



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 272

Trial in death of Muscatine woman begins

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The trial of a 28-year-old Morning Sun man who's accused of leaving the scene of the accident where his girlfriend was killed got underway Tuesday morning with jury selection.

Damian Hamann, 28, of Morning Sun, is charged with leaving the scene of an accident that resulted in the death of Sadie Alvarado, 20, of Muscatine. Alvarado's body was discovered along a ditch southwest of West Point on the morning of Aug. 5. Hamann turned himself into the Lee County Sheriff's office that same evening and was released the next day on a pretrial



HAMANN

release. Leaving the scene of a death accident is a class D felony in Iowa. Class D felonies carry a maximum five-year prison sentence and a \$75,000 fine.

Jury selection began shortly after 9 a.m. when Assistant Lee County Attorney Bruce McDonald questioned a pool of 27 potential jurors on whether they would be able to be objective in the case.

McDonald told the potential jurors that the state wasn't providing evidence that Hamann had anything to do with Alvarado's death, but violated the law when he left the scene of the accident without checking on her welfare after she jumped from his vehicle following

a night at the Lee County races.

"By law, he had a duty to stop. Anyone who thinks they can't hold him accountable for that, I wanna know right now."

Keokuk attorney Curt Dial asked the pool if they understood the difference of criminal cases' requirement of "beyond reasonable doubt" and a civil burden of "the preponderance of evidence".

He also told the jury pool that the state was burdened with proving all aspects of the case beyond a reasonable doubt.

After about two hours of questioning the potential

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OFP rolls out "Making God Laugh" this weekend

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Old Fort Playhouse is kicking off its December production of "Making God Laugh" this Friday with a look at three decades of a family trying to find its identity inside and outside of the family circle.

The cast includes OFP veterans Jim Cole, Shelley Dowling, Ty Clute, Richar Abel, and Michael Randolph.

Cole and Dowling play Bill and Ruthie, the aging parents of Richard, Maddie, and Thomas. And the story is set around three decades of holidays starting in 1980 where empty nesting Bill and Ruthie try to help navigate the personal lives of their children, with or without the blessings.

Dowling plays the meddling, but affable matriarch, whose ideas of her children's paths run perpendicular to their aspirations as Cole's Bill tries to play the intermediary.

Bill is the one who tries to keep everything on track but has trouble putting his foot down. But his love for his wife and his children keeps a smile on his face.

Clute's Richard, or Richy, or Rick, depending on what decade you're in, puts his life and humor in your face



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

One of the traditions of Ruthie's and Bill's family is the holiday picture. Above, 'Bill' (Jim Cole) readies the camera for the 1980 Thanksgiving family photo as part of OFP's Making God Laugh debuting this weekend at the Old Fort Playhouse. At left, 'Richie' (Ty Clute) bangs out a bongo poem about his life for the family.



much like the hip pack he carries around his waste. Clute is the current president of the OFP board and made his debut five years ago when he stole the show in "It's a Wonderful Life".

Abel's Maddie is the daughter ne'er-do-well to Ruthie. Abel has been with OFP for more than six years and has been in several plays including "The Dividing Tree" and

"Opal's Baby". Abel also supervises the Youth Summer Theater program. Probably the smartest character on the stage, she regularly will give quirky acquiesce to her family, while holding down a steady job, but keeping her family at arms length in her personal life.

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

ROGER A. PLOECKELMANN



PLOECKELMANN

Roger A. Ploeckelmann, 80, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:21 a.m. on Monday, December 3, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City. He was born on July 6, 1938 in Milwaukee, WI to Fred & Esther Bauch Ploeckelmann. He graduated from Shawno High School in Shawno, WI in 1956. He signed up for the National Guard in the 32nd Division and was trained to be an MP at Fort Gordon, GA. He was called up for active duty at the beginning of the Vietnam War and was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA. Although he never went to Vietnam, he was used to guard the planes with morphine for soldiers. He was a carpet layer and later retired from Scottdel Carpet Cushion Company as a salesman. He met Carole Elizabeth Azinger on July 7, 1960 and they were married on January 28, 1961 in Milwaukee, WI.



Roger is survived by: his wife: Carole of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Tami (Joe) Sanchez of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Bret Ploeckelmann of Kewaunee, WI; 3-grandchildren: Nicholas, Joshua & Shelby; 4-great granddaughters: Aniah, Arijannah, Zeria & Aurora; 1-brother: Glenn Ploeckelmann of Lusk, FL & several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 3-brothers: Lloyd, Floyd & Kenneth & 3-sisters: Beatrice, Alice & Gladys.

