May 18 incident left woman on river for almost seven hours

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

NAUVOO - A Montrose woman is looking for answers as a result of being stranded in a 15-foot john boat in the backwaters of the Mississippi River for close to six hours on May 18 and 19th. Becky Bennett was out on the river with her dog on the Illinois side of the channel when her boat became disabled due to a dead battery at around 6 p.m. on Thursday the 18th. Her cellphone battery was also dead and she had no food or water on the boat, which was about 150-200 feet off shore. She was not pulled onto shore until around 2 a.m. Friday morning.

Bennett said she tried swimming to the Illinois shore but then began to become frightened of the situation and turned back to the boat and her dog.

“I got a 1/4 of the way to land and then got scared. I was in the main channel when my battery went dead and we floated over to the backwaters,” she said.

“I saw some civilians on the Illinois side and I'm assuming they're the one's that called it. I would say probably sometime between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.” she said.

According to Hancock County Chief Deputy Scott Cowser, the call log shows a call came in just after 8 p.m.

“We received a call about the issue on the 18th at about 8:12 p.m.,”

Lee County making progress on health initiatives.

BY PCC STAFF

In February 2016, Lee County Health Department, in conjunction with the Keokuk Area Hospital and Fort Madison Community Hospital, submitted a three-year Lee County Health Improvement Plan to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). The Health Improvement Plan was developed as a result of a Community Health Needs Assessment process that involved multiple community organizations, service providers, and citizens who reviewed extensive sets of community health data, community-wide survey results, county demographics, and discussed the health needs of the county.

Four top priority health areas were identified through a voting process by involved community partners to work on over the next three years. This resulted in four taskforce groups charged with the planning, implementation, and moving to action four health improvement goals which includes 1) Promote healthy lifestyles and behaviors for all; 2) Improve mental health, behavioral health issues, and access to care; 3) Reduce transportation barriers of our workforce and those with access to care issues; and 4) Improve communication, provide education, and motivate our population for health.

SPORTS:

Fort Madison boys lose two to West Burlington to start baseball season.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CEDAR FALLS - Out of the blue, he’s back in purple and gold.

Fort Madison’s Miles Wentzien has signed with Ben Jacobson and the University of Northern Iowa men’s basketball team for the upcoming season as a walk-on.

As little as three weeks ago, the Junior College First-Team All-American was looking at American University in Washington, DC and two Division II schools in Minnesota.

“This was a late school for sure,” Wentzien said Thursday, “My mom actually emailed them out of the blue and asked them to take a look at me. They ended up calling me and they wanted me as a walk-on.”

At Kirkwood Community College last year, Wentzien finished the season averaging close to 15 points per game, shooting 49% from the field including 35% from the 3-point arc and 90.2% from the free throw line.

Wentzien does have a red-shirt option so he could potentially have three years with the Panthers but will be a walk-on this year.

“There’s not a scholarship on the table, but I’m hoping I can get one,” he said.

The move wasn’t a move of logistics or being able to stay closer to home. Wentzien said it’s the best move for him now.

“It wasn’t as much about staying in Iowa,” he said.

“Overall their program was the right fit for me. I’ve heard nothing but good things from the coaches and one of my teammates also had good things to say about UNI.

“I just feel like it’s the right fit for me. It’s a high level program, well-supported, and everything fell into place.”

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“Maxine” Carson, 85, Monticello
-Derek Jeremiah Bowden, 42, Fort Madison
Sports...P.4
Here are some helpful tips:

**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
- Drive off in the 500 block of Avenue D for a stolen vehicle in the 400 block of Avenue H.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 400 block of 23rd Street.
- Responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 400 block of Avenue A.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
- Fort Madison police arrested Matthew Ryan Holbert, 22, of Fort Madison.
- Fort Madison police cited Tyler Scott Hedger, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of Avenue D for violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of 22nd Street.

**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
- Use reusable grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store
- Recycle and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

**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 reusable containers rather than plastic wrap
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store
- 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

**Recycle**
- Households Hazardous Waste
- We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedures are in place for disposal. Please call 319-572-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.
- Electronic Waste
- Please place all electronic waste in their appropriate bins, some electronic items are free to dispose. Please call for fees on TV’s, Monitors, Laptops & Tablets.

