Monday accident traps driver

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT - A Monday morning accident resulted in a driver being confined to a vehicle after taking out a utility pole on County Road 103 about three miles north of Fort Madison.

West Point Fire & Rescue, along with Lee County Sheriff’s deputies and Lee County EMS, responded to the scene to shut the power off so the driver could get out of the vehicle.

No information was available as to any injuries at the scene.

Despite drug plea, councilman wants to keep seat

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Despite entering a guilty plea on March 30th to a felony drug charge, a sitting Fort Madison city councilman has said he plans to fill out his term.

Travis Seidel, who represents the 3rd Ward on the council, reached a plea agreement with the Lee County Attorney's office in which he would plead guilty to one count of distributing narcotics within 1,000 feet of a school, a class C felony. In exchange for the plea, Lee County Attorney Ross Braden has agreed to seek a deferred judgment, which would knock the felony charge off Seidel's permanent record after successful completion of a probationary period.

Seidel said Monday afternoon he wanted to serve out his term and possibly seek re-election in 2019.

"I'm not looking to resign," he said. "The way things are set at this point, the punishment does have a chance to come off my record. I understand it's an agreement and the judge can do what they see fit." If everything goes well, I plan to serve out my term and look to the public and see if they are still willing for me to run. I would be willing to do it. I was going to be done because I thought eight years was enough. But what I've seen lately I'd be interested in running again to make sure people are getting the best council they can and the best service they can."

Seidel declined to speak on the specifics of the arrest other than to say he doesn't deny doing what he was charged with.

"I've never denied that I did something wrong. It is not looking to resign. The way things are set at this point, the punishment does have a chance to come off my record."

- Travis Seidel
FM City Councilman
Kiwanis’ Illinois-Eastern Iowa District Governor Terry Cunfare addressed the crowd of about 40 at the Fort Madison Kiwanis’ 50th Anniversary on Monday. Dignitaries from the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District, as well as Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph were on hand for the event.
Fort Madison Middle School releases 3rd quarter honor roll

Principal’s Scholar: 8th Grade

Principal’s Honors:

A Honor Roll: 7th Grade
Kayore Lafferty, Haley Lampe, Caden Hutson, Raymond Jaciunde, Taylor James, Isaiah Janic, Hadley Johnson, Lillian Walz, and Xander Wellman

A Honor Roll: 8th Grade

A Honor Roll: 6th Grade

A Honor Roll: 5th Grade

Education News

Fort Madison Middle School releases 3rd quarter honor roll

Principal's Scholar: 7th Grade
Ivy Arnold, Mylah Blanchard, Alivia Brit, Isabella Boeding, McKenna Cashman, Lucy Deacon, Kadyn Dunn, Camille Kruse, Londyn Mccllvan, Lila Miller, Lauren Otte, Kaemryn Pierce, Kay Qultums, Piper Shaffer, Elle Schulte, Emily Steffensmeier, Delaney Walker

Principal’s Scholar: 6th Grade

Principal’s Scholar: 5th Grade

Principal’s Scholar: 4th Grade

Principal’s Scholar: 3rd Grade

A Honor Roll: 8th Grade

A Honor Roll: 6th Grade
Kassidy Barton, Lacey Beimer, Redi Bell, Makenna Bernard, Annah Blanchard, Dane Breccourt, Haille Caler, Alex Carson, Isucah Coleman, Chaellee Cover, Hunter Cresswell, Cadie Denning, Madison Erb, Marissa Frantz, Autumn Friz-Junker, Conner Fugel, Conner Gelshutore, Micah Gemhardt, Joni Gijtn, Maylie Gordon, Karena Greenhagen-Johnson, Ella Groves, Chloe Haessig, Mason Harris, Reed Holmes, Madison Hufnuer, Daron Hunnett, Damon Hunter, Tyler Johnson, Alexandria Kem, Emma Kem, Audrey Kirchner, Jamarkus Kline, Sky Lawon, Amelia Leis, Akshene Manchanda, Atlaynn McKnight, Kylee Menke, Ma Moore, Ayden Myers, Alma Oriona, Alexis Osborn, Lucas Pace, Ethan Porter, Benjamin Ramatowski, Naudia Ruston, Delaneey Seay, Kameron Segoviano, Autumn Silv, Chloe Sokolik, Elizabeth Tanner, Chance Weakley, Kelly Knave, Kailin White, Pyletna Wieganand, and Theodore Yeh.

