BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Renegade Pigs don't need you - but you just might need them.

This Iowa chapter of the International Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club is very specific about who they are and what they do. They find solace in each other in an otherwise demanding world of every day life.

You may see these men riding down the road and think that Fort Madison is now home to Hell’s Angels, but you'd be better off just dropping the "Hell’s".

"Those are what we like to call 1% gangs," said Adam Benda, the president of the group. "That’s the term given to outlaw clubs."

But these guys are no outlaws. As a matter of fact, they’re mostly former military or police officers who’ve taken up careers in public safety. They now dawn leather vests with three patches on the back indicating their membership in Renegade Pigs as the only Iowa Chapter. Benda said the three patches they wear on their backs can be confusing to other riders.

"We’re trying to change perceptions," he said. "Most three-piece patches are considered 1% outlaw clubs. We’re looked at differently because we wear three. Outlaw clubs notice that we wear that and there's some friction, but because of that other people also notice and automatically assume we’re on the wrong side of this."

Randy Strunk, one of the original members with Benda, said the club meets once a month and travels to sanctioned events throughout the year. But while riding in town, it’s important for people to know who they are and what they are about.

"We want this town to know that it’s our home," Strunk said. "Speaking for myself, I want to feel this town knows that when they see us they know these guys are home." Benda said the club has met with Mayor Brad Randolph and most of the police officers in town so they are aware of the club’s activities and makeup.

Kim and Megan Shacklett, Lisa Lihs, and Lisa Edwards stand with the Lee County Bank booth at the North Lee County Relay for Life.

### 2018 – A Year in Review

**September & October**

**No outlaws here These Pigs ride straight**

Iowa’s only chapter of the International Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club is based in Fort Madison

**Montrose man nabbed on meth charge**

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Montrose, Iowa man on a felony drug charge.

Jason Hartman, 38, of Montrose, Iowa was arrested on Sept. 11th, 2018 on a felony drug charge. Hartman is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted, Hartman faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Hartman stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

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

The defendant is 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.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 9,043 times and was engaged with 3,138 times.

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“When we go by a cop I always wave, and usually they initiate the wave to me, and they know when we go by... they know a bunch of cops just drive by. I don’t know about everyone else, but that makes me feel good to know he knows we’re a bunch of cops.”

Strunk said the group raises money each year through poker runs and registered rides and they donate the money to area projects, typically focusing on public safety and the families of those serving in those capacities.

“One guy from work’s house burnt down and we raised $2,300 in less than a week;” Strunk said. “We’ve had events in the Quad Cities where we raised thousands of dollars in just a few days to help law enforcement officers whose families were affected. Riders will pass hats for many different donations and the more than 300 Renegade Pigs at the rally will donate more than $6,000 in a weekend.”

Recently the group donated water to a Central High School field building house in Davenport and gave a teacher a microphone ball to help students and teachers hear better in the classroom.

The seven current members each have different, and often inside and humorous stories, of how they prospected the probationary period of membership, and why the group is so important to them.

Mike Fullenkamp, a firefighter with the Fort Madison Fire Department said the group and the riding is therapy for him.

Fullenkamp said Benda’s wife and his wife hung out together, which opened up a chance for him and Adam to start chatting about motorcycles. Fullenkamp said he had never owned or ridden a bike before. Then Benda started tagging him in all the Renegade Facebook posts and he started to get an appetite for a motorcycle.

“I told Adam I had seen one that I liked and one day he showed up at my house with a trailer and we went up to look at it. I fell in love with it and we loaded it up that day, drove it back and it was the best thing I ever did,” Fullenkamp said.

“I was in the military and I miss that brotherhood. We have it at the fire station, but not as much. I see the tight-knit group these guys have. Can’t explain it, you go on these rides and you have the wind in your face. It’s therapy and when you do it with guys like this it’s a brotherhood, it’s a group, it’s love...it’s family. This was kind of one of those things that’s changed my life.”

