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SPORTS:

FMHS boys and girls fall to West Burlington in Hall of Pride scrimmage Tuesday.

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Wed., Nov. 27, 2019 | 19 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 249

'Caretakers' bring in Hopp harvest

For fraternity of area farmers, helping families in need is just an instinct

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

DONNELLSON - "And on the 8th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, 'I need a caretaker.' So God made a farmer."

The words were made famous by legendary radio host Paul Harvey, but were quickly recalled by Jill Hopp Monday on a beautiful morning just southwest of Donnellson.

Hopp was joined by her sons Jason and Jim, other



family members and friends, as a couple dozen other 'caretakers' descended on three acreages that Jill and Bruce Hopp have owned in the area since the mid-70s.

The mood was light and supportive, but somber, as Bruce died just six weeks ago of pancreatic cancer.

Jill said the outpouring of support has been something she'd seen, heard, and been a part of, but was still overwhelming.

"My phone just hasn't stopped ringing. You don't have to ask – they just show up." she said.

She said it's an instinct of a farmer that has been perfected from generation to generation. Her husband was always in on any similar efforts for other farming families.

"He would be one of the first ones there to help. That's just what they do."

Hopp said they played the words of Paul Harvey's poem at the end of her husband's funeral.

"Bruce loved that poem," she said.

"Every day, Paul Harvey at the end of his show, would mention a couple that had been married for 50 years and Bruce always said we were gonna be on Paul Harvey for our 50 years.

"He died 10 days before our 50th anniversary. I'll never, ever forget that."

About \$8 million in equipment run by a couple dozen local farmers was fired up at about 9:30 a.m. and hit the rows of corn that were still to be pulled from the Hopp land.

Jill and other friends took to the barn to prepare a large meal befitting the effort. Gary Schiller, who

Great River Regional Waste Authority......P.10 Huffman's Farm and HomePs.12-19

See CROPS, page 9



Drone photo courtesy of Jason Mueller

Combines and grain wagons dot the farm of Bruce and Jill Hopp Monday morning as a couple dozen area farmers and FFA students helped bring in the crop for the family after Bruce died six weeks ago from pancreatic cancer.

Iowa farmers made from the really good stuff

I walked onto the property of Bruce and Jill Hopp Monday morning and about 23 farmers started migrating away from me. I had a camera bag and notebook. I'm used to it.

It's a good thing retired Central Lee school teacher, and a man I consider a friend, Ernie Schiller was on hand to blaze a path. It was a beautiful fall Monday with corn stocks ready to be pulverized by harvesting equipment.

But the day held a somber tone as I intruded on this community harvest to help the Hopp family. Bruce died six weeks ago from pancreatic cancer.

It wasn't intimidation

The KensingtonP.2



Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg, Pen City Current - Editor

as that can't be part of a reporter's skill set. I was hit more with a sense of 'we got stuff to do here and you just may slow us down'.

To them it ain't about a story. It's a fraternity... it's community. Gary Schiller, who helped coordinate the harvest with Bill Benjamin, may have said it best.

"It's what we do." Close to 30 farmers, family, friends, and FFA students put on the Carhartt, even though it wasn't needed in the 50-degree morning air,

and went about pulling in 450 acres of corn on three separate acreages near Donnellson and north of Charleston.

Jill Hopp said the community, churches, friends, family, and area businesses have been ringing her up for the past month offering any support the family needed.

Bruce William Hopp died on Oct. 10 at the age of 68. He'd been diagnosed just four months earlier after complaining of some pain in his legs.

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Jill said Bruce always talked to her like he was going to get better, but they put plans in place in case he didn't.

Jill made the decision to hold onto the farm, but lease the land to another young farmer that had become part of this brotherhood. A man she said she trusts. A man who Bill had befriended in the grapple that is U.S. agronomy.

