

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, September 16, 2024 | 6 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 148



www.pencitycurrent.com

Animals moved into shelter

PAW: New \$6.5 million facility welcomes first pets over the weekend

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The \$6.5 million brand new PAW Animal Shelter has its first official residents.

Paid and volunteer staff were working over the weekend to move dogs and cats from the crumbling current shelter into the state-of-the-art 20,000 square foot new facility built just north of the current space.

Director Sandy Brown said the group is still raising funds to pay for the facility. Jordan's Way, a national shelter fundraising campaign which has generated close to \$150,000 in two events over the past two years, will be back in town again in October. Brown said she's setting a goal this year of \$130,000.

"Truthfully, a lot of people didn't think we'd see this in my lifetime. So God is good," she said.

Brown said most of the construction is done on the facility, but there are a few fixes that need to be addressed in a couple of the rooms.

But the facility was not built to expand services to allow more animals on site. Brown said it was built to make adoption easier for local residents, and more comfortable for potential owners and the animals themselves.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sandy Brown, the director of the P.A.W. animal shelter, looks over blueprints of the new shelter on 48th Street in Fort Madison. Animals were being moved into the new digs over the weekend.

"We didn't build this so we could take more animals. We're full. Even with all the new facilities, we're full," she said. "What it does is allows people to come into a facility that was created to give people a chance to sit and interact with dogs and cats before they adopt them.

"We'll even have some love seats and other furniture for meet-and-greets. The animal and owner can sit together without

distractions and focus on one another."

Current procedures involve bringing bigger dogs outside to mingle with people interested in adopting. Brown said in that environment, the dogs are distracted sniffing grass and by cars driving by, birds and other stuff, and they aren't focused on those wanting to adopt.

Ad-di-

See **SHELTER**, page 2

COMMENTARY



Solar field technology an eye-opener

I toured the new Alliant Solar project facilities on Thursday and I gotta tell ya – either I'm getting amazed by way too much anymore, or that's really cool out there.

We drive regularly by the flashy fields as we go back and forth on Hwy. 61 near Wever. We look to the east as these marvels of technology infiltrate our corn and bean fields in a quest to harvest the power of the sun.

That power will yield about 310,000 megawatt hours of power in the first full year of operation – enough energy to power about 30,000 southeast Iowa homes.

Of course the first question everyone posts on social media about the project is 'and this is going to lower our bills?' Well, officials at Alliant stopped short of talking about lowering costs, because that's just not how it works. But they said this electricity has lower production costs and helps secure energy production for decades to come.

Leases with landowners last for 30 plus years and then there's a chance for a reboot for another 30 years.

This project came quickly with construction lasting a little more than a year. I sat with the project manager for about 90 minutes Thursday and I told him at the end, he should teach it because I felt like I just got four semester hours in solar energy production.

The sun's energy is captured as direct current energy by the black panels that flow through our ag ecosystems like blinds for the ground. That

See **TOUR**, page 3



At left, Bel-la Estrada is named the 2024 Mexican Fiesta Queen during ceremonies Friday night at the Mexican Fiesta in the Mexican Village in Fort Madison. At right, Jordyn McCormack is named the 2024 American Queen at the 2024 Mexican Fiesta coronations Friday night in Fort Madison.



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WEATHER

MON 16 Sep.....Mostly sunny, 88° F/ 60° F
TUE 17 Sep.....Sunny, 85° F/ 57° F
WED 18 Sep.....Sunny, 85° F/ 60° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 09/14.....6 9 38 42 50, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 4
LUCKY FOR LIFE 09/14.....5 13 27 28 44, Lucky Ball: 6
MEGA MILLIONS 09/13.....21 55 56 57 66, Mega Ball: 1 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 MIDDAY 09/12, 09/13, 09/14.....8 8 0, 6 7 4, 7 0 8
PICK 3 EVENING 09/12, 09/13, 09/14.....4 1 0, 0 1 6, 1 3 0
PICK 4 MIDDAY 09/12, 09/13, 09/14.....2 9 7 4, 2 4 2 0, 9 9 8 4
PICK 4 EVENING 09/12, 09/13, 09/14.....6 1 5 1, 7 6 9 6, 7 6 7 6
POWERBALL 09/14.....29 34 38 48 56, Powerball: 16 Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