Strunk and Benda tried to get a club going after taking part in an event in Springfield honoring law enforcement officers who had died that year.

“I’m pretty out there and I say it like it is, “ Strunk said. “They bagpiped and we looked at each other like ‘Holy cow they rode a Honda up here!’”, he said to laughs from the group.

“I ended up having dinner with them and met everyone and I eventually ended up training my Honda in for what I call a Dirty Sally, and my Dirty Sally is a Harley Davidson Ultra Classic,” he said to more laughs.

Club members can only be considered for membership if they ride a Harley Davidson, a Victory, or Indian American made motorcycles.

Smith came in with Tim Mason and the two prospected together and became friends.

Tim Mason, who is a former military, but is the only club member who is not in public safety, is a civilian by profession. Mike Benda is the patriarch of sorts of the group. Adam, who is his son, says Mike is the voice of reason among guys who don’t always talk with reason.

“I’m gonna be 66 next month hand I intend to keep riding and stay with the club until I get too old to ride. Then maybe I’ll find a trike with a reverse.”

Strunk said the group is as big as it needs to be, but the right people are the right people. He said the patches hold that value and carry meaning for each member.

“What this means to us, all these guys wearing these cuts, we don’t need anybody. We don’t actively go out and look for nobody. People come to us and we turn a lot of people away because you have to be like-minded to who we are,” Strunk said.

“Everybody’s got me there, I go out for dinner now and I sit with my back to the wall and read people. Here, I just don’t have to worry about it. It’s a comfort level no one else has in this profession, because everywhere you go into you’re constantly aware of what’s going on around you. But with the club, I don’t have to worry about that.”

Strunk said each member’s loyalty to each other goes beyond what most people think they have with family.

“They have the right to write. Everyone thinks they got someone to come help move a fridge because it blew up or whatever and they put out a request for help, and maybe a dad or brother shows up,” he said.

“But we put out a text and they all come. This is why we don’t just take anyone. We’re brothers.”

This feature story was read on pencilcurvrent.com and social media 19,956 times and was engaged with 6,895 times.}

"We don’t actively go out and look for nobody. People come to us and we turn a lot of people away because you have to be like-minded to who we are." - Randy Strunk  
Renegade Pig
Holtkamp now an IRONMAN

30-year-old finishes grueling 14-hour Maryland event on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay Saturday in first-ever attempt

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CAMBRIDGE, Maryland - "It hasn't hit me yet that I'm an IRONMAN."

Fort Madison's Wes Holtkamp is an IRONMAN.

Not because it was on his bucket list. Not because he always wanted to be an IRONMAN. But because he wanted to push himself to a grueling 140+ mile event, one that he completed in the IRONMAN Maryland 2018. A grueling 140+ mile event where the Fort Madison native swam 2.4 miles in the Choptank River, a salt water tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, then biked 112 miles in a dual loop through the hills of Cambridge, and then ran a full marathon through Cambridge, finishing on the city's historic Long Wharf.

"Two and half to three years ago, I decided I was going to do IRONMAN," Holtkamp said from the family's rented home in Maryland. "I had done a sprint triathlon and I liked it so I told myself I think I can push a 70.3 IRONMAN."

The 70.3 are shorter versions of the full IRONMAN competitions and Holtkamp said he started training in 2016 for the Haines City IRONMAN 70.3 that he said he would know more about what he was getting into.

"It's a whole different ballgame at this level. You're not allowed to use audio. You're out there 14 hours just thinking and paying attention to your body. Fighting through the pain and cramping."

- Wes Holtkamp, IRONMAN participant

Holtkamp, and an entourage of family, trekked to Cambridge, Maryland over the weekend where he completed the IRONMAN Maryland 2018. A grueling 140+ mile event where the Fort Madison native swam 2.4 miles in the Choptank River, a salt water tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, then biked 112 miles in a dual loop through the hills of Cambridge, and then ran a full marathon through Cambridge, finishing on the city's historic Long Wharf.

