week, Head Coach John Hellige says he's happy with where his team is right now.

"That's about where I wanted to be," Hellige said. "Obviously, we had some close games early that I would love to get back. But we're moving forward at this point. We want to peak at the right moment. I really feel like the kids are buying into the system and playing with a lot of effort and focus right now."

Focus was clearly on senior Cory Hopper's mind. Hopper, who said last week he gets a little nervous playing the point guard position, took control of the game literally after the tip and rolled to a game high 28 points.

Hopper moved to the one spot after senior Connor Conrad, who was the team's leading scorer going into a game in Van Buren on Jan. 10th, bonked his knee. Conrad was diagnosed this week with a partial tear in his



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Drawing attention

HTC senior Cory Hopper was drawing attention from Mediapolis defenders all night as is shown here with all five Bulldogs in the area. Hopper scored 28 to lead HTC to a 63-42 win Monday.

PCL ligament, according to Hellige. Conrad's return is day to day.

"We're gonna wait. I won't make any decisions without his doctor's, his family's and his blessing. So we'll just play that day by day," Hellige said. Conrad was averaging close to 18 points per game before the injury.

Hopper's two free throws and bucket inside the first three minutes to get the scoring started for HTC, sandwiched a Nick Pothi-

takis 3-pointer to put the Crusaders up 7-0. Mediapolis' Will Schroeder got the Bulldogs on the board with a couple from the charity strip with 4:35 left in the quarter. Senior Jack Stinson scored a bucket inside, while Bailey Merschman stepped out and hit a couple 3-pointers before Hopper scored again on a drive to put HTC up 19-6 at the end of one.

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BESIDE THE POINT

Regional education center timing is pretty good

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

I was covering a recent school board meeting when FMHS Principal Greg Smith was presenting a regular report to the FMCS school board.

As part of the presentation, Smith mentioned that a committee had been formed to look into the possibility of building a regional education center in Lee County.



C. VANDENBERG

As the only reporter at the Pen City Current, sometimes it's inevitable that I find myself playing a little catch up. I hadn't heard rumblings of this venture, but as I start to put the pieces together it seems like this effort couldn't have better timing.

I have two girls in my house, one has gone through college and one is just about to embark on college. It's my responsibility, but more my pleasure, to help them achieve their goals in life. But picking up another mortgage and a half to put them through school is the bitter with the sweet.

Not that this REC would help my savings



account at all, but it may help other families in Lee County directly. In the simplest of terms, universities are pricing themselves out of the game and people are looking for alternatives to the high price of college.

This center, if my understanding is clear, would be a center where students could take college level courses monitored and administered by Southeastern Community College for free. Much like your dual courses you can take at area high schools now, but more courses would be offered. Nowadays, every credit you can take of college while in high school saves families.

According to the student support organization College Board, in-state tuition at a four-year institution is nearing (if not over when thinking all-in) \$21,000 per year. With

Iowa facing a shortfall of \$117 million in the upcoming budget, eyes will be looking in all directions for where to pare.

Current FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) formulas have not been adjusted for the increasing costs of health care. And they ask, but don't make monetary, adjustments to tax information for other students in the family already in college. The government has taken over all student loans although families can still borrow privately. So the government forms dictate the degree of aid, dictate the interest rate and rarely say no to families looking to borrow. In a nutshell they are profiting off student's education, which is a shame to say the least.

So with families up against the mounting debt of college education the REC is a potential snort of fresh air. This would increase students chances for a more affordable college experience. It could also provide programming for traditional college students, adults, vocational training and high school completion programs.

Aside from that it would allow local industries to be involved in targeting curriculums

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FM woman hits police cruiser

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison woman was arrested on suspicion of OWI-1st offense on Thursday after she collided with a Fort Madison Police cruiser.

Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jane Kay Gilpin, 67, of Fort Madison, at 9:44 p.m. at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue F. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the accident where Gilpin's vehicle had been traveling westbound on Avenue F. The cruiser was being driven by officer James Carle. According to reports, Carle had stopped northbound on 15th Street and proceeded into the intersection when Gilpin's vehicle struck the cruiser. The cruiser came to rest between 15th Street and the sidewalk on the northeast side of the intersection. No injuries were reported.

