Hope fades for missing boaters

By CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Local officials have identified the men involved in a boat capsizing in the Mississippi River on Tuesday around 2 p.m. According to Steve Cirinna, Lee County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator, Bill White Sr., 68 of Argyle, and Ron Wagner, 48, of Montrose were in a boat fishing when their boat capsized in the water.

Cirinna, who also serves as the Lee County Public Information officer, said the search has been called off at this point pending further developments. He’s asking anyone who spots anything associated with the incident to call 911.

“I’ve spoken with state weather officials and it’s not going to get above 20 degrees for the next couple of days or so. The big issue right now is the ice on the river and high winds. Because of the ice and low temperatures it’s very difficult to get anyone out. That’s what we had trouble with here. It’s tough for us to get out.”

He said this morning’s search consisted of emergency crews working the shoreline between Montrose and Keokuk on both sides of the river and an Iowa State Patrol flying low level grids over the river.

“We saw absolutely nothing. No debris...nothing. And we’re not going to be able to put a boat in due to the large sheets of ice coming down the river. That just presents some dangerous situations.”

Cirinna also discouraged anyone from being on the river during these weather conditions and said encouraged diligence and adherence to water safety.

“When you’re out on the water you’re disoriented and have lots of wrong in an instant. With a boat capsizing in the Mississippi River one of days or so. The big issue right now is the ice on the river and high winds. Because of the ice and low temperatures it’s very difficult to get anyone out. That’s what we had trouble with here. It’s tough for us to get out.”

We saw nothing...absolutely nothing. And we’re not going to be able to put a boat in due to the large sheets of ice coming down the river.”

-Steve Cirinna
Lee County EMA Coordinator

The report indicated Hayes was traveling westbound, crossed the center line and collided with Watts’ vehicle in the east bound lane. Hayes vehicle came to rest on the roadway while Watts’ vehicle came to stop in the south ditch.

Condition updates are not available at this time.
I swear
Lee County Board of Supervisor board members from left, Ron Fedler, Pflug, and Gary Fol-luo above and Lee County Auditor De-nise Fraise at left are sworn in by 8th Dis-trict Court Judge Mi-chael Schilling Tues-
day.

FORT MADISON DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
2017 RECYCLING & YARD WASTE COLLECTION DATES

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEW GARBAGE & RECYCLING/YARD WASTE ROUTES ALL GARBAGE, RECYCLING & YARD WASTE SHOULD BE SET OUT BY 6AM FOR PICK-UP. ALL CHANGES ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017

THURSDAY & FRIDAY GARBAGE ROUTES: Residents should be advised that your GARBAGE DAY MAY HAVE CHANGED: Included is a map with the garbage route-dividing lines. A portion of Friday's garbage route will now be picked up on THURSDAY.

RECYCLING/YARD WASTE ROUTES: The dividing line between Route A and Route B Recycling/Yard Waste Routes HAS CHANGED. The new dividing line will be from North City Limits STRAIGHT DOWN 24° STREET to the South City Limits.

If you live EAST SIDE of 24th Street you will be on ROUTE A.
If you live WEST SIDE of 24th Street you will be on ROUTE B.
Included is a list of recycling and yard waste collection dates. Please note that YARD WASTE PICK-UP WILL NOW END PRIOR TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

Holidays effecting trash, recycling and yard waste pick up will be posted on the City Website, or by calling 372-7700 x 1.

Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable compost bags ONLY! The costs for the bags vary and can be purchased at Hy-Vee, Kempler’s True Value & Huffman’s Farm Home. Grass clippings, leaves, garden waste, brush and free pruning’s, bark, branches and flowers will be collected. There is no limit to the number of bags.

On January 4, Route “A” will have Christmas Tree Pick Up (CTPU). On January 11, Route “B” will have Christmas Tree Pick Up (CTPU).

On Tuesday, November 21, Route “B” will have Recycling Pick Up due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

This 2018 Recycling & Yard Waste Collection schedule will be mailed out to current water customers and on the City Website in December 2017. For further information please contact 372-7700 ext. 201.

14 groups helped with search

BOATERS - From Page 1

things to deal with, especially in the cold, but even in warmer waters you just don’t have time to react,” Carina said Wednesday morning.

He said an average body would have about 15 minutes to get to safety in waters as cold as the Mississippi is now.

Assisting in the search efforts were the Iowa State Patrol, Lee County Sheriff’s Department, Keokuk Volun-teer Emergency Core, Keokuk Fire, Montrose Fire. Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Transportation Enforcement, Burlington Northern-Sante Fe Railroad, Air Evac, Lee County EMS, Illinois DNR, Nauvoo Fire Department. Hancock County Sheriff’s Department, Hancock County Emergency Disaster Services, and LCEMA.

Work on bridge set for the spring

the main walking bridge visible from the highway.

“They went to replace the decking and found that the metal work that holds the decking is rusted out. It’s just rotted out,” Pieper said.

Luna said the bridges are about 26 years old and the warranty was only for 10 years so the city is on the hook to repair the bridge.

“The bridge is dangerous to walk on and it’s closed. If people could just be patient,” Pieper said after the meeting.

“It wouldn’t be a problem if there was an easy way around it, but you have to walk out by the highway and people just say, ‘Well, what’s wrong with the bridge and they just walk around (the fencing).”

Luna said he hopes the work can be completed by the end of March or early in the spring, but he too cautioned residents from using the bridge.

In other action, the board

- approved a one month lease extension for Harmony Bible Church to use the Riverview Park Pavilion through the spring.

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- From the front/

News

Everybody hates you.

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