



# Pen City Current

Wed., Nov. 21, 2018 | 13 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 264

## Prepping for dinner



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Families and volunteers work to shred up bread to be used in the stuffing for Thursday's annual Fort Madison Thanksgiving Dinner at the Fort Madison High School. Volunteers made dinner rolls, prepped turkeys, made jello desserts, and prepped the stuffing on Tuesday night. The dinner takes place on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delivered meals start at 10:30 a.m.

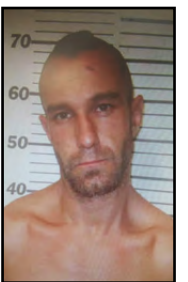
## Swanson Jr. facing charges including attempted murder

*Shooting suspect being held in Lee County Jail on \$100,000 cash-only bond*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Police are charging a 30-year-old Fort Madison man with attempted murder and two other charges stemming from a shooting Saturday in the city.

Police captured Gary Swanson Jr., at around 4:15 p.m. Monday in the 600 block of 26th Street after a police officer, who was on his way home after a shift, spotted Swanson. Police had been asking the public for it's help in locating Swanson. He was sought in connection with a shooting that happened Saturday just after 7 p.m. in the 1500 block of Avenue M.



SWANSON

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.

Rhoer was treated and released. Swanson is now facing charges of attempted murder, willfull injury and a felon in possession of a firearm. All three charges are felonies with attempted murder being a class B felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison. Willfull injury is a class 3 felony in Iowa and carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The felon in possession of a firearm is a class D felony and carries with it a maximum of five years and a \$7,500 fine.

Swanson is being held at the Lee County jail on a \$100,000 cash only bond and has a Nov. 29 court appearance at 11 a.m.

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.

## New group shutter 2019 Steamboat Days

*Festival groups merge to look at year-round opportunities along the Mississippi riverfront*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - Burlington officials announced this morning that the annual Steamboat Days music festival on the riverfront in downtown Burlington is being postponed for 2019 and whether the festival

will be brought back at a future date is in question. The announcement was made as part of a larger decision to merge Burlington Steamboat Days and the American Music Festival, the non-profit arm of Steamboat Days, beginning Jan. 1, 2019. Steamboat Days 2018 Board President Amy Burkhart said Tuesday

the entire Steamboat Days festival is being postponed including the carnival portion of the event.

"The whole thing has been canceled. There are a handful of events already in the works for the summer, but it's too soon to say what a festival may look like in the future," Burkhart said.

She said a lot of the planning for how the riverfront, depot and auditorium can be used on a year-round basis has been underway for the past 11 months.

"We've got a handful of events already in the works for next summer, so don't think we're going away - we're just going to look a little different," Burkhart wrote in a release this morning.

At its November meeting, the Burlington Steamboat Days Board of Directors voted to join forces with the American Music Festival to develop entertainment programming starting in January. Collectively, the organizations will

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## Area News/Local News

# Supervisors OK county attorney staff changes

*County Attorney to change two part-time attorney positions to full-time in 2019*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Lee County will start working on transitioning two part-time county attorney spots into full-time positions beginning in 2019.

At Tuesday's regular Board of Supervisor's meeting, the board voted unanimously to move from a staff of two full-time and two part-time attorneys to four full-time attorneys.

The move had been put on the agenda last week, but



BRADEN

supervisors wanted more information on how the move would impact future budgets.

Tuesday, Lee County Attorney Ross Braden told the board that he believed he could convert the two part-time positions to full-time positions at the current salaries of the two part-time staffers.

Currently Fort Madison attorney Mio Santiago and Keokuk attorney Bruce McDonald are both the part-time attorneys in the county attorney's office. Santiago was making about \$65,000/year and McDonald received a bump in 2017 to \$81,000.

"I think I can find two very good full-time attorneys for what we are paying these two," Braden told the board. He said if there were any additional funding request next year it would not exceed \$5,000 and the money would be

for token raises for the staff to show that Lee County is a good place to work.

Braden said he would start an application process for converting Santiago's position to a full-time position. Santiago has a private firm in Fort Madison and state code doesn't allow for private practicing attorneys to serve full time for state counties.

McDonald has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31 and Braden said he has several candidates he's considering to replace McDonald and would like to have them on staff on July 1.

In an unrelated matter, the board also approved a second reading on a proposed ordinance to make excessive jake braking illegal in certain areas of the county.

Local truck driver Chris Sorrentino, who approached

See **SUPERVISORS**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Silgan lighted float is pulled in the 2017 parade. This year's Annual Lighted Christmas parade will take place beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday on Avenue G. PCC File photo.

