2018 - A Year in Review

Sunday mishap leaves truck in Casey’s General Store

A Chevrolet pickup driven by Jess Sholl collided with the east wall of the Casey’s General Store on Fort Madison’s west side early Sunday morning. No injuries were reported as a result of the incident.

This brief news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 15,654 times and was engaged with 3,679 times.

Authorities searching for Keokuk man

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

MONTROSE - The Lee County Sheriff’s department is asking the public for help locating a Keokuk man. Authorities were asked to do a welfare check just before noon Monday morning on 39-year-old Dan Oilar of Keokuk, near the Red Wing Access on the Des Moines River southwest of Keokuk.

Sheriff Stacy Weber said deputies were unable to physically locate Oilar, but were able to reach him by phone. After brief conversations with deputies on the phone, Oilar hung up on authorities and appeared to have powered down his phone prompting a search in the area of the Des Moines River.

Keokuk Emergency Volunteer Corp launched a rescue boat at Red Wing about an hour later, but Weber called off the search due to high water levels and quick moving currents at about 2:40 p.m.

“We don't even really know if he got into the river. Right now it's an attempt to locate and we're just trying to find him to make sure he's OK,” Weber said. “So if anyone has any information on his whereabouts, they should give us a call.”

Weber said the conditions were dangerous for rescue crews and without knowing for sure if Oilar was actually in the river, he suspended the search.

Anyone with information about Oilar’s whereabouts is encouraged to call the sheriff’s office at 319-372-1152.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 14,823 times and was engaged with 8,272 times.

Hancock County stabbing victim ends up in FM

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police and first responders were called to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge on Monday night on a report of a stabbing.

Authorities were notified at approximately 10:15 p.m. Monday that a vehicle was coming across the bridge from Hancock County in Illinois carrying a passenger who had allegedly been stabbed above the abdomen. The driver of the private vehicle may have also sustained injuries.

Lee County EMS, Fort Madison Fire & Rescue and police responded to the foot of the bridge where the victim, who’s name has not been released, and the driver were taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said local police notified the Hancock County Sheriff’s Department and a deputy was sent to take over the investigation.

No information on the incident, the extent of the injuries or the circumstances were available from the Hancock County Sheriff’s Department this morning and Sheriff Scott Bentzinger was unavailable for comment.

This news story and follow up stories were read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 26,245 times and was engaged with 5,800 times.

Gannon Huston shows off his decorated 4-wheeler at the start of the Charlie Korschgen 4th of July Kiddies' Parade Saturday.

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4th of July on Main Street

Cub and Boy scouts from the Pack and Troop 7 of Fort Madison tend to the “Old Fort” on Wednesday morning as part of the annual 4th of July Charlie Korschgen Kiddie Parade in downtown Fort Madison. The parade kicked off at 18th Street and Avenue G and proceeded east to 6th Street. At right, Lee County Attorney Ross Braden walks beside daughter Mylin at the start of the parade Saturday.

FM’s Derr taking toys to Burlington retail outlet

FORT MADISON - Although her father is no-longer alive, Brenda Derr is using her dad’s nickname for her as an inspiration in her new business venture.

Derr, the owner of Dollhouse Dreams in Fort Madison, will be opening a new location this fall in a retail outlet in Burlington near Dick’s Sporting Goods on Agency Street.

With a focus on educational toys and her Melissa & Doug collections, Derr wants to create an environment where children feel free to experience playtime again. But she’s pulling from her past as a child when her father used to call her “Shug”...short for sugar.

“The new place is going to be called “Shug’s Tiny Town” in honor of my dad. That’s what he used to call me when I was little, ‘Shug,'” Derr said.

Her premiere line of Melissa & Doug toys was created by Melissa and Doug Bernstein, a husband and wife duo who started a toy company in 1988 in their basement and Doug’s parents’ garage and is headquartered in Wilton, Connecticut.

Derr said the company’s philosophy is to take childhood back and Derr said the toys can bring back creativity and engagement that may be at risk in an ever-increasing digital world.

