Suspect sought in Friday vehicle shooting on 61

Sheriff’s dept. looking for person of interest

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Sheriff’s Department is currently searching for a person of interest in a shooting that occurred at about 5 p.m. north of Fort Madison on Highway 61 northbound just west of North Fork Road.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said deputies, with assistance from the Fort Madison police department, were on the lookout for a described vehicle with two male suspects, one of whom had shot at a passing motorist’s vehicle. Upon investigation of the vehicle, authorities recovered a single bullet from the exterior of the vehicle.

No arrests have been made, but Sheriff Weber said he expects an arrest will be made in the near future.

“We don’t need this kind of violence in Lee County. We’ll push back hard,” he said.

ISP officer injured in attack released from hospital

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - An Iowa State Penitentiary correctional officer injured in an attack early Wednesday morning has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home, according to a release from the Iowa State Penitentiary Friday afternoon.

The officer was assaulted with two homemade weapons and was originally taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital, but was then transferred to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics by ambulance and was listed in stable condition. The name of the officer injured Wednesday as well as a separate injury to another officer that occurred over the weekend have not been released by ISP officials.

According the Wednesday release, the ISP continues in lockdown/restricted movement status as of today. The investigation into this matter continues. So far,

Rooms with a view

Mohrfeld’s developments fit a niche FM housing need

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Twenty-seven homes in three years.

Michael Mohrfeld will tell you he just builds as he sells, but a look at the Woodland Heights project he’s building right on top of the bluff above Bluff Road in Fort Madison says he’s got a bit more in mind.

And this isn’t just a man filling a market, he’s not sparing a lot of expense.

“These places should have a quality of life factor,” Mohrfeld said Friday morning, while a crew of about five framers crawled on the top section of his first duplex on the north side of the River View condominiums. A three-unit complex is already built at the top of a winding drive up Bluff Road and peeks out among the tree tops with a vast view of the tree-topped city below.

A pond on the north side of the development will serve as a marquee anchor to the properties. Mohrfeld’s putting in a cement ring around the south side of the pond, first as a safety measure in the unlikely event a car would get loose off the curb, but moreso as a place for future owners to get together if they choose.

“I think we’ll probably put a fire ring in down there and let it serve as a gathering place. We’re already putting some fish in there and we’re gonna keep

See CONDOS page 8

Green Oak Development owner, Michael Mohrfeld, shows the lower level space of one of the newly constructed River View Condominiums that are part of the Woodland Estates development project.

See LOCKDOWN, page 2

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Fort Madison sends three to state at cross-country qualifier

BY PCC STAFF

SOLON - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds put three cross-country runners into the state meet Oct. 28 in Fort Dodge after strong performances at the Solon Recreation and Nature Area.

FMHS senior Aaron Steffensmeier qualified with a flat 17:00 in the 5K event, good enough for 8th place overall in the race. Fellow seniors Sierra Howardson and Brett Schneider each qualified in the girls meet, finishing 9th and 10th with 19:50 and 20:03 times in that race.

Both Fort Madison boys’ and girls’ squads finished in 7th place overall in team scoring, which didn’t qualify either team for the team state competition.

Clare Mender finished in 36th place overall with a time of 21:40. Elizabeth Miller finished in 56th place with a time of 22:56, and Ashlynn Haas took 60th place overall with a time of 23:37 and Maddy McVey took 67th with a time of 23:57.

Fort Madison had 163 points overall to finish 7th behind Mt. Pleasant’s 139. The Panther’s Abby Ryan had a top-five finish to also advance to state.

Dayne Cordray finished in 17th place overall with a time of 17:31 but didn’t make the state cut. Nathan Steffensmeier finished in 37th place with a time of 18:11 and Elton Kruse finished at 18:34 good enough for 47th overall. Miguel Trejo finished at 19:13 good enough for 61st place with Owen Kruse at 62nd with a time of 19:19 and Noah Sissel finished at 19:35.

Fort Madison finished with 170 points good enough for 7th place, 24 points behind 6th place Mt. Pleasant. The Panther’s Cody Mertens took 2nd overall at the cross-country qualifier with a time of 16:28.

The state race will take place on Saturday, Oct. 28 with the girls starting at noon and the boys meet to start at 12:30. Matt Hellige of Holy Trinity will run at 2:30 p.m. qualifier with a time of 16:28.

Fort Madison finished in 5th place behind Mt. Pleasant’s 139. The Panther’s Cody Mertens took 2nd overall at the cross-country qualifier with a time of 16:28. Dayne Cordray finished in 17th place overall with a time of 17:31 but didn’t make the state cut. Nathan Steffensmeier finished in 37th place with a time of 18:11 and Elton Kruse finished at 18:34 good enough for 47th overall. Miguel Trejo finished at 19:13 good enough for 61st place with Owen Kruse at 62nd with a time of 19:19 and Noah Sissel finished at 19:35.

