



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 217

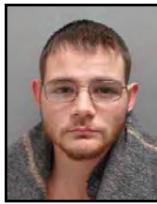
McCain dumps jury on first day

After three hours of paring jury pool to 37, McCain's team asks for a bench trial

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – Close to three hours into jury selection, 1st-degree murder suspect Adam McCain had a change of tack and decided to have his fate decided by a district judge.

McCain, 25, of Fort Madison is on trial for the stabbing death of CaLove Sackman, then 27 of Keokuk, on Febru-



MCCAIN

ary 5. His trial is being held at the South Lee County Courthouse in Keokuk.

After whittling down a jury call of 59 Lee County residents to a pool of 37 for questioning, District 8B Chief Judge Mary Ann Brown called a lunch. At 1:30 p.m. with the jurors and Lee County Attorney Jonathan Stensvaag, at the plaintiff's table, Brown called the two attorneys into chambers.

At 2:10 p.m. Brown returned without the attorneys and told the potential jurors there had been an "interesting" twist to the case.

"Court isn't always like television. It's not that exciting, but every now and then you have something interesting



BRADEN

happen and today something interesting has happened," Brown said.

She then told the jury that McCain had decided to waive his right to a jury trial and instead has asked to have a bench trial, which is a trial in front of the judge without a jury present.

She then dismissed the jury to cheers and applause because there were no other trials set for the month and the jurors were excused at 2:15 p.m.

Braden said it was an unusual turn of events.

"I was surprised, at this point, that he would waive a jury trial," Braden said.

"I don't think he liked how it was looking as far as a jury

See TRIAL, page 3

Council OKs golf carts, ATVs on city streets

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It was an emotional hour of pros and cons that led the Fort Madison City Council to finalize approval for golf carts, ATVs, and UTVs on city streets... it was also in the bag.

At Tuesday's regular meeting, the council voted as it has the past two times on the ordinance to allow the vehicles on most city streets, by a 4-3 margin.

An amendment added by councilman Bob Morawitz to allow only vehicles that are certified by the manufacturers safe for city streets was voted down by the same 4-3 margin.

Morawitz, Mark Lair, and Chad Cangas all voted against allowing the vehicles on city streets, while Councilmen Chris Greenwald, Kevin Rink, Matt Mohrfeld, and Rusty Andrews voted to approve the usage.

The city will have to publish the new ordinance and then the law will go into effect.

But depending on how the election shakes out, it could be a short-lived ordinance. City Council candidate Jerry Hamelton, who opposes Rink in the upcoming election, spoke out Tuesday against the motion, saying the majority of people don't want the

See ORDINANCE, page 4



MORAWITZ

Expect something... different with Old Fort Players' fall production

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Go in with no expectations, except that someone's expecting...and wasn't expecting.

The Old Fort Player's Fall production "What to Expect When You're Expecting Your In-laws" goes curtain up on Friday. The show will run through the weekend and the following weekend with Friday and Saturday shows at 7:30 p.m. Both Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

With Gwen and Sam expecting their first child, things go a little hay-wire in their downtown Chicago apartment, when Gwen's divorced parents both show up during a snow storm a couple weeks before the blessed event.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Frank (Jim Cole) tends to Gwen (Amanda Greenhalge) and Sam (Ty Clute) during some labor contractions on scene at the Old Fort Players rehearsal of "What to Expect When You're Expecting the In-Laws". The show takes stage starting Friday night.

Gwen, played by Amanda Greenhalge of Dallas City, and Sam, played by OFP veteran Ty Clute, who knows a little something about plowing city streets, are the

frazzled first-time parents, who not only don't know what to expect with the impending birth, but also don't know how to deal with the unexpected arrival of her parents.

Chaos ensues as Gwen's father Jack, a U.S. Senator played by Robbie Phillips, shows up with a new love interest Tatyana played by

See OFP, page 8

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For the Record/Obituaries

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/14/19 – 10:00 a.m.
 – Fort Madison Police arrested Casey Joe Wolf, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of Avenue F, on a warrant for violation of probation and escape from custody. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 10/14/19 – 1:54 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Richards Drive. 10/14/19 – 4:56 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 400 block of Avenue F. 10/14/19 – 5:00 p.m.
 – Fort Madison Police arrested Josh Norvell, 33, of Fort Madison in the 2000 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 10/14/19 – 5:20 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3900 block of Bluff Road. 10/14/19 – 8:05 p.m.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/14/19 – 12:24 a.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andrew William Brosman, 25, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Jail and a judgment warrant. He was held in custody, 10/14/19 – 1:28 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Casey Joe Wolf, 38, in the 600 block of 10th Street in Fort Madison, on a charge of escape from custody. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 10/14/19 – 1:54 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Terrone Monroe Jarrell, 65, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Concert Street on a warrant for

contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 10/14/19 – 8:05 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony J Casady, 55, of Bonaparte, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 10/14/19 – 11:21 p.m.
 – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Zachary Thomas Barnett, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for domestic assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

10/14/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to a trailer fire, three medical calls.