A Honor Roll: 5th Grade

See HONORS, page 6

Great River Regional Waste Authority

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Spring Cleaning
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- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
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- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

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Spring Cleaning
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- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
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We're Located Only 10 Minutes From Wal-Mart or Shopko.

For the Record

the 1700 block of Avenue H.

a report of a gas drive off in

04/07/18 - 9:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2100 block of 255th Street Donnellson, on a warrant for 2nd degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail on a warrant for 2nd degree theft between $1,000 and $10,000. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.

04/06/18 - 9:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Nicholas Walter Casimore, 21, of Donnellson, in the 200 block of Madison Avenue in Donnellson, on a charge of willful injury with injury. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above should be presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

04/08/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 2200 block of Avenue O. 04/07/18 - 11:32 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism at the intersection of Avenue L and 25th Street.

04/07/18 - 2:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident at the intersection of Avenue L and 25th Street.

04/07/18 - 7:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1700 block of Avenue H.

04/07/18 - 12:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

04/08/18 - 9:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a report of a vehicle accident on Hwy. 27 where a vehicle driven by Charles K. Gadza, 32 of Hustenville, Ala., lost control and entered the east ditch. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.

04/08/18 - 10:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 4800 block of Avenue O. 04/08/18 - 4:37 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested William Earl Jones, 52, of Fort Madison at the sheriff’s office on a charge of interference with correction officers - assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and then released after posting bond.

04/08/18 - 10:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a report of medical calls.

04/08/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 200 block of Madison Avenue in Donnellson.

04/08/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a report of medical calls.

04/08/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to a report of a shoplifter in the 200 block of Madison Avenue in Donnellson.

Lee Manning, 51, of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

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HELP WANTED

HOSPICE MASSAGE THERAPIST

Lee County Health Department is seeking a Licensed Massage Therapist. This is a contract position. Massage Therapist will provide care to clients and caregivers with massage therapy for pain relief and relaxation. Some documentation is required. Licensure is required for Iowa and Illinois, or be willing to get the license. Submit resume to Margaret Cook via mail at LCHD P.O. Box 1426 Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or email cook@lee-countyfd.org. Resume deadline is April 30th, 2018.

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COUNCILMAN - Continued from Page 1

was just such a minimal thing and I thought it could be handled as a learning les-
son. I’ve certainly learned from it, I just didn’t know the legality of it all. I was just
looking to help somebody out.”

He said people who know him know he goes out of his way to help people.
“People who know me know my character and that this was a mistake,” Seidel
said. “A big majority of people have been doing this, but the main thing here is that
this was educational for me and some random acts of kindness can be illegal and
can get you into trouble. When it’s all over and I can talk about it, I want to help
educate other people as well.”

“I’m hoping the judicial system gives me the benefit here and know this would
never happen again.”

Seidel was originally arrested Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 and charged with two counts
of distributing hydromorphone, also known as Dilaudid, Hydrostat, Palladone,
and Potentil. He was released the same day and the charge has been working its way through the court
system. Sentencing has been set for June 1, at 9 a.m.

Seidel is also facing up to a $1,000 civil penalty and restitution as part of the
plea agreement, but said the
“Obviously, this guy is a high-profile member of the community,” Braden said.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, who prosecuted the case, said he was going
to recommend the deferred judgment as part of the plea agreement, but said the
judge has the final say at sentencing.

“Obviously, this guy is a high-profile member of the community,” Braden said. “But I hold him responsible to the same extent I would anyone else in this same
position. It’s his first offense so that certainly qualifies for a deferred judgment. It’s
a big majority of people have been doing this, but the main thing here is that
this was educational for me and some random acts of kindness can be illegal and
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“He said deferred judgments are typically given to youthful offenders who’ve
made an isolated mistake, or observed in older offenders who’ve lived an otherwise
exemplary life, and for whatever reason, made a poor decision.

Seidel is also facing up to a $1,000 civil penalty and restitution as part of the
penalty of the class C felony.