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

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE FOR A HAPPIER EARTH!
VIRGINIA “MAXINE” CARSON

Virginia “Maxine” Carson, 85, of Monticello, Georgia and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at Jasper Memorial Hospital in Monticello.

She was born on July 6, 1931 in Leon, IA to Heston and Beatrice Martin Ivins. On August 23, 1976 she married Philip “Dean” Carson in Ottumwa and he passed away on June 7, 2013. Maxine and Dean were owners of Daylight Donuts and people loved to come to their donut shop to bring their day over coffee and conversation. She was a member of Joy Baptist Church and was very active in several ministries and thoroughly enjoyed fellowship with the congregation. In her earlier years she enjoyed fishing, swimming at the YMCA and dancing with her husband at the Moose Lodge. She loved music and was an experienced guitar player and was an avid reader and donated others to play by giving lessons. Maxine was also an avid reader and donated to her local library. She loved cross-stitch and was very handy with a needle. She was a devoted mother of eight children that were her everything. She will be remembered for things such as sewing her children’s Halloween costumes and clothes to baking hundreds of Christmas cookies as an annual family Christmas event.

Survivors include eight children, Reg (Linda) Monroe of St. Paul, MN; Dave (Denise) Monroe of Bremerton, WA, Ginger Monroe of Ames, IA, Jennifer (Chuck) Smith of Billings, MT, Pat (Lucy) Monroe of Ft. Madison, Andy (George) Monroe of New York, NY, Emily (Russ) Blaivelt of Vancouver, WA, Clare (Kevin) Griffis of Monticello, GA; ten grandchildren; eight great grandchildren and one brother, Robert Ivins of Alba, IA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband.

The funeral service will be held at 11 AM on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Earl Beal officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at the funeral home. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for Joy Baptist Church and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

DEREK JEREMIAH BOWDEN

Derek Jeremiah Bowden, 42, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:43 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on December 22, 1974 in Sioux City, IA to Kirk Palmer & Debra Jo Schuur, but was raised by Willie Bowden. He enjoyed music, reading, history and spending time with his family. Derek is survived by: his soulmate: Christina Hernandez of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Alley Turner of Burlington, IA & Kylie Hernandez of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Cain Bowden of West Burlington, IA; 1-niece: Aryanna Bowden of Burlington, IA; 1-brother: Jeff Bowden; 1-half-sister: Katie Palmer and his uncle: Tom Schuur of Omaha, NE. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. with a memorial service to immediately follow at 2:30 p.m. all on Sunday, May 28, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Rev. Steve Rasmussen will officiate. A memorial has been established in Derek’s memory. Online condolences to Derek’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.
UNI - Continued from Page 1

FM standout Miles Wentzien will be suiting up for the purple and gold of UNI this fall. Wentzien signed as a walk-on for the 2017-18 season. He said his conversations with Jacobson have focused in versatility and his ability to play the guard position.

Wentzien said UNI will help him prepare for his career goal of playing professionally overseas or in the NBA.

“I'll have access to facilities every single day, he said. “I'm gonna push myself to go to the next level, but I don't have the numbers in the NBA. Professional ball still Wentzien’s goal

BY PCC STAFF

WEST BURLING-TON - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds dropped a double header to open the season 8-6, 7-5 in high school boys baseball action Wednesday in West Burlington.

In game one, Jordyn Gerdes went 4 1/3 innings going to help me get better and if it ends up that I don’t have the numbers, then I’ll still be the best player I can be.” He said workouts start on June 5 when summer classes begin at the university.

Hounds drop two to West Burlington in baseball double dip

BY PCC STAFF

NEW LONDON - The Holy Trinity softball program came back in big fashion as the 7th grade squad won 14-0 over New London on the road.

It’s the first softball played under the Holy Trinity name in several years.

Mary Hellige had two rbi’s and got the win going three innings striking out seven in the shut out. Rachel Menke pitched the fourth inning and Anna Sobczak preserved the shut out striking out one.