The family will meet with friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 8, 2018 with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. at the First Lutheran Church in Keokuk, IA with Rev. Rodney Underwood officiating. Burial will follow at Sandusky Cemetery. A memorial has been established for First Lutheran Church or Sandusky Cemetery. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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.

DuPont employees kick in \$30K for United Way campaign

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Every year DuPont kicks off their United Way Campaign with a Silent Auction and Campaign meetings in addition to employee and company pledges. This was a great year with 96% employee participation

and raising a total of \$30,297.14 for the 2019 United Way of the Great River Region Campaign.

DuPont's campaign coordinator gives credit to the amazing employees that work at DuPont giving back to their community in the success of their campaign.



Courtesy photo

Pictured from left to right are: Tammy Hudson, RSVP of Lee County Program Director Julie Schilling, United Way Board Member Sue Prochazka, United Way Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Workman, DuPont Administrative Assistant & Campaign Coordinator Brett Workman, DuPont Specialty Engineer Karen Thie, United Way Executive Director Dena Mast, United Way Board Member Rob Nall, Chemist & Quality Manager John Hellige, DuPont Plant Manager Jason Vallone, DuPont Quality Engineer Cindy White, DuPont Supply Chain Consultant Larry Merschman, DuPont Maintenance Manager

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Holidays.*



Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, December 23 through Tuesday, January 1. Our special 2018 Recap editions will publish Wednesday, January 2 through Tuesday, January 8. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

*As we enjoy the holidays with family and friends,
we thank you for your support and patronage and
wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*



**Got a news tip?
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We recognize that the holidays can be a difficult time for families after the loss of a loved one; our desire is to continue our service to you at this time of year by inviting you to attend a Holiday Service of Remembrance, which will be held on:

**Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson**

If you are unable to attend this service, a Holiday Open House will be held at the following locations

**Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington
Thursday, December 6, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.**

**Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point
Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

As the holiday season approaches, we would like for you to know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. With each funeral service that we conduct, we feel as if within a few days we become a part of your family and you of ours. In appreciation of the trust you have placed in us, a Christmas ornament will be available to you at the Service of Remembrance or the Open Houses. We hope you find peace during this season.

Sincerely - Brian Schmitz, Mitch Beals, Wendy Vonderhaar, Jan Loges, Emma Dravis, Cody Warth, Dave Dingman, John King & Lyndsey Schmitz

Sample of the ornament you will receive



One letter is being sent to each family. Please feel free to forward this invitation on to other family & relatives. All are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend, please contact us to make arrangements to receive your holiday ornament engraved with your loved one's name. (Additional ornaments may be purchased at \$20 per ornament)

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Sports

HTC girls get win over struggling Lady Tigers

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Junior Ashlynn Haas hit four 3-pointers in a row in a two-minute stretch over the third and fourth quarter to lead Holy Trinity to a 58-28 win over New London Tuesday night at home in Southeast Superconference girls basketball action.

The Lady Tigers dressed just seven girls and have gone 0-4 on the season, but got the Crusaders into a funk of sorts in the first half. Holy Trinity shot a dismal 4-18 in the first quarter and at one point post Emily Box missed two shots under the basket on a steal and fast break, rebounded the two shots and missed a third.

Box would regroup to score 16 points on the night. Senior Eryn Anderson was also in double figures with 10. Mya Lawlor and Taylor Boeding each had six for the Crusaders and Katie Denning scored two.

Holy Trinity jumped out to a 8-2 first quarter lead on a couple of free throws from Box, but New London would get back-to-back buckets from Kara Krieger to cut the lead to four at the end of the first period.

The Lady Crusaders were able to open things up in the second quarter, however. After the Tigers' Alisha Boles scored in transition off a press to make it 10-8, Holy Trinity would rip off a 16-1 run highlighted by three straight driving buckets from senior Mya Lawlor. Boeding and Haas each had assists across the lane to get Lawlor the open looks. At 20-9 the Crusaders would miss their next four shots in a row, but New London couldn't come up with any points on their end to take advantage of the HTC's shooting woes.

Anderson would complete a 3-point

play after getting fouled by Krieger on drive. Boeding would score in a fast break off a bounce feed from Haas to take a 26-9 lead. The Tiger's Layney Loyd would convert a bucket with about :30 left in the half and the Anderson would score again just before the buzzer to give HTC at 28-11 lead going into the lockerroom.

Head Coach Tony Johnson said his girls came in a bit overconfident.