“We need to try and get kids away from all that and get them back into imaginative play and creativity. That’s something they will take with them later in life,” she said.

See TOYS, page 5
We Remember Our Loved Ones Lost in 2018

Stella T. Abolt
William Edward Adams
Elmer Dale Aldridge
Donald G. Alexander
Jackie Allen
Anna Mae Allen Lowry
Ethel Irene Ames
Lloyd D. Apple
Mary Ester Arpin
Charlene Auwaerter
Linda Barker
Elizabeth Jane Barry
Paul J. "Bari"
Bartholomew
Rose Cornelia Beecham
Cartmill
Stephen Henry Beimer
Susan M. Beierl Nelson
Brian Lee Bell
Carl Alfred Bell
Deanna Lynn Bennett
Betty Mae Bergthold
Janet Marie Bethurem
Ryan Lee Bilb-Blattan
Don Dok D. "Duck"
Boecking
Kenneth L. Boeding
Laverne M. Boeding
Daniel Mathew Boeding
Karen Kay Bonta
Robert Lee Bonta
William Earl Boon
John William Brockman
Lorenna E. Brown
Stephen C. Brown
Vivian "Viv" Irene Bryant
Bradley Joseph Buckley
Thomas A. Buechel
Paul LeRoy Bumblin, Sr.
Karen Edna Burdette
Jerry Lee Burdette, Sr.
Oscar Edward Davids
Derek Mathew Bonar
Elmer Dean Aldridge
Donald G. Alexander
Karen Edna Burdette
Rose Evelene Corbin
Betty Mae Bergthold
Laverne M. Boeding
Dr. Douglas Eugene Shores
Janet Lee Burdette, Sr.
John Charles Burgess
Steve Bussman
V. Darlene Byrne
Sandra Anne Caldwell
Susan Jane Campbell
Janis J. Carter
Randy R. Carter
James David "Jethro" Carter
Michael Lee Cassidy
Dolores J. Chamesness
Yokanda Lee "Sam" Cheek
Montray LaVega Clark
Janet L. Caesar
Audrey J. Chingman
Elizabeth "Betty" Coffman
Karen Kay Cope
Helen Colby Schulte
Swiers
Connie Conrad
Karen E. Cooper
Rose Evelene Corbin
Benjamin Abbott
Cornelius "Les" Lee Norton
Cramer
Josias Neri Cruz
Roy A. Cullen
Janalee Cunninham
Patrick Edward Davids
Dorothy Ann Dawson
Robin L. Decker
Jack Martin Delph
George D. Demetral
Patricia Ruth Denning
Margie Fern Dent
Wendy Lou Denton
Alan Dale DeWitt
Terri Anita DeWitt
Wilson
Joe "Joe" S. Diaz, Jr.
Gary M. Dinwiddie
Daniel Dan "Dan" Dinwiddie
Daniel C. Dorn
William "Bill" I. Duncan
Karen J. Dunn
Bette "Susie" Dunn
Henson
Alexander "Alex"
Maximillian Allen Edler
Frank M. Ellington
Georgia F. Ellis
Marguerite Eileen Ellis
Shirley Ann Erb
Joyce E. Erickson
Eugene "Curly" H. Faeth
Donald D. Farrington
Zuda Nadin Featthill
Roger Reathergilll
Lucille R. Federly
Mary Rose Federly
Marjorie Leona Fine
Rippenkroeger
Charlene Ellenore Fotsch
Hood
Ron C. Freitag
Wallace "Wally" Eugene Gallbreath
Beatrice D. "Dee Dee" Garrett
Steven James Gates
Charles T. Gathers
Wanda M. Gaylord
Gene A. Gerhardt
Sara Louise Graf
Dorissula "Rosie" Gray
George W. Gray
Marriana Greedled
Adriene Marie Greyle
Ronald Greens
Geraldine Gregg Gross
Hurley B. Gregory
Norbert Sebastian Grelk
Alexandra Griffiths
James Michael "Mike" Grogen
Robert Joseph Grossman
Rosmarie P. Gravur
Morningstar
Kathleen "Kay"
Eldonna Gutting
Henry A. Hanna
Russell L. Hardin
Rita Harmeyer
Gregory Paul Hathaway
Shirley A. Hauck
Geardline Faye "Gerry"
Hawk
Robert Dana Haey
Vera I. Hellweg
Ronald "Ron" Hill
Rose Evelyn Howland
Vera I. Hellweg
Howard J. Howland, Jr.
Beverly Ann Hofmann
Richard William "Rip" Hogan
Floyd Edward Hohl
Earlaine Evelyn Hoover
Bessie Helen Loretta
Horton
Peggy Colleen Howard
Rhonda Sue Huff
Marcine "Marcy" E. Huffman
Shirley Hubby
Kathy "Kathy" Noreen
Ingebosith
Philip J. Ingebosith
Cathy Marie Jackson Buck
Justin Jacobsmeier
Aileen Louise Jenkins
Connie Kay Joe
John B. John
Walter Brent Joe
Larry C. Johnson
Sherrilyn Kay Kamp
Julia Renee Kay
Amy Marie Keel
John Ronald Keller
Anthony "Tony" David Kemper
Helga Kent
James Patrick Kinsey
Francis P. Kinney
Johnnie Kline
Lawrence Eugenue "Larry" Knobel
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Edward Kramer
