Police take shooter into custody

Swanson taken into custody following alleged shooting incident Saturday night

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police captured a man they said considered armed and dangerous at about 4:15 p.m. Monday night in an alley in the 800 block of Avenue G. Police took Gary Lee Swanson, Jr., 30, of Fort Madison into custody after being on the lookout for the man since a Saturday night shooting that sent another Fort Madison to the hospital.

Fort Madison Police posted on Facebook Sunday that they were looking for Swanson as part of the investigation into the shooting.

Police Chief Tim Sittig said at 7:24 p.m. Saturday police officers were called to the Fort Madison Community Hospital Emergency Room where 34-year-old James Michael Rhoer, of Fort Madison was being treated for a superficial gun shot wound from a handgun.

Rhoer was treated and released. Charges are pending as the investigation into the alleged shooting continues.

Sittig said the shooting appears to have occurred in the area of 15th and 16th Streets near Avenue M. No possible motive for the shooting was released.

Thanksgiving meal for all Thursday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - There’s still time left to request a delivery for a free Thanksgiving dinner as part of the annual Fort Madison Community Thanksgiving dinner.

The free dinner takes place on Thanksgiving from 11:30 to 2 p.m. at the Fort Madison High School Community Multi-Purpose Room. Requests for delivery can be made by calling the hotline at 319-371-1277 until Wednesday at 5 p.m.

The event is made possible by a group of volunteers who serve on a committee that organize the meal. It’s also made possible through the generous donations of community members, businesses, and other enterprises.

Those contributing to the dinner this year include Verla Cassady, Thomas Glasgow, American Legion Auxiliary 668, Huffman Welding & Machine, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Connection Bank, Dupont, Scotts Miracle-Gro, Pinnacle, Nico Pothitakis, Silgan Containers, FM Elks Lodge, Fort Madison High School, Fort Madison Middle School, Holy Trinity Catholic Schools, Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison KFC, Fareway, Hy-Vee, and Iowa State Penitentiary.

This year’s committee consisted of Gerri Barnett, Dianne Hope, Carol Arnold, Debi Daughters, Bobbi Marshall, Joanne Varley, Robin Delaney, Craig Wills, Savanna Collier, and Holy Trinity Catholic junior Samantha Pothitakis.

Collier, the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce coordinator, said the committee changed the times a little bit for this year’s event to allow deliveries to get out quicker. Meal deliveries will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday.

She said volunteers are still needed to help prep the meals, which this year could surpass 1,000.

“We’re not going to turn any volunteers away,” she said. “I think we still need people on Wednesday and Thursday.”

See DINNER, page 8

Alliant jumps in with more P.O.R.T. funds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Funds continue to be secured to help build a recreational trail on the west end of Fort Madison.

P.O.R.T. of Fort Madison received a $1,500 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation on Monday. The grant request was made for Phase III of the P.O.R.T. trails project.

“On behalf of the Alliant Energy Foundation, we’re thrilled to support your organization’s work. Thank you for making our communities better places to live and work – places where our customers can grow and thrive,” said Julie Bauer, Executive Director, Alliant Energy Foundation.

Phase III of the P.O.R.T. (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails) trails will connect the Baxter Sports Complex with Fort Madison Community Hospital and is slated to be completed by Fall of 2019.

“We are grateful for the support of the Alliant Energy Foundation and all of the organizations and individuals who continue to support the work of PORT. We are excited to begin work on Phase III - continuing to connect Fort Madison with recreational trails,” said Angie Budnik, PORT committee member.

The Ugly Sweater run, Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 12 noon, is the next fundraising event for the PORT trails. You can find more information and registration forms on the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page.

PORT of Fort Madison operates as a subcommittee under the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Fort Madison with the mission to improve and promote the walkability, run-ability and bike-ability of Fort Madison. For more information, contact Rachel Benda 319-371-5804.

Funds continue to be secured to help build a recreational trail on the west end of Fort Madison.
Fort Madison
Police report
11/16/18 - 9:05 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue A.
11/16/18 - 12:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
11/16/18 - 6:28 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report
11/17/18 - 12:58 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Elmer Keefe, 52 of Argyle, at the sheriff's office on judge mand. No citations were issued and Dearing was treated for minor cuts. Stewart was arrested on charges of OWI-2nd offense and failure to maintain control. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
11/17/18 - 6:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Crystal Lynn Marshall, 30, in the 2700 block of 340th in Keokuk on a charge of trespassing. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report
11/16/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and one report of smoke.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings
Game     Draw Days  Sales CutOff Time  Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life® Mon & Thu 8:30 pm 9:30 pm
Mega Millions® Tues & Fri 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
Powerball® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 9:59 pm
Lotto America™ Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Daily  Daily  Daily 12:00 pm
Pick 4 - Daily  Daily  Daily 12:00 pm

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(319) 372-2300 1-800-794-2330
WECKDAYS - 8:00am to 8:00pm SAT: 8:30am to 6:00pm SUN: 10:00am to 2:00pm

WINNING NUMBERS

11/18 MID-DAY 1 9 0
11/18 EVENING 7 5 1

11/18 MID-DAY 2 4 8 8
11/18 EVENING 0 5 9 9
Fort Madison Lighted Parade
The annual Fort Madison downtown lighted parade will take place on Nov. 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m. along Avenue G.