OBITUARIES

JOHN DALE SMITH

John Dale Smith, 78, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, October 13, 2019 at his home. He was born June 25, 1941 in Keokuk, IA the son of John Edwin and Mildred Butler Smith. Dale graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1959.



SMITH

On November 27, 1968 he was united in marriage to Donnetta "Donnie" Bowen in Carthage, IL. She survives.

Other survivors include two sons, Jay Whitaker (Molly) of Keokuk and Bryan Whitaker (Camille) of Burlington, IA, one daughter, Lissa Smith (Russell Dolter) of Keokuk, eleven grandchildren, Katelyn Bradfield (Nate), Luke Whitaker (Tessa), Madalyn Whitaker, Bryan Whitaker, Tory Raiford (Kim), Dylan Gregory, Sophie Gregory, Rebecca Snyder (Hayden Brison), Emily Snyder (Jake Turney), Helena Snyder (Ben Nelson) and Sam Snyder, six great-grandchildren, August Snyder, Jaime Brison, Eleanor Bradfield, Elias Bradfield, Hayden Raiford and Rylan Raiford, and one sister, Bonnie Hall, brother in law, Chuck Bowen (Laura) of Pekin, IL, sister in law, Gay Pease (Danny) of Camp Point, IL, two cousins, Phyllis Shively and Cindy Deney and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws, Don and Fern Bowen.

Dale was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country.

He was a truck driver for Pryor Trucking and then Sharkey Tran Inc. until he retired.

Dale enjoyed fishing, hunting, walking in the woods, reading the Bible and westerns especially Louis L'Amour books. He was a talented woodworker and made a baby cradle for his daughter. He was a very generous man and would help anyone in need. Most of all he loved being with his family.

A funeral service will be held 1 p.m. Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk. Burial with military rites will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m. Thursday with the family meeting with friends from 6 – 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to LaMoine Christian Church Camp or First Christian Church in Camp Point.

On-line condolences may be made to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



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W-2319024 11/18

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Area News/Lottery Numbers

District judge to hear case starting Wednesday

TRIAL - Continued from Page 1

pool. I was very surprised.”

Braden said it was the first time he'd experienced that at this point after starting voir dire and selecting a jury.

“People do, for different reasons, ask to have their case tried by a judge, but usually before this point,” Braden said.

The trial will now begin at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning in front of Brown.

Starting with 59 potential jurors in the morning, 14 were excused after both questioning in open court and questioning in Brown's chambers. At about 12:25 Brown was able to seat 37 jurors for questioning to get to 12 and three alternates.

Brown said the trial was expected to last until Wednesday or Thursday of next week, with a break on Monday due to other court hearings.

McCain is charged with stabbing Sackman multiple times on the night of Feb. 5 in the parking lot of River City Mall after the two had an argument, according to arrest reports.

First-degree murder is a Class A felony in Iowa punishable by life in prison without parole.

Hancock Cty. sheriff looking for stabbing details

BY PCC STAFF

HANCOCK COUNTY – On Sunday, October 13, 2019 at approximately 1:15 a.m. Hancock County Sheriff's deputies were called to North Lexington Street in Plymouth, Illinois for the report of a stabbing.

The victim, a 33 year old male, was located in the street and had been stabbed several times. He was taken to Blessing Hospital by Air Evac where he was treated and released.

This incident is still under investigation. Anyone that may have witnessed this altercation or has video pertaining to this incident, please contact the Hancock County Sheriffs Office at 217-357-2115.



Courtesy photo

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, candidate for U.S. Congress in Iowa's 2nd District, attended the October 7th meeting of the Lee County Republican Central Committee as did Iowa 42nd District Senate candidate Jeff Reichman, pictured here with Lee County Republican Chair Martin Graber.