THOMAS J. STELLERN

Thomas J. Stellern, 86, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at The Kensington in Fort Madison. He was born on February 23, 1938 in Fort Madison, IA to Harry & Louise Schulte Stellern. He married Joan K. Wagner on November 12, 1966 in Fort Madison, IA. She preceded him in death on May 5, 2021. He was a farmer for many years through the 1980's and retired from Amax Corporation. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of Holy Family Parish and the Knights of Columbus. He loved the Iowa Hawkeyes, Green Bay Packers, Atlanta Braves and watching western movies on RFD T.V.



STELLERN

Tom is survived by: 1-daughter: Denise (fiancé Tom Reynolds) DeRoss of LaGrange, IL; 2-sons: Dean Stellern of Galesburg, IL & Dennis (Maria Sanchez) Stellern of Tinley Park, IL; 4-grandchildren: Zachary, Taelor, Madi & Maximus; 1-sister: Sally Calvin of South Carolina & 1-brother: Pat Stellern of Danville, IA.



He was preceded in death by: his parents, wife, 1-sister: Harriet Stellern & 2-brothers: John & Bobby Stellern.

A visitation will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at Sacred Heart Church. The funeral mass will immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Gary Beckman officiating. Burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Knights of Columbus. Online condolences to the Stellern family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

LINDA C. HAYES

Linda Carol Hayes, 76, of Warsaw, IL, died Thursday, September 12, 2024 at her home.

She was born on August 9, 1948 in Ft. Madison, IA, the daughter of Warren Lee and Mildred Lee (Richards) Schrepfer.



HAYES

On July 5, 1991, Linda was united in marriage to Donald Lee Hayes in Ft. Madison.

He preceded her in death on April 7, 2022.

Linda had been employed as a waitress in her younger years at several area restaurants, including Hotel Anthes and Caesar's in Ft. Madison and the Chuck Wagon in Keokuk.

She was a member of the Warsaw Assembly of God.

Linda enjoyed being outdoors and going camping. She loved decorating for Christmas and had a beautiful collection of snowman that she enjoyed displaying. She also loved to crochet and had made many crochet projects for her family which they will treasure forever. Linda lived a fun-filled life. She loved to goof around and was always up for a political debate. She loved her dog Pip and spoiled him rotten. Most of all, Linda loved her family and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the sunshine of her life.

She is survived by two daughters, Angela Wieprecht of Warsaw and Amber Bucher of Keokuk, five grandchildren Ashley Wagner (Wesley) of Keokuk, Chris Korschgen (Misty) of Henryetta, OK, Tiffany Stice (Gabe) of Hamilton, Aaron Land (Tammy) of Ewing, MO and Skylor Wagner (Tia) of New London, IA, and several great-grandchildren. She is also survived by four sisters, Esther (Paul) Woods of LaPlata, MO, Patty Zumdom (Tim) of Ft. Madison, Mary Dobson of Kahoka and Theresa Braden of Quincy, and two brothers, Don Schrepfer of Keokuk and Tom Schrepfer of Donnellson.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, one grandson Anthony Bucher, one son-in-law, Rick Weiprecht and one sister-in-law, Holly Schrepfer.

A memorial service will be held at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, (Sept 14) at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Terry Massey officiating. Burial will be at a later date at Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held prior to the service on Saturday from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to her family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorial-home.com.

GENE A. GREEN

Gene Allen Green Jr., 63 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Thursday, September 12, 2024 at his home. He was born April 14, 1961, a son of Gene St. and Johnnie (Land) Green. Gene was a backyard mechanic and he could fix anything. He loved his family.

He is survived by his son, Gene Green III of Fort Madison, and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by four siblings: Ruby Green, Daniel Green, Robert Green, and Teresa Burtlow, and one nephew Michael Phillips Jr.

