

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and **Read** all over

Monday, December 11, 2023 | 7 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 209



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LCEDG honors Hecht



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Audrey Roman, daughter of Phil Hecht, speaks to a group at the Lee County EDG center in Montrose Friday. Hecht was honored with a dedicated collaborative space after the ceremony. At far right is Christine Hecht and in the center is Hecht's son, Alan.

DEDICATION: Lee County EDG dedicates collaborative space to former director

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – The dedication of a conference room at the Lee County Economic Development Group's center in Montrose got a little emotional for the family and staff at the center during a ceremony Friday afternoon.

The LCEDG dedicated one of the conference rooms in the center to Phil Hecht, who served on the group's board of directors for many years. He died Sept. 23 of this year.

An apologetic Dennis Fraise paid tribute to Hecht's years of service saying he would try to get through his speech without crying. Fraise said Hecht was not only a mentor to

him after he took a marketing position with LCEDG, but the two became close friends.

"You should never apologize as a speaker, but I'm going to start with an apology, I might cry," he said. "I'm not talking about a tear running down my cheek, but the I-can't-talk cry."

Fraise said Hecht was a tremendously important part of the resurgence of the economic group that is now in the process of becoming one of just 70 certified economic development groups in the country.

Fraise joined the group in October of 2013 and emailed

See **HECHT**, page 6

SENIOR NEWS

Lee County Conservation hosts Livelier Seniors Series

MONTROSE - Lee County Conservation is thrilled to announce the launch of an engaging monthly program catering to the older demographic – the Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors Series (OWLS). Beginning on January 10th at 11 AM and recurring every second Wednesday of the month, this initiative invites local adults to come to the Lee County Conservation Center for an

exploration of various conservation topics. It's not just an opportunity to learn something new, but also, a chance to socialize and forge new connections. Leading the first session is the knowledgeable LCC Naturalist, Lia Risser. Lia will delve into the fascinating realm of "Snowbirds: The Winter Birds of Iowa," combining a presentation with an interactive discussion. To add to the convivial

atmosphere, coffee and tea will be provided to participants.

Interested individuals are encouraged to pre-register online at <https://www.mycountyparks.com/County/Lee/Park/Lee-County-Conservation-Center-at-Heron-Bend/Events/23722/O-W-L-S-Snowbirds-Winter-Birds-of-Iowa.aspx> or reach out to the Conservation Center directly at (319) 463-7673.

EDITORIAL



Where the heck is the winter

I have to say that I'm really enjoying this Indian Summer were experiencing right now - but at some point, we have to have some winter.

A friend of mine said she was missing the summer and we were only 28 weeks away. I thought, 'what is it about girls and the sun?'

Maybe that has a little to do with my wife is living in a different state. I just don't get women.

They love to be in the sun, like cats or something. Think about it. They both lay there stretched out in the sun and then go to get some milk.

It's not even three weeks from Christmas, it's 60 degrees out and I hear complaining about the cold. I love a little snow around Christmas. Making a snowman with the daughter when she's in town always makes me laugh. I don't even really mind shoveling. My L1-L5 lumbar region tends to disagree with me, but I win the battle. It may very well win the war.

Christmas is about snow and blustery wind and Santa Claus. It's about Matt Emmett's digital Christmas display that's so good it almost brings tears to your eyes. And I love me some Minions, so nice addition Matt.

I love carrying in packages at night when it's cold and windy and then settling down inside to wrap. It's old fashioned, but I'm old too. And with my new handy-dandy Carbon2Cobalt magazine, I can get the 'fashioned', too. That's a great clothing magazine

See **WINTER**, page 4

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WEATHER

MON 11 DecSunny & chilly, 43° F/ 25° F
TUE 12 DecClear & cold, 37° F/ 22° F
WED 13 DecMostly sunny & cold, 39° F/ 24° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 12/093 717 36 48, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 12/091 619 28 48, Lucky Ball: 2
MEGA MILLIONS 12/0821 26 53 66 70, Mega Ball: 13 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 12/07, 12/08, 12/09998, 191, 841
PICK 3 EVENING 12/07, 12/08, 12/09686, 838, 532
PICK 4 MIDDAY 12/07, 12/08, 12/098102, 3042, 5476
PICK 4 EVENING 12/07, 12/08, 12/098394, 8466, 8701
POWERBALL 12/095 25 26 40 60, Powerball: 1 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DARLENE M. HOLMES

Darlene Mae Holmes, 90, of Keokuk, passed away on Friday, December 8, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

Darlene was born on July 29, 1933, in Keokuk, the daughter of John and Marie (Clark) Schevers. On September 20, 1953, she was united in marriage to Robert F. Holmes in Quincy, Illinois. He preceded her in death on May 3, 2000.



