



Pen City Current

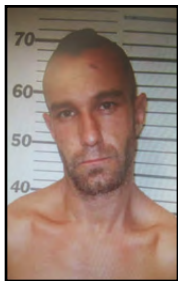
Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018 | 13 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 263

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



SWANSON, JR.

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 look out 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

See DINNER, page 8

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

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 Recreation 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.

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

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 - 6:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 11/16/18 - 9:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2800 block of Avenue K.
 11/16/18 - 11:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Cody James Helm, 29, of Kirksville, in the 1200 block of 32nd Street, on warrants for probation violation and no valid driver's license-3rd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/17/18 - 6:28 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue E.
 11/17/18 - 11:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run at the intersection of 9th Street and Avenue H.
 11/17/18 - 3:28 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue O.
 11/17/18 - 9:19 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 800 block of 17th Street.
 11/18/18 - 1:45 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1100 block of 48th Street.
 11/18/18 - 2:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Katie Kayelynn Henderson, 20, of Fort Madison at the police department on a charge of OWI-1st offense. Henderson was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/18/18 - 8:55 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of Oak Drive and Richards Drive.
 11/18/18 - 11:08 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1800 block of Avenue H.
 11/18/18 - 12:05 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3100 block of Avenue O.
 11/18/18 - 2:37 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/16/18 - 11:05 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicholas Wayne Reuther, 38, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/16/18 - 4:53 p.m. Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle/ deer accident on northbound

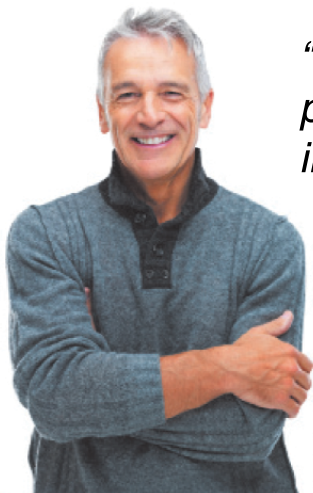
Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Teresa Ann Dearing, 69, of Fort Madison had a deer strike her vehicle at mile marker 13 and then jump and land on the windshield causing damage to the vehicle. No citations were issued and Dearing was treated for minor cuts.
 11/16/18 - 7:55 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Darin Michael Bleything, 32, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a court-ordered hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released for time served.
 11/16/18 - 9:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Terron Nikael Wilson, 23, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/16/18 - 9:32 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathaniel John Mortimer, 39, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on warrants for perjury, felony forgery and probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/16/18 - 10:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Eric Nicastrì, 27, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/17/18 - 12:58 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alan James Westermeyer, 25, of Keokuk in the 300 block of N. 5th Street in Keokuk on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and child endangerment.

He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/17/18 - 6:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of 200th Avenue and 200th Street. A vehicle driven by Riley Eugene Stewart, 17, of Donnellson, lost control on slick surfaces and slid through the intersection into the ditch. Stewart received medical treatment. No citations were reported at the scene.
 11/17/18 - 7:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryne Steven Sackman, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/17/18 - 10:37 p.m. Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2700 block of Hwy. 21, where David Elmer Keefe, 52 of Argyle, tried to make a left-hand turn through the median. Keefe was arrested on charges of OWI-2nd offense and failure to maintain control.. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.
 11/18/18 - 9:01 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarrod Ray Hagmeier, 38, of Keokuk at the sheriff's office on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/18/18 - 11:42 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1700 block of West Point Road, where a vehicle driven by Chelsea

Annette Watson, 25, of Pearl, Miss., slid around a curve and struck a fence. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.
 11/18/18 - 1:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Russell Allen Westermeyer 48, of Keokuk, no location listed, on warrants for 5th-degree theft and failure to appear. He was released on bond.
 11/18/18 - 1:36 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.
 11/18/18 - 4:52 p.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Martin Jay Stagers, 29, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/19/18 - 2:42 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Crystal Lynn Marshall, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. 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.
 11/17/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.
 11/18/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one report of smoke.

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Lotto America™	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



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 11/18 EVENING
 7 5 1



11/18 MID-DAY
 2 4 8 8
 11/18 EVENING
 0 5 9 9

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Current-Lee

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 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 Gymnasi-

um.

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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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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Great River Regional Waste Authority

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Sports/Weather

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 let down. FMHS also jumped out to a 14-9 first quarter lead with Maddie Rashid firing in nine points in the first half and 14 for the game to lead FMHS.

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' record.

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 confusion for the Lady Hounds.

The Lady Falcons sophomore Annaka Harris led all scorers with 22 points. Senior Lexy Davis and another sophomore, Sydney Marlow, each were in double figures for West Burlington with 16 and 14 points each.

Rashid led the Hounds again with nine points. Senior Jassmine Bass had seven points for Fort Madison.

Junior point guard Anna Kester is one of the few

returning players from last year's squad. Kester, who was held scoreless against West Burlington, but had seven against Centerville in the opener, said the team is playing better than last year's 1-21 season.

"We really developed a better defense this year and we've been playing better as a team. Overall, our offense is 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."