No formal services are planned. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Green family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Soft opening set for Sept. 27

SHELTER - Continued from Page 1

tional rooms were also created to keep a smaller number of cats in each room. Most of the rooms will be limited to 12 cats and they will have meet-and-greet rooms in between each cat room so people again can get a feel for the relationship.

The facility is complete with a large storage room with storage racks and an electric pallet jack donated by Independent Can. The storage area holds cleaning supplies, litter, food, and other large items. Brown said the facility uses about \$5,000 a month in dog food alone. She said donations are welcome, but the shelter has access to discounts at area retailers, so gift cards are a better donation than bags of food.

Multiple food prep stations are strategically located throughout the facility. All the floors are concrete for easy cleaning. There are three separate laundry rooms, a meeting room, a staff locker and shower area.

One of the larger dog runs is called Stella's Room. Stella was one of the largest dogs at the shelter who died about two months ago. Each of the dog encaptures has a doggie door that allows the dogs to go outside whenever they want, and allows them to be inside when weather is detrimental.

The new shelter, which has always been a no-kill shelter, has space for 96 dogs, The running areas are gravel with chain link fencing to allow more freedom for the animals. Brown said artificial turf was donated to the facility, but the \$65,000 installation price tag was cost prohibitive.

The shelter is designed to keep bigger dogs away from medium dogs and then smaller dogs are separated, too. Puppies don't have outside runs, but they will have windows so people can watch puppies playing in the room. Pregnant dogs and dogs that have just delivered a litter are segregated while the puppies nurse.

Staff will also carry radios with them due to the large footprint of the facility.

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From the Front

Tech abounds, astounds at Alliant's county solar project

TOUR - Continued from Page 1

DC energy is then shuttled via heavy wiring and above ground “cabs” or nets that hold the cabling as it brings the fresh energy of the sun back to monster inverters that convert the energy to AC or alternating current power that can be transmitted to the electrical grid for us.

That’s pretty simplistic, but for readers we don’t wanna get to technical. It gets a little nebulous (and I’m using that word because Lee County Engineer Ben Hull used it perfectly in a supervisor meeting Monday and I thought that was particularly awesome. But my mom taught him, so I get a little genealogical credit – and I’m stealing the word).

The energy is piped from the field underground through boring to several, what I’ve settled into calling “relays” which I’m sure is absolutely not correct, but they are these little green dog house looking things (okay, I get a B- in the course) in the middle of several fields along 175th Street that redirect the borings and heavily insulated wiring buried about two feet underground back toward the substation just northwest of the Iowa Fertilizer Co.

That things a small monstrosity. Yes, a contraction in terms but when we pulled up to it, my tour guide said I couldn’t go inside the fence because I didn’t have FR clothing on.

A quick search shows that FR clothing is fire retardant clothing that keeps you from going up in flames if you get electrocuted inside the fence line.

Now, I like Transformers, don’t get me wrong. I have a full metal Bumble Bee built of machine gears, screws and parts, that Taylor got me for Christmas and hauled all the way from Brooklyn. The thing weighs like 20 pounds and you could kill someone with it.

But if I were to get popped by this transformer, I’m not fully aware of how much help it would be to not catch on fire.

Electricity is not for me, but I was in awe at how this all works, the tech that goes into building the second largest solar field in the state of Iowa is state-of-the-art. A field in Linn County is the largest in the state called the Duane Arnold Solar Field.

I typically ask the question in heavier stories, “What do you know that we don’t”. That was answered quickly on our tour when I was informed that there are cells on both sides of the solar panels. The main panels that rotate to stay in line with the sun via data relayed to the field from sensors, brings in the majority of the energy. But there are smaller cells on the underside of the panels that actually – get this – they actually absorb the glare off the main



panels when they are tilted behind them, and generate energy off the glare from the other panels.

There’s an emoji on our phones the depicts a mind blown. Mind blown.

And they can bore through the ground, under railroad tracks, under roads, under creeks and ponds, for thousands of feet and hit a target less

the 24” across. Mind BLOWN.

