



# Pen City Current

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## McCain will spend life in prison

*Judge says crime was willful, premeditated, and deliberate*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – Twenty-five year old Adam Golden McCain of Fort Madison will spend the rest of his life in prison.

That was the order of District 8B Judge Mary Ann Brown at about 1:20 p.m. in front of about 65 people and media on the second floor of the South Lee County Courthouse Thursday afternoon.



MCCAIN

Brown convicted McCain of first-degree murder in the death of 27-year-old CaLove Sackman, a mother of four including the two-year-old Willow, whom she had with McCain.

McCain was convicted of stabbing Sackman multiple times after 10 p.m. Feb. 5. Testimony in the two-day bench trial showed McCain stabbed Sackman while in his white Monte Carlo after the two engaged in an argument.

Sackman tried to jump from the vehicle but was pulled back in and stabbed in the left chest. Sackman was then able to get out of the vehicle but McCain

pulled his car around to where she was in the River City Mall parking lot and stabbed her several more times before trying to hit her with his car as she pulled herself onto the sidewalk north of the parking lot.

“His own words are that he despised her and he wanted her dead and if she was dead she would no longer harm him or any other man,” Brown said in her conclusion.

“The nature of the crime itself is significant evidence of the deliberation and premeditation involved.”

See **GUILTY**, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

An unidentified Fort Madison firefighter drags a hose to the north side of the garage that's fully engulfed Thursday morning at about 3:10 a.m. No cause of the fire has been determined, but the garage was a total loss.

### Early morning fire destroys garage, damages another

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – An early fire broke out at about 3 a.m Thursday morning in the 600 block of Avenue E destroying a garage.

Firefighters were called to the alley behind 606 Avenue E to find the structure fully engulfed and had the blaze under control in a matter of minutes. Flames began to catch the neighboring garage to the east on

fire, but firefighters quickly had that under control.

Witnesses at the scene said someone had been living in the structure up to about a week ago, but had since been told to leave the property.

The property is listed as owned by Michael S. Carter.

No one was reported injured at the scene. Assisting at the scene were the Fort Madison Police Department and Lee County EMS.

## HTC's Hellige makes return trip to Fort Dodge

*Senior making third trip to state cross country meet*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

IOWA CITY – Holy Trinity Catholic Cross Country Coach Matt Mohrfeld watched his Crusaders go by off the start and then turned and predicted senior Matt Hellige would finish sixth and qualify for state his third and final year.

The prediction was very close as Hellige took 5th place overall at one of the four Class 1A state qualifying meet at Kicker's Park in Iowa City Thursday evening.

Hellige who was running fourth through the first mile and a half of the 3.2 mile run, slipped to fifth coming up a hill starting lap two, but held the pace to finish at 17.31.01.

Calamus Wheatland's Chase Knoche won the event with a 16:53.81 a full 26 seconds ahead of the pack. Pekin's Colton Glosser and Blake Millikin were second and third at 17:20.29 and 17:20.95. Wilton's Zach Hein was fourth at 17:21.62.



HELIGE

See **STATE**, page 7

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## Obituaries/Local News

### Thursday crash sends one to hospital

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - On 10/24/19 at 10:33AM, the Fort Madison Police Department was dispatched to a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of 48th Street and Avenue O.

The crash involved a white 2004 Mercury Grand Marquis, driven by Gloria Jean Ruis (72) of Ft. Madison IA, and a white GMC van, operated by John Winfield Gram (52), of Burlington IA.

Ruis, who was initially traveling eastbound on Avenue O, was reportedly attempting to turn north on 48th Street, while Gram was travelling west bound on Avenue O. Ruis turned into the path of Gram causing the two vehicles to collide head-on.

Both vehicles sustained major damage as a result of the accident and were towed from the scene. Ruis was taken by ambulance to the Fort Madison Community Hospital with minor injuries. The Fort Madison Fire Department and Public Works Department assisted at the scene.

As a result, Gloria Jean Ruis was cited for failure to yield on a left turn.