HOLMES

Darlene was employed in accounting in area retail stores for thirty years. She was a talented crafter, and was proficient in quilting, cross-stitch, and embroidery. She enjoyed traveling with her late husband Robert and going to the casino. Most of all, Darlene loved her family, especially the Sunday dinners they shared together.

Darlene is survived by her son John (Patsy) Holmes of Omaha, Nebraska; three daughters: Lou Ann Goldie, Pam (Kenny) Horner and Traci (Jeff) Roth, all of Keokuk; her brother Dan (Kim) Schevers of Louisiana; eleven grandchildren: Josh (Jill) Ricker, Daryle (Adam) Hightower, Jamie Lynn (Aaron) Webb, Ryan (Erica) Horner, Bob (Tanya) West, Ashley (Zach) Hinkle, Travis (Angie) Miller, Jessica (Cory) DeShaw, Trevor Roth, Bailey (Nick) Billings, and Riley (Nate) Leisenring; forty great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Darlene is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Robert, her daughter Debbie Miller, her sister Doris Westmoreland and her brother Steve Schevers.

Funeral services will be held at 12 pm (Noon) on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Hickory Grove in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday from 10 am to 12 pm (Noon) directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to Lee County Hospice.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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OBITUARIES

KATHERINE A. SMIDT

Katherine Ann Smidt, 91, formerly of Shenandoah, Iowa, died Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, at The Kensington, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Katherine was born Oct. 23, 1932, in Lewiston, Neb., the daughter of James and Sarah (McCoy) Kinghorn. Katherine's mother died when she was 6, and James married Laura Bockelman Kilpatrick in 1941.



SMIDT

Katherine graduated from Lewiston High School in 1950 and was valedictorian of her class. She received a teaching certificate from Peru State College and taught one year at the rural school at Holmesville, Neb.

On May 18, 1952, Katherine married Leon Smidt of Crab Orchard, Neb., who was her high school sweetheart. They were married 52 years, until Leon's death in 2004.

Leon worked a long career with Earl May Seed & Nursery, and the couple lived in the Nebraska towns of Beatrice, Fremont, Columbus, Hastings and Omaha before moving to the corporate headquarters in Shenandoah in 1969. Katherine also worked part-time for Earl May in Shenandoah. Katherine and Leon enjoyed many trips, both foreign and domestic, as a reward for Leon's work. And Katherine loved to visit her siblings in Nebraska and Wyoming, and eventually Arizona.

Katherine was a long-time member of First United Methodist Church in Shenandoah and directed the bell choir for many years. Katherine loved to play the piano, accompanying Leon as he sang Christmas carols, and she played the piano right up until her death.

Survivors include: a brother, James Kinghorn of Lewiston, Neb.; a sister-in-law, Pat Kinghorn of Grand Island, Neb.; a half-brother, Gary Kinghorn; a son, Bruce and wife Jennifer of Casper, Wyo., and a son, Mark and his wife Barbara of Keokuk, Iowa; and grandchildren Melissa Davidson of Boise, Idaho; Emily Cooper of Liberty Lake, Wash.; Jamie Fowler of Shenandoah, Fred Smidt of Casper and Kylie Cestnik of Casper; and Laura Jass of Ankeny, Iowa, and Nicholas Smidt of Keokuk, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by: her parents and step-mother; her brother, Fred Kinghorn of Morrill, Neb., and sister, Shirley Lineweber of Casper, Wyo.; and a daughter, Pamela Kay Tinley, of Lander, Wyo.

Katherine has been cremated and her ashes will be buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in Shenandoah. No services are planned.



