Sunday incident sends authorities on hunt

Witnesses say gunshots heard prior to accident on Old Denmark Hill

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – An accident that happened at about 5 p.m. on Sunday on the south crest of Old Denmark Hill sent local authorities into action looking for a suspect, thought to be armed.

Law enforcement from the Fort Madison Police Department, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, and Iowa State Patrol began a search that lasted about 90 minutes in the vicinity of 10th Street to 15th Street in the woods just south of where a motorist rolled a vehicle on Old Denmark Hill.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said at about 5 p.m., maybe slightly before, a report came in about a crash.

“According to witnesses one occupant got out and tried to flee the area, but was either stopped or medical found her in the woods. She’s at the hospital now with unknown injuries,” he said.

“There was an indication there might have been a second party in the car, which is why we have all the response here and the dog,” he said.

He said the woman was confused when questioned and the information the police have at this time is sketchy.

But he said police did pick up another person on warrants from a name the woman gave, but Sittig said he’s not sure if the suspect is connected to the incident or not.

“I haven’t been down to the police

See CHASE, page 3

Stopwatch starts on HTC grads

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The keynote speaker at Sunday’s Holy Trinity Catholic’s graduation ceremony challenged the class to not procrastinate...the stopwatch has started.

Matt Mohrfeld, a 1974 graduate of Marquette High School and a member of the local Catholic School system since his childhood, told the 23 members of the HTC graduating class of 2019 that the stopwatch has started and they need not think about the days remaining in their life, but the life remaining in their days.

HTC grads give the traditional cap toss Sunday outside Holy Trinity Catholic High School. Twenty-three seniors moved their tassles signifying the end of their high school careers.

Elyse Pothitakis and Katie Scoville were named co-valedictorians and Sam Avery was named the class salutatorian. Seniors Katie Scoville and Mya Lavlor leave the ceremony for the HTC graduation Sunday afternoon at the Holy Trinity

See GRADS, page 8

Treehouse gives couple much needed break

By Curt Swarm

Ginnie and I went to sleep with the rain falling gently on the roof of the two-story tree house, (sorta like being in heaven) and slept like a babies.

Ginnie and Curt stayed in the "Captains Quarters" at Ten Acres Treehouses. We awoke gently in the morning to soft light filtered through dense, tall trees. It was 7:00 a.m., late for us. "Where is the sunrise?" I wondered. "Ah, ha! The trees are blocking the glare." It was so quiet, except for birds calling to one another—cardinals and jays. I stepped out onto the deck to a world of green mist, and rat-tat-tat of woodpeckers. "This is Eden," I thought. Even on the second floor of the "Captains Quarters" tree house, we were barely a third as high as the trees. They grow tall and slim

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Author takes mini-vacation in treehouse

here, because of the denseness of the forest—oaks, maples (both hard and soft), and walnuts—then branch out at the top, like a wig on the head of a giraffe. "I'll bet it's roll-your-socks-up beautiful here in the fall," I hollered in to Ginnie.

Ginnie slipped out onto the deck and put her arm around me, "It's beautiful right now," she said.

Not about to pass up the experience of an outdoor shower (with hot water) on the deck, we partook of the wonderful experience of bathing in the privacy of Mother Nature. How refreshingly natural, semi-primitive!

Bob Hopp is the 57-year old, tall and slim (also good looking and friendly), confirmed bachelor, who owns and built "Ten Acre Treehouses," in rural, historic, Nauvoo, Illinois. He grew up a couple of miles from the property, and bought the ten acres of heavily wooded rolling hills and creeks in 1989. It started with a zip line he built to have fun with his friends and family. When his property owners' insurance company put the kibosh on the zip line, he decided to reconstruct the platform into a tree house, a man-cave, so to speak, once again to entertain friends. When one of the friends said, "Hey, you know what? You could rent this out," the seed was planted. Bob listed his tree house on Vrbo.com (Vacation Rentals by Owner) and, voila, the first rental was procured in less than 24 hours. It was a couple from Chicago, and their three dogs, who just wanted to get away from the city on the 4th of July.

The rest is history. Bob had worked construction for 11 years, so had the skills to build most anything he wanted. That first tree house is called the "White-tail Lodge," because of his brother's whitetail-deer head hanging on the wall.

Then Bob thought, "If one is good, two ought to be better." However, this time he built the tree house with a rental in mind, and put a little extra into it. Bob had been in the Navy, so he decided to name the "Captain's Quarters," has a nautical theme. (His sister does the artwork.) This is the tree house that Ginnie and I stayed in. "Rustic adorable," she calls it. Unique getaway. Cozy. We'll be back!