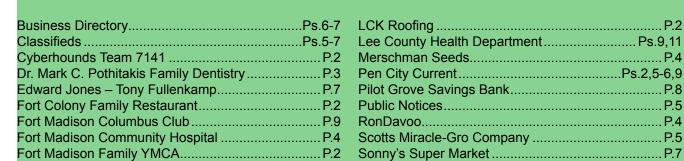
One of Bruce and Jill Hopp's sons (there's a Jason and a Jim, and I'm too old to tell them apart), took me around in a white Chevy bouncing around the cornfields trying to find someone who'd let me in a combine.

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Advertiser Index

Local News

Lighted parade set for Nov. 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Annual post-Thanksgiving lighted parade could be a cold affair

FORT MADISON - As the streets of Fort Madison's Historic District get ready to kick off the 2019 holiday season, many families, friends and visitors will line Avenue G on November 29th at 6:30 PM, the day after Thanksgiving, to witness the magnificent sight of the Annual Parade of Lights. More than 40 completely lit floats will once again flow through downtown creating a magical Christmas experience for everyone young and old in the anticipation of Santa's arrival.

Spectators enjoying the parade will get to see many of their favorite floats that make this parade truly a one of a kind experience in our area. Floats include a rocking horse, a merry go round, a fireplace with real fire, a snowman being built, a giant snow globe and of course the Lighted Parade train are just a few of the many lighted floats.

"We have converted all the existing floats over to LED the last couple years which has helped with maintenance needs", stated Thomas Older, 2019 Parade Chairman. "Although we may not have a new float this





The 2019 Lighted Parade kicks off at 6:30 p.m. Friday, November 29th. This year's parade will feature more than 40 lighted floats and will welcome thousands of eager spectators to downtown Fort Madison. After the parade, floats will be on display on the Riverfront until the first week of January.

year, we were able to offer new sponsorships opportunities to a few existing floats with the goal to look at getting those businesses interested and planning early

Martha Hawes, Digital Media Sales Consultant martha@pencitycurrent.com 319.316.3621



for the 2020 parade and a new float idea." Volunteers are always needed. Those interested in participating, please contact the Partners office- maybe you have design ideas for a new float, welding skills to offer or the willingness to help light the floats to keep the parade going forward are always welcome.

As in the past, there will be no parking along Avenue G between 11-13th streets all day Friday the 29th and starting at 5:00 pm along Avenue G between 5th-11th streets. Also, every evening following the Parade of Lights, the floats will be lit and on display in Riverview Park for drive-by viewing until the first week in Janu-









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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/22/19 – 1:13 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H. 11/23/19 – 7:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue D. 11/23/19 - 9:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a vandalism in the 1300 block Avenue G. 11/23/19 – 2:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Avenue O. 11/23/19 – 11:56 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 12th Street. 11/24/19 – 10:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue D. 11/24/19 - 10:48 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue D. 11/24/19 - 1:35 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 2700 block Avenue N. 11/24/19 – 2:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue N. 11/25/19 - 5:03 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jeramy Francis Skelton, 28, of Wever, in the 500 block of 20th Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was

taken to the Des Moines County Line and transferred. 11/25/19 – 6:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3000 block of Avenue C.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/22/19 - 9:14 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 218 near 255th Street. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Donald Wilbert Beckman, 89, of Burlington entered Hwy. 218 off 255th Street and struck a vehicle driven by Jerry Robert McGee, 75, of Keokuk. No major injuries were reported at the scene and Beckman was cited for failure to vield. 11/22/19 - 4:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Lee Tapp. 35, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold and a warrant for voluntary absence from custody. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released for time service. 11/22/19 - 11:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeffrey James Cannon, 51, of Keokuk, in the 900 block of Carroll Street in Keokuk, on a charge of contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 11/23/19 - 6:26 a.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of Hwy. 61 southbound. A vehicle driven by Sterling James Spicer, 37, of Fort Madison, left the roadway, and struck the northbound quardrails, due to slippery road conditions. 11/23/19 - 6:28 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Daniel Gene Muldoon, 35, of Fort Madison, slid on a ice patch and left the roadway, rolled and came to rest on it's wheels. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 11/23/19 - 7:14 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1800 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jonathon William Witt, 30, of Burlington, lost control on an ice-covered overpass and struck a guard rail cuasing minor damage. No citations were reported at the scene. 11/23/19 - 5:44 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 16 westbound in the 2700 block. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Lillian Bernetah Bloom, 71, of Mt. Pleasant lost control after colliding with pieces of plywood on the roadway