Lunch Specials
Dec 11-15
11am - 1pm

Monday, December 11

Chicken Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Corn

Tuesday, December 12

Minit Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Beans

Wednesday, December 13

Roast Beef Sandwich, Cheese Potatoes

Thursday, December 14

Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, December 15

Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff

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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Red all over

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From the Front/Classifieds

Christmas spirit requires just a little snow and winter

WINTER - Continued from Page 1

with all this lumberjack clothing – heavy cotton pull overs, cableknit sweaters that look just right over the colorful flannels with “featherweight cotton button panels” – whatever the hell that means.

In New York City on one of my trips out there, someone told my daughter they didn't know her dad was a lumberjack – Damn right.

I wasn't wearing flannel but may have been wearing jeans and boots. Probably had a hoodie on that gave me a bit more girth than this old body normally carries. But whatever intimidates.

Anyway, that's Christmas to me. And if I can get into a big city for a couple days for the holidays that just makes it all the better.

Two years ago we went to Bryant Park and the Bank of America Winter Village. There's this big ice skating rink that you have to wait about two hours to get on, but it has all these little shops around the park where you can sample sweet and savories, and get business cards for online ordering. You can try some of the best chocolate in the world. Street food, clothing and Transformers made out of machinist gears. I have a 20 lb. BumbleBee in my house that Taylor saw me looking up at like a little kid in Higbee's Toy Store. I wanted to

touch it, but the sign said DON'T TOUCH!! (I did it anyway) It sits in my living room now. She went back and bought it and carried it around the park like a bowling ball in a canvass bag. Apparently she bonked some kid in the head. What love is that for a father!

I took about six different business cards and ordered her some stuff right from that very park. We had some Mexican food at one of the crowded stops and looked at this one cheese shop where they actually scraped melted cheese from this huge cheese bowl and made some kind of cheesy noodle thing right in front of you. New Yorkers.

We stopped at an ice cream place and shared this waffle cone the size of a bassoon before heading back to the subway to get to our hotel. We walked by the Rockefeller Center to see the tree. It wasn't decorated yet, but I swear to you that tree stump goes three stories down into the Center and they literally build scaffolding with flooring every 10 feet up the tree and people walk around on those platforms decorating that thing.

But you can't do that in the summer. You just can't. And actually its no damn fun experiencing all that in 60-degree weather. It has to be cold. Snow is an added plus on those particular nights of dropping quite a bit of cash, but that's what you

should do when you're making those memories.

That trip was highlighted by a stop at Jack O'Doyles for the second half of the Vikings/Buffalo Bills game. Now that was a memory. I would go to New York City every year around the holidays. I hate flying, but I love landing. So it's worth it.

I want to take my family into Chicago for the holiday season, too. I think that would be rip. Christmas lights everywhere. Head to Navy Pier, a little easy shopping, some wine, and different foods.

But for that type of winter getaway, I need the cableknit, the boots, the jeans, the beard, the hat, the hot chocolate, the spicy food, the smell of impending snow (which to me has always been the smell of potatoes – don't ask I have no clue), the blustery breeze that leaves a chill in the bones until you step into the next warm space and get goosebumps.

It's all part of winter, but where is it anymore?

I need the winter. That friend can have the summer.

Summer's fine for swimming. Lumberjacks don't swim, but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor/co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at charles.v@pencity-current.com.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors

Agenda

**DATE: Monday,
December 11, 2023
MEETING**

**CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M. (CDT)**

LOCATION:

933 Avenue H
Fort Madison, IA

---AGENDA---

Lee County Board of Supervisors

Dec 11, 2023, 10:00-11:30 AM (America/Chicago)

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Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Input

Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing Support to Great River Housing Trust Fund For Fiscal Year 25

Consider Approval to Award & Authorize Engineer to Execute Contract for Project #L04-L-6-73-56 Constructing Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert on 160th Ave

Consider Approval to Award & Authorize Engineer to Execute Contract for Project #FM-C056(110)-55-56; HMA Resurfacing on X38

Award & Authorize the Engineer to Execute a Contract for Project No. STP-S-C056(114)-5E-56 HMA Resurfacing on 140

Award & Authorize the Engineer to Execute a Contract for Project No. FM-C056(115)-55-56 PCC Resurfacing on 180th Ave

Consider Approval of an Updated Exhibit "A" for the Alliant Solar Haul Road Agreement