"They just woke up I guess. I think sometimes you see another team that you've beaten in the past and you see six or seven girls dressed and you get a little overconfident," Johnson said. "We didn't have a very good practice last night, but we will correct that tomorrow night."

HTC struggles from the field continued in the third period when the Crusaders missed four of their first six after Boeding scored inside to start the period. Box scored a couple buckets off rebounds and then Krieger nailed a 3-pointer to make it 35-16.

With 1:44 left, Haas got hot from the left side of the arc hitting two long balls out from the left sandwiched around a Box bucket inside. Haas hit again from the left baseline just before the end of the quarter to give the Crusaders a comfortable 44-16 lead. Haas hit again from the right side this time to open the final period for Holy Trinity, and Johnson started subbing liberally.

"Ashlynn in the second half carried us a bit. After halftime, I gave her the point. She can get up a little quicker and still run the offense."

The Crusaders are 3-2 on the season and travel to Burlington Notre-Dame on Friday night. The Nikes are 1-1 on the season, not including Tuesday's game against Danville.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Holy Trinity junior Ashlynn Haas gets mugged driving the basket in the second half of Tuesday's 58-28 win over New London. Haas finished with 18 points to lead the Crusaders.



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Old Fort Genealogical meeting

Father Mark Spring will be the featured speaker at the Old Fort Genealogical Society meeting on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library. Father Spring will share his own life story. The meeting is open to the public. Anyone interested in learning more about family history research is welcome to attend and should speak to any member about joining the group.

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; Dec. 7 at FMHS from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dec. 8 at Cultural Hall-2193 Old Denmark Road from 8-10:30 a.m.

Tree of Love Gatherings

The Lee County Health Department is hosting a series of gatherings to help with holiday healing after a loss. The events are on Wednesday Dec. 5, 12, and 19th from 2 to 3 p.m. at 3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison.

You-Time Yuletide

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Business Women Connect will hold a You-Time, Yuletide at Harvestville Farm at 1977 Hwy 2 near Donnellson. The event will be held on Dec. 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. will feature hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fund. RSVP to the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Journaling Workshop

The Fort Madison Public Library will be hosting a journaling workshop on Dec. 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

Downtown Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison downtown Enchanted Forest will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G on Dec. 8, 15, and 22, with visits with Santa from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded. December's BINGO games will be held Wednesday, December 12.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

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. The next luncheon will be held January 22, 2019 due to the Christmas holiday. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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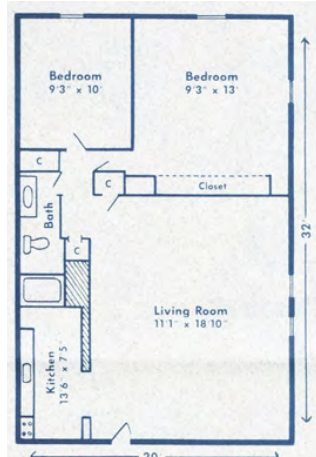
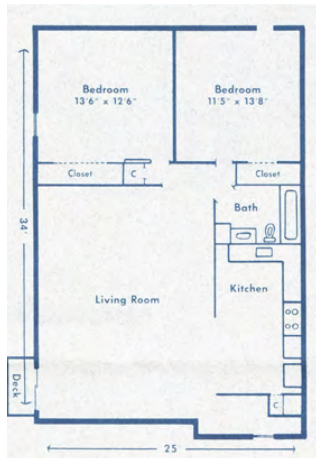
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Sports/Lottery Numbers

Fort Madison boys smothered by West Hancock

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A smothering West Hancock defense kept Fort Madison out of any rhythm and spurred a 40-69 Bloodhound loss in boys non-conference basketball action Tuesday night.

The Hounds looked to make a game of it early on after spotting the Titans a 4-0 early first quarter lead. Hounds senior Logan Rashid converted on a 3-pointer from the right baseline to get Fort Madison on the board. West Hancock committed a turnover in the next possession and Fort Madison was able to get the ball inside to junior Jayden Fedler on what would turn out to be a rare occasion, to take a 5-4 lead.

Drake Hammel would convert for the Titans to take a 6-5 lead and then he would convert two free throws after getting fouled by Dayton Davis after a Hound turnover to stretch the lead to 8-5. On Fort Madison's next possession Davis would slide the ball down to an open Rashid again on the right side who would hit again to tie it up at 8. Rashid would finish with a team high 22 points on the night.

Hammel would score again inside to give West Hancock a 10-8 lead and Rashid, again would counter this time off the dribble in the lane to tie it up at 10, but that would be the last time the Hounds would be in the game.

