Former VB teacher’s hearing set for March

Prosecutor, police won’t release probable cause report

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTICELLO – A preliminary hearing for a former Van Buren teacher who forced a college student to West Point to pick up marijuana, at some point brandishing a gun, has been pushed back until March.

Adam James Hardin, 37, who’s address in court documents is still listed in the 200 block of Avenue C in West Point, is facing charges of possession of a controlled substance, and unlawful use of a weapon, both Missouri felonies.

Hardin was arrested on Oct. 27 according to a Lewis County probable cause report out of Canton, Mo. According the report, Canton police were called to a fraternity house on Culver-Stockton's campus at 7:35 p.m., where a student informed police that Hardin had made him transport him back to West Point and at one point pulled a gun and set it on the console of the truck telling the students that was for him not to ask any questions. Once in West Point, Hardin retrieved a cooler from his house where a cooler was placed in the toolbox of the pickup truck the student was driving. The two then returned to the frat house where the student was dropped off and then informed police about the incident.

Upon arrest, police recovered a semi-automatic pistol and 98 grams of marijuana.

Lewis County Judge Fred Westhoff granted a continuance last week to move the preliminary hearing to March 18 at 10:30 a.m. in Lewis County Courthouse.

Hardin is represented by John Jay Benson out of Kirkville, Missouri.

Lewis County Prosecutor Jules DeCoster of Monticello-

See TEACHER, page 2

Bloodhounds rebound with win over Central Lee

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Losing can be a powerful motivator.

Fort Madison senior Logan Rashid said a loss last week to cross-town rival Holy Trinity two weeks ago is still stuck in his craw. And with Friday night's loss to Mt. Pleasant, he said the Hounds had something to prove Saturday doubling up Central Lee 82-41 in non-conference boys basketball action.

"Just from last night, we played pretty hard and couldn't get it done. Obviously, we were pretty mad when we faced HTC and they beat us by one, and when we face another team from our county... we're not letting that happen again," See HOUNDS, page 4

One fish, two fish...who's biddin' on this dish

The Fort Madison High School’s Athletic Boosters held their annual cake auction on Saturday night during the varsity basketball games. The theme of the night was Dr. Suess and more than $7,000 was raised for athletic department needs.

EMPTYPENN

By Curt Swarm

MP farm dealer trades tractor for Cessna 172

The flight instructor asked Tom what he would do if he was going in for a landing and there was a horse in the middle of the runway. Tom thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I guess I'd do a go-around. The instructor said, 'You'd better do it, because there is a horse on the runway.'

At 63, Tom Hassenfritz of Mt. Pleasant traded a tractor for an airplane. That was 40 years ago. Tom Hassenfritz of Mt. Pleasant was taking his in-flight test for a pilot's license at Hannibal, MO. Tom received his pilot's license and bought a Cessna 182. But as his family grew, he became immersed in his farm implement business. When he found out what his life insurance was going to cost with a pilot's license, he decided it might be time to sell the airplane. Which he did.

Fast forward to this year. Tom is a wheeler-dealer in the farm implement business and has been known to trade motorcycles and snowmobiles for tractors. A customer of Tom's owned a 1976 Cessna 172MD. Because of health issues, the customer couldn't fly anymore.

Tom thought, "Hmmm, maybe I could fly again." (Pilot's licenses never expire.) Presto-changeo, Tom traded a tractor for an airplane. It even came with a spare engine.

The airplane was in Burlington and Tom lives in Mt. Pleasant. Tom was under the impression that all he needed to do was "fly it" and the airplane would take off and land on its own. But as the flight instructor explained, it's not that easy.

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Pen City Current - Monday, January 28, 2019

OBITUARIES/Local News

LAURA D. KAUTZKY

Laura D. Kautzky, 28, of Ft. Madison and formerly of Perry, IA passed away at 7:18 PM on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital ER. She was born on May 7, 1990 in Perry, IA to James and Darsi Hicks Kautzky. Laura was currently working at The Madison. She was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes and Green Bay Packer fan. Laura enjoyed her family and loved her dog, Rucca.

Survivors include her son, Andrew Kautzky of Ft Madison; her father, Jim (Vickie) Kautzky of Ft. Madison; her mother, Darsi (Michael Boles) Kautzky of Gilmore City, IA; a brother, Nick Kirsch of Carroll, IA; step siblings, Austin Rose, Emma Rose, Nathan Rose and Marin Rose; paternal grandmother, Doris Kautzky of Perry, IA and Maternal Grandparents, George and Barb Wieland of Carroll, IA. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Andrea Rivera; paternal and maternal grandfather and her great grandparents.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Cre- matory and a Celebration of Life will held at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

LAURA D. KAUTZKY

Hardin facing two felony charges

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

LAURA D. KAUTZKY

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Obituaries/Local News

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LAURA D. KAUTZKY

Hardin facing two felony charges

TEACHER - Continued from Page 1

lo, is representing the state in the case. DeCoster, who’s a part-time prosecutor and has a private practice in Monticello, declined to comment on the case when contacted at his office on Thursday.