Consider Approval to Appoint Member to

Conservation Board to Fill Vacancy

Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolutions (11)

Consent Agenda
• Monday, December 4, 2023 Board Minutes

• Claims for Payment
• Class C Retail Alcohol License for Harvestville Farm

Personnel Actions:

A. New Hire - Treasurer's Office (Replacement)

B. Step Increase - Treasurer's Office

C. Step Increase - County Attorney's Office Reports:

A. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected

B. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected

C. Sheriff's Monthly Report

Commission or Committee Reports

Adjourn

Workshop for Discussion of Hospice and Home Health Care Programs at Lee County Health Department

Possible Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
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Possible Workshop to Follow

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Possible Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

@ 11 a.m.

e) Strategic Planning Update

f) Vacancies

5. CONSENT AGENDA: (Motion) (Exhibit I)

1. Approve minutes

2. Financial reports: General and Schoolhouse funds, Clearing account, Hot

Lunch account

3. Approve prepaid bills

4. Approve monthly bills

5. Open enrollment applications: Deny

6. Overnight Trip Requests:

a) Girls' State Basketball Tournament - 2/26/2024 - 3/2/2024, Des Moines, IA

b) Boys' State Basketball Tournament - 3/4/2024 - 3/8/2024, Des Moines, IA

c) First LEGO League - 1/26/2024 & 1/27/2024 - Ames, IA

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review/Approve Substitute Hourly Pay Modifications (Motion) (Exhibit II)

2. Review/Approve Copier Lease (Motion) (Exhibit III)

3. Approve Second Reading of Board Policies: (Motion) (Exhibit IV)

a. 401.01 - Equal Employment Opportunity

b. 503.01 - Student Conduct

c. 503.01R1 - Student Suspension

d. 503.02 - Expulsion

e. 605.3R1 - Reconsideration of Instructional and Library Materials Regulation -

f. 701.05R1 - Financial Metrics

4. Approve First Reading of Board Policies 200 Series (Motion)

5. Approve First Reading of Board Policy 401.7 Administrative Regulations for School Board In State and Out of State Employee Travel Compensation (Motion) (Exhibit V)

6. Approve Engineer-

ing Contract w/ French Reneker Associates for Baseball/Softball Field Renovations (Motion) (Exhibit)

7. Approval of Certified Teachers Intention to Retire Effective End of 2024-2025 (Motion)

a) Tom Boeck - Instructor

b) Meagan McCoy - Instructor

8. Board Reports

9. Adjourn (Motion)

ing Contract w/ French Reneker Associates for Baseball/Softball Field Renovations (Motion) (Exhibit)

7. Approval of Certified Teachers Intention to Retire Effective End of 2024-2025 (Motion)

a) Tom Boeck - Instructor

b) Meagan McCoy - Instructor

8. Board Reports

9. Adjourn (Motion)

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SERVICES CENTER
TENTATIVE AGENDA
DECEMBER 12, 2023
7:00 A.M.
REGULAR MEETING**

1. Roll Call
2. Approve agenda
3. Receive Visitors:
 - a) Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda
 - b) Family Consumer Science Presentation
4. Superintendent's Report:
 - a) January Board Meeting - January 9, 2024 (7:00 A.M.)
 - b) 2024-2025 District Calendar Planning
 - c) Finance Update
 - d) Facility Planning Meeting - December 15

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EOE



From the Front

Hecht was leader, mentor, and friend to LCEDG

HECHT - Continued from Page 1

Hecht saying he was interested in the position. He and former Marketing Director Dana Millard, who was in attendance at the dedication, were hired at the same time and both met with Hecht.

“He said something that day that became the guiding star that Dana and I chased,” Fraise said.

“He said ‘we want Lee County Economic Development to become a world-class organization.’ But what he didn’t tell us was that our relationships weren’t as good as they could have been.

“I had to really appreciate his honesty”

Fraise said with Hecht’s influence, the board is a much better organization.

He said Hecht kind of became the Human Resources guy and spent a lot of time coaching Dennis and Dana in all aspects of their job.

“He was also a very good grammar police. I don’t know if you knew that, but Dana and I would both get emails where he was discouraged with our grammar use,” Fraise chuckled, and then pointed to Hecht’s family in front who were all nodding and laughing.