Rosaleine E. "Rosie" Kramer
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Gertrude M. Kruse
Ronald David "Ron" Kutzner
William Mary Langrehr
Louis "Louis" Gail Larsen
Mary Frances Leake
Daisy Louise Leggett
Hand Virginia LeMaster
Julia (Julie) Light
William (Bill) Logan
Devin Richard Lorenz
Weyman Carl Lorey
Lawrence "Larry" Loarway
Gary S. Lowenberg
Alexandria D. "Hando"
Lozano
Paula Lozano
Shirley E. Lozano
Donald Joseph Lynch
Susan Marie Marshall
Betty Jocey Martin
Patrick George Martin
Aurelia "Wally" Martinez
Jared John "Jed" Matlock
Doris McCane
John E. McCollum
Junior Harold McKinley
Regina H. McKoon
Nellie Ruth McCoy
Jeffrey G. Meister
Agnetha Mary "Nellie"
LaVerne Ann Menke
James Edward "Jim" Mercer
Bernice E. Merchant
Vance H. Meythorhen
Vincent D. Michl
Edna Miller
Joe James Miller
Mac Joan Miller
Phyllis Rosamond Miller
James Ray Mitchell
Larry Joseph Moeller
Marcella Elizabeth Moore
Richard P. Morgan
Colleen "Collie" R. Morrissy
Daniel Bernard Mueller
Lewy W. Mund
Arthur John Maehoff
Diana Lynn Nathen
Doris Marie Nelson
Gary L. Nelson
Reginald Lee "Reggie"
Nerhus
Helen Neueug
Robert "Rob" Paul Eugene Newshill
Marvin "Darlene" Niggemeyer
Edward Joseph Noll
Richard William Nolte, Sr.
Virgin G. Nuelle
Sandra Louise O'Shea
Lorraine Ellen Painter
Cynthia M. "Cindy"
Panther
Bob Reuner
Renata Petersen
Neil L. Philp., Sr.
Roger A. Ploeckemann
Dale Holland Ploehp
Dave A. Pohpleter
Jason Wayne Pohmen
Dolores S. Pohpleter
Patricia A. Powell
Koegmeister
Harold E. Price
Sherkian K. Privia
Evanne Ilen Proott
McKinney
Karlen W. Pumpherpy
Jeremy Lee Ranck
Rusell Lee Randolph
Cajsey R. Rashid
Buck "Red" Reed
George Sheridan Reeder
Darlene Lucille Reinart
Donald L. Reu
Emma Grace Reynolds
Vera R. Rich
Sharonly A. Richers
Elise M. Ricker
Richardson
Victor F. Riddle
Paula Jo Riddle Burke
Joe Ringstrom
Kenneth Edward Rink
Marjorie Rippenkroeger
Gary Risk
Donald R. Robertson
Robert E. "Bob" Roxlau
Carol Rustan
Gregory Albert Sallen
Robert Frank Samuel
Adela Sandoval
Ronald R. Sanford
Virginia M. Savage
Mark Anthony Schiedel
Thomas Albert "Tom" Schmitz
Brian Melvin Schrader
Phyllis Marie Schoeder
Lutwack
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Deena Jo Schulte
Carmelita Rose Schutte
Emma Mary Schwartz
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Quinton Michael Seabeold
James L. "Jim" Seaver
Sandy Anne Selzter
Gary Lee Senf
David Michael Sheets
Roy Melvin Sheets
Erma "Red" Shelburner
Delores E. Sheehane
Daglas Eugene Shores
James Edmund Small
Mrs. E. Pauline Smiddy
Fleck
Cynthia "Cindy" Marie Smith
Dolphins L. Smith
Kathern "Kay" Smith
LaVerne Smirh
Mardie L. Smith
Craig Maurice Snyder
Dorothy M. Sneider
Nina Mae Spenber
Larry R. Spees
Bernadette Anna Stambaugh
Doris A. Stark
Jean Starr
Michael J. Stayline
Jake Anthony Stewart
Leonard "Les" Stewart
Charles D. Stiffer
Floyd Earl Stout
Mary Jo Swallow
Marion O. Swearingen
Nikki Lee Tanner
McKinney
JarLee W. Tepow
Charlie "Buddy" Frank Tilmann
Bertha Mac Todd
Harry Edgar Townsend
Thomas Kent Traut
Arlen Trelstad
Helen Elizabeth Tripp
Harold R. Turtle
Tom Von
Donald Joseph
Vonderhael
Gene "Vonderhael
Anna Mae Wagner
Nancy Jane Wagner
Betty Frances Walker
Billy Dean "Bill" Walker
Sally V. Walker
Norma Helen Wall Case
Matthew John Wahsburn, Sr.
Clayson Stanley Wahdsin
James Joseph "Jim"
Welding
Michael "Mike" B. Wellman
Milan John Winkie
Vinze Lane Woffmeyer
Wayne Edward Whitmore
Cameron Carol Wink
Grigory
Christina Ruth Wilson
Henry D. "Hank" Wilson
Michael R. Wilson
Rita Wilson
Thomas Leon Wilson
Helen Virginia Windsor
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Wynse
Gayla S. Young