West Hancock went on an 8-0 run to end the quarter and would race out to a 36-13 first half advantage with Fort Madison only scoring on a Brandon Keester 3-ball from the left elbow in the second quarter.

The Titans ran a smothering switching man defensive scheme that resulted in just about every Hound being double teamed on the perimeter and postman Lucas Dorethy keeping Fedler and Jordyn Gerdes in check most of the night, making it difficult for the Hounds to get any consistency going on offense.

After a halftime, where the Hounds came out of the lockerroom with just :45 seconds left in the break, the Hounds jumped out on a 7-0 run capped by a Parker Denning bucket that forced Titan head coach Reno Pinkston to call for a stop in the action with the Hounds trailing by 16.

Caleb Sinele stopped the bleeding with running shot inside the lane and then Fort Madison, which committed 12 turnovers in the first half committed another error before Davis pumped in a shot from the middle of the lane that bounced around before falling in. West Hancock's Drew Martin would hit from the left baseline on the next trip down for a 3-ball and Rashid would counter with a 3-pointer to make it 25-41. And then West Hancock would put together another run snuffing out any hopes of a Bloodhound comeback.

Hammel would hit a three pointer after the Titan had reeled off an 13-0 run to set the Titans up by 30 58-28 and Pinkston brought in the second team. Fort Madison would put up 12 more points to West Hancock's 11 with both teams reserves on the court.

Fedler would end the game with six points and Keester would finish with five for



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS senior Logan Rashid drives on West Hancock's Drew Martens in the first quarter of Tuesday's 69-40 loss to the visitors from Illinois. Rashid would finish with a team-high 22 points in the loss.

Fort Madison. Davis and Parker Denning would each finish with three points, Miles Dear would have two points and Michael Mosena would chip in with a free throw.

Hammel would finish with a game high 24 points and Dorethy had 15 for West Hancock.

Fort Madison falls to 1-3 on the season and travel to Centerville on Saturday night.



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3 9 2
12/3 EVENING
8 2 5



12/3 MID-DAY
8 5 5 3
12/3 EVENING
3 7 5 3

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

From the Front/Weather

Keokuk's Dial to make defense's case Wednesday

TRIAL - Continued from Page 1

jurors, a pool of 13 was selected and opening statements were made.

During his opening statement, Dial said a lot of the information in the case isn't disputed.

"A lot of what you will hear is not in dispute," Dial told the jury. "Damian did not stop after she jumped out and he went home."

But Dial said Hamann texted a friend after Alvarado jumped from the vehicle and said the two had a fight and she would probably be walking back to his house.

"It's his duty to stop if he knew she was injured. But he didn't know that she was injured and he didn't know that she had died. He believed she was fine and would be walking back to his friend's house."

Dial said the state is in possession of text messages from Hamann's phone to a friend who lived in the area

that show he was unaware of any of the consequences of Alvarado jumping from the moving vehicle.

McDonald said testimony will show that Hamann and Alvarado were at the races the night before the early morning incident and were on their way back to Morning Sun when the woman was angry and jumped from the moving vehicle.

He said evidence will also show that she died from a blunt force trauma to her head as a result of jumping from the truck and that Hamann didn't stop and didn't go back to check and see if Alvarado was all right.

"He took off," McDonald said.

The state will begin presenting its case Tuesday afternoon in front of District Judge Michael Schilling. The trial is expected to last two to three days including deliberations.

Curtain goes up Friday at 7:30 in Fort Madison

PLAYHOUSE - Continued from Page 1

Thomas is played by Randolph, who's appeared in "A Lion in Winter" and "Natalie Needs a Nightie". He also was involved in the Fort Madison High School drama department productions. Thomas portrays a Catholic priest whose future leads to an unexpected destination.

The play takes up with the children out of the home and frequently making trips back for holidays where banter and mayhem are as common as the celebratory wine and "dip" and all is taken with a grain of salt.

The shows run Dec. 7-9 and 14-16 with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets can be purchased at Old Fort Players at 319-372-9559 or on the website at www.oldfortplayers.com. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children. Refreshments for each show are also available.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

- WED 05 Dec** Clear Skies
High- 32.6° F | Low - 24.4° F
- THU 06 Dec** Light Snow
High- 22.8° F | Low - 10.9° F
- FRI 07 Dec** Clear Skies
High- 15.8° F | Low - 8.7° F
- SAT 08 Dec** Light Snow
High- 19.0° F | Low - 18.5° F
- SUN 09 Dec** Snow
High- 20.8° F | Low - 5.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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