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From the Front/Sports

Crusaders still have Central Lee, Danville this week

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Hellige said filling in for Conrad has been a benefit

“Cory can get a shot anytime he’s in the gym. He’s got the ball more now, so naturally he’s probably going to have a few more opportunities.”

-John Hellige
HTC Head Coach

to Hopper’s game. “I think where it’s helped him more than anything is sometimes last year he would tend to blend in the game for a few moments,” Hellige said. “But when he’s got the ball in his hands its difficult to blend in. Now he’s controlling things and staying actively involved in the offense. Cory can get a shot anytime he’s in the gym. He’s got the ball more now, so naturally he’s probably going to have a few more opportunities.” The second quarter was more of the same as Hopper scored eight of the Crusaders 10 points in the quarter. Stinson added

the other bucket as both teams scored 10 in the period and HTC held a 29-16 halftime lead. Mediapolis outscored the Crusaders 18-17 in the third period as Hellige started to work his bench again with a 12-point lead at the end of three, 46-34. Hopper put up 7 more in the final period capped off by a Nathan Bredemeyer bucket with a couple seconds left in the game. The boys travel to Central Lee on Tuesday night for a quadruple with both boys and girls junior varsity and varsity playing. Games start at 4 p.m. Then Danville comes calling on Friday night. The Bears beat HTC by 18

on Jan. 16 in Danville. Hellige said he wants the focus on Central Lee who the Crusaders beat by 13 on Dec. 13. “They’re a great team, very well-coached and we’ve got to stay energized tomorrow night,” he said. Rounding out the scoring for the Crusaders was Bailey Merschman with 8, Nick Pothitakis with 6, and Reed Fehseke, Collin Thornton, Conner Hellweg, Milo Orton and Bredemeyer all had two points. In the junior varsity game HTC won a closer game 48-44 behind 23-of-29 free throw shooting and 18 points from Matt Hellige. Brant Holtkamp finished with 12, Quentin Schneider had 10, and Reed Fehseke scored 8.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Up and over

Senior Jack Stinson goes up for a bucket Monday night against the Bulldogs. Stinson finished with 11 points for the Crusaders.

Center could be economically beneficial

OPINION - Continued from Page 1

to their specific needs, which would help create the workforce they need to survive. From an economic development standpoint, it’s an attractor because it would certainly put more points on our side if we could show those efforts underway or in place. The discussion and work is really in its infancy stages, but someone willing to put up some

tion would stoke the fire. Smith said a prime location would be somewhere near Donnellson or other central Lee County area. The committee involves people from local industry, Fort Madison Community School District, Lee County Economic Development Group and Southeastern Community College. Smith said local industry and the community college are on board to help with costs and functionality of the center, but it’s going to take some philanthropy and generosity to get the project off the ground.

Join the discussion at www.pencitycurrent.com where you can post comments to this column or submit your Letter to the Editor. You can also email your letters to Chuck Vandenberg, PCC Editor, at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/19/17 - 7:01 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61.
01/19/17 - 8:51 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue I.
01/19/17 - 5:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jessica Ann Harwood, 33, in the 900 block of 15th Street on a charge of dog running at large. She was cited and released.
01/19/17 - 10:55 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 1700 block of Avenue G.
01/19/17 - 12:17 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue M.
01/19/17 - 12:24 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 3000 block of Avenue K.
01/19/17 - 6:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a a property damage accident at 2nd Street and Avenue E.
01/19/17 - 7:33 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Avenue F .
01/19/17 - 8:35 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 15th Street and Avenue F.
01/20/17 - 8:08 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the