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Shug’s Tiny Town to focus on educational toys, activities

TOYS - Continued from Page 2

“If you take the phone away, they’ll have to play with this toy and they’ll be creative and they’ll play,” she said. “We kind of have to help them as parents and encourage them, but kids know what to do, they just have to be presented with it.”

Dollhouse Dreams will be holding a Toy Tinkering Experience next Saturday at the Fort Madison location where kids can come into the store and “tinker” around with toys in the shop. There will also be a 20% discount on all Melissa & Doug toys for one week starting on Tuesday.

This feature story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 10,850 times and was engaged with 3,681 times.
FMCH joins Great River Health Systems

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital is now a part of the Great River Health System. According to a joint release issued today from the communications departments of both health care providers, FMCH and Great River Medical Center are now partners as part of Great River Health System.

“FMCH joins Great River Health System in a partnership which will ensure the highest quality of patient care and more opportunities for our community,” Angie Budnik, Community Relations Director, said.

Great River Health System's Director of Marketing and Communications, Melissa Jones, agreed that the partnership will allow them to provide more services to the community.

Ann Menke, Chairman of the FMCH Board of Directors, said the partnership is a win-win for everyone involved.

Budnik said the current IT conversion to Meditech will remain underway as the hospital's $2 million consolidation of software for patient medical records and increased services via the hospital's website is rolled out.

She said the affiliation creates more opportunities for collaboration and to look to the future at what makes health care stronger in southeast Iowa.