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... lot...lot. 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.

Dallas Hodges, a graduate of the Cedar Rapids Washington 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.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS 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. Sarah Bernhardt averaged just under six points and four rebounds per contest last year.

He said Keokuk and Mt. Pleasant will be strong in the conference this year and Fairfield is always athletic and reload year after year, despite losing some productive seniors to graduation last year.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 20 Nov	Clear Skies High- 27.5° F Low - 25.2° F
WED 21 Nov	Clear Skies High- 37.1° F Low - 26.8° F
THU 22 Nov	Clear Skies High- 44.3° F Low - 37.1° F
FRI 23 Nov	Moderate Rain High - 41.5° F Low - 39.6° F
SAT 24 Nov	Moderate Rain High - 36.8° F Low - 33.8° F

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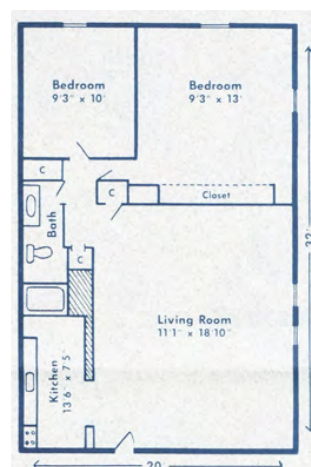
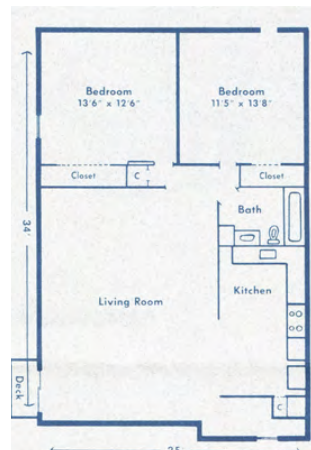
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2018-19 Boys Basketball Preview

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 Kaleb Cresswell and Treavor James-Kokjohn to graduation, but are looking to play in a Southeast 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 Burlington 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 from the floor in the first half Saturday night. He rebounded with eight points in the second half to lead the Hounds with 15 on the night.

Rashid said team chemistry is something that will help the Hounds counter the loss of Cresswell and James-Kokjohn. But he said FMHS will try to work the offense inside and out, but will still need to rely on perimeter shooting.

"I think the chemistry and gelling of the team will be a lot better, which will really help us," Rashid said.

"I think we can have success with Jayden inside, but for the last couple years we've been that better shooting

team in the conference, so we'll use that outside range when we can."

Fedler kept Fort Madison close in the first half against the Falcons with some good ball work inside and said his role will be to try and pick up the inside game for the Bloodhounds.

"I expect to carry his (James-Kokjohn's) load, not entirely because we're a different team this year. But I want to do my best to score and maybe hit some outside shots. We're a little younger and less experience with some new faces around here. I think we'll get the hang of it."

Head Coach Ryan Wilson said the Hounds will have to be able to mixup their offense to keep teams from focusing solely on the Hounds' outside abilities.

"For us to be successful, we have to get the ball inside. We've got players that can play inside and that's not just our big guys. We have guards that can go inside and play," Wilson said.

"We want to spread it around and get the ball into our posts that will open everything else up. We're long and athletic so hopefully we can attack the basket and do some different things."

With Fort Madison trailing by three 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 46-40 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 second half that only saw a combined two



WILSON

See HOOPS, page 8

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 it's 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

Sports/From the Front

Hounds hoping to make a run a conference title

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.

Doors open at FMHS at 11:30 Thursday

DINNER - Continued from Page 1

Thursday and we definitely need pies, bars, or other desserts that we can package up."

Those wishing to donate desserts can do so by bringing the pies to the school on Wednesday or Thursday morning as long as they are pre-baked and don't need to be refrigerated.

Collier said the dinner takes a lot of man hours to produce, but the event is starting to take on a life of its own, making planning easier each year.

"This is a very community-minded event from the preparation and planning to the meal. We work very closely with Fareway and Hy-Vee to get stuff ordered in a timely fashion. Hy-Vee also delivers so we don't have to worry about transporting it from the store."

She said this year many of the dry goods were ordered through the school so the committee could do some bulk purchasing and then take advantage of delivery of those products, as well.

"It's getting smoother and smoother and we learn from previous years and figure out what works and what doesn't."

The number of meals served and delivered continues to climb each year. Last year more than 900 meals were served with just about half being delivered. The other half was a mix of residents dining in and carrying out meals.

This year the Iowa State Penitentiary, in addition to providing cookies for desserts, will also be cooking the vegetables for the stuffing, which will save kitchen prep time on Wednesday.

Collier said the number of high school students volunteering to help with the event has increased yearly, as well.

"We did see an influx of students helping us this year. With the new graduation requirements at the high school, we had more students on the volunteer list, which is pretty cool."

She said volunteers will be packaging up leftovers and saving the remaining meat and bones from the turkey to be used for a community soup supper that is being planned for January, but the details on that are still in the works.

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