Photo courtesy of Fort Madison Police

A two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 48th Street and Avenue O snarled traffic on the city's west end for about 45 minutes Thursday morning. One person was taken to the hospital with minor injuries and one citation was issued.

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

10/23/19 – 1:27 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1400 block of 34th Street.  
10/23/19 – 6:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Shawn Ryan Myers, 36, of Fort

Madison in the 1600 block of Avenue F, on a charge of driving while suspended. He was released upon citation.  
10/24/19 – 5:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue F.

10/24/19 – 7:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Avenue F.  
10/24/19 – 8:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue B.

**Lee County Sheriff's Report**  
10/23/19 – 10:30 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Leroy Bernard, 30, of Donnellson, in the

2400 block of Hwy. 2 in Donnellson on a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
10/23/19 – 5:09 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dakota Lee Kay, 28, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

### OBITUARIES

## DANIEL HAWKINS

Daniel Hawkins 68, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 4:23 AM at the Donnellson Health Center.



HAWKINS

He was born on June 7, 1951 in Ft. Madison to Bert and Wanda Stansbery Hawkins. Daniel was a heavy machine operator. He enjoyed fishing and NASCAR. In his early years Dan worked at the Yellow Rose Saloon in Lomax, IL and the Crystal Lake Club in Carman, IL.

Survivors include his son, Tyler (Mary Zippe) French of Burlington; two grandchildren, Ezra and Indigo French; his parents, Bert and Wanda Hawkins of Bonita Springs, FL; two brothers, Dennis Hawkins of Burlington and David Hawkins of Florida. He was preceded in death by a brother, Darin and his grandparents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory. There will be no formal services at this time. Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time 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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## Pen City Current

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**From the Front/Sports**

# Judge lets family to speak prior to sentencing

**GUILTY** - Continued from Page 1

After describing the crime and the injuries, including the defensive wounds on Sackman's hands, coupled with the fact that McCain drove around to attack Sackman again, Brown said McCain knew what he was doing and had forethought.

"His behavior and statements earlier in the evening indicate that he was a man on a mission. He was bound and determined to come see and confront CaLove in Keokuk that evening," Brown said.

Brown also said the fact that McCain drove in an ice storm from Fort Madison and Keokuk points to remediation.

"All this circumstantial evidence leads to a reasonable conclusion that the defendant planned to meet CaLove to make her pay for how, in his mind, she wronged him," Brown said.

"The state has proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant's actions in stabbing CaLove, causing her death, were willfully, premeditatedly, and deliberately done. Based upon that the court renders a verdict finding the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree," Brown said.

McCain, seated at the defense table clad in red Lee County Jail fatigues, nodded his head three times and then looked down as seven Lee County Sheriff's deputies, including Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, stood watchful around the bar.

Brown asked the defense team if they were ready to move forward with sentencing and McCain's attorney Kendra Abfalter said they were. Then Brown asked if the Sackman family would like to make any statements prior to sentencing.

Asst. Lee County Attorney Jonathan Stensvaag met briefly with the family and then said the family would like an hour recess to prepare the statements. Brown recessed the court for one hour.

During the recess, Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, who co-prosecuted the case with Stensvaag, said McCain's penalty under the first-degree murder conviction will get life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"He'll be going to prison for the rest of his life," Braden said. "The statements are more cathartic than anything, but the court likes to give the families a chance to be heard. But there'll be no parole, he's going away for the rest of his life."

Iowa doesn't carry the death penalty, but any life sentence is required to be without the possibility of parole.

# Bloodhounds can't get out of Solon x-country qualifier

BY PCC STAFF

SOLON – Despite a year where the Bloodhound boys captured several cross-country titles with smart team running, the neither the boys or girls Bloodhounds couldn't get out of the Solon qualifier Thursday afternoon.

Sophomore Will Gager turned in the best performance for Fort Madison with a 21st-place finish at 17:44.9. Gager and junior Anthony Barnes went back and forth all year battling for the top Hound finish at meets. Barnes was just behind Gager at 25th place with an 18:02.3.

The top 15 runners at each qualifying meet qualify for state and the top 3 teams at each qualifier have all runners participate at state.