This breaking news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 17,338 times and was engaged with 3,336 times.
FM man arrested on Missouri rape, sodomy charges

BY PCC STAFF

HAMILTON - A 33-year-old Fort Madison man has been arrested in Hamilton for multiple sex-related crimes.

According a release from Hamilton Police Chief Nick Jamerson, Adam C. Tucker, of Fort Madison was arrested on several warrants out of Clark County, Missouri, including first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy.

Jamerson said Hamilton police received information that Tucker may be in the area and with the assistance of the Hancock County Sheriff’s office, located and arrested Tucker without incident during a traffic stop at 10 p.m.

Tucker was then booked into the Hancock County Jail.

Also, assisting the police department was the Clark County Sheriff’s office, the Nauvoo Police Department and the Hancock County State’s Attorney’s office.

Officials aren’t releasing any details of the alleged incidents, but the investigation is on-going.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 6,970 times and was engaged with 3,048 times.

Flocking to the market

The Fort Madison Main Street’s Farmers’ Market was hopping as soon as it opened Monday at 4 p.m. Cars filled the North Lee County Historical Society Parking lot and then spilled onto side streets with more than 100 customers buying up wares on a muggy Monday evening.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

“Max” (Zephin Abel), tries to convince Ms. Kobekaneski (Xander Abel) a religious interruption should allow him extra time on his science project in “Homework Eats Dog”. The production goes live Thursday-Sunday at the Old Fort Players in Fort Madison.

There’s Snow Place Like Home for the Holidays.

Pen City Current will not publish an e–Edition Sunday, December 23 through Tuesday, January 1. Our special 2018 Recap editions will publish Wednesday, January 2 through Tuesday, January 8. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

As we enjoy the holidays with family and friends, we thank you for your support and patronage and wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!
Dead body found in rural Lee County

DCI agent doesn’t believe body is that of Brooklyn’s Mollie Tibbetts

LEE COUNTY - The body of a woman in her 20s was discovered in Lee County Sunday morning southwest of West Point.

The Lee County Sheriff’s department was notified just before noon that a body had been discovered just off 235th Avenue about five miles southwest of West Point. The Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations is investigating the death and special agent in charge Rick Rahn, said they do not believe the girl is Mollie Tibbetts. The Tibbetts disappearance has been part of national news for close to a month.

"Investigators are keenly aware of the Mollie Tibbetts investigation and have no reason to believe that the decedent is that of Mollie Tibbetts," a DCI release said Sunday.

When asked what information was used in making the determination, Rahn said investigators believe they have identified the girl, but would provide no additional information as to the cause of death or condition of the body. He said an autopsy on the body is pending.

“We believe we’ve identified her, but we won’t be releasing that information pending family notification," Rahn said.

He said the body has been transported to the state medical examiner’s office.

The Lee County Sheriff’s Department, Iowa State Patrol, West Point Fire & Rescue, staff from the Lee County Attorney’s office, and Iowa DCI investigators were all on the scene until about 3 p.m.

The DCI release also stated there would be no additional comments or statements made at this time in reference to the Lee County death investigation or the Mollie Tibbetts investigation.

This breaking news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 46,841 times and was engaged with 26,369 times.
Authorities looking for man in abduction attempt

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - The Lee County Sheriff’s department is asking for help in locating a person of interest in an attempted abduction on Wednesday at Pollmiller Park.

At about 6:02 p.m., Wednesday, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office and the West Point Police Department responded to a report of an incident at the Park. Upon investigation, it was reported that an 11-year-old girl had been approached by a white male subject, 6 feet tall, approximately 180 pounds with a bald head. The man was “drunk” according to the victim and tried to prevent the victim from going into a public restroom at the beach area in the park. According to the victim, he reportedly asked her to come with him. The man persisted briefly and then walked away after the victim refused to allow him to touch her. The man left the area before the victim could point him out to her family members who were with her at the Pollmiller Beach.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said he was at Pollmiller at the time and was at the scene in a matter of seconds after the call came. “We scoured that park and we couldn’t find the person in question.”