On offense Sobczak, Brooke Mueller, Rachel Menke and Kayla Box all went 1- for-1 with two walks and two runs scored. Alexa Dingman had a hit with two walks and a run scored. Laura Mehmert and Kelli Meierotto went 1- for-2 and Alesha Hellman had a hit and two runs scored. Mary Hellige, Raquel Schneider had 2 walks and 1 run scored and Jenna DiPrima had 2 walks and a run scored for the Lady Crusaders.

The Hounds are 0-2 on the young season and host Washington on Friday.

Professional ball still Wentzien’s goal

I trust coach Jacobson and I think I offer something a little different to what they have.” He said his conversations with Jacobson have focused in versatility and his ability to play the guard position.

Wentzien said UNI will help him prepare for his career goal of playing professionally overseas or in the NBA.

Some people are saying I won’t have the numbers to go to the next level, but I won’t have the numbers, and if it ends up that I don’t have the numbers, then I’ll still be the best player I can be.” He said workouts start on June 5 when summer classes begin at the university.
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From the Front/Record

BOATER - Continued from Page 1

Cowser said. “A Nauvoo police officer may have been in the area and a conservation boat was put out at about 9:37 p.m. According to that call log, the scene was cleared at 2:48 a.m.,” Cowser said.

Bennett agreed with the times of where she got home to Montrose until about 3 a.m., a full nine hours after becoming disabled on the river. Bennett is looking for answers as to why it took so long for someone to get to her.

According to several different social media postings, which were fol-

lowing the incident, many people were standing by to help, but no official page or direction came to launch a rescue from the Iowa side. Bennett also said she was told by many that Iowa was on stand-

by prior to dark to lend assistance, but were not cleared to go.

“I don’t care what the situation is, you just don’t leave somebody on the river, you don’t!” Cowser said.

Cowser said Hancock County Sheriff’s dispatch has to notify the Illinois State Police, which in turn dispatches Illinois State Police officers since they fall under the direction of the ISP.

According to IDNR public information officer

Ed Cross, ISP received notification of the inci-

dent at 9:15 p.m. That call would have been a full hour after

Hancock County had been notified of the sit-

uation. “At 9:18 we messaged one of our con-

servation police officers, Karl Wheatley, and officer

Wheatley began making his way to the river at

9:30. Wheatley said his boat was in Hamilton and had to go there to hook

up the boat and haul it to the old Nauvoo ferry landing to put it in.

Wheatley said he couldn’t comment on the incident because it was an open investigation, but did call Hancock County to have a deputy on scene to assist him with the rescue.

“I can’t really say a whole lot, it’s an open case,” Bennett added. He called a Hancock County deputy. The two of us went out in my boat and found her about a half hour after that place where she was. She’s home she’s safe and I did my job,” Wheatley said.

“All the boating accidents that have happened recently, I was involved in all those rescue attempts. In terms of that - this was a very, very easy thing.’’ He said he was in the

coast guard for five years and has done a lot of towing.

I have five years in the Coast Guard,” he said. “I’ve towed NOAA buoys in the Bering Sea. I know how to tow. It might have taken a while, but there were a lot of things that contributed to it that aren’t on Facebook.”

Cross said Wheatley put his boat in sometime between 10 and 10:30 p.m. and had trouble getting to the boat because of the mud/water mixture and said at one point Wheatley had to put on chest waders and walk to the boat through the muddy conditions to hook up a tow rope. The rope snapped at one point and had to be reattached.

In the meantime, Montrose police, Montrose Fire & Rescue, and Lee County Ambulance were monitoring the situation from the Iowa side. Charles Biddenstad, asst. chief of the Keokuk Emergency Volunteer Corp, said when he got to the scene with the boat at about 10 p.m. after being dispatched by LeeComm E911 services, he called Hancock County to see if they needed an assist.

“Montrose had us paying to stand in case we was needed. I called Hancock County dispatch when I got there and I asked the dispatcher if they needed us for assist-

tance and he radioed the deputy that was out there and the deputy radioed back and said they was alright.”

Cowser and Cross said no one in their respective departments would have told Iowa rescue personnel to stand down.

“We would never do that,” Cross said.

Wheatley said he never had anyone ask him about anyone on the Iowa side being ready to come get Bennett.

