Lee County Sheriff off to busy start

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONROSE - With just 150 days under his belt, at least four accidental deaths, and a homicide, Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber says the whole county, figuratively and literally, needs to just slow down.

In a conversation following Monday's regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, Weber talked about what being sheriff has been like since his election in November.

"I think the one thing that I'm most proud of, and this isn't meant to be selfish sentiment, but I'm really proud of the morale of this department."

Weber can usually be seen in a freshly pressed uniform, carrying a cold can of Coke, and always offers a firm handshake, a smile, and a business card emblazoned with his campaign slogan.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber speaks to the media following an incident in the Des Moines River south of Keokuk earlier this year. Weber's first 5 months on the job have been filled with programming aimed at keeping Lee County residents safer.

"That was a big deal to me. I wanted him there when that happened."

Weber then said he scheduled a staff meeting and talked about his approach to the public and law enforcement. He said he told them he wanted a reputation of honesty and respect.

"Even if it hurts the case, we're gonna be honest first and foremost. We're gonna treat everyone with respect whether it's a traffic stop or a more serious crime."

-Stacy Weber
Lee County Sheriff

"Honest, Respectful Protection". Weber said his first day in office set the tone. He was upset at his swearing in because one of his mentors, Buck Jones, didn't make the swearing in because Weber had given him the wrong location.

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Google phishing scam hits locally

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It started locally with an email from FMHS principal Greg Smith, but it turned out to be a worldwide phishing scam.

Fort Madison School District sent an out an announcement regarding an email attack originating from school administration and teacher accounts.

At the same time, Google was issuing a statement regarding the phishing scam and said they were looking into the matter.

According to the school's information technology Director Sebastian Seifert instructed locals to not authenticate Google Doc emails.

"There is a phishing email going around. Do NOT authenticate third party apps to access your Google drive and offline contacts.

You must change your password and revoke rights to third party apps if you have authenticated the most recent phishing attack.

To revoke third party access please visit this site: https://myaccount.google.com/permissions.

If you opened the email and tried to access the Google doc you need to change your password ASAP. You should also consider signing up for 2FA.

See SCAM, page 3

SPOTLIGHT

Wentzien's growth yields opportunities

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CEDAR RAPIDS - Just over three years ago Miles Wentzien was playing in a substitute game in Muscatine and had the ball with six seconds left and his team down by two points in overtime.

The All-State Bloodhound took an inbound pass at the opposite end of the court and worked his way through a melee of red-jersied boys from Williamsburg, and pushed his way to the corner of the right free throw line. Everyone in the building, including the nine others on the court, were convinced Wentzien would find a shot. So much so, the senior was mobbed at that point. He could have forced a shot, and may have gotten the foul call, but he looked for a team-mate.

He found Camden Chrisman who had an open look, but the shot was partially deflected and the Hounds lost.

Yet, Weber said, "I didn't even have a uniform that fit."

But as the day would go, the coat would be more important. Later in the evening, Weber and other Lee County Sheriff's deputies were called to the Montrose riverfront where two local fishermen fell into an icy river after their boat capsized. Again, day one.

"I came home that night and never felt more helpless. We couldn't do more than we wanted because we would have risked other lives on a very dangerous river."

Both men were recovered later in the spring, both accidental drowning victims.

In the weeks to come, a body would be discovered in Indian Path Park just south of the Des Moines/ Lee County Line on Hwv 61, a confirmed homicide. In April, a vehicle was recovered later in the spring.

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See WEBER, page 4
Wentzien considering Div. I American University

WENTZIEN - Continued from Page 1

were done. But it was the mindset of a senior who knew there was a chance he may get a call, but had the maturity to realize someone else may have a better shot. A very unselfish play that set a tone for a man now playing his favorite game and moving to the next level.

The sophomore from Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids, an NJCAA Div. II school, has entertained offers from more than 20 NCAA schools over the past six months. He said he’s narrowed his choices to one D-1 school and a couple of D-II schools carrying with him two more years of eligibility.

“I really don’t know what’s next for me,” Wentzien said. “Right now I have one D-1 offer from American and two D-II offers at Winona State and Minnesota State-Moorhead. They just seem to be the right fit for me. I get along with the coaches and what the campuses have to offer. I just haven’t made up my mind yet. I don’t know much about Moorhead. I’m heading up there this weekend to take a look at that campus.”