## City readies for 2019 lighted downtown Christmas parade

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - As the streets of Fort Madison's Main Street District get ready to kick off the 2018 holiday season, many families, friends and visitors will line Avenue G on November 23rd at 6:30 p.m. the day after Thanksgiving, to witness the magnificent sight of the Annual Parade of Lights.

More than 40 completely lit floats will once again flow through downtown creating a magical Christmas experience for everyone young and old in the anticipation of Santa's arrival.

Spectators enjoying the parade will get to see many of their favorite floats that make this parade truly a

one of a kind experience in our area. Floats include a rocking horse, a merry-go-round, a fireplace with real fire, an American Flag shooting fireworks, a snowman being built, a giant snow globe, and, of course, the Lighted Parade train are just a few of the many lighted floats.

"We have converted almost all the existing floats over to LED the last couple years which has helped with maintenance needs," stated Thomas Older, 2018 Parade Chairman. "Although we may not have a new float this year, we were able to offer new sponsorships opportunities to a few existing floats with the goal to look at getting those businesses interested and

planning early for the 2019 parade and a new float idea." Volunteers are always needed. Those interested in participating, please contact the Partners office- maybe you have design ideas for a new float, welding skills to offer or the willingness to help light the floats to keep the parade going forward are always welcome.

As in the past, there will be no parking along Avenue G between 11th -13th streets all day Friday the 23rd and starting at 5 p.m. along Avenue G between 5th-11th streets. Also, every evening following the Parade of Lights, the floats will be lit and on display in Riverview Park for drive-by viewing until the first week in January.

## Tree of Love Gatherings

Lee County Health Department would like to invite you to a series of gatherings that will take place in LCHD's lobby along with our annual Tree of Love which will be making its first debut in its' new home.

These sessions are being offered to help bring people together during the holidays & to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. You are welcome to join any or all gatherings. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact  
Lee County Health Department.  
3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison (319) 372.5225

### #1: Relax

Wednesday  
December 5th  
2:00-3:00pm

Gather around the Tree of Love for:  
Relaxation & comfort skills  
Breathing techniques  
Candlelight memorial

### #2: Connect

Wednesday  
December 12th  
2:00-3:00pm

Gather around the Tree of Love for:  
Grief support with Larry Wallingford  
Share stories & pictures of loved ones

### #3: Listen

Wednesday  
December 19th  
2:00-3:00pm

Gather around the Tree of Love for:  
Share favorite songs  
Live Music by Denise Coovert  
How music heals

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LEE COUNTY BANK

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Founded in 2016



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# Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

## OBITUARIES

### CONNIE CONRAD

Connie Conrad, 73 years, formerly of West Point, Iowa died at 3:06 am Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born August 25, 1945 in Iowa, a daughter of Joseph and Louise (Mohrfeld) Menke. On June 19, 1965, she married Carl Conrad in St. Paul, Iowa.



CONRAD

Connie was a graduate of St. James High School, St. Paul. She worked several places including Menke's Lounge, Salem Stub, and the Fort Madison Community Hospital. She was a member of St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Nauvoo, Illinois. She enjoyed baking and was known for her famous fudge. She loved her family, especially her grandkids.

She is survived by two sons, Scott (Tammy) Conrad of Davenport, Iowa and Nick (Maribeth) Conrad of Mechanicsville, Virginia; one brother, Mark (Helen) Menke of Fort Madison, Iowa; five sisters: Vera Evans of Sumner, Iowa; Betty (Marvin) Merschman of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; JoAnn Landers of Las Vegas, Nevada; Cathy (Larry) Holtkamp of St. Paul, Iowa; and Mary Jo (Jim) Koller of Donnellson, Iowa; four grandchildren: Garrett (Tara) Conrad, Riley Conrad, Maxwell Conrad, and Cooper Conrad; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins; and special friend, Tom Wilken, and their dog, Benny. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, three brothers: Carl Menke, Robert "Peanuts" Menke, and David Menke; five sisters: Marcella Kempker, Doris Kempker, Floreen Fuerman, Delores Bohnenkamp, and Miriam Holtkamp.