spilled by a trailer. Airbags deployed causing minor injuries. A vehicle driven by Timothy LeRoy Snaadt, 68, of West Point arrived on scene. Snaadt indicated the plywood came from his load after a semi went by. Snaadt was cited for spilling loads on highway. Bloom and a passenger Jerry Lee Bloom, 78 of Mt. Pleasant were transported to Henry County Health Center with minor injuries. 11/24/19 - 4:48 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mitchell Aaron Kruse, 27, of Houghton, in the 300 block of Main Street in Houghton on a charge of reckless use of a firearm. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance. 11/24/19 - 5:03 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident near mile marker 10 on Hwy. 27. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Tommy Lee McCutcheon, 61, of Lost Nation admitted to falling asleep due to medical issues. No

injuries were reported and McCutcheon was cited for failure to maintain control. 11/24/19 - 2:00 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle southbound in the 1100 block of 240th Street. A vehicle driven by Nathan John Lange, 36, was headed northbound on 240th Street hauling a trailer with cut up logs and one log fell off and made contact with a vehicle driven by Shannon Elaine McDonnell, 40, of New London. No injuries were reported. Lange was cited for spilling loads on highways. 11/24/19 - 6:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kimmi Joe Nelson, 21, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a charge of disorderly conduct. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 11/25/19 - 6:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cristyna Louise Rivers, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of disorderly conduct. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

Sheriff's Report 11/18/19 - Alfred F Cote, age 61, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on two Hancock County Warrant charging him with Count one thru Count eight Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child and Count one thru Count seven Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child. Cote remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 11/19/19 - Thomas B Hardy, age 42, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Drug Court Violations. Hardy was released after completing his sentence. Kenneth L Hines, age 52, of Plymouth. IL was arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Revoked. Hines was released to Mc-Donough County Authorities. 11/20/19 - Charles R.B.

See **RECORD**, page 7

Morrison, age 22, of Car-



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball [®]	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America ^{sм}	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



11/25 1 2 3 31 40 Lucky Ball: 5



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11/25 MID-DAY 4 5 1 5 **11/25 EVENING** 1 7 7 6

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Sports

Bloodhound girls start fast, finish slow at WB

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON – The game didn't count against any records because it was officially a scrimmage, but unofficially, the Fort Madison Lady Hounds were hoping to building on Friday's upset win over Centerville.

That hope lasted about four minutes into Monday's Hall of Pride Scrimmage when Fort Madison rushed out to a 6-2 lead on a bucket by senior Sarah Bernhart.

But West Burlington's Leah Collier scored back-to-back buckets in just seven seconds, including a 3-ball, to put the Falcons up 7-6, a lead they would never relinquish en route to a 65-39 win.

Collier's buckets were part of a 12-0 run in the first quarter capped by freshman Abigail Bence's driving bucket. Fort Madison responded with another bucket from Bernhart and a couple of free throws to cut the lead to 14-11, but the Falcons would hold an 18-13 lead after 1.

West Burlington rolled a full-court press in the first quarter and pulled back to halfcourt for the rest of the first half as Fort Madison was able to have some success in transition getting through.

"We've got a lot of work to do on that the press yet, but we did alright tonight," head coach Tony Sargent said.

"That's a good team. I think our girls got

a little intimidated by it. We'd go in and maybe have a good shot and then pull back with a fade away."

West Burlington would push the lead to as much as 12 at 30-18, but Kruse would hit all three free throws after getting fouled at the arch to cut the lead to 9. Kruse would hit both ends of one-and-ones with less than a minute to go in the half to cut the lead to seven at 34-27, but that's as close as Fort Madison would get.