1100 block of Avenue D.
01/20/17 - 4:44 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Marc Anthony Johnson, 47, 100 block of Avenue C, in the 700 block of Avenue G on charges of possession of methamphetamine and failure to display registration. He was released on recognizance.
01/20/17 - 9:32 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Caleb James Booten, 25 of Denmark, in the 6100 block of Reve Court, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center.
01/21/17 - 4:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Gary Lee Swanson, 29, no address given, in the 300 block of Ninth Street, on a warrants for failure to appear on possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear on possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and a charge of possession of a controlled substance (psilocybin mushrooms). He was taken and held at the Lee County Correctional Center.
01/21/17 - 4:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue E.
01/22/17 - 2:26 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Anthony Joseph Farhner, 44, of 5200 block River Valley Road, in the 1200 block of 21st Street on a warrant service for child neglect. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and held.
01/21/17 - 6:50 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to

a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 10th Street.
01/21/17 - 10:06 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Maria Opal Tijerina-Eid, 23, 5200 River Valley Road on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and held.
01/21/17 - 10:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of hit and run in the 600 block of Crescent Lane.
01/22/17 - 1:14 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Brianna Nicole Lynn Land, 25, of 1000 Avenue E, on a warrant for failure to provide financial liability. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and held.
01/22/17 - 11:07 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2200 block of Avenue C.
01/22/17 - 12:42 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L.
01/22/17 - 2:00 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 700 block of Avenue D.
01/22/17 - 5:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2400 block of Avenue H.
01/22/17 - 9:04 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Travis Lee Blint, 33, of 2200 block of Avenue C, in the 600 block of Crescent Lane, for driving under suspension and two counts of striking unattended vehicle (hit and run). He was cited and released.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/19/17 - 3:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nichole Ivana Grandbouche, 41, of Keokuk, on a judgement entry. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
01/19/17 - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Avenue F and 15th Street in Fort Madison. A vehicle driven by Jane Kay Gilpin, 67, of Fort Madison struck a Fort Madison Police vehicle driven by James Everette Carle, 46, of Fort Madison as the police vehicle was entering the intersection. Gilpin's vehicle was traveling west bound on Avenue F and struck the police vehicle as it was crossing the intersection. Gilpin was arrested at the scene on suspicion of OWI-1st offense.
01/19/17 - 9:44 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jane Kay Gilpin, 67, of Fort Madison, on a charge of OWI 1st offense at the intersection of 15th Street and Avenue F. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
01/20/17 - 12:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jared John Matlock, 33, of Keokuk, at mile marker 8 on Hwy 218 on three warrants for failure to appear and a warrant for fraudulent practices - 5th degree. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

01/20/17 - 12:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daniel Haessig Svejda, 32, of Keokuk at mile marker 8 on Hwy. 218 on charges of driving while suspended, no insurance, possession of marijuana, possession of weapons by a felon, possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
01/20/17 - 10:58 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryan James Stark, 35, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff's Office on a judgement entry. He was jailed and released to serve on weekends.
01/21/17 - 3:03 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Madeline Elizabeth Nafziger, 20, of Wever, in the 2800 block of Hwy. 61 on a charges of possession of alcohol under age, and providing false identification. She was taken the Lee County Correctional Center and released on a promise to appear.
01/21/17 - 3:03 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alyssa Renee Wehrle, 20, of Montrose in the 2800 block of Hwy 61 on a charge of OWI-1st offense. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and released on a promise to appear.
01/22/17 - 6 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 near 180th St. A vehicle driven by Pablana Miguel Angel, 26 of Great Bend, Kan., swerved to miss a deer and slid entering the median and

striking a road sign and continued down a creek bank and stopped in the middle of the creek. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.
01/22/17 - 3:03 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mable Ann Cahoon, 59, of Keosauqua at the intersection of Hwy 2 and Donnellson on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.
01/22/17 - 6:54 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Leo McVeigh, 62 of Montrose in the 400 block of Main Street in Montrose on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

Fort Madison Fire calls

01/20/17 - Fort Madison Fire responded to 3 medical calls.
01/20/17 - Fort Madison Fire responded to a false alarm at Fort Madison Community Hospital.
01/21/17 - Fort Madison Fire responded to eight medical calls
01/21/17 - 6:58 p.m. - Fort Madison Fire responded to a car fire in the 5800 block of Sycamore Avenue.
01/22/17 - Fort Madison Fire responded to 3 medical calls.

It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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