Maybe the geeks that create this kind of generational technology should run the country. They just keep finding answers for everything that seems to get in the way. Or they surround themselves with the people to come up with the answers. I fear very soon we may need them with the cost of health care. Stay tuned.

Needless to say, I know that these black paneled fields intrude on our beautiful agriculture landscape. But the money from leases probably, at least this year, are better revenue for farmers than the land itself. That’s a big deal. I didn’t study agriculture or ag economy. I’ll leave that to Lane Eads at Lee County Farm Bureau.

But take a drive up around 330th Avenue north of Fort Madison and see all the solar clusters that are actually a part of this. Since we heard very little kickback from landowners on this project compared to pipeline perpetrators, we don’t think there was much heartburn. It is wonderful technology and another awesome build in Lee County.

It shouldn’t be lost either that county officials and Alliant officials worked through some hurdles and have a working respect for each other as the project moves toward completion. Alliant appears to have conservation stewardship in mind as well as they reseed the land after the project is complete and have plans to restore the land to its original condition to the extent possible. There’s also decommissioning plans in place if the facility ever “goes dry”.

Seems on the surface at least, this is a strong example of corporate and public collaboration, a lesson we will surely need going forward.

And talking about being in awe, if you’re not paying attention to this year’s Fort Madison Bloodhound cross country teams. You should be. Talk about your energy – but that’s Beside the Point.

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

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Member LION Publishers

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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Sports

HAWK FOOTBALL

Central Lee stays perfect with dominance over Durant

Hawks move to 3-0 with 21-7 home win over Durant. District action starts next week

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DONNELSON — Central Lee opened Friday's non-district football game with Durant with an 8-play, 65-yard touchdown drive that took almost four minutes off the clock.

And the story for the rest of the night had been written.

The control the Hawks had of the line of scrimmage went from the beginning to the end of the 21-7 win.

Central Lee (3-0) had 379 rushing yards. Quarterback Kayden Calfee had 169 of those, running back Chase Johnson had 123.

It was the Hawks' plan all along.

"I thought we came out and did what we exactly needed to tonight," Central Lee coach Doug Dodds said. "We wanted to control the ball, we wanted to control the clock."

Senior offensive lineman Ostyn Moore grinned

when he heard the final numbers.

"That is just the greatest thing you can hear is the line," he said. "I think we were all working hard out there. We were all pushing. And I got to give credit to our running backs, too. They're quick, they're tough. They don't go down easy."

"I think it shows what we put in the work," senior lineman Brayton Schneider said. "And I think we have something special on the line."

Dodds knew what the Wildcats (1-2) had in freshman quarterback Cannon Davis and his receivers, along with running back Tate McKinley, so the goal was to keep them off the field.

"Their quarterback is a young guy, but he can really sling it," Dodds said. "That No. 2 (receiver Colby Gast, who had six catches for 64 yards) is really fast. So we didn't want them to have the ball."

"We were working on that all week," Moore said. "Coach Dodds was saying, 'Five yards, five yards, five yards. Every play. That's how we win the game.'"

Calfee had the two lightning bolts on the drive — a 16-yard run and a 23-yarder. Johnson, who finished with six carries for 33 yards on the drive, scored the first touchdown on a 6-yard run.

Central Lee's defense took over from that point

for the rest of the half. The Hawks recovered a fumble and intercepted Davis twice in the half, the second time coming on the final play of the half, when Bo Herdrich swiped a tipped pass away and ran 50 yards for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead.

"It was going to be a tight game going into half-time," Dodds said. "And that pretty much turned the momentum for us. That was just an amazing play by Bo."

Durant's lone touchdown came early in the third quarter on a 5-yard pass from Davis to Gus Thoma.