Additional information is being sought by Law Enforcement to identify and interview the suspect in this case.

“We are asking that if anyone witnessed this incident yesterday or have seen the man in question, to please contact the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division immediately.”

The Sheriffs Office is again requesting the public to be mindful of their surroundings and report anything suspicious in nature.

This breaking news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 42,828 times and was engaged with 16,231 times.

Morning Sun man surrenders to authorities

Charged in connection with body discovered Sunday in rural Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A Morning Sun man has been arrested after turning himself in to the Lee County Sheriff’s office on Sunday night, in connection with a body found in a ditch in rural Lee County.

On Sunday at approximately 10:42 a.m., the Lee County Sheriff’s Office was contacted in reference to a deceased female found on a gravel road located on 235th Avenue, south of West Point, Iowa, in Lee County. The girl has been identified as Sadie Alvarado, 20, of Muscatine, Iowa. Later in the evening, the Lee County Attorney’s Office was briefed on the facts and circumstances of the investigation and filed charges on Damian Hamann, 28, of Morning Sun, Iowa. Hamann has been charged with Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in a Death, a Class D Felony. Hamann turned himself into the Lee County Sheriff’s Office on August 5, 2018.

DCI Special Agent Rick Rahn said this morning that investigators will not be releasing additional information on the type of accident or the actual cause of death pending the outcome of an autopsy scheduled for Tuesday at the University of Iowa’s Decedent Care Unit. The case is still under investigation.

This is a joint investigation by the Iowa Department of Public Safety’s Division of Criminal Investigation, Lee County Sheriff’s Office, Lee County Attorney’s Office, and the Lee County Medical Examiner’s Office.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 32,861 times and was engaged with 16,863 times.

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This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 32,861 times and was engaged with 16,863 times.
Mexican Fiesta is back in village for 2018

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After recent publicity that the Mexican Fiesta was officially being canceled for 2018, a group of people in and around the village have put things back together and the festival will go on.

According to the Mexican Fiesta board secretary Maggie Guzman, the historical event will take place again in the Mexican Village on Avenue Q on Sept. 14 and 15th.

“As a board we’ve reached out through our partners in the Mexican community and the community as a whole, and we’ve come together to make sure this thing happens for 2018. People have really stepped up to take the reigns and make sure this tradition continues in our neighborhood,” she said Thursday evening from the village shelterhouse.

Guzman said food vendors will once again be part of the tradition as well as a band. Food will start being served at 4 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. on Saturday. The band will play from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The traditional crowning of the princess, ages 5-13, and the queen, ages 14-18, will also be taking place on Friday. Candidates can reach out to the board by emailing fortmadisonfiesta@gmail.com. The princess and queen contest has it’s own Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/events/521689118463696/?abt=ae. There is also a Mexican Fiesta Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Madison-Mexican-Fiesta-258997857452131/.

Christina St. Clair is in charge of the traditional dancing and the crowning and said she hopes to have enough candidates this year to do Mexican and American winners. She said the contest is a dollar per vote and canisters will be put out at locations in town and the candidates with the most funds raised wins the crown. The Festival Queen gets the funds as a scholarship.

She said the grand entry dances are open to any child that wants to learn the traditions.

“It’s open to any child that wants to learn the dances. We try to keep the girls in the traditional dresses. We do have a few here, but parents usually just buy a dress. Boys are also welcome to participate,” she said. “I’m thrilled this is happening. The kids will be so happy.”

Practice will be held Sunday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the village.

Guzman said there will not be a carnival this year, but organizers are bringing in some more traditional games for the kids as part of a two-hour Kids’ Day afternoon on Saturday.

She said many people in the Mexican Village found out that Fiesta wasn’t taking place and energy built from there.

“We started meeting about three weeks ago and raised some funds. We still need more to make it happen, but we have a lot of people in the community that want to see it go on. We all started pulling together and worked hard and diligently to make sure this goes on,” Guzman said.