After leading the Bloodhounds, the Fort Madison native was named to the Des Moines Register Class 3A 2nd team All-State and quickly signed with Missouri Western. Wentzien said he wasn’t ready for the college game and didn’t heed the advice of those around him.

“I think, out of high school, I wasn’t ready for the college game,” he said Wednesday. “Everyone said there was a huge difference in the college game and I didn’t understand that difference. After playing a few more years, I’m more comfortable. Missouri Western wasn’t the best fit for me and it wasn’t the best place to spend all four years.”

So Wentzien said goodbye to Saint Joseph, Mo., and headed back to Iowa where he found coach Taylor Blum and a comfortable program that has helped him find how his skills can be honed, while developing a bigger sense of team. A feat not lost on a high school kid who dismissed to offe...
Local News/For the Record

Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R’s!

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REUSE

RECYCLE

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REDUCE

*Reduce the amount of waste produced in society
   The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines.
   • Buy durable goods & products in bulk
   • Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
   • Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
   • Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
   • Maintain central files for multiple individuals
   • Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

REUSE

* Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose
   It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.
   • Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
   • Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
   • Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

RECYCLE

* Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material
   Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.
   • Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers (see www.grrwa.com for a complete list of locations)
   • Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
   • Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
   • Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

Schools, others hit by phishing event

SCAM - Continued from Page 1

2-step authentication now.
If you are not sure if you are affected
1. ask someone next to you if they received an email from you
2. change your password just in case"
Sam Boyer from C.U.R.E. Business Solutions said the phishing attack is more widespread.
“All of our customers are getting it. Anyone who uses Google apps can be the sender, mostly schools because they all use it. Burlington Notre Dame’s families got hit hard, but I know people that I sent Google docs too got it as well, its worldwide. Google has not blocked the scam so if people click the link they get it,” Boyer said.
From the front/Classifieds

K-9 program, work-release early highlights

was pulled from the Des Moines River south of Keokuk, and two weeks ago a farmer was killed when a vehicle struck the back of his tractor ejection him from the seat and onto the concrete. All this within 15 days of taking his position. As part of his election campaign Weber said he wanted to add a K-9 unit to the department and wanted to get more deputies on the road to pull more criminals off the street. The jail population is up an average 15-20 offenders per day with as many as 92 this past weekend, a dilemma that has eaten up the entire food account and has required an amendment to the Lee County budget to infuse funds back into the program. Weber said repeatedly at campaign stops and in debates that he was going to focus on the “two percent that don’t want to behave”. His K-9 unit lands in the county this week and heads to Arkansas for 4-weeks of training before heading to Fort Dodge for 4 more weeks of training with his handler. The county response to the addition of the K-9 unit has been sufficient enough to raise the initial funds needed to get the program up and running. A new work-release program has offenders paying $10/day to go out with a bracelet on that tracks their whereabouts. According to Weber, the program is working and the incidents of offenders wandering off the work site has been drastically reduced. So what’s the future look like. Weber said one of his main focuses is to get people to slow down on county roadways. Weber got a bit emotional when talking about the loss of life in the county just since his election. “I want to get that one on one connection with people,” he said. “I want them to know that it’s our job to keep them safe, but we just have to slow down.” He’s also focusing on building the reserve department and is currently reviewing interviews with the next group of reserve candidates. “They’ll be out there in one of these uniforms and they’ll be trained to handle issues. I want as many deputies on the street as we can get, and I want to be able to staff our detectives to solve crimes.” But it’s his people that he focuses on heaviest. Weber said he insists that the entire department be treated, and conduct themselves, with respect. Be it from offenders and fellow staff. “It’s the image we have with the county that tells me if we’re doing our job. We treat our offenders with respect, but they will respect us, as well. There are few words we don’t allow here in our jail, and if they use them, they know there are consequences.” But Weber’s the first to say he’s not the sharpest pencil in the box and moves credit for the successes of the department to his staff. “I’ve surrounded myself with some really intelligent people. Chief Deputy Will Conlee, Craig Burch, and our jail administrator John Canida, are all top-notch professionals. I’ve yet to see a situation that they couldn’t handle on their own.”

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3684 Argyle Road, Keokuk
Listing #20164982 • $191,500

4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres
Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.

1703 Avenue L
Listing #20165151 • $55,900

3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot
Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725 • $92,000

4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

3098 County Road 103
Listing #20164991 • $129,900

2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres
Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

4911 Bluff Road
Listing #20164861 • $157,500

3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres
Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

1708 Avenue G
Listing #20165237 • $92,500

3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot
This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!