Some visitors from Moberly, Missouri said that they had a hand-hewn, 1830's log cabin that they weren't using. Bob purchased it, took it apart, and relocated it to the ten acres. It's called the "Fort Henry Log Cabin," and has a fireplace. Bob transitioned from watching "Tree-House Builders" to "Barn Wood Builders," on YouTube to get tips.

Bob has two dogs, Paris and London, (don't ask which is which) that are great ambassadors to the forest hideaway. We brought Buddy, and all got along fine. Also, there are two goats, Oreos and Rango, that act as watch-goats.

For reservations go to: vrbo.com, and search Nauvoo, IL. Enjoy.

BTW: cell phone reception is iffy. Yeah!

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.
OBITUARIES

GERALD E. HOBBS

Gerald E. Hobbs, 90, of Ft. Madison passed away on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 4:21 PM at his home. He was born December 8, 1928 in Kenwood, MO to Ernest and Edith Boring Hobbs, Sr. On November 12, 1949 he married Elenora Baxter in Burlington and she passed away on September 9, 2005.

Gerald was a draftsman and engineer for Sheaffer Pen Co. and retired after forty two years of service. He was one of the charter members of the American Hemerocallis “Daylily” Society and the Cedar Valley Iris and Daylily Club. He was also a member of the Great River Garden Club, the Southeast Iowa Pigeon Club and was also a boy scout leader. Gerald was an avid gardener and spent any time he could outdoors doing what he loved. He enjoyed spending time with his family and especially loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Survivors include two sons, Steve (Kim) Hobbs of Ft. Madison and Scott (Melissa) Hobbs of Montrose; five grandchildren, Andrea (Pete) Nixon, Amanda (Jared) Rehm, Matthew Hobbs, Ben Hobbs and Sarah Hobbs; five great grandchildren, Alexis Rehm, Neeley Rehm, Maddilynn Hobbs, Audrey Nixon and Harrison Hobbs; one brother, Terry Hobbs of West Point; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a daughter, Joyce “Joy” Campbell and a brother, Ernest.

The family will meet with friends on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 from 9:30-11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory, a Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 AM at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
5/08/19 – 12:54 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of 27th Street. 5/09/19 – 2:26 a.m – Jose Raphael Draper, 20, of Fort Madison was cited with a charge of under aged consumption in the 1400 block of Ave. G. He was released upon citation.


Lee County Sheriff’s Department report
5/16/19 – 9:00 p.m – Joshua Adam Bowen, 39, of Fort Madison was arrested on a charge of assault with bodily injury in the 2000 block of 343rd Ave, in Waver. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

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Barnes goes All-American outdoors at nationals

Former Bloodhound finishes 4th at NJCAA Div. 1 nationals

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCU SPORTS

HOBBS, New Mexico – Elijah Barnes knows how to save his best for last.

Friday at the National Junior College Division I outdoor championships, the Fort Madison High School graduate became an All-American, but he did it on his final discus throw of the finals in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Coming into the contest ranked eighth in the country, Barnes was on the outside looking in after his second throw of 144-02 was just short of the distance required to make it to the final round.

The third time was the charm for Barnes, as his third toss came in over 30 feet further than his second toss, qualifying him for three more throws in the finals.

Barnes distance started to regress in the finals. His first toss of 169-05 was around seven feet shorter than his finals qualifying throw. Barnes followed up his first finals toss with another throw in the 170s, but still came in at 174-09, a little less than two feet under his qualifying throw.

Finally, on his final attempt of the day, Barnes left it all on the field. Winding up, he knew he had to put everything he had into the throw to crack the top five. When the measurement was recorded, even Barnes was shocked, as his throw was launched 180-06, a new personal best by 20 feet.

“Good question. Wish I knew how to be honest,” Barnes said about how he pulled out a season-best throw in his final throw. “My last throw I just said, ‘Let’s go all out and whatever happens, I just trusted God and my training.’

“The trust worked as Barnes’ 180-06 was good for fourth place overall, making him an All-American. He also competed in the shot put field event on Saturday where he took fifth overall with a 16.58 meter throw, which surpassed his personal best by half a meter.

“This is my second year throwing the disc also so I wanted that same success … I picked Juco because of the coach made me,” Barnes is glad he was ‘forced’ into the event, as he now has two all-American medals in just his freshman season (he also collected a medal in the shot put at indoor state, taking sixth place overall). Things are going well for Barnes now, but had it not been for Andrew Troxel pushing him to that next level at Fort Madison High School, he might not be where he is today.

After getting second to last place in the shot put at state his junior year, Barnes finally got a taste of what it would take to make the leap to the next level and come back for a medal his senior season. That’s where his coach’s came in.

“I hit the weights hard and just trained all summer,” Barnes said about what he did to prepare for his senior season. “I added a bunch of weight to my maxes too. I give credit to that to Coach (Derek) Doherty and Coach Troxel.