Her family will greet friends from 4:00 - 6:00 pm Sunday, November 25, 2018 at St. James Catholic Church, St. Paul, Iowa, where a Christian Wake Service will begin at 6:00 pm Sunday evening. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 am Monday, November 26, 2018 at the church, with Reverends Apo Mpanda, Tom Szydlak and Bruce DeRammelaere as ConCelebrants. Burial will be at St. James Cemetery, St. Paul, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the Elliot Test Kitchen, contributions may be left at the church or mailed to the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, P.O. Box 247, West Point, Iowa 52656. Online condolences to the Conrad Family may be made at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home website, [www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com](http://www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America <sup>SM</sup>	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



11/19  
1 14 15 43 44  
Lucky Ball: 15



11/19 MID-DAY  
7 3 0  
11/19 EVENING  
3 1 4



11/19 MID-DAY  
0 9 7 9  
11/19 EVENING  
7 5 3 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

## OBITUARIES

### WAYNE EDWARD WHITMORE

Wayne Edward Whitmore, 75 of Montrose, IA died Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose, IA.

He was born July 10, 1943 in Keokuk, IA the son of Robert E. Lee and Vera Elizabeth Henn Whitmore.



WHITMORE

Wayne graduated from Montrose High School with the Class of 1961. He had been employed by Huffman Small Engine Repair in Ft. Madison, IA as a small engine mechanic prior to his retirement.

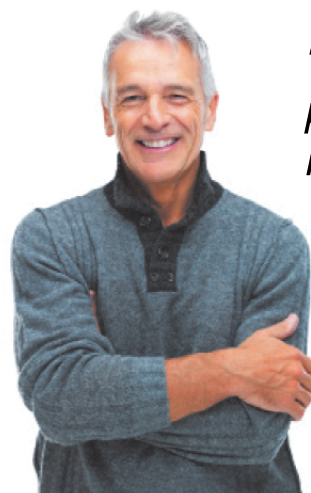
He was a member of the Montrose United Methodist Church and the NRA. Wayne was an outdoors man who loved nature. He enjoyed spending time taking walks in the woods and the animals, especially the rabbits. He liked to ride his motorcycle to various places of interest every chance he could get. Wayne also enjoyed antique tractors and steam engines at Old Threshers. Most of all, Wayne liked to visit with friends while drinking coffee at local coffee shops.

He is survived by three daughters, Julie (Brent) Dochterman of Houghton, IA and her children, Darcy Grobstich (Tony), Christine Dochterman, Kaitlyn Dochterman. Lesia Wellman of Fowler, IL and her children Amber Riley (Cody), Brooke Stratton (Nick), Cole Wellman and Kaela Wellman. Cindy (Kenneth) Matlock of Hattiesburg, MS and her son, Alex Bailey. Two great-grandchildren, Leia Riley and Raylan Riley, his brother, James Whitmore (Joann) of Montrose, IA, and one brother-in-law, Bob Arpino of Keokuk, numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Mary Arpino and one brother, Harold Whitmore.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be for family and friends from 2-4 p.m., Friday at the Montrose United Methodist Church in Montrose, IA. A private family burial will be held at the Montrose Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenemeorialhome.com](http://www.vigenemeorialhome.com).

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**CURRENT-LEE**

**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

**CURRENT-LEE**

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 Blood Drives**

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](mailto: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.

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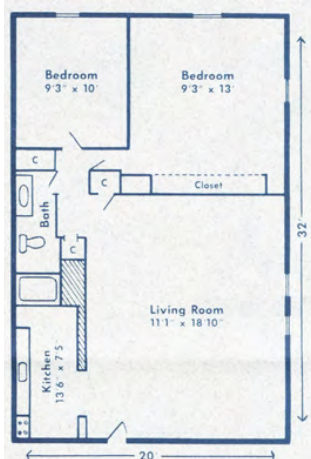
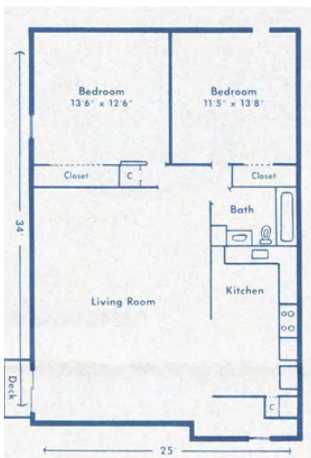
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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

*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.*



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**Sports/From the Front**

# No Burlington festival for 2019

**FESTIVAL** - Continued from Page 1

be called Burlington Riverfront Entertainment. In addition, organizers voted to postpone the traditional multi-day music festival in 2019 so that the newly-combined partnership can focus on expanding live entertainment offerings on the Burlington riverfront year-round.

The AMF was reorganized in early 2018 as part of an arrangement with the City of Burlington to operate the Memorial Auditorium, the Port of Burlington and the train depot.

Burkhart says the two organizations have been in talks since late summer looking for ways to leverage each other's strengths and focus on future entertainment offerings.