Bennett said her parents received a call from Hancock County at about 10:15 p.m. and told her parents they had her on land. She said her parents went over to check on her and then realized that she wasn’t yet on land.

She said when she got on shore on the Illi-

ni side there were no medical personnel on the scene and Wheatley be-

gan investigating the boat. He then issued citations for Bennett not having a fire extinguisher or a Type 4 personal flotation device.

Calls to Montrose Police and LeeComm to verify times of dispatch went unreturned today.

COUNTY MOVING ON FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLES/BEHAVIORS

Healthy Lifestyles/Behaviors: Some of the high-

lights from the Live Healthy Lee County taskforce goal have been the printing of the LHLC Local Food Guide which promotes area producers and farmers markets. The goal of the food guide is to increase awareness of fresh produce access. The objective to increase trail development was met with the completion of the PORT of Fort Madi-

son’s Phase I trail, and the beginning construction of their Phase II trail. The coalition continues to plan wellness outreach activities for youth which will include Kid’s Day at the Fair on July 7th. Members have also had some success in increasing awareness of mental and behavioral health resources through dissemination of DOC/DHS resource directories and the Iowa Family Support Network link within the provider community. Several providers have been at the table to discuss options and possibilities to reduce wait time for mental health support services such as expanding facilities, increasing provider capacity with a multi strategic approach (personnel resources, administrative/data entry reorganization, and system efficiency) and use of telehealth services. Partners are very interested in continually growing to meet the needs and de-

mand of the community in medical and behavioral health arena.

Transportation: We were able to complete sur-

veys of identified populations: employers, employees, and the general community; regarding access to transportation and barriers for these specific populations. Through a successful collabora-

tion we were able to disseminate information county wide on additional available transportation resources such as use of the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Systems, Public and Private transportation options, grants and volunteer re-

sources. This was done through a very intentional and targeted plan for outreach with multi-partner collaboration efforts.

Communification, education, motivation for change: The biggest accomplishment of this task-

force was to select target populations to promote specific health messages to and provide education on health behaviors. The group chose to focus on veterans’ health during the first year of the plan. This resulted in participating and promot-

ing health during outreach events, and organizing a Veterans Health Fair which was held on April 29th. Several vendors and speakers provided our local veterans with a wealth of information and education about health and wellness and available resources.

If interested in becoming involved with a task force please call (319)372-5225.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 26 May Moderate Rain Low – 61.3°F | High – 68.0°F

SAT 27 May Light Rain Low – 65.1°F | High – 71.9°F

SUN 28 May Moderate Rain Low – 61.8°F | High – 70.5°F

MOR 29 May Light Rain Low – 61.0°F | High – 73.5°F

TUE 30 May Light Rain Low – 57.6°F | High – 70.2°F

For the Record

CONT’D from page 2 othy Jones, 42, of Keokuk, at the Sheriff’s office, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 05/24/17 – 12:45 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Christ-

more Michelle Pennington, 37, of West Point, in the 3900 block of Valley Road, Keokuk, on a warrant for contempt – failure to pay fine/cost. She posted bond and was released.

05/24/17 – 7:19 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jason Michael Creighbann, 38, Limon, Col, at Hwy. 27 and 255th Street. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. No information on the charges was given.

05/24/17 - 7:04 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Alisa Lee Carson, 20, of Jenoa Col., at the intersection of 255th street and Hwy 27 on warrant for possession of stolen property. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

05/24/17 - 3:32 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Vanessa Marie Cogswell, 31 of Kansas City, Mo., at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for theft in the 2nd degree. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

05/24/17 – 8:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Malik Hauan Troller, 21, of Fort Madison, at Hwy. 2 and Revue Court, on a charge of interference with official acts and two warrants for voluntary absence from custody and intimidation with a dangerous weap-

on. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

05/24/17 – 8:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Adrian Jamier Miles, 22, of Keokuk, at the Sheriff’s office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

05/23/17 – 11:54 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Limon, Col, at Hwy. 27 and 255th Street. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. No information on the charges was given.

05/24/17 – 7:19 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jason Michael Creighbann, 38, Limon, Col, at Hwy. 27 and 255th Street. He was taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. No information on the charges was given.

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persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.