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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



5/22
12 17 19 35 41
Lucky Ball: 9



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10/14 EVENING
5 2 1



10/14 MID-DAY
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10/14 EVENING
7 2 2 4

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Pen City Current
Founded in 2016



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From the Front

Residents give passionate plea to stop ordinance

ORDINANCE - Continued from Page 1

ordinance passed.

A Pen City Current poll of Facebook followers had close to 1,200 responses with 64% of them indicating they opposed the move.

Mayoral candidate Joe Helmick, who opposes Matt Mohrfeld, also spoke in opposition to the new ordinance.

The most emotional plea came from Julie Vorhies who told the council that the safety of the community is paramount.

“Safety is not negotiable,” she told the council. “It’s more important because it’s fun, or cool, or for the sale of golf carts.”

She directed her comments at Chris Greenwald who said, into the record, he wasn’t going to be selling



MOHRFELD

golf carts.

Mayor Brad Randolph cut the discussion short and told Vorhies it was improper for her to bring unfounded accusations to the council and directed her away from the comments.

Jim Posz brought up how the specifications of golf carts make them unsafe.

“Who says that golf carts don’t belong on streets? One answer – the companies that make them,” Posz said.

Posz said he made a copy of the owners’ manual of EZ GO Golf carts and recited the manual that said the vehicles were designed and manufactured for off-road use.

“*The manufacturers say they don’t belong on the streets, but we say we’re gonna do it anyway. And we’re gonna say we don’t care what the people think.*”

-Bob Morawitz
Fort Madison City Councilman

“They DO NOT, and that’s all caps, DO NOT conform to federal motor vehicle safety standards of the United States of America and are not equipped for operation on public streets.”

He also said brakes on golf carts are mechanical brakes on the back two wheels and don’t stop as well as other vehicles.

“Go back here up 8th Street between C and D, how well can you stop if you only have brakes on two wheels. It’s hard enough when you have brakes on all four. Try Sunnyside, that’ll be an adventure,” he said.

Vorhies also presented a petition to Mayor Brad Randolph with 668 signatures. Randolph asked if Vorhies knew the percentages of city voters and county voters who signed the petition, which Vorhies did not.

“That would be an important thing to bring to the council, because these councilman only represent those people in their wards, not those in the county.”

After Morawitz offered his amendment, about 10 people spoke to the council in opposition to the ordinance. No one spoke on behalf of the measure.

Morawitz said he didn’t have a preference either way as far as having the vehicles on the streets, but said he couldn’t vote to allow them when the manufacturers and the majority of residents didn’t want them on the streets.

“The manufacturers say they don’t belong on the streets, but we say we’re gonna do it anyway. And we’re gonna say we don’t care what the people think,” he said throwing his arms into the air.

Mohrfeld, who has spearheaded the effort to get the new law on the books, said city streets are recreational roads and that should be included in the conversation.

The vehicles must be registered with the county and the state and must be operated by motorists 18 years of age and older. Business 61, 18th Street, and 15th Streets are not permitted streets for usage unless crossing perpendicular.

A full copy of the ordinance will be released by the city this week to news outlets.

No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please **DO NOT** put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2019
6:00 P.M.
Finance:
AGENDA**

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents
- IV. Monthly communications
 - A. Student Rep Report – Daisy Meierotto
 - B. Curriculum Corner - Todd Dirth and Melissa Helt, Middle School PACK
 - C. "Did You Know?"
 - D. Superintendent Goal Report-Four Essentials for a Team Meeting video:Casandra Erkins
 - E. District Presentations
 - FMCSO Website Tour - Sebastian Seifert
 - V. Approve the agenda
 - VI. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes
 - 1. September 16, 2019 Regular Meeting
 - 2. October 7, 2019 Work Session
- B. Financial reports
 - 1. September Balance Sheet
 - 2. September Revenue Summary
 - 3. Expenditure Report
 - 4. Student Activity Report
- C. Accounts payable
 - 1. September General Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
 - 2. October General Account Board Bills for Approval
 - 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
 - 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval
- D. Consider personnel resignations
 - 1. Kayla Danek-Talbot, associate at Richardson
 - 2. Penny Wilson, secretary at the middle school
 - 3. Joseph Danek-Talbot, bus driver
- E. Consider employment of personnel
 - 1. Deana Newby, custodi-

