City releases statement on misconduct

City Manager says investigation revealed some allegations had merit, while others did not

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Following media reports on Monday surrounding misconduct claims against members of the Fort Madison Police Department, Fort Madison City Manager David Varley issued the following statement this afternoon.

"Recently the news media reported the City’s Police Department was investigating concerning allegations of misconduct. Some of the statements of Police Chief Tim Sittig quoted in the Democrat gave the wrong impression. The city did, in fact, receive complaints of inappropriate behavior by members of the Police Department. The city takes all such complaints seriously. Written city policy requires an immediate investigation when allegations such as these are made. In this case, at the direction of Mayor Randolph and City Council, the investigation became available. No injuries were reported at the scene and no information on whether anyone was present in the house at the time is yet available."

County to stand pat on winter road code

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

MONTROSE - After several weeks of discussion and a review of county policy regarding maintenance of county paved roads during icy weather, the county has decided to keep the status quo.

Following Tuesday’s regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, the supervisors held a workshop to discuss the issue with County Engineer Ernie Steffensmeier, who oversees the county’s secondary road program.

Steffensmeier said the county’s current protocol when snow or ice is predicted is to have crews on the road starting at 5 a.m. and working until 6 p.m.

Supervisors Gary Folluo and Matt Pflug expressed concern about the amount of time where no crews are on the road keeping roads safe for travel. The issue had previously been in front of the supervisors following snow and icy conditions on county roads earlier this year. Chairman Don Hunold had asked Steffensmeier to look at the county code to see if something can be worked out to better handle the situations.

Current county ordinance for emergency conditions is 4-2-5 and reads as follows: Emergency Conditions - “1. The sequence of service may be suspended under circumstances - ‘a. The service of the State, County, or any Political Subdivision may be suspended…’ “b. The Public Service Commission may suspend...”

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Obituaries/Local News

City imposed discipline, but firings not warranted

VARLEY - Continued from Page 1

Manager Varley, the city immediately commenced an investigation. Following initial interviews by the City Manager, an experienced expert with an employment law background conducted a thorough investigation into all complaints. As with most complaints, some of the allegations were found to be without merit. The complaining parties were assured that steps were being taken to ensure any substantiated issues were rectified. The City Manager then carried out all the recommendations of the independent investigator. Disciplinary action was, in fact, taken against certain persons who were determined to have been at fault. Because of confidentiality laws, the city is not at liberty to disclose the details of what personnel actions were taken, or against which employees such actions were taken. However, the city can state that although discipline was imposed, none of the facts rose to the level of termination of an employee. The city has taken all appropriate steps as recommended, and this investigation is now closed. The city will, of course monitor these issues going forward.”

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LASAGNA DINNER
Thursday, March 1 • 5:30 to 6:30
Includes salad, lasagna, garlic bread, dessert and drink
Free will donation
Benefit for the Alzheimer’s Association
Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.
Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Hazel Virginia LeMaster, 92 of Montrose, IA died Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at the Montrose Health Center in Montrose, IA. She was born September 13, 1925 in Alasco, MO the daughter of James and Hazel Moss Riffle. On February 19, 1943 she was united in marriage to John F. LeMaster in Kahoka, MO. He preceded her in death in 1994.

She is survived by one son, John L. LeMaster and his wife Camellia of Montrose, IA, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, one sister, Deloris Wollam of Kahoka, MO.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two daughters, two sons, two brothers, and four sisters.

A graveside service will be held 1 p.m., Friday at Sand Cemetery in St. Francisville, MO with Pastor Jason Mott officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to HCI Hospice.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

