Obituaries

KAITLYN MARIE SCHLICHER

Kaitlyn Marie Schlicher, 8 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 8:23 pm Thursday, November 2, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. She was born February 25, 2009 in Fort Madison, the daughter of Jennifer Marie Buechel and F. James Schlicher. Kaitlyn was in the 3rd grade at Richardson Elementary School, Fort Madison. She enjoyed playing with her pets, making crafts, her Barbies, music, and dressing up. She liked being funny and telling jokes. She loved to give to others.

She is survived by her parents, grandparents: Ted and Debbie Buechel, Luddie and Randy Lumsden, and Manuel Salazar, all of Fort Madison; aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation will be from 4:00 - 5:30 pm Monday, November 6, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Her funeral will follow and begin at 5:30 pm at the funeral home with Pastor Les Featheringill officiating. Following the service, her body will be cremated. A private burial will be at a later date at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Schlicher/Buechel family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

FM man critical after accident

LEE COUNTY - A 46-year-old Fort Madison man is in critical condition after an early morning accident just north of Fort Madison.

Lee County deputies responded to a one-vehicle motorcyclist in block cording from the office, driven by Jay Wells from the gravel roadway on a curve near a residential drive and struck a street sign causing him to be ejected from the vehicle.

Wells was southbound on 290th Avenue and, after being ejected from the motorcycle, Wells struck the guideline to a utility pole.

He was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transferred to Blessing Hospital in Quincy in critical condition with life threatening injuries.

No additional information was available at this time.

Looking back on 2017

Editors Note: As the year comes to a close, it is customary to look back at the stories that affected us throughout the year. Being an all digital newspaper with multiple social media channels, we have many avenues to consider when deciding to review the year behind us.

We chose to feature the Top 10 Best Read news articles from our website pencitycurrent.com and the Top 10 Facebook posts that impressed the most readers from each month.

Each issue of – A Year in Review will feature two months of these stories as they originally appeared.

These stories touched thousands of lives this year, whether they were heartbreakingly or heartwarming, good news or bad.

We hope you enjoy looking back on the year with us as we usher in a new year filled with new stories. You can rest assured Pen City Current will be reporting those stories in a factual, unbiased way in the manner you’ve become accustomed to – whether you’re reading them on our website, on our mobile app, in an e-Edition, or in any of our social media channels.

We thank you for your patronage and wish you a peaceful new year.
OBITUARIES

CORYE EUGENE GRAPE

Corye Eugene Grape, 44, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 2:52 a.m. on Friday, November 24, 2017 at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. He was born on March 4, 1973 in Topeka, KS to Christopher & Dianna (Eldridge) Grape. He married Lori D. Hawkins on May 31, 2003 in Fort Madison, IA. He was a fork truck driver at Pinnacle Foods with 21 years of service. He enjoyed spending time with his family in his backyard, helping others, cooking, playing horseshoes, traveling, riding his Harley Davidson, roofing, showing off his truck and working on vehicles.


The family will receive friends from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2017, with the funeral service to immediately follow at 11:00 a.m. all at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. A private family burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. Following the burial, the family will receive friends at Shopton Park. A memorial has been established in Corye's memory. Online condolences to the Grape family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

3 Lee County residents arrested on drug charges

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of three Keokuk, Iowa residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Dustin Ray Rogers, 26, of 3405 Middle Road, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on November 22, 2017 at the Lee County Sheriff’s Office on a felony drug warrant. Rogers is charged with delivery of methamphetamine in excess of five grams, a class B felony, drug tax stamp violation, a class D felony, possession of a controlled substance (amphetamine and dextro-amphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of marijuana.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of methamphetamine in the Keokuk area. In an unrelated matter, the Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrests of Ashley Lynn Reed, 30, and Michael Damien McNitt, 26, both of 312 North 11th Street, Keokuk, Iowa were arrested on November 26, 2017 at their residence on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. McNitt is charged with maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, McNitt faces up to 2 years in a state correctional facility. Reed is charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine in excess of five grams, a class B felony, drug tax stamp violation, a class D felony, possession of a controlled substance (amphetamine and dextro-amphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, possession of marijuana, a serious misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Reed faces up to 34 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. The arrests of Reed and McNitt stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and distribution of illegal drugs in the Keokuk area. A search warrant was served See TASK FORCE, page 8

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Councilman Seidel arrested on felony drug charge

Council action may wait for case to run its course

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
Pen City Current

FORT MADISON - A sitting Fort Madison city councilman has been charged with a class C felony drug charge and was taken into custody today.

Travis Seidel, who represents Fort Madison's 3rd ward, was arrested by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force Friday and charged with two counts of distributing hydro-morphone, also known as Dilaudid, Hydrostat, Palladone, Dillies, hospital heroin, within 1000 feet of a school.