Enchanted Forest
The forest is back and will feature locally created Christmas trees sponsored by area businesses. The forest will be held at the old Lee County Bank building on Avenue G on Nov. 23 following the parade. Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Santa on hand from 10 a.m. to noon and Dec. 1, 8, 25 and 22nd from 1 to 4 p.m.

Mistletoe on Main Street
The annual holiday downtown celebration will be held on Nov. 24 in downtown Fort Madison.

Customer Appreciation Party
Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be holding a Customer Appreciation event on Dec. 1, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with complimentary food, keg beer, and soda. HUGE SAVINGS on annual passes and punch cards for the 2019 season and great offers for first-time pass holders and cart leasers! Visit them online.

Community
The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be holding a blood drive on Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic’s Shottenkirk Gymnasium.

Senior Community BINGO
Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Community Thanksgiving
The annual Community Thanksgiving meal in Fort Madison will be held beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Fort Madison High School on Thursday, Nov. 22 at FMHS. Volunteers and donations are needed. Email the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com for details.

Caregivers Connection
The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington’s private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Coats for Hope 5K
The annual Coats for Hope 5K Fun Run will take place at the St. Paul Shelter House 2020 Locust St. on Dec. 1 beginning at 9 a.m. rain or shine. $20 entry fee or donating a children’s coat in good shape. Click here for registration and additional details https://www.pencitycurrent.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Coats-4-Hope-2018.pdf

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
We wish you a very warm & wonderful Thanksgiving.
From our #PCC family to yours!

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish an e-Edition Thursday, November 22 through Sunday, November 25. We’ll resume publication on Monday, November 26. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

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Hounds relying on defense this season

BY CHUCK VANDENBerg
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Coming off a year where the Fort Madison girls varsity basketball squad won just one game, first year Head Coach Todd McGhghy said it’s back to the basics with everyone.

The girls got their first look at the team this year Friday with a well-fought 51-44 loss to Centerville, in a game where the Hounds held a 23-20 lead with some tenacious full-court defense.

McGhghy said defense will be the focus of the Hounds this year but he’s not set on any one scheme and will have to play different defenses depending on what the other team is doing offensively.

A pattern of having a lopsided quarter, which was what has plagued Fort Madison heavily the past two years, reared its head again out of the break. Centerville Sophomore Claire Mathews heated up and led the Redettes to a 16-4 third quarter advantage wiping out the Hounds lead.

Mathews went for 25 points on the night including four 3-pointers in a 15 point second half.

The Lady Hounds outscored Centerville 17-15 in the final quarter but couldn’t overcome the third quarter letdown. FMHS also jumped out to a 14-9 first quarter lead before falling 23-14 in the final quarter but couldn’t overcome the third quarter letdown.

“Falling back to after Defense is King for our team this year. Honestly, I’m guessing that’s probably everybody’s challenge. We run breakdown drill after drill after drill. We just try to look at what we have and what we do well,” he said.

Dallas Hodges, a graduate of the Cedar Rapids Washington girls and Wayne State basketball programs, and Carrie Burken will be on the sidelines this year with McGhghy. He said those two bring a different approach to the game.

“Dallas and Carrie bring a great balance to me. But not from a rescue or enabling standpoint, they are both an asset to me with the kids. When they think I’m really, really ticked at them, there is someone they can go to.”

Striking a balance between the structure of the game and allowing skills to shine is at the forefront of McGhghy’s approach to the season. With several new faces, including some seniors like Josie Pumphrey, Dezire Kline, and Bass, will bring some experienced athletes to the program, although raw on basketball skills. Junior volleyball standout Jillian Wiseman is also suited up this year.

“I’m guessing that’s probably everybody’s challenge.”

McGhghy makes no bones about defense being the key to turning the program around.

“I am a defensive coach and we focus on defense a lot... lots... lots. We focus on getting better at it every day. We run break down drill after drill after drill. With our personnel that’s what we have to do. If our personnel dictated a 2-3 zone that’s what we would do. I’m not married to a scheme or system. We just try to look at what we have and what we do well,” he said.

On Saturday night, the girls ran into a pressure-heavy West Burlington team in the Hall of Pride scrimmage. The game was unofficial as it didn’t count on either teams’ records.

Fort Madison hung around with the Lady Falcons in the first half trailing 28-17 at the end of the first two periods.

West Burlington applied heavy pressure throughout the game in full and half-court trap zones causing some teams’ record.

On Saturday night, the girls ran into a pressure-heavy West Burlington team in the Hall of Pride scrimmage. The game was unofficial as it didn’t count on either teams’ records.