Fort Madison would be within striking distance down 42-33 at the end of the third period, but a cold spell would settle at the Falcons' gym as the Hounds would go 4-15 in the final eight minutes as West Burlington raced to a 24-point win.

Bernhart led Fort Madison from the field with 11 points, 10 in the first half. Freshman Camille Kruse, who had 14 against Centerville on Friday, was held to just one bucket from the floor, but converted 7-of-7 from the free throw line for nine points on the night, all in the first half.

Molly Knipe had six points, while Brandy Walker added five, Anna Kester had three, Kylee Cashman and Isabella Boeding each scored two, and Nadia Boeding rounded out the scoring with a point.

Sargent said it was a physical game from the outset and Fort Madison needs to get tougher inside the lane.

"That's a very physical team, my girls were getting shoved around under the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC0

Fort Madison Head Coach Tony Sargent gives some direction to the Lady Hounds in the third period of Monday's scrimmage loss at West Burlington. Below, freshman Camille Kruse tries to drive past a Falcon defender.

basket pretty good, but they need to learn to fight back."

He said West Burlington probably had a seven- or eight-to-one advantage on the boards, completely dominating on the offensive side of the court. Sargent also said the Hounds got a little tired in the final minutes and that attributed to the poor shooting performance in the final period.

"We were getting a little bit tired and I think the girls were a little down in the dumps," he said.

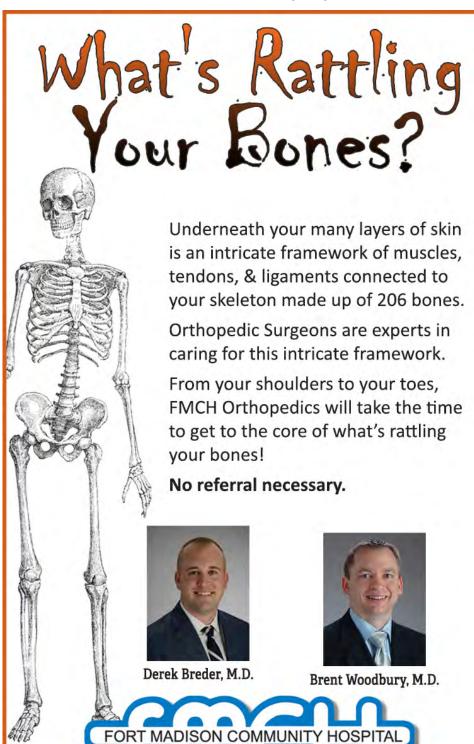
"They had high expectations coming in and it's going to be hard to keep these girls focused on it being OK to lose games here and there."

West Burlington had four players in double figures led by Collier's 16.

The Hounds traveled to Ottumwa for a Tuesday night game before taking a break

for Thanksgiving and returning to action Tuesday, Dec. 3 when they host Davis County at the HoundDome.





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PUBLIC NOTICE NEW CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice to Bidders Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Engineering Bureau, at the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034 until 11:00 A.M., December 12, 2019 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. No bids shall be accepted by FAX. After the bid opening, information concerning bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at www.iowadnr.

Note: The United States Postal Service (USPS) does not deliver mail or packages directly to the address provided above but rather to the Capitol Complex Mail Room. Extra time should be allotted for proposals sent by the USPS. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources shall not consider bids if they are not received by the Department of Natural Resources, either at its mail room or at its Fourth Floor Reception Desk, by the time and date described in this Notice to Bidders, regardless of whether the bid was mailed prior to that time and date or whether the bid was received at the Capitol Complex Mail Room or other state government location prior to that time and date.

Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312. Please visit www.beelineandblue.com or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information. Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at https://programs.iowadnr. gov/engreal/projectlist.asp

The Department shall

comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements; rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services - General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission, as they may apply; and any federal statutes, rules and/ or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents

Each bidder shall accompany the bid with a bid security as defined in Iowa code section 26.8. The bid security must be in an amount set forth in the bidding documents and made payable to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Failure to execute a contract for the proposed work and file an acceptable Performance Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price and a certificate of liability insurance within thirty (30) days of the date of the award of the contract will be just and sufficient cause for the rescinding of the award and the forfeiture of the bid security.