The charge is a Class C felony with an enhancement. If convicted Seidel could face up to 15 years in a state correctional facility.

According to a release from the task force, the arrest stems from an investigation by the task force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of controlled substances in the Lee County area.

Mayor Brad Randolph said he was as disappointed as he was shocked.

"I just found out about an hour ago and my initial reaction is that I'm equally disappointed and shocked. It's unfortunate, and he's innocent until proven guilty, but I need to get all the relevant information and have a sit down with city staff and the council, and reach out to Travis and see what his thoughts are and after that go down a path that is best for the city," Randolph said Friday afternoon.

"It's not reflective of what we want from a city council member. We're held to a higher standard. I find it unfortunate. If what they say happened, happened it's unfortunate," City Manager David Varley said a city code doesn't make the arrest an auto-

See ARREST, page 8
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The Buffalo will roam to FM

Gibb purchases west end’s Chandler Burlington eatery to Fort Madison

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - This spring, the Fort Madison area will be home to one of Burlington’s most iconic eateries.

Chase Gibb, the owner of The Buffalo Tavern on Burlington’s south side, announced today that he has purchased Chandler’s Bar and Grill on the west end of Fort Madison and has plans to open under the new name The Buffalo Bar and Grille by St. Patrick’s Day.

He said he had heard the location might be for sale about four months ago and about 10 days ago a group of people with the ownership group showed up at The Buffalo in Burlington for lunch and a conversation took place that resulted in Gibb agreeing to the location.

“The timing is right with the ownership group and a couple of them expressed interest in talking to me about it, and actually, they just showed up for lunch and we had a good conversation,” Gibb said Thursday afternoon.

Gibb said he’s purchasing the property outright and will bring that same menu to the Fort Madison location.

“We have a menu that’s proven successful here in Burlington and we’re going to bring that to Fort Madison,” he said. Gibb awards tenderloin and our was Top 5 in the Iowa Pork Producers. We’ve got rib, boneless wings, and tacos that we’re bringing to Fort Madison. We’ll probably do the tacos on Monday like we do up here.”

Gibb’s operations were also singled out with a Distinction Award from the Greater Burlington Partnership in 2015.

Gibb said he thinks the two entities can be similar in offerings and programming because of their proximity to each other, but he does have some upgrades in mind.

“I’ve been pricing some big screens because we’ll need some TVs in there and we’ll probably redo a lot of the upholstery and some updates like that,” Gibb said.

“We may have to close down for a week to get some of that stuff done and get the signs changed, but I’m going to work with a pretty hefty budget there.”

See RESTAURANT, page 8
FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrests of multiple Fort Madison residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Samantha Suzanne Kellum, 29, of 2802 Avenue O, was arrested on Dec. 15 in the 2300 block of Highway 61 on felony drug charges. Kellum is charged with aiding and abetting the delivery of crack cocaine, a class C felony, delivery of crack cocaine, a class C felony, and possession with intent to deliver crack cocaine, a class C felony. If convicted, Kellum faces up to 30 years in a state correctional facility. The arrest of Kellum stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area. Kellum was located during a traffic stop conducted by a Lee County Sheriff’s Deputy. Items that support the charges were located during the traffic stop.

In an unrelated matter, Matthew Wayne Land, 55, of 1026 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, and Cody Dale Kussman, 29, of 1512 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa, were both arrested on various drug charges on December 10th, 2017 in the 4100 block of Main Street in Keokuk, Iowa. Land is charged with possession with intent to deliver marijuana second or subsequent offense, a class D felony with an enhancement, possession of methamphetamine 3rd or subsequent offense, a class D felony, possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor, and possession of marijuana, a serious misdemeanor. If convicted, Land faces up to 21 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. Kussman is charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Kussman faces up to 30 days in the Lee County Jail. The arrests of Land and Kussman stem from a traffic stop conducted by a Lee County Deputy. During the traffic stop, items that support the charges were discovered. The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in these investigations. The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.
DEBRA BETTE SALAZAR

DEBRA BETTE SALAZAR, 67, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:35 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at her home. She was born on October 6, 1950 in Fort Madison, IA to Vernon G. & Louise A. Dossett Jones. She was a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, flower gardening and visiting with her friends at 10th Street Station. Debbie is survived by: her life partner, companion and best friend of 34 years, Ron Marshall of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Danette & Jennifer Salazar Mullarkey of Burlington, IA; 2-sons: Ronnie (Jennifer) Smith of Gallatin, TN & Jude Salazar of Nashville, TN; 10-grandchildren: Sydney Lynn, Cade, Ryder, Marshall, Brodie & Morgan of Fort Madison, IA; & Marge Martin of Missouri. She was preceded in death by her parents, friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2017 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Steve Huecker officiating. Burial will be held at Myers Cemetery. A memorial has been established in Debbie’s memory. Online condolences to Debbie’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

FOUR MANSION - A 26-year-old Fort Madison man is in custody on attempted murder charges following a November 28 early morning stabbing.