Clear Creek-Amana and Center Point-Urbana each had three of the top six runners in the event with Clear-Creek Amana winning the team competition with 41 points overall, including four of the top seven runners.

Center Point-Urbana was second with 44 points.

The other scoring runners for the boys were Hayden Wolfe who came in at 43rd and then Tate Settles and Austin Miller finished 51st and 52nd overall.

Other Hound runners competing were Alex Steffensmeier (62nd) and Ben Theile (76th).

Fort Madison finished 8th overall with 192 points.

In the girls run, sophomore Katie Dennis finished 35th overall to lead Fort Madison with a time of 21:42.2, followed by senior Maddy McVey with a time of 22:11.7.

The girls finished with 278 points for ninth place overall.

Other scoring runners for Fort Madison included senior Anna Kester 65th overall; freshman Marquel Warner, 67th overall; and freshman Mylah Blanchard who finished 69th overall. Freshman Lauren Otte was 71st and Junior Lilly Scott was 74th.

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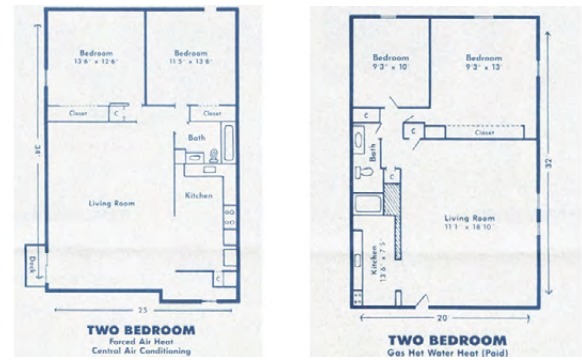
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# Winning season on the line Friday for Hounds

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – This one means more than just the battle for Lee County.

With the Keokuk Chiefs sitting at 5-3 and guaranteed a winning season, the Fort Madison Bloodhounds are even at 4-4 and are starving for a winning season.

That sets up a clash on Hwy. 61 on Friday night when the regular season comes to a close on Hound Homecoming and Senior night on Jim Yeoul Field at Richmond Stadium in Fort Madison.

The Derek Doherty era started this year with early season wins over Central Lee and West Burlington, and then ran into the typical bumpy middle of the schedule with losses to Clear-Creek Amana, Solon, and Washington.

But change seems to be blowing in as the Hounds sprinkled in a couple other wins against teams that Fort Madison hasn't had a lot of luck with, including Burlington, and an overtime win over Fairfield.

Factor in a couple of

games that the Bloodhounds were very much a part of going into halftime, and Doherty has to think of the season as a win, regardless of Friday's outcome.

Doherty even called a 45-7 loss to state-ranked Solon, a "win" because of how his team played against Solon's first string out of the locker-room.

But the Hounds seem to be getting one half of good football in most of the games so far this year and Doherty is hoping Friday for the complete game.

"We have put an emphasis on consistency. We have lacked that in different spots throughout the year and are working on fixing it," he said. "Our focus is to put four quarters of football together."

Doherty said the week was full of homecoming activities, which can be a distraction that some coaches can get frustrated with, but he told Dave O'Hara on the O'Hara & Bohnenkamp Show on Wednesday that he's on a different side of things, but it's part of the high school experience.

Keokuk and Fort Madison has become a viable rivalry with Fort Madison holding

the "county seat" for the past two years and the Chiefs have put together the type of the year where they are looking to bring that chair back south.

Keokuk's offense is led on the ground by Braylon Martinez who has 552 yards on 106 carries and four touchdowns. Martinez requires a containment on defense because of his ability to move laterally and break away speed.

Junior quarterbacks Cory Skinner and Will Larson are similar in stats, both with just over 1,000 yards passing. Skinner has thrown 12 touchdowns and has a 51.8% completion rate to Larson's eight scoring tosses and 48% completions. Skinner has three rushing touchdowns, while Larson has found pay dirt five times.

On the ground, the Hounds move the ball around liberally with Diego Lozano carrying the workload, but Calem Maclearn and Kali Maestro each getting carries each week.