Scott Huffman, Jr., the president of the board, said he was happy that things could get back together. He said it was very close to not happening in 2018.

“It wasn’t going to until they put it out in the paper,” Huffman said Thursday. “Everyone got together and here you go. It’s gonna happen.”

Guzman said anyone who is interested in donating to help keep the Fiesta up and running and help offset some of the costs this year may contact the board via the email listing above.

“This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 36,584 times and was engaged with 22,973 times.

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Photo by Chuck Vandenber/PCC

Lee County Sheriff’s deputy Jordan Maag gathers information from a motorcycle that was involved in a fatal crash Saturday night.
DONNELLSON - For the second year in a row, the Fort Madison Bloodhound football team is starting 1-0. And for the second year in a row, the Hounds opened with a shutout win.

Fort Madison dropped cross-county rival Central Lee 21-0 in a game that in all reality could have been double that had the Hounds had a little better timing in the air.

Senior quarterback Lennon Barker, who threw for 281 yards, 18-31 passing on the night, had a handful of overthrowers on the night, several of which were to open receivers in the endzone.

“We need to definitely work on our timing. I had a lot of overthrowers,” Barker said. “We’ve got some things to work on, but we have things we need to work on every week.”

Barker started the game with a bang on a 71-yard completion to Dominic Frantz on the Hounds’ first possession. Frantz, who finished with a very quiet 132 yards on five catches, was caught from behind by the Hawks’ TJ Stutes at the 3-yard line. The Hounds then fell as far back as the 43-yard line after a bad snap on 2nd and goal and then a double penalty on 3rd and goal from the 13. Barker and Frantz hooked up again for 21 yards but the drive fell short on 4th and goal when Barker hit Shymyouth Redd-Donald for a 16-yard pass play to the 6.

The Hounds forced a 4 and out at the 49 yard line and the Hounds mixed up the offense with runs by Kali Maestro and Barker dealing on the run. Junior running back Mike Mosena caught two passes in the series, the second for 15 yards, to get the Hounds to the 7 and Barker would bull in from the right side for the first down on the 2. Barker and Frantz would exchange 4 and outs before Harley Pennanmon picked off a Pohren pass at the 26 to end the half.

Fort Madison came out and scored quickly in the third when Diego Lozano found three different receivers in the set before taking it 61 yards out to set the final score.

It looked like the Hounds had scored after the Hawks were unable to get a first down on the next series and punished the ball to Brock Califf, who bobbled the punt and then picked it up and raced to the right, caught a couple blocks and scampered down to the sideline for a touchdown, but an illegal block on the play nullified the run. Fort Madison would run seven plays in the next series highlighted by a 30-yard pass play from Barker to Redd-Donald, two incompletions and a holding penalty snuffed the drive forcing a punt.

After Central Lee worked a first down at 4th and 2, junior end Quentin Schneider picked off a Pohren pass on 1st and 10 and raced it back 22 yards to the Fort Madison 25. Penalties and a couple incompletions forced a 4-10 from the 15. Shiffman sent in Nolting, who made his only field goal attempt last year, but Nolting’s shot went wide right and the Hawks took over at the 20.

Both teams had a four and out before Fort Madison reeled off an 11-play drive to start the 4th quarter. Barker went 4-6 on the drive for 41 yards, but a sack at 3rd and 8 pushed Fort Madison back to the 33 and forced a punt. Central Lee went to the air with Pohren throwing eight times in the next series for 39 yards, but the last three fell to the ground. Neither

DONNELLSON - For the second year in a row, the Fort Madison Bloodhound football team is starting 1-0. And for the second year in a row, the Hounds opened with a shutout win.

Fort Madison dropped cross-county rival Central Lee 21-0 in a game that in all reality could have been double that had the Hounds had a little better timing in the air.

Senior quarterback Lennon Barker, who threw for 281 yards, 18-31 passing on the night, had a handful of overthrowers on the night, several of which were to open receivers in the endzone.

“We need to definitely work on our timing. I had a lot of overthrowers,” Barker said. “We’ve got some things to work on, but we have things we need to work on every week.”