AUGUSTA GRIFFITHS

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police report 02/26/18 - 11:05 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jerry G. Drago, 63, of Fort Madison, on the 700 block of 48th Street on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3800 block of Avenue L. 02/27/18 - 6:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Maggie Sue Keenum, 24, of Burlington in the 1400 block of Avenue D on a charge of interference with official acts. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report 02/23/18 - 4:09 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Monte Del Horner, 49, of Keokuk, in the 1000 block of Cedar Street in Keokuk on a warrant for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released on bond. 02/23/18 - 12:06 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Warren Richard LaValle, 53, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on two warrants for judgment delinquency. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 02/23/18 - 2:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident near the intersection of 300th Street and 205th Avenue. A vehicle driven by Kathleen Marie Brookhiser, 68, of Montrose pulled out from a side road in front of a vehicle driven by Nathan Stanley Schreiber, 52, of Revere, Mo. Schreiber's vehicle struck Brookhiser's vehicle as it pulled on to the street. No injuries were reported at the scene. Brookhiser was cited for failure to yield upon entering the highway. 02/23/18 - 4:09 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tyree Omar Tillman, 23, of Argyle, at the sheriff's office on three warrants for violation of parole. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and then released on bond. 02/24/18 - 3:23 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on 270th Avenue and Belmont Road. A vehicle driven by Kailey Lynn Wilsey, 22, of Keokuk swerved to miss a deer and left the roadway going down into a yard and colliding into a mailbox. Wilsey left the scene and then returned at a later time. No citations or injuries were reported at the scene. 02/26/18 - 11:20 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Terry Donnell Neill, Jr., 37, of Keokuk in the 1800 block of William Street on a warrant for child endangerment-no injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 02/26/18 - 3:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christine Michelle Pennington, 38, of Hamilton, Ill., in the 2500 block of Hwy. 61, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 02/26/18 - 3:09 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Gabriel Andrews, 54, of Argyle, at the intersection of 296th Street and Hwy 394 in Argyle on a charge of OWI-3rd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 02/26/18 - 11:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Riva Ann Weir, 50, of Argyle in the 2900 block of 179th Avenue on a warrant for being a fugitive from justice and two counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 02/27/18 - 10:35 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daphne Kay Akers, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of 234th Place on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 02/27/18 - 8:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Britney Nicole Wittlich, 23, of Fort Madison in the 200 block of Hwy. 61 in Montrose on a charge of failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. 02/27/18 - 5:22 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 14-year-old female from Burlington, at the juvenile detention center, no charge provided. The juvenile was held in custody.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report 02/26/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls. 02/27/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to six medical calls and one assist.

For the Record/Lottery Numbers

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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• Creation Museum Admission
• Garden of Hope Admission

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To view a full day-by-day detailed itinerary, please visit us online at www.TrailwaysTravel.com

CHICAGO CUBS 2018

Wrigley Field / Chicago, IL

Trailways Travel is now taking reservations for our 2018 Wrigley Field tour! For a full list of departure dates, and to make reservations visit us online at www.TrailwaysTravel.com or give us a call M-F between 8:30 and 5:00.
City band funds
Fort Madison Rotary President Tim Gobble presents Lisa Knipe of the Fort Madison City Band funds raised from the Rotary's annual community picnic.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Officials take a closer look at winter road protocol

snowstorm. 2. The provisions of the Chapter shall be further suspended in the event the Governor, by proclamation, implements the State disaster plan, or the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, by proclamation, implements the County disaster plan. If such occurs, the County personnel and equipment shall be immediately subject to the direction of the Governor or the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors.

Folluo said the policy is very clear and emergencies should be handled per the code, but defining what is an emergency is murky.

"I think our policy is very clear. Emergency. That's the key word. We've got an emergency situation where there's ice at an intersection, the sheriff's seen two cars going through it already, dispatch a truck out there and get it sanded. I don't think that's too much to ask," Folluo said.

"Or you have a situation where you have an ambulance trying to get up a hill and they can't get up the hill and the sheriff department calls and says send somebody out."

Assistant Engineer Ben Huff said changing a policy could expose the county to litigation if crews are going to a trouble spot and pass through an intersection without treating and then an accident occurs there.

Steffensmeier said the county does respond to emergency situations that are relayed to the county roads department from the local law enforcement or spotters.

"If there's been an accident or other issue, we're going to send those vehicles out," Steffensmeier said. "We do have spotters that go out at night and check those roads and stuff like that and then we make decisions on what time we call crews in."

Folluo then clarified that crews can be called out early to deal with those situations. Huff said the department does use a DOT weather application that uses road surface temperatures to more accurately predict favorable ice conditions.

Pflug said the issue boils down to manpower.

"What it gets down to is your guys can only do so much work. But the DOT will hire seasonal drivers to cover the gaps. Is that something that we can discuss?"

Steffensmeier said it may not be feasible because the county may not use them enough to make it worthwhile to be available.

"State of Iowa does it, so those people must be sitting around waiting," Pflug said.

Hunold said if there's an issue with a big snow storm at 8 p.m. and the county pulls crews in to handle that, the crews will not be able to work during the next morning when travel is much heavier.