Fort Madison sophomore Maddie Rashid puts up a shot over several West Burlington players at Saturday’s Hall of Pride scrimmage.

How much structure vs. freedom. I was telling the girls the other day when I coached with Dave Hall in Keokuk and we got second and third in the state back-to-back years, we literally had two or three offensive sets, everything else was just motion and we let them play,” McGhghy said. “That’s the challenge in my opinion. As coach if they find that secret and balance quick you’ll have that success.”

Offensively he said the girls have shown improvement in those skill sets over the summer, but he isn’t sure how that will translate into productivity on the court.

He pointed to Kester’s experience and Rashid’s ability to score.

“Anna has experience offensively in terms of handling the point guard and bringing the ball up the floor. There’s a good three to four people who I wouldn’t mind if they had to do it. With her and Rashid and Boeding, there’s quite a few that can bring the ball up the floor.”

Kester and Rashid each averaged under five points per outing last year, but combined for more than 50 assists on the year.

Senior Braxtyn McGhghy said it’s better. I think we’re just hoping to play even ball this year, honestly,” Kester said.

Senior Braxtyn McGhghy said the Hounds are focusing on defense, but there’s a more even approach to the offense and who’ll step up to the lead on the offensive end.

“This year we’re focusing more on defense and were sprinting to the ball and focusing on getting there faster,” she said. “Actually, I think we’ve all worked pretty hard on ball handling this summer. It’s good that we have a lot of good athletic girls. We all can play that no. 1 spot or no 2 spot. It’s not just one set person. If someone needs to fill in we can fill in.”

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THU 22 Nov Clear Skies
High– 44.3º F | Low – 37.1º F

FRI 23 Nov
Moderate Rain
High – 41.5º F | Low – 39.6º F

SAT 24 Nov
Moderate Rain
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2018-19 Boys Basketball Preview

Bloodhound boys looking to

surprise in Southeast

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Despite the loss of two first-team all-conference picks last year, the Fort Madison Bloodhounds boys basketball team may be in a better position to compete for a conference title this year.

The Bloodhounds lost Kobe Cresswell and Treavor James-Kokjohn to graduation, but are looking to play in a South-

east Conference that is more balanced with Mt. Pleasant graduating a good portion of the team that went 21-4 last year and lost at the state tournament to Waverly Shell-Rock.

The Hounds unofficially opened the season Saturday and came back from a three-point halftime deficit in the Hall of Pride scrimmage against West Burling-
ton to win 61-56.

Senior Logan Rashid and junior Jayden Fedler led FMHS with 15 and 14 points, respectively, but seven other players got into the scoring for the Hounds.

Rashid averaged just under 10 points a game as a junior last year and was chilly at 53 with about 4 minutes left, but Fort Madison pulled away and led 46-18 at halftime, sporting several runs after the Falcons had stretched leads to as much as seven, the Bloodhounds raced to an 18-7 third quarter advantage and led 46-

18-7 third quarter advantage and led 46-

40 going into the final period.

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as seven, the Bloodhounds raced to an 18-

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as seven, the Bloodhounds raced to an 18-

3 quarter advantage and led 46-

40 going into the final period.

West Burlington would tie the game at 53 with about 4 minutes left, but Fort Madison would pull away in a clean sec-

ond half that only saw a combined two
HOOPS - Continued from Page 1

free throws attempted.
Senior Brandon Keester, who averaged just over seven points per outing last year and fired in five on Saturday including one from long range, said he thinks the Hounds will surprise some in the conference.

"I know we're projected to go second in the conference, but I think we're going to prove a lot of people wrong and win the conference this year, " Keester said during a warm-up Saturday morning.

"Our team is really athletic and we have some good shooters. We're not as big, but we can make up for it with our athleticism. "

Wilson said the success will come down to executing each game's plan.

"We've got quite a few shooters and ultimately it will come down to our plan each night. We've put a huge emphasis on our defense and our intensity. This is our first week in practice and we've got to be better defensively," he said.

Fairfield seems to be the favorite to win the conference this year with a lot of seniors returning from a squad that took two from Fort Madison last year.

"Fairfield has to be the favorite to win the conference, but don't sleep on Mt. Pleasant. They're a great program and, just because Coach (Paul) Rundquist is gone, doesn't mean they won't compete. Their jayvee and freshman programs were successful last year," Wilson said.

"But hopefully, we'll do the right things and compete for a conference championship."

The Bloodhounds have 35 students in the program this year. Others that will likely see playing time include Holy Trinity transfer Jake Eaves, who's one of the taller kids on the team and can shoot from outside. Dayton Davis handled the ball very well for the Hounds Saturday night and, at times, ran the offense. He had five points against the Falcons.

Jace Burgher had six points for Fort Madison, Parker Denning had five, Mike Mosena chipped in with four and is another person Wilson can count on to handle the ball. Eaves had three points and Jordyn Gerdes added a bucket.

"It's nice to see new kids in the program no matter where they come from. Thirty-five kids is the biggest we've had numbers-wise for quite some time," Wilson said.