Hecht’s wife, Christine, and his daughter Audrey Roman and son Alan Hecht were all in attendance.

“He was never mean-spirited, but he always let us know we

could do better,” Fraise said.

Hecht spent countless hours talking strategy with the LCEDG staff and honing their skills, Fraise said.

“He was generous with his time to a fault and always encouraged us. He pushed us and this organization to be better.”

Roman said after the dedication that her father would have been humbled by the fuss.

“Completely honored, but to Dennis’ point, he was such a servant. He was so humble and he never wanted the glory,” she said.

“What he was able to do for these people, he would be completely



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

From left to right Audrey (Hecht) Roman, Christine Hecht, and Alan Hecht stand by the plaque and collaboration room dedicated to Phil Hecht, a former Lee County EDG board member.

honored to know that he had this much of an impact that you all would think to name something after him. ‘I did my part for this organization’ is what he would be thinking.”

Roman said her father was amazed at the growth

that has taken place and was very proud of helping usher that in for the county. To have the organization recognized as one of 70 nationally accredited economic development groups would have been a pinnacle of that growth.

“But then he would have said, ‘What’s next?’” Roman said.

The conference room off the Grow Lee County hallway that looks out over the south part of the property was named the Phil Hecht Creative Collaboration Room. The plaque is in the LCEDG group’s green and blue color scheme and has Hecht’s board member photo on the lower right side.

The plaque reads “Phil embodied the role of servant leader. His dedication, passion, and leadership helped make Lee County EDG the organization it is today.”

Hecht was a retired veteran and worked for many years as part of Mt. Pleasant Heatilator’s leadership team. He retired in 2006 as a vice president with the company, which transitioned to Hearth and Home Technologies after 33 years.

In addition to his dedication to the LCEDG board, Hecht also served on the Southeastern Community College Foundation board and the Fort Madison Library board of trustees. His past community involvement included serving as a director with Great River Region Partnership, as a board member with Iowa Region 16 Workforce Development, and being president of both the Mt. Pleasant Area Manufacturers’ Association and Henry County Area Junior Achievement.



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Sports

Bloodhounds split weekend games with MP, Pella



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds' Leif Boeding gets past Mt. Pleasant's Avin Troung in the final minutes of the Hounds' 52-50 loss to the Panthers Friday night in Mt. Pleasant.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC SPORTS

MT. PLEASANT – Spotting a team a 12-0 lead to start the game is not the way Head Coach Ryan Wilson wanted the Hounds to start against Mt. Pleasant Friday night.

It took the Hounds three quarters to dig out of the hole and they came up just short as Mt. Pleasant escaped with a 52-50 win over Fort Madison in boys Southeast Conference basketball action Friday night in Mt. Pleasant.

“We just finally played hard. First half we weren't playing hard, we weren't being aggressive, we weren't attacking with a purpose,” Wilson said.

“I don't know if we were intimidated by their size and physicality or what. That last minute and a half we played hard, we got in position, we got some help and we got some stops. Obviously it wasn't good enough, but we finally started clicking.”

The Hounds didn't start clicking until the final quarter again trailing by the same 12 points.

Hunter Cresswell scored inside on a nice move to get things going for Fort Madison in the fourth. The senior got into foul trouble early and had to be taken out to save him for the second half.

Fort Madison would miss their next four shots from the floor, while senior Nate Stroud scored inside to get Mt. Pleasant back up by a dozen.

But Nolan Guzman hit a three to cut to nine with 3:43 left. After a defensive stop, Carson Rashid slashed inside from the right side to score and get fouled on a close play at the basket. He would miss the freebie, but then would get a steal on the Panther's next possession and score in transition to cut the lead to five at 44-49.

The Hounds defense would hold Mt. Pleasant to just one shot from the floor the rest of the way, but the one bucket the Panther's did get proved to be just enough when senior Payton Hagans scored on a drive around the right side. The bucket came with the shot clock at :01 and four seconds left on the game clock. Fort Madison would get the ball down to the right wing where Leif Boeding buried a three to cut the lead to two. Wilson would call timeout as the ball slipped through the net at the buzzer.