The firearms charge is per Missouri code 571.0300 (10), which accuses Hardin of carrying a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any school, onto any school bus, or onto the premises of any function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by school officials or the district school board.

Mindy Smith, Human Resource Manager with Van Buren Community Schools said Thursday Hardin was not using a Van Buren school district vehicle at the time of the incident.

She also said she could neither confirm nor deny that current Van Buren students were inside the vehicle as it went from Missouri to Iowa and back.

She did confirm that Hardin is no longer employed with the district.

Pen City Current
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

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CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to en City Current.

HTC Celebrates Catholic Schools Week
Holy Trinity Catholic Schools is celebrating National Catholic Schools Week January 27 through February 2. During this special week, Holy Trinity Catholic Schools would like to thank their community, their HTC families, alumni, and all who support them throughout the year. We thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Nerf Wars at FM YMCA
The Fort Madison YMCA will be the site of another round of Nerf Wars on Sunday, Jan. 27. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. boys and girls ages 1 through 6 will compete in Nerf Wars in the gymnasium. Children must bring eye protection, their own Nerf guns, darts/bullets/balls. Cost is $5 for members and $10 for non-members. For more information contact program director Noah Dean or visit the YMCA’s Facebook page for more information.

Local artist on display at SCC
Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her “Raptors and Other Birds of Prey” series.

Evening with Chuck Long
Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, Feb. 12 for presentation, including a social hour and dinner with doors opening at 4:30. The social hour and dinner will be from 5 to 6 and Long will speak at 6 p.m. with a question and answer to follow. For more information, contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 or by email at mcmillan@sheaffergolf.com.

Ribbon-Cutting
A ribbon cutting for The Kingsley Inn and River Rocks Bar & Grille will be held on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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Star Ball: 9
All Star Bonus: 3

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Family Dentistry now to schedule your 6-month checkup or click anywhere on this ad. Now accepting new patients.

PEN CITY CURRENT - MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 - 3
Gerdes scores a season-high 12 in Saturday win

Rashid said. The Bloodhounds dropped a heart-breaking 52-47 loss to Mt. Pleasant in the HoundDome on Friday night.

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Rashid’s 16 paced the Bloodhounds, who from the outset let the Hawks know it would be tough night in Fort Madison on Saturday.

The Hawks, moving around like they were on ice, laced seven 3-balls in the first quarter including three from Brandon Keester. The senior lefty opened the game with a long ball from the right wing and then junior Parker Denning went from the left side to stake the Hawks up a quick 6-0 lead.

Central Lee’s TJ Stutes and Dylan Stueker would combine for 14 points in a 14-2 run putting the Hounds up 2-6. The Hawks’ Bronson Sargent would stop the rally with a 9-foot jumper from the left baseline.

Rashid then scored the next seven points to end the quarter at 27-8. Rashid had 10 of his 17 in the opening stanza, and then turned to making sure everyone else had a good night.

With the Hounds up 31-11 well into the second quarter, Rashid penetrated from the top of the key and off the dribble, spun, and with his back nearly to the basket found senior Jordyn Gerdes down on the block, and with a flip left-handed pass hit Gerdes for two of his season-high 12 points.

Fort Madison would go a little cold after that, missing five of it’s next six shots, but the defense clamped down on Central Lee who didn’t get a shot off in the stretch other than a three from senior Jordan Nagle.

Gerdes would then score six straight, a couple of balls screens on the left side of the offense, rolling off the screens for open looks.

In one sequence, freshman Dayton Davis, pulled a crossover in front of the Central Lee bench that buckled the Hawk’s defender who went to the ground. Davis cut around the baseline and found Gerdes hangin’ around in the lane.

Head Coach Ryan Wilson said Gerdes works off pick-and-rolls and screens very well.

“There’s just kids that do things naturally and have a knack for things. Jordyn just seems to have a knack to be open every time off a ball screen,”

Wilson said.

With the Hounds holding a nice 42-24 lead at halftime, Jayden Fedler, who struggled Friday night against Mt. Pleasant, where he had just two points, started to shake off the ickies in the third quarter.

The 6’6” senior scored nine of the Hounds first 13 points in the third period pushing the Hounds to a comfortable 25-point lead at 55-30. Fedler is one of the top scorers in the Southeast Conference but was held to just two points Friday against the Panthers.

Gerdes would clean up the third period with the Hounds final four points. Rashid would open the fourth with a 3-ball and Fedler would hit a three from just off the top of the key and the game was well in hand.

Fort Madison hit 11 threes on the night, seven in the first period and four in the final period, setting a season-high for the team.