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"It's a whole different ballgame at this level," he said. "You're not allowed to use audio. You're out there 14 hours just thinking and paying attention to your body. Fighting through pain and cramping."

He said the family got out to the location on Friday and started setting up itineraries as to where he would be at certain times during the day. The day also provided an opportunity for Holtkamp to set up gear for transitions and Holtkamp said he would know more about what he was getting into.

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Saturday morning was an early rise at 4 a.m. with a light protein breakfast of hard-boiled eggs and peanut butter toast. Holtkamp said he didn't want so much in his stomach that it became an issue during the day.

"Once we got there a little after 5, I got stretched out, and then I just watched the water and got my heart rate down," he said.

At about 6:30 a.m. he said he put his wet suit on. The water in the bay was about 71 degrees which permitted the swimmers to wear wet suits for warmth.

Participants were lined up based on how fast each swimmer thinks they will complete the course. Holtkamp said he planned on a 1 hour, 45 minute swim. Because he'd been training in a pool and not in actual water, but he knew his time in the pool was quicker.

"Once I got in the water I felt great and I made the course in 1:21. You have to swim two loops on the course which was like a box and you go through a chute where they get your time for the first half. You have to hit a time or you can get a Did Not Qualify for the second lap I swam in 1:21. You knew I was getting closer and I didn't want that so I pushed it. When I saw the first time was down, the second lap I swam in faster."

After exiting the water and running to the bike, Holtkamp said he felt fantastic and having the family there cheering him on pushed him to get on the bike and start the 112 mile ride.

"Coming out and hearing the family screaming was a feeling I just can't explain. It was awesome," he said.

The bike course was a looped course as well, with a total elevation gain of about 1,500 feet throughout the course that started and ended at the same point. Holtkamp said he was able to meet up with the support crew at 24 miles and again at 60 miles, and each time it provided him with a renewed adrenaline. At the 60-mile point he was able to stop and snack down a PB&J within three to four minutes and then be headed back onto the course.

He said he set a goal to get the first 20 miles out of the way before he would consider a break, but he pushed through to the first 24-mile support group meet up when he chugged a Gatorade at 30 seconds and then took off. Then every 10 miles after that he would grab a water and do a quick leg stretch on the bike and be off again.

He finished the cycling portion in under seven hours and then moved to the 26.2 mile marathon.

Entering the running portion, Holtkamp told himself it didn't matter how long it took, he was going to finish.

"Once I got off the bike, I just knew I had 26 miles, I was going to get there. I don't care how long it takes me I'm just going to keep going forward. Even when I stopped running it was a walk. I never stopped moving forward and knew I was getting closer," he said.

"It's one of those feelings - I made it this far, but I have so far to go."

Turning Hope into Reality
Not finishing was not an option as the day went on

HOLTKAMP - Continued from Page 1

You see mile markers and set goals every 10 miles where they had tables for volunteers handing out nutrition. The end goal was just to finish for me.”

He said at that point, his forearms were burning more than his legs because of gripping the handle bars and that was different than what he expected, but shaking his hands out as the run started helped bring feeling back into his fingers.

The pain then shifted to his legs and calf muscles, but he said he didn’t get that pain until about 15 or 16 miles in and he was feeling pretty good up to that point.

“We had a stretch that shifted from concrete to a grassy area and I don’t know if that transition threw my legs to a different feeling, but that’s where it really started to hurt and I started cramping,” he said.

“That’s where the mental battles started and it was a rough last half hour for sure.”

He said he fought for the last hour or so and then the last mile was a siege on his senses.

“I fought through it four an hour and then the last mile it really hit me, but I was bound and determined to get across the finish line. I told myself I could cry after that, but I was gonna make it,” he said.

“The last mile you run though the downtown area, and the atmosphere was electric and was awesome …and then you hear everyone chanting. -- ‘You’re an IRONMAN…You’re an IRONMAN. I have to get there.”

As he ran through the town he saw people who had collapsed and couldn’t finish the run.