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Lottery Numbers

10/20
6 23 63 66 73
Mega Ball: 9
Megaplier: 2

10/21
14 41 42 45 69
Powerball: 4
Power Play: 2

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Bloodhounds get most out of final quarter of season

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite a lopsided 63-15 loss to visiting Washington, the Fort Madison Bloodhounds also enjoyed a lopsided 25-9 victory over the Wildcats in the first quarter.

The Hounds kicked off and then Garrett Klerk took the next handoff down the left sideline for a touchdown. But the Hounds weren't going to be done as Gully still had some work to do to get the record.

Tony Shiffman left him in. "I told the kids before the game we're going to play the seniors and he was close," Shiffman said.

Gully carried on six of the next seven plays with the clock in continuous mode due to Washington having a 35-point lead or larger. Gully carried for 52 yards on the six carries to notch the record and put the Hounds at the Demon's 5.

After two incompletions, Barker hooked up with Trey Kuntz on the left sideline and Kuntz was able to fight into the endzone for the Hounds final score of the season.

Gully said reaching the record was important to him, but he said finishing the game with the players he has played with since he was a kid was more important.

"I knew it was close and I wanted to get it because I hope to keep playing football somewhere, but I was just happy to be able to finish with these guys I've been playing with all this time," Gully said.

Gehle said he was confused up until this point as to whether or not he'd get in a game, but was told this week that they would try to get him in if an opportunity presented itself.

"This is something that I've wanted to do for a long time, and I'm really happy that it worked out. I was confused up until this week but then they fitted me for a helmet and I put the pads on. It was just awesome," Gehle said.

Washington, who will round out the scoring for the Bloodhounds with his father Mike standing behind him on and he moved in over the right tackle for the score, with his father Mike standing behind the end zone, and his teammates coming out and surrounding him.

The Hounds kicked off and the Bloodhounds returned the ball to their own 41 and then Garrett Klerk took the next handoff down the left sideline for a touchdown. But the Hounds weren't going to be done as Gully still had some work to do to get the record.

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Design phase made view of city, river a priority

Michael Mohrfeld stands across from the first full River View Condominium built as part of Woodland Estates on top of the bluff overlooking Fort Madison Friday morning. The units are now for sale in turn-key or custom-built models.

stocking it.” But the pond is just part of the eye-candy provided with being on top of the city in the newest condo development by Green Oak Development, Mohrfeld’s company that’s been responsible for more than 20 new homes on 33rd Avenue in Fort Madison and a handful in West Point.

Mohrfeld said he started building the homes because he was hearing a need for the homes while dealing with contractors as part of the Mohrfeld Electric Company.

“I just kept listening to people saying that this community needed new housing,” he said. “I think what I was hearing was that a lot of people were settling for homes that were older because that’s all that was on the market. They said someone needed to take a risk and well... I decided to take the risk.”

So Mohrfeld started building homes on the south side of Bluff Road in the 3000 block. As he started planning for the construction, he started planning $125K to $150K homes on a slate foundation, trying to keep the prices affordable. But when he started showing the homes, people said they loved what he was doing but that they wanted basements. So he changed up the designs and started including basements, which pushed the price on some of the homes, but he was still having success selling them.

He said a lot of the purchases aren’t new families moving into the area, but current residents looking not at downsizing, but trying to find something newer with less maintenance and upkeep required. He targets the 55 and over demographic.

The new development on top of the bluff will incorporate a homeowners association fee that will take care of all maintenance and upkeep of the neighborhood. Mohrfeld said that would amount to $175 per month, $50 of which would be for insurance on the building itself. Condominium owners would need to carry their own insurance policy on the interior furnishings. The condos start at just over $300K.

The condos range from two to three-car garages. There will ultimately be three-tri-plexes on the southside of the development and two duplexes in the multi-family unit part of the development. West of that construction will ultimately be single-family units, but Mohrfeld said he won’t start those until the other condos are sold.

On the way up the road a cul-de-sac has been leveled and planned on the northeast part of the property where homes will face the turn around with rear facing views of the west side of Fort Madison. From that vantage point homeowners will be able to see all the way to the industrial tract of Siemens and Climax Molybdenum.

Inside, the condos are open floor designs with large 9-foot windows to take advantage of the lofty view of Fort Madison and the Mississippi River. Open kitchen designs feature island sinks set ups with full size pantry closets and quartz countertops. Master bedrooms are on the walk-in main floor with private seated showers and double sinks. And although the completed unit is ready staging and viewing, future condominiums can be custom-built tailored to personal tastes and needs.

All the units have an upper wooden deck and lower stamped-concrete patio out of the lower floors. Large storage areas, a full open living section, and have two to three bedrooms on the lower floor. A utility/laundry room is located nicely on the main floor near the entrance with an entry way off the master bath for efficiency.

He is holding an open house on Saturday, Oct. 28-30th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., where several of the units in the first completed condos will be ready for viewing with information available on the development site.