Referees conferred and put :00.6 back on the clock. Mt. Pleasant threw an inbound half court pass that went awry. The ball was loose and Cresswell scooped it up and threw it back at the Hounds basket only to come up short.

Wilson said the Hounds played well in the final period, but that can't be the way going forward.

“It takes four quarters of basketball. You can't just show up and play the last eight minutes of the game,” Wilson said.

With Cresswell on the bench in foul trouble in the first half, junior Dayton Lamar took over defensively inside for the Hounds and changed the Panther's dynamic in the paint.

Lamar was able to effectively neutralize Stroud, a 6'6" senior inside, with three blocked shots causing Stroud to make adjustments inside and throw off his game. That forced Hagans into doing more off the dribble in the second half with Lamar inside.

But not having Cresswell in the game hurt the Hound scoring inside. Fort Madison had trouble getting the ball inside in the half court instead choosing to stay on the perimeter, a hindrance Wilson brought up in an early time out.

“I called them out for it. We had to start attacking. We got in foul trouble because (Mt. Pleasant) drove with a purpose and drove hard and our defenders were late to get there and were called for the blocks,” he said.

“We let them do what they wanted to do offensively and went into the half down 12.”

Fort Madison wouldn't make any headway in the third period and just ran out of time in the fourth despite the furious rally in the final minute.

The Hounds fall to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference. Both of Fort Madison's losses have been by a combined six points, one in double overtime against Williamsburg last week.

The Panthers are 2-3 overall and 2-0 in the conference.

Fort Madison plays Pella Saturday in Fort Madison.

RALLY SHORT: FM boys just miss wiping out 12-point fourth quarter deficit in 52-50 loss at Mt. Pleasant

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON - It didn't take long for Fort Madison's boys basketball team to get over Friday's loss at Mount Pleasant, and that was exactly what coach Ryan Wilson wanted.

Wilson's plan to move on in Saturday afternoon's home game against Pella was to strike early, and set a different tone.

The Bloodhounds did just that, and then struck late at the right moment.

The result was a 55-50 win.

“It's huge,” Wilson said of the win. “(Pella is) a great team, a great program. And our guys stepped up.”

Carson Rashid's two free throws with 48 seconds left gave the Bloodhounds (2-2) a 51-49 lead, then Rashid and Hunter Cresswell each hit two free throws in the final 15 seconds to clinch the win

Fort Madison was coming off a 52-50 loss to Mount Pleasant on Friday. What Wilson wanted out of the Bloodhounds was what they didn't do against the Panthers.

“We wanted to send the message early by attacking the basket,” Wilson said. “We didn't do that last night. That's the big difference between last night and tonight. Now, we did do it late in (Friday's) game and it carried over to tonight. But what we did talk about last night and at this morning's shootaround was the first five minutes of the game, we were going to dictate what this game was going to be like.”

The Bloodhounds gave up a 3-pointer to Pella's Austin Schulte to start the game, then scored eight consecutive points, all within five feet of the basket, to take control. Fort Madison led 17-8 at the end of the first quarter and 23-16 at halftime.

“The guys responded,” Wilson said. “They were ready to go.”

But Pella (1-3) had an answer. Fort Madison's Dayton Lamar opened the second half with a basket inside, then the Dutch scored 19 consecutive points to take a 35-25 lead.

Wilson burned two timeouts during the run which eventually seemed to calm the Bloodhounds.

“Timeouts help,” Wilson said. “I'm not trying to pat myself on the back, but they help. You've got to weather the storm, and that's what we talked about. They come to the bench, down nine, and I told them, ‘Get your chins up.’ They had played so well and I told them, ‘You're going to make mistakes.’ Whether it's high school or college or pro, teams are going to make runs. It's just a matter of who makes the last one.”

That last run belonged to the Bloodhounds. Down 37-27 with 33 seconds left in the third quarter, Fort Madison went on a 13-2 run, taking the lead on Julian Dear's 3-pointer with 3:55 to play in the game.

Pella battled back, tying the game at 49 with 57 seconds left on the second of two free throws from Jack McGuire. But Rashid's two free throws would give the Bloodhounds the lead for good.

Lamar led the Bloodhounds with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Cresswell had 12 points and Rashid added 10.

McGuire led Pella with 15 points. Schulte had 13.

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