"After we got AMF up and running managing the Auditorium, Port of Burlington and the depot, we saw a lot of overlap in our two organizations which help neither of us accomplish our mission to provide quality entertainment to the community," said Burkhart. "Combining the boards clears the way for us to streamline operations, use our funds more wisely, and focus our volunteer efforts more effectively."

Burkhart said the decision to postpone the 2019 event was a strategic move.

"The live entertainment business is undergoing a lot of big changes, and venues – regardless of size – are having to adapt," continues Burkhart. "The traditional Steamboat Days music festival model that people are used to is becoming less and less viable."

The rising cost of entertainment, industry consolidation, and competing entertainment options for consumers all mean that community festivals like Burlington Steamboat Days have to adapt.

Burkhart said that organizers will use the year off to "reorganize, research and reinvent" what entertainment on the Burlington riverfront looks like in the future.

"We're not in much a different position than many other small town festivals. However where we fare much better is having a strong partner organization that has access to year-round venues and a motivated

and experienced staff.

Burkhart pointed to the Haunted Auditorium and the Big Church Night Out as recent successful events hosted by AMF.

KC Fleming, Chair of the American Music Festival, echoed Burkhart.

"With the improvements to the riverfront, and a focus on bringing the kind of entertainment the community wants to see in our downtown venues, this partnership will enable us to provide a variety of events beyond just music all year long," said Fleming. "Diversifying is good for everyone."

Burkhart added that in recent years organizers have made tweaks to the festival that showed a lot of promise. "Now instead of planning and hosting one big blow-out event every summer, we can look for ways to provide great entertainment all year long, whether that's under the stars or under a roof."

Even though Steamboat Days attendance has gone down, sponsorship support for the festival has been on the upswing for a number of years.

"There is tremendous support for our two organizations among the business community, and the City of Burlington has been a great partner as well," said Burkhart. "People believe in us and want this venture to succeed. I know we're on the right track."

Burkhart and Fleming both said that volunteers are the lifeblood of any civic organization. BSD and AMF are no different.

"It takes over 100 volunteers to host an event like Steamboat Days, and as AMF ramps up its offerings, their need for volunteers is increasing as well," said Burkhart. "Both organizations have some of the most talented and dedicated people you'll ever meet but we're always looking to bring people in to help move our organizations forward."

Burkhart invites anyone interested in volunteering to contact her at amyburkhart@titanburlington.com.

While there will not be a multi-day concert in the middle of June, Burkhart said that doesn't mean there won't be fun things to do on the riverfront.

# New jake brake code one week away from approval

**SUPERVISORS** - Cont'd from Page 2

the board last week in opposition to the ordinance, again questioned the board as to how they plan to enforce the ordinance. Sorrentino also brought up safety issues and the jake brake being a vital tool for truck drivers in different scenarios.

Braden said the ordinance drawn up allows for jake braking in emergency situations and is worded only to eliminate excessive jake braking in county neighborhoods.

Jim Noll, a resident of Clearview Heights west of Fort Madison, where the original complaint to the board began, said he wouldn't expect the drivers to not use the system when safety mandated it.

"I don't care if you use it every five minutes and lay on the horn if you have to," Noll told Sorrentino. "This is a ordinance about excessive noise, not safety."

The board said there was still one more reading that needed to be approved next week before the ordinance becomes part of the county code. Matt Pflug told Sorrentino he appreciated him coming forward because it's important that the board hear both sides.

## FMMS wrestlers win 22

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Jr. High wrestled its first meet of the year in Burlington on Monday.

Fort Madison, Washington, Mt. Pleasant, and Burlington participated in the quadrangular meet in which Fort Madison had 22 wins to only five losses on the night.

Teague Smith, Aiden Pennock, Daniel Sokolik, Brandt Booten, Ike Thacher, Tanner Settles, and Christian Vincent all went 2-0 with two pins.

Landon Rudd and Emmett Kruse went 2-0 with one fall.

Taylor High went 2-1 with 2 falls, while Hayden Woolever and Eric Millard both went 1-1. Joe Hartman also competed at the event.



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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

<b>WED 21 Nov</b>	Clear Skies High – 38.4° F   Low – 26.0° F
<b>THU 22 Nov</b>	Clear Skies High– 44.2° F   Low – 36.4° F
<b>FRI 23 Nov</b>	Light Rain High– 46.5° F   Low – 39.9° F
<b>SAT 24 Nov</b>	Light Rain High – 46.9° F   Low – 32.6° F
<b>SUN 25 Nov</b>	Light Rain High– 41.8° F   Low – 41.3° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)