Michael Alan Pauly was apprehended by Fort Madi-son Police at the Lee County Courthouse Thursday and was transported to Lee County Jail where he remains in custody.

According to reports, on Tuesday at about 2:40 a.m., Fort Madison police were dispatched to the Fort Madi-son Community Hospital on a report of a possible stab-

Bing victim that had been brought into the Emergency Department. Upon arrival officers were unable to determine what had happened.

As officers continued their investigation in the following days, the victim, who has not been identified, was able to provide an account of what had happened. The victim was able to articulate that they had been stabbed once in the back and had other superficial wounds that led officers to request an arrest warrant for Pauly for attempted murder.

On Thursday, Fort Madison police were dispatched to the North Lee County Court House on a report of a person there who had an outstanding arrest warrant. Upon arrival the court clerks advised that Pauly was there attending a hearing on another matter. As Pauly exited the courtroom he was taken into custody, processed, and taken to the Lee County Jail on a charge of attempted murder, with a $50,000 cash only bond.

Attempted murder is a class B felony punish-able by up to 25 years in prison. Attempted murder is defined as; any act, which the person expects will set in motion a force or chain of events with the expectation that the action will cause or result in the death of another, with the intent to cause such death.

The arrest of a person is not a plea or finding of guilt. All person are considered innocent until proven in a court of law.

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Removal from council not automatic in city code

He said he would need to change the awning out front and is going to check with city code once the operation is up and running, to see about possibly getting outdoor seating somewhere on the property, possibly the south side. Lunch delivery and catering are also on the agenda for Gibb. He said the location is a prime spot as Fort Madison continues to develop, and with the bypass access close by as are many of the city’s industrial partners and the hospital.

The tavern in Burlington is a very popular hang out for happy hour and Gibb said he plans on holding the same happy hour offerings in Fort Madison. He also said he’s met with the current staff at Chandler’s and will be keeping the staff in place and will probably, at some point, be adding staff after the re-opening. The restaurant will have the same sports bar environment but he said families are welcome. Gibb said he plans on the restaurant being open til midnight during the week and 1 a.m. on the weekend with food available during all hours.

More information on the operations of the Buffalo can be found on the company’s Facebook page or on its website.

Duo facing charges in Iowa, Missouri

CHASE - Continued from Page 1

tion Center. Haage and Duncan were both booked into the Clark County Detention Center on a 24-hour investigatory hold, pending formal charges, in both Missouri and Iowa.

On Thursday morning, Clark County deputies conducted an inventory search of the Escalade at Brewer and Sons in Kahoka. The search resulted in methamphetamine and drug related items commonly known to be used for distribution.

Multiple agencies assisted in arrests

TASK FORCE - Continued from Page 2

at their residences and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Hancock County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

ARREST - Continued from Page 3

VARLEY

 Automatic removal.

“Obviously I haven’t talked with him. Any action would have to come after a fair hearing where he would be able to make his case and bring in witnesses if he wanted and things like that, but if he were convicted, upon conviction I think it takes a 2/3 vote of the full council to remove him, if that’s the action the council would want to take,” Varley said. “It’s a due process thing.”

According to the Lee County Sheriff’s office Seidel was arrested by law enforcement Friday morning at his home and was taken to the Lee County Jail, where he was given a pre-trial release.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

Top December Facebook Posts

#1 Originally published December 14, 2017
Reached 33,727 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1882452615399632

#2 Originally published December 20, 2017
Reached 26,608 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1885083511803209

#3 Originally published December 4, 2017
Reached 16,639 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1878020399176187
Top December Facebook Posts

#4 Originally published December 8, 2017
Reached 15,564 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1879863355658858

#5 Originally published December 21, 2017
Reached 14,905 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1885460268432200

#6 Originally published December 22, 2017
Reached 11,525 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1885939591717601

Top December Stories #6-10

#6 FMCH looking at merger options with GRHS
Originally published December 22, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/22/fmch-looking-merger-options-grhs/

#7 New P3 system alerts school to issue
Originally published December 15, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/14/tip-schools-new-reporting-line-prompts-lockdown/

#8 Tiffany Butler obituary
Originally published December 18, 2017

#9 Joni Lynn Wellman obituary
Originally published December 14, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/13/king-lynk-obituary-joni-lynn-wellman-56-ft-madison/

#10 Area firefighters handle Climax fire
Originally published December 18, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/12/18/fm-fire-responds-call-climax-molybdenum/

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#8 Originally published December 18, 2017
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1884180788560148

#9 Originally published December 18, 2017
Reached 8,891 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1884263831885177

#10 Originally published December 13, 2017
Reached 8,654 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1882030648775162

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