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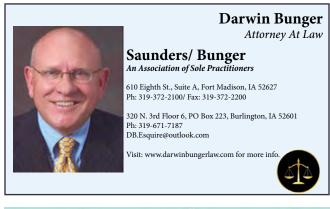
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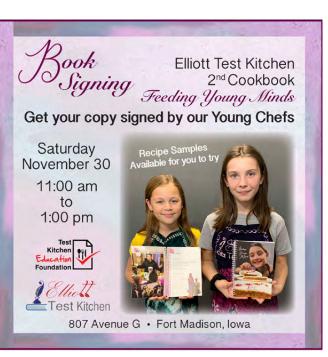
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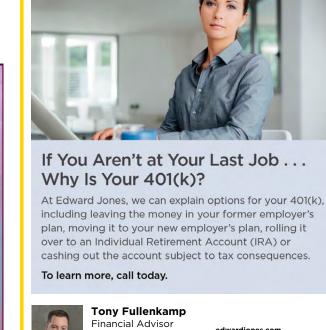
For the Record (cont' from page 3)

thage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Morrison was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 11/21/19 – Travis M Keever, age 34, of Burlington, IA was arrested and charged with Violation of Bail Bond. Keever remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 11/21/19 - Devin W Schofield, age 26, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Schofield remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting his next court appearance. 11/21/19 – Ray T Forquer, age 31, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/

Failure to Pay on original charges of Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Forquer was released after given deferred payments. 11/21/19 - Tristan A Cain, age 18, of Bowen, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Disorderly Conduct, Residential Burglary and Burglary. Cain remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 11/22/19 - Amie T Schmitz, age 45, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on a Hancock **County Warrant charging** her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Criminal Trespass to Residence. Schmitz was also arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Possession of-Methamphetamine. Schmitz was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 11/22/19 - Keiley D Pilkington, age 22, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged Disorderly Conduct. Pilkington was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 11/22/19 - Bonnie J Andrews, age 48, of Elvaston, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Andrews was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving Under the Influence. Andrews was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date. 11/22/19 -Rebecca P Osbon, age 32, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Cannabis. Osbon was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date. 11/23/19 - Thomas L

Brown, age 46, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Warren County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Aggravated Battery to a Peace Officer. Brown was released after given a Notice to Appear at a future court date. 11/24/19 – Austin R Gebhardt, age 25, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Gebhardt was also arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving Under the Influence. Gebhardt remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.







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From the Front

Combines line up in the fields of the Hopp farm southwest of Donnellson Monday morning to bring in the family's corn. Bruce Hopp, who owned the farm with his wife, Jill, died six weeks ago from cancer.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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Friends bring in 450 acres in just over four hours

HOPPS - Continued from Page 1

A couple of tries with my camera bag in toe, didn't go well as we were waived off – these guys were on a mission.

Finally, Central Lee Ag Instructor Brent Koller lent me a seat in this \$250,000 piece of equipment complete with onboard computer. The computer tells the driver, the average yield at any given moment, the amount of moisture in the corn, and a GPS mapping solution.

Another bunch of farmers ran grain wagons alongside the combines throughout the morning. It reminded me of an in-air refueling. These combines didn't stop, they just dumped while they were running and kept on going.

In four hours this group of farmers, who put their own lives on hold to swarm the Hopp fields, pulled 450 acres of corn.

My expertise in farming is limited to a short drive on a very old tractor on some property that my wife's uncle Pete Sargent had near Carthage. Otherwise it's turning my head and watch like a child as these marvels crawl about the earth – pulling it's fruit.

I could see the grief in this family and offered Jill a hug after I got done speaking with her. I lost my dad two years ago and her pain is real, but the strength she showed and the power she got from her two boys standing in the sun over her was palpable.