“Troxel had a major influence on Barnes and his progression as a man and an athlete, but he wasn’t the only one.

“I would never be where I am without my family,” Barnes said. “They are the best support group anyone could have. They’ve helped me with everything from little league baseball till’ now. I know how much they wanted to come down to watch me. They have always had my best interest in mind.

“And, my mom has done a fantastic job raising me by herself.”

Barnes has an opportunity to add a third medal to his college collection Saturday, as he will head back to New Mexico Junior College to compete in the shot put where he is ranked 10th coming in.

Canopy work done at FMAAAA

FORT MADISON - Those that frequent Avenue G knew that FMAAA had one of the holiest canopies downtown (and not in a religious vein). FMAAA is happy to give you shelter from the storm with a new canopy.

This project is supported, in part, by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243
The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Randolph presided with Council Members Mohrfeld, Moritz, and Cangas were absent.


On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 19-09, amending the 2019 Budget for a total of $115,115 in FY 2018/19 and also in FY 2019/20 from the Water Operations and Maintenance Fund to the General Fund for reimbursement of construction costs for the Bluff Road Bridge Replacement Project.

A motion to approve the severance of property located at 2208 - 40th Avenue H, effective 5/7/2019; Setting Public Hearing for 5/21/2019, at 5:30 P.M., on the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Amendments; April Financial Report and Payment of Claims.
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TORIAL SERVICE
91.78
LIBRARY MATERIALS ....
RECORDED BOOKS LLC,
.................................. 227.16
 .................................... 55.00
CLEFT, SNACKS
FOR TEENS ..............15.07
CLENDINENG, SNACKS
RIALS ......................232.50
PENGUIN RANDOM
.................................. 850.00
NA VIANT, SUPPORT
GY , HEATING .........267.24
MIDAMERICAN ENER-
GY, HEATING......267.24
NAVYANT, SUPPORT
.................................... 850.00
PENGUIN RANDOM
HOUSE, LIBRARY MAT-
.................................. 232.50
PETTY CASH - SARAH
CLENDINENG, SNACKS
FOR TEENS ..........15.07
QUILL CORPORATION,
OFFICE SUPPLIES
.................................. 227.16
RECORDED BOOKS LLC,
LIBRARY MATERIALS----
91.78
SERVICE MASTER, JANI-
TORIAL SERVICE
.................................. 905.10
TECHSOUP ADOB
.................................. 55.00
TOTAL ..................7,113.57
GENERAL ............6,720.76
SPECIAL REVENUE ...
.................................. 392.81
TOTAL ..................7,113.57

NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
Victim Witness Coordinator
Lee County Attorney’s Office
Keokuk and Fort Madison

Lee County Attorney’s Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim Witness Coordinator position is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney’s Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and/or their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of files/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for effective prosecution, and assist with case management.

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level degree or in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or related fields or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.
7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney’s Office computer programs.
8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
9. Ability to multi-task.
10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.
11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.
12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims and witnesses of crimes.
13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court.
14. Ability to maintain a large case load.
15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of $35,000 annually plus benefits.

For more information about duties email request to rbraden@leecounty.org or call Brian (319)470.9151.

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From the Front

Dream big, eat healthy and avoid rap

GRADS - Continued from Page 1

Catholic High School.

Pothitakis challenged her classmates to take risks in their lives that lead to greater contributions and success.

"Take mistakes in stride. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. We are young and it's our time to try new things and, making mistakes will allow us to discover who we are. Take those risks and challenge yourselves," she said.

"Fellow classmates, I encourage you today to embrace the opportunity before you and think fondly of your high school years and move forward with confidence and joy."

Scoville quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson in telling her classmates to blaze new paths yet untraveled, but never forget the relationships and support of the faculty, friends and parents forged over the past 12 years.

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail," she quoted.

"I will never forget my high school, my parents, and those that made it wonderful." She said it takes a village to raise a child, and she said Holy Trinity has been that village for her and her classmates.

"Our hard work and dedication have finally paid off. We have arrived," she said.

Mohrfeld gave the students 15 challenges including staying healthy, avoiding rap - the music...and the sandwiches.

He cautioned them on the vices of life, but encouraged them to live and dream.

"Have a beer with your best friend, but don't ever make beer your best friend. The number one way to an unhappy life is through addiction and dependence," he said.

"But dream big. Dream like Steve Jobs...dream big. Dream of things you want to be part of. If you want to dig ditches, dream of digging a great ditch, because there is no dream any less important than any other dream."

He said take small steps toward the big dream. But he said don't be afraid to fail.

"People will tell you to be a success, I'm going to tell you to fail. If you're going to achieve big, you have to fail. Fail early, fail often and get back to work."
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