Barker started the game with a bang on a 71-yard completion to Dominic Frantz on the Hounds’ first possession. Frantz, who finished with a very quiet 132 yards on five catches, was caught from behind by the Hawks’ TJ Stutes at the 3-yard line. The Hounds then fell as far back as the 43-yard line after a bad snap on 2nd and goal and then a double penalty on 3rd and goal from the 13. Barker and Frantz hooked up again for 21 yards but the drive fell short on 4th and goal when Barker hit Shymyouth Redd-Donald for a 16-yard pass play to the 6.

The Hounds forced a 4 and out at the 49 yard line and the Hounds mixed up the offense with runs by Kali Maestro and Barker dealing on the run. Junior running back Mike Mosena caught two passes in the series, the second for 15 yards, to get the Hounds to the 7 and Barker would bull in from the right side for the first down on the 2. Barker and Frantz would exchange 4 and outs before Harley Pennanmon picked off a Pohren pass at the 26 to end the half.

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Hounds D holds Hopp, Hawks scoreless

WIN - Continued from Page 11

team would get into scoring position the rest of the final period.

Shiffman said defensively the Hounds missed on some opportunities but for the first game of the season, the did what they needed to do.

“We were executing up front and doing what we needed to do but we have to get better at it and get sharper,” he said. “I think we improved as a team from the Mediapolis scrimmage but we still have a long way to go. We got work to do and we know it, but we’ll get it accomplished.”

Eight different ball carriers were used on the night by the Hounds led by Lozano who finished with 61 yards on just seven carries. Maestro had 22 yards on nine carries. Barker hit five different receivers on the night led by Frantz’s 132 yards. Mosena had 56 yards on 5 catches and Redd-Donald had 70 yards on six grabs on the night.

The defensive effort was a bend-don’t-break performance and holding Hopp to just 85 yards on 23 carries was no small feat, according to Shiffman.

“That Hopp kids a ton. He got the ball a lot and he runs hard. We told our defense he would run hard and play hard and they did that for sure,” Shiffman said. “Our defense stepped up and made plays when they needed to. They bent a little at times, but when we needed them to make a play, we either forced a turnover or a punt.”

Defensive coordinator Luke Rickelman said the defensive line controlled the game after giving up some yards early.

“Overall, I’m extremely happy with the entire defense and the way we played,” Rickelman said. “We didn’t do anything fancy, we played our base defense with a solid front and solid coverage. We didn’t have to bring a ton of blitzes or overscheme. We knew what they wanted to do and they wanted to get the ball to Hopp, so we focused on the basics.”

Rickelman said Schneider, who had five solo tackles, three assists, a sack, and an interception, had a standout night and said the entire defensive line came together after Hopp gained some big runs early.

The Hounds open the home schedule Friday with West Burlington coming to town. The Falcons fell at home 44-0 to Mediapolis Friday and will come into the contest 0-1.

This sports story was read on penicitycurrent.com and social media 17,721 times and was engaged with 2,786 times.

K9 fundraiser underway this week

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison businessman Eric Freitag will be donating 100% of the proceeds from the Turbo Wash Dog Wash on the west side of Fort Madison to the Lee County K9 Association for this entire week. From today through Sunday, Freitag will give all the money raised at the Dog Wash at 37th Street and Avenue L, to the group that provides funding for the Lee County K9 program. The dog wash is located on the west end of the Turbo Wash bays and is open 24/7. Rick and Janice Eckel’s food trailer “Taste of the Country” will also be on hand.

This news story was read on penicitycurrent.com and social media 19,232 times and was engaged with 1,563 times.

From left to right, Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, Turbo Car and Dog Wash owner, Eric Freitag, Lee County K9 Association President Bob Conlee, Lee County Deputy Uriah Wheatley, and Gunner, help kick off the Turbo Dog Wash fundraiser that runs through Sunday this week. All proceeds from the dog wash go to the K9 Association.
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–Chuck & Lee

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