She says she doesn't want anything to do with the farm.

But she's a farmer.

The couples' boys have great careers – one with Alliant Energy and one with ChemGro. The couples' daughters live out of state. The boys don't want the farm, but you can see it in 'em.

They are farmers.

Jason said their father was a fan of the late Paul Harvey and a poem Harvey was famous for, that said something to the effect that on the eighth day God looked upon the wonder he'd created and decided he needed a caretaker.

He made a farmer.

Paul Harvey also ended each radio broadcast by saying his name. And on this sun-drenched Iowa fall morning surrounded by some of the hardest workers and best neighbors in the world, even Bruce would have to agree, it was a....

Good Day.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-owner of Pen City Current. He can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

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W-2319024 11/18

From the Front

Bruce Hopp would have been humbled by all the help

CROPS - Continued from Page 1

helped organize the event, along with Bill Benjamin, said all three acreages, close to 450 acres, would be harvested in about four hours if everything went according to plan.

Combines lined up in rows and harvested eight to 10 rows at a time as grain wagons rolled next to the combines to capture the grain and haul it to other wagons that either took the grain to elevators, or to Roquette in Keokuk.

The grain wagons would then rotate back in parallel to the combines and the process continued until all the corn had been pulled from the fields.

Schiller said organizing the event was almost as quick, because it's wasn't an issue of if they will come. Farmers are an entrenched fraternity and Schiller said it was just a matter of where and when.

"This is what the community wanted to do. They wanted to come and help out the Hopp family," he said.

"Months ago this started and people called me. I told them we would do it and I said let's wait until everyone has their property under control. And then we just picked a day – and boy did we get a beautiful one."

Several students from Central Lee High School's Future Farmers of America were also on hand helping with the ramped up harvest.

"It's cool to think that everyone in the community thinks about one another. I come from a 1,000 acre farm and we've got things under control so we just came out here to help," said Dylan Stuecker a junior.

He said his grandfather Leroy used to talk to him about the importance of helping neighbors.

Devin Tweedy, a senior at Central Lee said he grew up around farms, but his parents didn't farm.

"I've been in FFA since my freshman year. But my great-grandpa Dave Tweedy used to have a hog farm and my dad worked that farm so I'm familiar with this community," he said.

Schiller said the effort was to honor Hopp, not just as a farmer but as someone who was always helping others in need.

"Today's going to be a great day with 10 combines running here and south of Donnellson and north of Charleston," Schiller said.

"It's just a day that'll come together – a beautiful day to help out a neighbor who helped out everyone. We're just returning the favor to the Hopp family."

Schiller said his brother-in-law Bill Knisely died last year and Hopp was one of the first to offer up help.





In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 28 through Sunday, December 1. We'll resume publication on Monday, December 2. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving.



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"It's just community that we come together when someone has a loss of life or a tragedy," Schiller said.

"We would all not be good neighbors if we didn't come together."

Schiller said grain elevators and Farm Services and insurance companies are donating space and fuel for the day's harvest.

He said farmers started getting ready to come out just a week ago, which speaks volumes to the experience these ag producers have in pulling together to help families. The plan is always in place.

Jill said the land will now be leased to another young farmer that Bruce had helped learn the business.

"We discussed what was going to happen afterwards. It was a very hard conversation and I hated bringing it up. He always thought he was going to get better, but we knew he was not going to get better," she said.

The couple made the decision to maintain ownership of the farm, but lease the land out. The couple have two daughters Jenny and Jamie, who live out of state, and the two sons work for Alliant Energy and ChemGro.

"The boys have their own jobs and I didn't want anything to do with farming. I don't know what to do so I picked somebody who Bruce worked with and I trust him," she said.

She said her children built lives for themselves outside the family farm, but were always there to pitch in and help in times of need – and sometimes just to pitch in.

"I never encouraged them to farm. It's a hard life. You depend on the weather and you're at the mercy of mother nature. Some years are good and there are others where it's not so good."