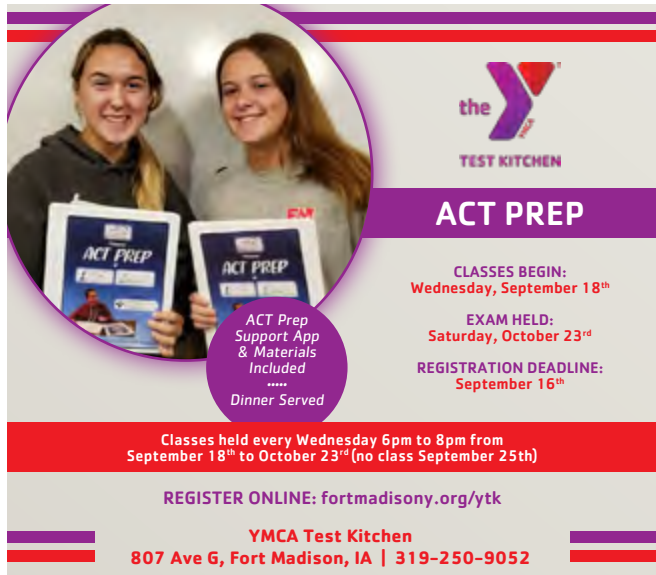
Calfee, though, provided the final margin in the fourth quarter with an 8-yard touchdown run. And one more interception of Davis, this one by Brett Cook, sealed the victory.

Dodds said there has been a solid progression in the Hawks' play from the opening win over Van Buren to last week's win at Cardinal to this victory.

Now Central Lee gets ready to open district play next week at Davis County.

"We've got to keep getting better," Dodds said. "This stuff has been great, but it doesn't mean anything once district play starts."

"Everybody's working harder, we're having fun out there," Moore said. "It's just a great time to be out here."



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
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****MONDAY****
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MEETING CONVENING
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-----AGENDA-----

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 Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 Public Input
 Presentation of Proceeds from North Lee

County Foundation to Meller Family Health Center Building
 Consider Approval of Letter of Support to Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission for a Brownfields Assessment Grant
 Consider Approval of Haul Road Agreement with Deep South Crane & Rigging
 Consider Authorizing Engineer to Purchase a Tandem Axle Dump Truck
 Consider Approval of Lease Agreement with Lee County Labor Chapter for Upstairs at Newberry Center
 Consent Agenda
 • Monday, September 9, 2024 Board Minutes
 • Claims for Payment
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Position Transfer -

Secondary Roads
 B. Step Increases (5) - Health Department
 C. Step Increases (4) - EMS
 Reports:
 A. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
 B. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
 C. Auditor's Report of Fees Collected
 D. Manure Manage-

ment Annual Update for Ball Family Enterprises in Charleston Township
 Canvass the September 10, 2024 Van Buren School District Special Election
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

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Lee County is accepting applications for an Engineering Technician to work out of our Fort Madison Office. Duties will include surveying, inspection and testing of materials, computer aided drafting, the ability to become IDOT certified in inspection and other related work duties. The successful candidate will be classified as an Engineering Technician IE, IIE or IIIIE depending on their qualifications. The starting wage range is \$26.40 to \$28.51. Pay rates after 3 years of employment range from \$32.01 to \$34.90.
 Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.
 For a job description, a list of qualifications, and to apply, download an application from our county's website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx and turn it into the County Engineer Office or email it to engineer@leecountyiowa.gov along with a resume. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
 If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them to engineer@leecountyiowa.gov.

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS MECHANIC CLASS II

Lee County is currently accepting applications for a Mechanic Class II to work out of our Central Shop near Donnellson, IA. The successful applicant will perform skilled mechanical work in the maintenance and repair of vehicles, and construction and maintenance equipment and all related mechanical equipment including but not limited to performing diagnostics; electrical repairs; gas welding and cutting; arc and mig welding; and work on hydraulic components. Maintains records of all parts and tools used in repair and assist in inventory of parts and equipment. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements or the ability to obtain Class A within 60 days of hire.
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 For a job description, a list of qualifications, and to apply, download an application from our county's website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx and turn it into the County Engineer Office or email it to engineer@leecountyiowa.gov along with a resume. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.
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Sports

Bloodhounds suffering disconnect with 0-3 start

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Disconnect.