"We're back to the same dilemma if you're talking with (Lee County Sheriff) Stacy (Weber) and finding the slick spots, but I don't know if you can make a policy to hit the heaviest route," Hunold said.

The discussion wrapped up with leaving the policy as it stands and responding to emergencies on an as-determined basis by law enforcement and information gathered by county and state officials.
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Mediapolis Dental Care 319-394-3255
Burlington Family Dentistry 319-752-7993
The Board read the attendance and explained the members of the audience in President Wondra welcomed Directors Hotop, Hope and Secretary Elmore. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the trip request from Clint Kobelt to attend a welding workshop in Vinnvennes, Indiana, June 5-7, 2018. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by Di-Prima and seconded by Ross to approve the trip request from Clint Kobelt to attend a welding workshop in Vinnvennes, Indiana, June 5-7, 2018. The Board reviewed the motion on a 5-0 voice vote.

5. Consider approval of the Teacher Quality travel request for Todd Huckabee and Kelly Knustrom to attend the Shape America convention in Nashville, TN, March 22-24, 2018. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by Di-Prima and seconded by Young by Young to renumber and approve policy #507.2-E as policy #507.2. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

5.07.3 – Communicable Diseases. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Truxel to approve policy #507.3 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

5.07.4 – First Aid Reports. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to delete policy #507.4-E as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

b. 507.4-R – 2. Student Accident Report Form. It was moved by Young and seconded by Truxel to approve policy #507.4 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

3. Consider approval of the Farm Lease – Cash Rent contract between the Fort Madison Community School District and RW Hoeing Bros. The Board reviewed the Farm Lease – Cash Rent agreement between Mid-Prairie and RW Hoeing Bros. It was moved by Young and seconded by Ross to approve the Farm Lease – Cash Rent contract between the Fort Madison Community School District and RW Hoeing Bros as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

4. Consider approval of the 2018-2019 School Calendar. The Board reviewed the 2018-2019 School Calendar. Discussion followed. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Young to approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.

4.07.2 – Student Health Services. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy #507.2 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
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HELP WANTED

HTC Foundation
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Holy Trinity Catholic Schools Foundation Board is looking to hire a Development Director. This individual will work with the Board to grow the assets managed by the Foundation. Email resumes to Brian Foote at bfoote@hlic.org. Resumes are due by March 15th.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking an Assistant Director for their Ft. Madison Center.

This is a year round clerical and administrative role - full time during the school year, part time during the summer. Benefits eligible.

The position requires strong organizational and interpersonal skills. A college degree is preferred.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holytrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.

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Rainbolt family holding event to offset son’s final expenses

FORT MADISON - A benefit is being planned for expenses related to the death of Dakotah Rainbolt on March 3, 2018 at the Fort Madison Eagles, 4822 Avenue O. from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As part of the benefit a $10 raffle is being held for a quarter side of beef from Dave’s Old Fashioned Meats. Contact Gary’s Trading Post at 319-561-1132 for more information or tickets.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.penCityCurrent.com/glo-crazy.

The following is a paid advertisement from Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.

Know your rights if injured at work

Q. What benefits am I entitled to receive if I sustain an injury at work?

A. If you are injured at work, you essentially are entitled to three different types of benefits, Medical Benefits, Wage Replacement Benefits and Permanency Benefits.

1. The first type of benefit that you are entitled to is to have your medical expenses paid for medical care received as a result of the work injury. The employer has the right to choose your physician, but they are required to pay for your medical care. In addition, they should pay you the cost of gas and use of your vehicle to get you to and from your doctor (mileage expense).

2. The second benefit you are entitled to is wage replacement benefits if you have to be off work as a result of your injury. Each week that you are off of work as a result of your work injury, you are entitled to receive a check which approximates your take-home pay. The reason it “approximates” your take home pay is because it is non-taxable.

3. The final benefit you are entitled to receive is what is called permanent partial disability benefits. These are benefits that are paid based upon the severity of your injury and, in some cases, based upon how it affects your earnings in the future. This is the benefit that is typically discussed for purposes of a settlement of a Workers’ Compensation claim.

There are other benefits that you are entitled to if you are injured at work and an experienced Workers’ Compensation lawyer can provide you guidance concerning those additional benefits.

Contact Pothitakis Law for more information. Click here to visit their website or call (319) 754-6400.

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