Maestro and Lozano lead Fort Madison on defense with close to 100 tackles combined and 19 tackles for loss including nine sacks.



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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
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



10/23  
5 12 50 61 69  
Powerball: 23  
Power Play: 2



10/23  
9 10 15 25 34  
Star Ball: 10  
All Star Bonus: 3



10/23 MID-DAY  
9 2 5  
10/23 EVENING  
0 6 8



10/23 MID-DAY  
7 7 1 4  
10/23 EVENING  
2 3 7 4

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

**Sports/Weather**

# HTC boys run to top half of Class 1A qualifier

**STATE** - Continued from Page 1

“He did a really smart thing and ran his race. He didn’t get caught up in the pace in front of him, which can ruin a lot of good runs. He was really smart and ran very hard today,” Mohrfeld said.

The race starts with about 150 meters and then a 50-meter hill before leveling out. The course then meanders through soccer fields gradually bringing the runners back down in the first mile and the rest of the course is fairly flat with the exception of some woodpile mogels at about the 1 and 2.5 mile marks.

Hellige said he didn’t really give the hills much thought.

“Getting up to the start line the adrenaline is running through the veins, but until I got to the tippy top I didn’t really notice it,” Hellige said.

“Then I sped back up because it’s all pretty much down hill after that.”

He said there were no

surprises in the course as he’s run it several times in the past and he was happy with his performance.

“I’m really happy with that. The course was almost exactly the same. I was able to walk it and just remember everything, but after that, you’re so familiar with it.”

Hellige likes to get out with the front pack off the gun and said that was his plan again at the qualifier.

“I figured I would get out pretty normal and be at the front pack of the course, and then settle in the first lap and see where I was at. Then push as hard as I can on the last lap,” he said.

The state meet will take place Saturday, Nov. 2 at Kennedy Park in Fort Dodge with the Class 1A boys running the final event of the day at 2:30 p.m.

Hellige and Mohrfeld both said there isn’t anything more to do other than light workouts to keep everything fine tuned.

“At this point the hay is in the barn so to speak,” Hellige said. “So nothing too crazy like an hour-long hill run. Just stuff to get the legs moving, the blood pumping – nothing too hard.”

Mohrfeld said there really isn’t anything you can do in the last 10 days to get better, but there are things you can do to make things worse.

“We’re not going to do anything to hurt his performance at state. We’ll probably do some light workouts and keep things moving.”

Mohrfeld was pleasantly surprised as the team results were announced. Holy Trinity finished 11th out of 23 teams in the event.

Sophomore Mitchel Pothitakis finished 75th overall with a time of 20:31.34, followed closely

behind by senior Jacob Mohrfeld at 78th with a time of 20:32.93. Freshman Jacob Pothitakis was 93rd at 21:23.46 and junior Chandler Rung was 98th with a mark of 21:37.08 to round out the scoring for HTC.

The HTC Crusaders took 11th place out of 23 teams at the Class 1A State qualifier in Iowa City Thursday. Here Jacob Mohrfeld (78), Mitchel Pothitakis (80), Chandler Run (81), and Jacob Pothitakis (79) run in a pack in the first 150 meters of the event.

The Crusaders finished with 349 points. Calamus-Wheatland won the event with just 51 points, including four of the top 12 runners.

Wyatt Hellman finished 133rd and Rhet Fullhart was 142nd in the 158 runner field.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Hellige rounds the final turn and heads toward the finish line at the Class 1A State qualifier cross country meet Thursday.

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**Pen City current**

**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

**FRI 25 Oct**  
 Overcast  
 High– 50.1° F | Low – 40.7° F

**SAT 26 Oct**  
 Heavy Intensity Rain  
 High– 46.3° F | Low – 42.8° F

**SUN 27 Oct**  
 Sunny & Clear  
 High– 57.2° F | Low – 44.6° F

**MON 28 Oct**  
 Snow  
 High– 41.3° F | Low – 33.3° F

**TUE 29 Oct**  
 Overcast  
 High– 40.8° F | Low – 26.9° F

*OpenWeatherMap*

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