Wilson said the Hounds are more successful when they get those looks out of the offense rather than transition.

“Coach (Tom) Goetz has repeated it over and over that we have to get the ball inside to open the outside. He looked pretty deep in our stats and it shows that we play better when we get threes in the flow of our offense, rather than just playing chuck it up,” Wilson said.

The Bloodhounds had four players in double figures including Rashid and Gerdes, Fedler finished with 15 and Denning had 11. Keester scored nine on the night, all in the first quarter, while Davis had six, Miles Dear and Leighton Rockhold each hit for three. Jace Burcher and Mike Mosena each had two points to round the scoring for Fort Madison.

Wilson said the Hounds played with some emotion after Friday’s loss.

“We had confidence and fire from last night,” he said. “They were really disappointed after last night’s game and came out with some emotion and urgency. We wanted to get to a big lead early and send the message we can be a good team when we move the ball and share the ball and space the floor out.”

In the junior varsity contest, Central Lee won 44-35. Philip Goldie led the Hounds with 10 points. The Hounds substate assignments were released this week and Fort Madison is in Substate district 5 with Centerville, Fairfield, Keokuk, Mt. Pleasant, Oskaloosa, South Tama and Washington.

Wilson said the rest of the season will be focused on getting ready for districts which begin on Feb. 18. District seeding meetings take place on Feb. 6 and in most cases the higher seed will host in substate brackets.

“We’ve preached over the last week or so that we’ve got to start seeing some consistency and take care of the ball. Our district is out and we know who we might have to face. Everything going forward is geared toward playing the best we possibly can headed into districts on Feb. 18.

The Hounds are off until Friday when they travel to Washington in a conference matchup...
Despite 1-16 record, Hounds mixing things up to try to find success on the court

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Scoring continues to be a problem for the Fort Madison Lady Hounds as no one scored in double figures in back to back losses this weekend.

On Saturday, senior Josie Pumphrey led Fort Madison with eight points as the Hounds fell in a lopsided affair at the HoundDome to Central Lee 72-20.

Head Coach Todd McGhghy credited Central Lee coach Tony Sargent for not running up the score. “He did a nice job of calling off the dogs,” McGhghy said. “That could have been a lot worse.”

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Central Lee rolled out to a 13-0 first quarter lead before Fort Madison could find the bottom of the net with Pumphrey hitting one of her two 3-ballson the night in the final minute of the quarter. The Hawks went to 6’1” sophomore Mya Merschman early and often as Central Lee’s leading scorer put up 27 on the night.

Hound senior Jassmine Bass scored to cut the lead 26-7 in the second period, but Fort Madison would miss on its next four shots from the field over three minutes, while Central Lee continued to build on it’s lead.

Merschman would convert a couple free throws at the end of the first half to give the Lady Hawks a sizeable 41-11 lead at the break.

Central Lee would end all doubt in the game in the third period when they went a perfect 10-of -10 from the field, including four three pointers, two from Merschman and two from freshman Malarie Ross. The only two shots the Lady Hawks missed in the period were two of seven free throws.

Pumphrey would hit her second three pointer from the left wing for Fort Madison’s only 3rd quarter points.

Pumphrey played the most minutes of any varsity forward Fort Madison’s only 3rd quarter points.

On Friday, Sadie Carrasco put up 14 as Mt. Pleasant cut the lead to 61-43 near the end of the third.

Eleesha, Maddie and Josie are our best shooters and we put in a nice skip rotation and got some good looks, we just couldn’t convert.”

Other than Pumphrey’s eight, Anna Kester had five, Jassmine Bass scored four, while Maddie Rashid had three and Braxtyn McGhghy added a bucket for Fort Madison.

On Friday, Sadie Carrasco put up 14 as Mt. Pleasant tripped up Fort Madison 52-22 at Mt. Pleasant.

“Nadia Boeding and Eleesha Estrada each scored two.

FRI 01 Feb

Kester and Brandy Walker led Fort Madison with five points each, Rashid and Bass both had four, while Nadia Boeding and Eleesha Estrada each scored two.

“That was a tough pill to swallow for the girls. They really wanted that one,” McGhghy said.

The Hounds (1-16) finish the year with three games on the road beginning with Washington on Friday. The following week they will travel to Burlington on Monday and Fairfield on Friday.

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Bloodhound girls drop back-to-back games

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
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Despite 1-16 record, Hounds mixing things up to try to find success on the court

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New Year. Fresh Start.

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year.