- an at Richardson
 - 2. Clara Watts, custodian at Richardson
 - 3. Amy Gruntmeir, technology support at the high school
 - 4. Kay Diton, food service at the high school
 - 5. Jacob Heidbreder, building maintenance mechanic
- F. Consider contract modifications
 - 1. G. Consider leave of absence
 - H. Consider open enrollment requests
- I. Other reports
 - 1. Director moved and director seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
- VII. Action Items
 - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
 - 1. Superintendent – Erin Slater
 - 1. Consider approval of policy changes
 - 201 - Board of Directors' Elections
 - 202.3 - Term of Office
 - 202.4 - Vacancies
 - 203 - Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest
 - 210.2 - Board Meeting Procedure

- 501.5 - Attendance Areas
 - 2. Consider approval of lane changes
 - 3. Activity and athletic fundraisers Activity and athletic fundraisers
 - 4. Travel request from Greg Smith for the high school Guiding Coalition team to attend RTI training in Madison, Wisconsin from December 2-5, 2019
 - 5. Travel request from Bonnie Slee to attend the National Association of Agricultural Educators in Anaheim, California from December 3-6, 2019
- C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
 - 1. Annual Transportation Report
 - 2. Food Service Update
- VIII. Discussion Items
 - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
 - 1. Fall Data Report
 - 2. Statewide Assessment Comparison
 - 3. Official Enrollment
 - B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
 - 1. Consider policy changes
- 204 - Code of Ethics **Same as IASB Option #2**
- 205 - Board Member Liability **Same as IASB**
- 206.1 - President **Same as IASB**
- 206.2 - Vice-President **Minor Changes**

- 206.3 - Selection of the Board Secretary/Business Manager **Delete/Adopt IASB Option #2**
- 206.4 - Business Manager/Board Secretary/Treasurer **Delete/Replaced with 206.3**
 - 2. Board Plan for American Education Week (November 18-22, 2019)
 - 3. Schedule building instructional tour
 - 4. School Improvement Needs Assessment
 - 5. Certified Employee Attendance
 - 6. Board Member Attendance
- C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
 - 1. IX. Comments from the audience
 - X. Legislative update
 - XI. Announcements
 - November 4, 2019 6:00 PM - Work Session, Board Room, Central Office
 - November 5, 2019 - Board Elections

November 18, 2019 6:00 PM - Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
November 20-21, 2019 - IASB Annual Convention
XII. Adjourn

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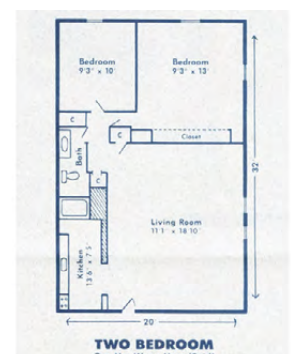
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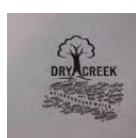
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Darwin Bunger
Attorney At Law

Saunders/ Bunger
An Association of Sole Practitioners

610 Eighth St., Suite A, Fort Madison, IA 52627
Ph: 319-372-2100/ Fax: 319-372-2200

320 N. 3rd Floor 6, PO Box 223, Burlington, IA 52601
Ph: 319-671-7187
DB.Esquire@outlook.com

Visit: www.darwinbungerlaw.com for more info.



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OFP's fall play runs next two weekends

OFP - Continued from Page 1

newcomer Jadi Lynn Zioui, who lurks from dialogue to dialogue in short Serbian dialect.

On scene to "help" with her daughter needs is Gwen's mom Amanda, played by OFP alum Sherry Stice. Amanda has to deal with the her ex-husband's obnoxious demeanor, her son-in-law's stress, the daughter's upcoming delivery, and Tatyana's imposing presence.

With the impending weather and the possibility of being stranded in the apartment together, enter Frank, the neighborly widower, who just so happens to be a nurse practitioner. Frank is played by Jim Cole, who has 22 OFP productions under his belt, and may be... maybe....the right guy for the moment.

The irony is not lost on the characters as surely something crazy will happen when you can't get out and there's a nurse in the building.

Angela Sanford, in her second year with OFP is directing her second play. She's also the group's treasurer and social media guru. Lea Phillips is the assistant director and is married to Robbie Phillips.

Philp Insurance Agency is the executive producer, Jazmyne Phillips is the stage manager, Amy Perez handles the hair and makeup, and Clay Steele and Clute handle sound and lights, and did set construction with Jan Jud.

Be ready for this one, because when you least expect it....

Tickets are still available by calling the playhouse located at 725 Avenue G in Fort Madison at 372-9559, or visiting the website at www.oldfortplayers.com.

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SAT 19 Oct Clear Skies
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