It was the story line and the reaction from Fort Madison Head Football Coach Derek Doherty after the Hounds dropped their third straight game of the season Friday night to an 0-2 Centerville squad that had one ambition. Run the football

The Hounds fell 28-12 to the Big Red to wrap up non-district action with the unenviable task of traveling to Class 3A No. 2 Williamsburg next week.

“We’ve gotta find where that disconnect is. We know these kids aren’t showing up to lose. We know they aren’t showing up to make us mad a staff, but there is a disconnect somewhere,” Doherty said.

“They either don’t believe in us or they don’t wanna do their job? We’ve gotta figure that out.”

Centerville lost starting quarterback Landon McGrann in the second quar-

ter to an injury. McGrann had been the main option for the Big Red racking up 85 yards off keepers on 15 carries before the end of the second quarter.

But the visitors offensive line kept Fort Madison front five at bay for freshman back up Mack Murdock, who was just effective if not more taking snaps, including being a bit more proficient through the air. Murdock would end up with two rushing touchdowns and threw for 117 yards.

“We had a really solid game plan. They didn’t do anything we weren’t ready for. The tendencies we’re exactly what we worked on. We’re just not executing,” Doherty said.

The Hounds kicked to start the game and after giving up a first down held the Big Red on 4th-7 at their own 34. The short punt was whistled dead without a touch. The Hounds Tateum Schelich scooped it up and started running down the sideline in front of the Hounds bench with one in front of

him, but officials stopped the play on the inadvertent whistle.

Fort Madison went four and out with Henry Graham pinning Centerville deep in their own territory at the 12 on a 50-yard punt. The Bloodhounds would get another opportunity in the next possession. With the McGrann moving the ball on keepers from all different directions on the ground, he rolled and spun a ball to Klayton Lawson on the Hounds sideline. Lawson lost control when he was spun to the ground and Schelich recovered for Fort Madison.

But it was another 4 and out, this time with Graham sticking the Big Red at their own 3-yard line.

Centerville with the drain time from the clock on a 15-play sustained drive that included just one pass, an 8-yard completion, as McGrann and Makoa Kaleponi churning up the Jim Youel turf. McGrann would go down in the series and Murdock would take it in from the 16 of the first score of the game.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison’s Chandler Fullenkamp (27) puts a pop on Centerville receiver Albert Bamrick (5) causing the ball to fall free in the second quarter Friday night. The Hounds’ Tateum Schelich would recover for Fort Madison.

Fort Madison lost two yards on the next possession before Hound quarterback Marcus Guzman threw a pick on 3rd and 12 to give Centerville the ball back. They would score again, this time a 36-yard catch and run to Abram Decena for a 16-0 lead.

Fort Madison then put a nine-play run together that culminated with Marcuz Guzman squeezing in through the middle of the line across the goal for a 16-6 game that would hold

through the half.

Centerville lined the second half kick-off off a Hound on the kick team in the second tier and recovered the ball scoring six plays later to take a 22-6. They would score again two series later after the Hounds went four and out again for a 28-6 lead

Guzman would score on a 10-play drive in the fourth quarter for Fort Madison’s final score. The play came on a 20-yard run up the middle where Guzman

man dove over the goal line in the center of the field.

Guzman finished 4-for-11 for just 30 yards and pick for the game. He also has 121 yards on 22 carries and two touchdowns on the ground. Caden Barnes had three receptions for 19 yards and a 36-yard nifty touchdown run called back on a holding penalty. Justin Maitner had 8 tackles, three solo and tackle for a loss to lead the Hound defense. Triston Marshall had seven tackles.

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Lunch Specials

Sept 16-20
11am - 1pm

<p>Monday, September 16</p> <p>Tenderloin, Tater Tots, Baked Beans</p>
<p>Tuesday, September 17</p> <p>Spaghetti Bake, Breadstick</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 18</p> <p>Beef Enchiladas, Spanish Rice</p>
<p>Thursday, September 19</p> <p>Fried Chicken Dinners</p>
<p>Friday, September 20</p> <p>Grilling on the Sidewalk</p>