We’re looking forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don’t put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don’t recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 28 Jan

Light Snow
High– 16.4º F | Low – 5.4º F

TUE 29 Jan

Light Snow
High– 5.7º F | Low – -5.1º F

WED 30 Jan

Clear
High– -11.1º F | Low – -21.6º F

THU 31 Jan

Light Snow
High– -7.3º F | Low – -11.0º F

FRI 01 Feb

Clear
High– 1.6º F | Low – -0.2º F

OpenWeatherMap

Great River Regional Waste Authority

Pen City Current - Monday, January 28, 2019 - 5
I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:00 p.m. Directors Steffensmeier, Hope, Ross, DiPrima and Hotop were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater and Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed Student Services Harmon. Director of Curriculum and Student Services, Kim DiPrima and Hotop were also present. Also present were Steffensmeier, Hope, Ross, and Student Services, Kim Harmon, gave a presentation to the board regarding the upcoming Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Performance (ISASP) that will be administered to students in grades 3-11. The assessments will take place between March and May. The “Did You Know?” document was accepted as presented. Consent agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the goals for the Fort Madison Community School District. Monthly communications A. Student Rep report. The Board received an update of ongoing activities at the High School.

B. Curriculum Corner. Director of Curriculum and Student Services, Kim Harmon, gave a presentation to the board regarding the upcoming Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Performance (ISASP) that will be administered to students in grades 3-11. The assessments will take place between March and May. The “Did You Know?” document was accepted as presented.

C. “Did You Know?” The “Did You Know?” document was approved by President Wondra and seconded by Hope. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

D. Superintendent Goal Report. Superintendent Slater provided an update on the indicators of progress towards the Board’s established goals.

E. District Presentations. IASB recognition - Superintendent Slater presented Director Hope and Director DiPrima with Certificates of Recognition from the IASB. United Way - Sue Prochaska of the United Way of the Great River Region gave a presentation on the Literacy Project and the success that the program has had in using volunteers to help schools surpass their goals for student literacy.

F. Approval. The approval was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve the agenda as presented. Consent agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

G. Consent agenda. The motion was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the December 17, 2018 regular meeting; minutes from the January 7, 2019 work session, financial reports including the December Balance Sheet, December Revenue Summary, Expenditure Report and Student Activity Report, accounts payable for the December General Account Board Bills for Approval, January General Account Board Bills for approval, Student Activity Board Bills for approval and Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval; resignations from Sharon Harp as Middle School associate, Kayselyn Hendricks as JV Volleyball coach; employment of Jairo Scraggs as Asst. High School Boys Track coach (1/2), Justin Cain as Asst. High School Boys Track coach (1/2), Michelle McKeown as Food Service Delivery Driver, Jeff Gerdes as Automotive Trades instructor at the High School, Christopher Bolander as Welding instructor at the High School; contract modifications for Carol Hotop as Middle School associate transferring to Richardson and Tabatha Helmick as Richardson associate transferring to Food Service.

H. Motion. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

I. Action Items. 1. Election of Board Vice President. Nomination of Hope by Ross and seconded by DiPrima. Motion to approve Hope as Vice President by acclamation by Steffensmeier and seconded by DiPrima. Motion made to approve Hope as Vice President by acclamation. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

J. Appointment of LAN Assembly Member. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Ross to nominate DiPrima as LAN Assembly member. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

K. Special Meeting. January 28, 2019. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the Special Meeting for January 28, 2019. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

L. Discussion Items. A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services. B. Superintendent. 1. Consider personnel matters. There were none. 2. Consider approval of policy changes. a. 706.2 – Payroll Deductions. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Ross to approve policy 706.2 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

M. Consent agenda. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve policy 707.2 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

N. Consider approval of fundraisers within the athletic department. It was moved by Hotop and seconded by Ross to approve the fundraisers as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

O. Consider approval for the request of travel for the Cyberhounds Robotics team to attend their regional meet in Sedalia, Missouri in April. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Ross. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

P. Approval of Board Attendance Report. It was moved by Hope and seconded by DiPrima to approve the fundings as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

Q. Consideration for changes will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval. 2. Scheduled February Building Instructional Tour. The Board will tour Richardson Elementary on February 7th at 10 a.m.

R. The certified staff member attendance report was reviewed and accepted as presented.

S. Consideration for changes will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval.

T. Action Items. 1. Election of Board Vice President. Nomination of Hope by Ross and seconded by DiPrima. Motion to approve Hope as Vice President by acclamation by Steffensmeier and seconded by DiPrima. Motion made to approve Hope as Vice President by acclamation. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

U. Appointment of LAN Assembly Member. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Ross to nominate DiPrima as LAN Assembly member. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

V. Special Meeting, January 28, 2019. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the Special Meeting for January 28, 2019. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

W. Discussion Items. A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services. B. Superintendent. 1. Consider approval of policy changes. The Board reviewed policies 707.4 through 711.1. Policies recommended for changes will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a legislative update.

Y. Staff Member Attendance Report. It was moved by Hope and seconded by DiPrima to approve the funding as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

Z. Consideration for changes will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval.