



Pen City Current

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Forum shows candidates' view on mayor's role

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The city's three mayoral candidates took center stage Wednesday at the final candidate forum sponsored by Fort Madison Partners.

Tri-State Public Radio's Jason Parrott moderated the event hosted by the Fort Madison Daily Democrat and Pen City Current.

Current City Councilman Matt Mohrfeld, and residents Joe Helmick and Rodney Hoskins II answered a bevy of questions surrounding the role of the mayor and city priorities.

Hoskins said he wanted to run to help re-establish lines of communication between city officials and residents.

Joe Helmick said he wants to bring changes to the town and hopes people support his candidacy.

"I wasn't prepared for...like I said I just kind of threw my hat in the ring and I hope we can make changes and have a better future for our town," Helmick said.

Hoskins said citizens can rest assured that the future of residents and its children are his focus.

"As always I remember one thing. It's our town, basically, and I want to thank everyone for coming and giving me your voice now."

Mohrfeld said he wrote in a journal when he decided to run for mayor, and said when reviewing those entries he realized his character is what he's offering.

"I can do this and I can be a good mayor. I will assess my character and will continue to live by that character because in the end, win or lose, my character is all I have to offer," Mohrfeld said.

Parrott asked questions around economic development, priorities for the city, budget concerns, streets, and city beautification.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Three mayoral candidates, from left Rodney Hoskins II, Matt Mohrfeld and Joe Helmick answer questions Wednesday night as part of the mayoral forum in Council Chambers.



MOHRFELD HOSKINS II HELMICK

Mohrfeld said with regard to economic development, the city isn't in the business of creating jobs, but creating an environment that encourages growth and attraction

for the city.

"When I was a supervisor, I got involved with the inception of the Lee County Economic Development Group and I'm very proud of that. It was a nice move forward and 20 years later it's still thriving and still working, but that all comes down to execution."

Hoskins said he would welcome business to the community where businesses are the best. Hoskins said some of the businesses don't feel they get the respect they should be given.

"As mayor you have to recognize businesses for how

See FORUM, page 2

Testimony paints grizzly picture of Keokuk woman's death

Exhibit has McCain admitting to stabbing

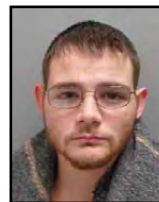
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – A compelling day of testimony opened the bench trial of 25-year old Adam McCain Wednesday in South Lee County Court.

McCain, whose was last staying with his grandmother in Fort Madison, is

charged with 1st-degree murder in the Feb. 5 slaying of his former lover CaLove Sackman, then 27, of Keokuk. The two have one child together. Sackman was a mother to four.

McCain is accused of stabbing Sackman multiple times, once while in his vehicle in the parking lot of River City Mall around 10:15 p.m Feb. 5. According to testimony Wednesday, Sackman jumped out of the vehicle and tumbled into the parking lot where McCain is alleged to have gotten out, stabbed her again several times, and then got back



MCCAIN

into his car. As Sackman crawled to the sidewalk on the north side of the mall parking lot, prosecutors say he hit her with the car.

After opening statements Wednesday in which Lee County Attorney Ross Braden painted a picture of malice and intent in McCain's actions, and Des Moines County Public Defender Kendra Abfalter contended McCain didn't plan to kill Sackman, about 13 witnesses were produced by the state.

Abfalter described in the incident 'one impulsive act.'

"For the most part, they made a life together and the relationship ended with very little warning on about Jan. 22, 2019."

The most damaging testimony came as the first day of evidence was wrapping up when Asst. Lee County Attorney Jonathan Stensvaag played an interview for witness Keokuk Police Detective Steven Dray that took place in the early

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Celebrations/Lottery Numbers

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Birth Announcements

LEVINS

Zella Bowling and David Levins are proud to announce the birth of their son Jacob James Levins, on Sept. 27, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

He is joined at home by Macie and Marley Levins.

Grandparents are Jim and Sondra Levins of Burlington; Cindy Case of Burlington; and Bette Royer of Fort Madison.

Great-grandparents are Zella Kramer of Fort Madison and Robert Kramer (deceased) of Fort Madison.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

McCARL

KEOKUK - Shannon Watts of Keokuk is proud to announce the birth of her son Chase Monroe McCarl on Sept. 30, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

He is joined at home by Abigail, Kyle, Cadence, and Hayden Watts.

Grandparents are Susan and Tony Palmer of Keokuk, and Dawn Rogers of Keokuk.

Great grand-parents are Frank and Gloria McCarl of Fort Madison.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

ELFGEN

Alexis Elfgen is proud to announce the birth of her daughter Oaklyn Grace Elfgen on Sept. 27, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She is joined at home by Delilah Faithlyn Davis.

Grandparents are Angela Gregory, Robert Elfgen, R.J. Boe, and Rachael Atwater, all of Fort Madison. Great grandparents are Dorothy Henson of Davenport and Victor Henson of Davenport.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

AKINYOOYE

KEOKUK - Melissa and Akinsoji Akinyooye are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Evelyn Olufunmilayo Akinyooye on Sept. 13, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She joins Jose, Julio and Ava Akinyooye at home.

Grandparents are Reed and Sara Gifford of Queen Creek, Ariz.; and Sarah Akinyooye, of Ifon-Osun, Nigeria.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Pen City Current Celebrations policy

The Current runs birth announcements, wedding anniversary announcements, and other milestones at no charge to individuals and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. Announcements can be submitted online here: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/submissions/> or by email to editor@pencitycurrent.com.



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Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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10/15
4 12 14 35 70
Mega Ball: 2
Megaplier: 2



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10/15 EVENING
5 3 4



10/15 MID-DAY
3 4 3 4
10/15 EVENING
6 3 4 6

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From the Front/Weather

Testimony points to alleged admissions by McCain

MCCAIN - Continued from Page 1

morning hours of Feb. 6 between McCain and Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations Special Agent Joe Lestina that lasted about 20 minutes. Dray was also in on the interrogation.

At times McCain is inaudible, but he tells Lestina, "I f—ing killed her, dude. She's gonna feel the pain I felt...she's not gonna do it again."

During the audio recording, McCain also tells Lestina who's doing the questioning, "I coulda (BS'd) you and made the investigation go on and on and on, but I knew what would happen if I made that decision."

Also called to testify was Sally Sherrill, a family friend considered an "aunt" by Sackman; Sackman's mother Traci Sackman; Dawn Brownlee, a friend who shared Sackman's last apartment on Concert Street and spoke to the relationship between McCain and Sackman.

Hailey Malloy testified as she was the night cashier at Casey's just west of the mall parking lot at the time of the incident. Malloy said she was out salting the sidewalks of the convenience store when she heard screaming from the parking lot.

Malloy testified she didn't call 911 because "this isn't a very good part of town and screaming is a nightly occurrence".

Nadene Sestito, of Keokuk, testified she was the first person to see Sackman on the ground and drove over to her and called 911. Sestito was on her way to her job at Hy-Vee at about 10:20 when she saw Sackman on the sidewalk under the poles of a green DOT sign on the south side of Main Street.

Sestito said when she got to Sackman she could see blood on the ground and on her.

"Just from what I saw, there were probably 8 to 10 spots of blood on her clothes and then on the ground under her. She was very breathless," Sestito said.

"She could get maybe one to two syllables out and couldn't breathe. She started to look straight and she was wasn't responding to the questions I asked her."

Stensvaag then played the four-minute 9-1-1 call where Sestito is talking to LeeComm dispatchers and asking questions to Sackman at the same time. Sestito asks Sackman what happened and the woman replied she had been stabbed and Sestito asked by whom, to which Sackman replies "Adam" but the remainder of her comments fade out.

Also called to testify during the morning session were Keokuk Police Captain Brian DePriest and patrol officer Justina Mortimer.

In the afternoon, Lee County EMS paramedic Kaylin Parker and director Bill Young, who also serves as a Lee County Medical Examiner were called to testify, as was forensic pathologist Dr. Dennis Firchau, who conducted the autopsy and determined the cause of death to be sharp force injuries of the trunk (chest area) and determined the manner of death to be homicide.

Brian Percy a business owner and acquaintance of McCain was called to testify and stated that McCain stopped at his house after the incident for help changing a tire.

"He came and knocked on my door and asked if I could help him change a tire," Percy testified. "He said, 'I don't know what to do...I killed her.'"

Percy said he didn't believe him and didn't tell investigators during initial questioning that McCain said he killed her.

"I didn't believe him. I was like 'who?' and he said 'CaLove.'"

Percy said he went inside to get his coat and when he came out McCain was gone.

Harley Clark, 24, of Argyle, also testified that he saw a white sedan going through town very quickly and ended up following the vehicle and calling 9-1-1 because he witnessed the car rear-end two other vehicles sometime at about 10:45 p.m.

Clark said a friend in his car got out to check on McCain after allegedly striking the other two vehicles, but the white car nearly struck his friend and the two followed McCain's car and called authorities.

That's when former Lee County Sheriff's deputy Joshua Wade picked up the call and spotted the car on Highway 61 just north of Keokuk.

Wade testified that he pulled up on McCain in a white Monte Carlo with a blown front tire. He said McCain seemed coherent and had no slurred speech.

Wade's body camera footage was then entered into the record as an exhibit.

Braden then called DCI Crime lab specialist Ryan Petrucelli to the stand to talk about DNA evidence pulled from McCain's pants. Petrucelli said the DNA sample pulled from the pants matched Sackman's DNA with only a 1 in 1.4 octillion of error, which is 27 0s.

The prosecution picks up the case again Thursday beginning at 9 a.m.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 17 Oct



Partly Sunny
High— 64.4° F | Low — 48.0° F

FRI 18 Oct



Light Rain
High— 58.0° F | Low — 53.2° F

SAT 19 Oct



Clear
High— 62.9° F | Low — 51.0° F

SUN 20 Oct



Light Rain
High— 61.3° F | Low — 51.0° F

MON 21 Oct



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High— 55.7° F | Low — 46.5° F

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Sports



Courtesy photo

Little Hounds almost perfect on 6-0 season

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Teague Smith scored three rusing touchdowns and Henry Wiseman rushed for another and threw for a touchdown as the Fort Madison Little Hound 8th grade football team posted a perfect 6-0 record on the year. The Hounds didn't give up a single defensive score all year and only allowed six points the entire season on a interception that was returned for a touchdown.

Smith finished with 166 yards on 17 carries and Wiseman had 177 yards and 18 touches. Smith was also

4 of 4 in the air with 38 yards and recorded 11 tackles for the crimson and black. Joe Hartman had 33 yards receiving on three catches, but two were 2 pt. conversions. Marin Rose had a 12-yard scoring reception and Cade Denning had a five yard catch.

Ike Thacher had six tackles, while Wiseman, Jayden Bowen and Hartman all recorded five. Hunter Cresswell, Hartman, Smith and Javean Davis each had fumble recoveries. Wiseman had the only interception for Fort Madison.

Denning and Thacher each contributed with 2 pt. conversions.

Hellige 3rd, Hawks 9th at SEISC x-country meet

FAIRFIELD – Holy Trinity Catholic's Matt Hellige was 19 seconds off the pace at the Southeast Iowa Superconference meet Monday at Fairfield's Waterworks Park.

The senior, who's ranked 16th in Class 1A, as of the latest release, finished with a time of 17:09.2. Pekin's Brady Millikin and Colten Glosser took the top two spots with times of 16:50.6 and 16:58.2.

Danville-New London's Ty Carr and Alexander Julian were 5th and 6th overall to lead that squad to a second-place finish overall.

Millikin and Glosser are 9th and 10th in the latest rankings, both are Class 1A runners. Carr and Julian are both rated in the top 25 in Class 2A.

Central Lee's Kraus Hunter finished 19th overall with a time of 19:13.8.

The Hawks finished 9th overall with 233 points. Holy Trinity was 10th with 262 points.

For the Crusaders, Jacob Mohrfeld came in 45th overall with a time of 20:39 followed by Chandler Rung at 21:38, Wyatt Hellman at 23:12, and Jacob Pothitakis at 24:11 to round out the scoring runners. Other competitors from HTC were Mitchel Pothitakis at 24:20 and Rhett Fulhart at 26:05.

For Central Lee, Maddox Doty had the second best team time at 20:31, followed by Ruger Smith at 20:45, Derick Denning at 21:32, and Tristan Howell at 22:37 for the scoring positions. Logan Kramer finished at 22:53 and Brody Leech ran the course in 25:24.

The Crusaders run Thursday afternoon at Mediapolis and then have a week to get ready for state qualifying on the following Thursday in Iowa City at Kickers Park starting at 4 p.m.

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Sports

Lady Hawks hold off No. 8 Crusaders in five

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

DONNELLSON - It was volley after volley on the final point of the fourth set. Holy Trinity had eight chances to get the point to stay alive in the set. All eight were fought off by Central Lee. When Avery Hopper's kill attempt went into the net, Central Lee won the set to stay alive. That series summed up the Hawks' 22-25, 25-23, 22-25, 25-22, 15-12 win over the Crusaders in Tuesday's SEI Superconference South Division match at Central Lee High School. Central Lee (22-10) constantly fought the No. 8 (Class 1A) Crusaders. "This was huge," Central Lee coach Amy Cook said. "Huge for us. We've been struggling the last couple of games, and of course HTC is somebody who is a rival for us that we want to win against. "The girls definitely had some perseverance today. We haven't had that the last couple of games." Central Lee was swept by Holy Trinity (23-9) in a

tournament at Mount Pleasant on Saturday, but this match had a different feel with the regional tournament beginning next week. "Just to have a match where we're playing against quality players — HTC has phenomenal volleyball players — it's perfect timing for us to play a team like that," Cook said. "And then to win, that's an extra bonus. "Like I said, I'm proud of the girls to have the perseverance to fight through to the end. I don't think we've played many five-game matches. Plus it was Senior Night, so it was even an extra bonus." "They're a great team," Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier said. "We knew we would come in here tonight and it would be a dogfight. It's a game of two points, two or three points every game. Maybe we made too many mistakes, but our kids fought hard. Both sides fought hard. "They dug up some balls that should have been kills, that's for sure." The first set was a sign of what was to come. Holy

Trinity had a six-point run to take a 19-17 lead before the Hawks scored the next four points. The Crusaders then broke a 22-all tie by scoring the last three points, two coming on kills from Hopper and Brooke Mueller. In the second set, Central Lee looked to be serving for match point, but a point was overruled after a discussion by the two officials. The Hawks then scored the last two points for the set. Holy Trinity had a 23-20 lead in the third set before Central Lee scored the next two points. The Crusaders closed out the win with back-to-back points, one on a kill from Kassi Randolph. The two teams were tied at 22 in the fourth set before the Hawks scored the last three points. The final set was tied at 12 before the Hawks again scored the last three points. Back-to-back kills by Abby Wellman touched off the celebration. "We were mentally tough today," Cook said. "And that was so good to see with where we're at in the season."

FMHS takes 2nd at Southeast tourney finals

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – Fort Madison finished second at the Southeast Conference volleyball tournament after falling to the 15th-ranked Burlington Grayhounds in the finals. The Bloodhounds knocked off host Keokuk 21-17, 21-16 before falling to Class 4A 15th-ranked Burlington 21-18, 21-17. Senior Jillian Wiseman had 22 kills

on 43-50 hitting in the four games to lead Fort Madison. Junior Lauren Bailey had 26 assists and 22 of 24 serving with four aces to lead the Bloodhounds in both those categories. Head Coach Kent Bailey said the Hounds were flat in the first match against Keokuk. "We were hoping to show more consistency in our play this match knowing we play Keokuk next week in regionals. We were able to put them

away with some effective serving at the end of each game," he said. Bailey said the Hounds got off to good starts in both games against Burlington, but then got into some hitting errors and let the Grayhounds back in both games. "I thought our kids competed hard against Burlington in that second match. They have more length than we do and that showed in their outside hitters going over our blocks," he

said. "We were able to neutralize their middle hitters after they gave us fits the first match earlier this year." Fort Madison goes to the Mediapolis Quadrangular on Thursday and play Mediapolis starting at 5 p.m. followed by Holy Trinity, and then Eddyville Blakesburg-Fremont. The Hounds are 14-20 overall and finished second in the Southeast Conference at 5-3.



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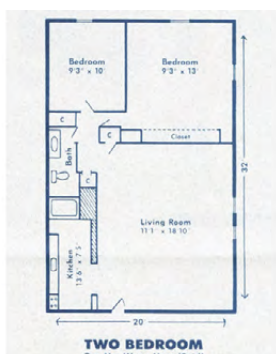
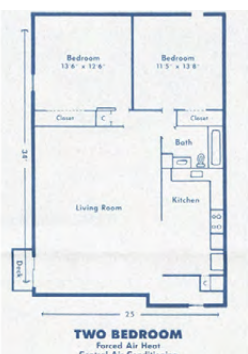
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From the Front

Mayoral role poses different challenges for candidates

FORUM - Continued from Page 1

long they've been here regardless of how it is," he said.

But he said also have to promote business so they want to stay here.

Helmick said the city needs that development.

"I'd have to sit down with Chamber of Commerce and see exactly what we can do. If it means giving tax breaks on property, at least we'll get the sales tax on the revenue that these businesses will bring in," Helmick said.

He said look at Coralville and check out the businesses in that town.

"I would accept any business because we need every sales tax dollar we can get as far as revenue," he said.

Helmick also said the city needs to capitalize on volunteer hours at local schools and combine that with other volunteer work to help with parks and other efforts so city staff can be used on higher priorities.

"I would like to sit down with the school board and find some things we can use those 20 hours of community service for as far as working with the parks and we can use our park manpower in other locations," he said.

Mohrfeld said the city needs to make abandoned buildings a priority.

"I think our town needs to look a little better. I think 'look good-feel good'. I think we need more pride in some parts of our community."

He said there are lots of ways to go about it, but he said removing abandoned properties could be expensive, but it should be working with developers to save the properties that can be saved.

"Our parks are the best they've ever looked. But if we can we need to look at our town. If we're at a 6, we need

to move to a 7 and never let us go to a five."

Hoskins said the city needs to improve its appearance and should do anything and everything possible, including Helmick's idea of using the students' volunteer hours downtown and in parks.

Mohrfeld said the mayor's role changes his dynamic from being a player to the coach.

"You have to work to try and build communication, collaboration, and collusion among the council and you're privy to day in and day out meetings that the council may not. It's your job to communicate that," Mohrfeld said.

He said the mayor sets the agenda and can lead through the agenda.

Helmick said he wants to work with the council to make the city more attractive.

"I'd like to work with the entire council to make this a better city for retail business to get people to come here and shop instead of outside the area. I want to work with all of us to try to find ways to make this town a better place to live," Helmick said.

Hoskins said he sees the mayor's post as the monitor of the community's action and said the mayor should interact with businesses as one.

"The mayor would collaborate with council and the businesses and listen to them for a change. I mirror what Matt said it's basically a player-coach type deal," Hoskins said.

Hoskins also said he wanted to stop the monopolization that goes on throughout town.

"Certain people basically buy up properties and they

“

The mayor would collaborate with council and the businesses and listen to them for a change..."

-Rodney Hoskins, II,
Mayoral candidate

would have access to certain things faster than what a normal other person might not even have enough for," he said.

"Physically, equal opportunity arises to everybody. When the town erupts, the people do speak. Monopolization has to stop somewhere."

Helmick also wants to get more proactive with police stopping people and getting drugs off the streets and drunks off the roads.

"That was one of the most important things I wanted to bring up was making sure we slow our town down and get our cops out there and start patrolling a little better."

Mohrfeld said he doesn't bring a preconceived notion to the mayor's seat, but he said he wanted to look closer at the City Council's role in public health.

"I think the council needs to take an active role in public health. Put all our projects to the acid test of wellness. Are we going to expand our sidewalks and make them continuous on all projects so residents can use them for wellness," he said.

The three will face off in the general city/school election on Nov. 5.



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