'That's the gamble," Jim said.

Jill said she wanted to thank everyone who helped bring the crops in.

"Our friends, our neighbors, our church, and the whole community has been so involved since Bruce's illness, even before he died. We've had so much help," she said.

"Thanks doesn't seem like hardly enough – just words can't express it," Jason said.

Jill said her husband would be humbled by the attention and outpouring of support.

"Believe me, Bruce would be very humbled by this. He'd think, ok we don't need news people, we don't need TV. He was a very humble, kind person."



Sports/Weather

Hounds get into foul trouble early in loss to WB

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - You could feel the energy of this year's Fort Madison boy's basketball team from the tip of Monday's Hall of Pride Scrimmage at West Burlington.

But the Bloodhounds may have run themselves out of a non-recorded game after committing four personal fouls before getting on the board in a 68-60 loss to West Burlington on the road.

Head coach Ryan Wilson said, obviously the Hounds want to win everytime they hit the floor, but Monday was more about getting to know who they are in a full,

"Tonight's all about us and getting better and realizing what we have and what we're going to be working

with over the next three or four months of the season," he said.

"Yeah, you want to win, but let's be honest, at the end of the day we're still 0-0. All 14 guys, and all our staff - everyone was engaged. Our kids feed off that energy and excitement."

The Falcons opened a quick 12-4 advantage behind Marvion Jackson's five points, but Fort Madison would settle in off a 6-1 run to end the first quarter when Parker Denning sank a couple free throws after getting fouled driving from the right baseline.

West Burlington's Cayson Shipp buried back-toback threes to give West Burlington a 21-15 lead and Jackson stepped outside the 3-point arc again and hit the third long-ball in a row for the Falcons to stretch the lead to 24-17.

Sophomore Dayton Davis, who got two quick fouls in the opening minutes of the first quarter, brought the Hounds to within 6 when he completed a three-point play with 4:45 left in the half.

But the Hounds' shooting went cold as they hit on just three of the next nine field goal attempts and converted just 4 of 8 from the free throw line the rest of the way through the first half as West Burlington stretched the lead to nine.

Denning would score again with about 50 seconds left in the half and then Fort Madison capitalized on a Falcon turnover and sophomore Miles Dear buried a 3-pointer to cut the lead to one at 32-31. West Burlington's Darian Johnson would score with two seconds left for a 34-31 halftime lead.

Out of the break, Jackson, who finished with a gamehigh 23, converted, but the Hounds' Davis, Jayden Fedler, and Dear all scored to give Fort Madison its first lead 38-36. But the Falcons' Colton Sherwood would answer with a floater in the lane to tie it up at

The two teams would go back and forth with ties at 40 and 45 with Fort Madison settling into the fourth quarter with a 48-45 lead. West Burlington would then go on a 14-2 run to hold a 59-50 lead after Jackson converted inside on a floater that sent him to the floor.

The Hounds wouldn't recover from the run despite a couple three-pointers from Dear and Jake Eaves in the

Wilson said foul trouble and poor defense in the half-court put the Hounds in a bad spot in the second

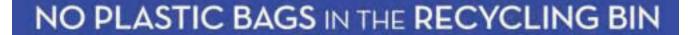
"Defensively, we just gotta get better defending the ball off the dribble. Plain and simple," he said.

"We had a little bit of jitters and missed a lot of shots and free throws. At one point I think we were 4 of 15 from the line in the first half. We just missed a lot and in an 8-point loss that's big."

Wilson said Julian Navarro had a nice game for the Hounds and, despite hitting two three-balls in the second half, didn't get enough floor time in the second

"He hits 'em in practice. He stepped up tonight and hit three big shots. It fell on me because I didn't get him back in after a substitution, but everyone that played tonight is capable of knocking some shots down and doing different things for us."

The Hounds are off for the Thanksgiving break and start regular season play on Tuesday night in Ottumwa.





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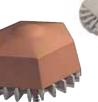


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