“I saw a lot of people go down along the way and I didn’t want to have that happen. My heart was breaking for those people, because the athletes themselves are spectacular. They work together to get through the race. I had a local guy run with me for a couple of miles and that was good for both of us to help each other through that part.”

Fourteen hours, two minutes, and one second after he started, Wes Holtkamp ran under a banner and passed the high score in the database that recorded him in 872 out of 1,462 participants.

“By that time I knew the outcome was fantastic. But I may look at doing Warrior dashes or something like that. I see these things and pick ‘em as I go. I say, ‘Hey that looks like fun,’ and then I set goals and just try to achieve them. I don’t even know what the next thing is.”

Holtkamp said this isn’t something you do everyday and probably won’t ever do again.

“I haven’t done a lot of research on how to come down from a long day like that. I’m sure today’s going to involve a lot of icy HOT and walking. I don’t want to sit because I don’t want to stiffen up and need to keep the blood flowing. My toes have been numb since the end, but I have read up on that and they say that’s normal and will return with time. At least that’s what the Internet says,” he said with a laugh.

The future may hold some shorter distance events that involve three or four hour works.

“The all day thing, I don’t see myself doing another one. Obviously, with the sweat and tears I put in, the outcome was fantastic. But I may look at doing Warrior dashes or something like that. I see these things and pick ‘em as I go. I say, ‘Hey that looks like fun,’ and then I set goals and just try to achieve them. I don’t even know what the next thing is.”

Holtkamp said this isn’t something you do everyday and probably won’t ever do again. ...But you never know.

This feature story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 15,084 times and was engaged with 3,758 times.

Confidence

Feel good about your smile. And your dentist.

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Photo courtesy of Bobby Holtkamp

Fort Madison’s Wes Holtkamp celebrates his finish with the IRONMAN Maryland competition held Saturday in Cambridge, Maryland. Holtkamp said the reward of the hard work was worth the challenge.

Photos courtesy of Bobby Holtkamp
Police looking for two of three stolen vehicles

Three vehicles swiped in 24 hours, one located in Quad Cities

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Area law enforcement agencies are on the lookout for two cars that were stolen in the past 24 hours. A third vehicle that was also stolen locally in that time frame was recovered in the Quad Cities. According to Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, the other vehicle is still missing.

"On Saturday night, Sunday morning, there was reported a gray, 2007 Ford Edge missing from a hotel in town. This vehicle has been recovered in Illinois near the Quad Cities area and the owner has been contacted. This case is still under investigation and charges may be pending in this case."

"The second car was reported stolen early Monday morning from the 2100 block of Ave. I and is described as a white 2004 Toyota Camry, Iowa License CQJ821 Ia. This vehicle has not yet been recovered."

Sittig said there are no suspects at this time involving the second theft.

There was also another vehicle reported stolen in Lee County overnight and Sittig said it is unknown if these cases are related or not.

Donnellson/West Point police chief Brad Roberts said he is investigating a third vehicle theft of a white 2004 Toyota off property in Donnellson. He said the vehicle shouldn’t be hard to identify because he believes the front and back bumpers are zip tied to the frame and there is a butterfly print on the seat covers.

The thefts could also be related to garage break-ins where tools and other implements have been reported missing.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said he was alerted to the three vehicle thefts and said these, again, appear to be crimes of opportunity. He said residents need to take proper precautions with their vehicle and belongings.

"It seems to be from people leaving keys in their cars," Weber said. "We would just remind people to make sure you get your keys out and lock your doors. Make yourself a tough target."

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 8,752 times and was engaged with 2,852 times.
Scotts staff cleans up community garden

About 50 show up for a day of pulling weeds and resetting garden for the spring

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It may not have been the “Miracle” the company’s brand had in mind, but the transformation Monday of the Fort Madison Community Garden in just three hours was pretty miraculous.

Just over 50 full-time staffers from the Scott’s Miracle-Gro facility in Fort Madison descended on the 200’x75’ plot behind the Hy-Vee, property that’s been designated as the Fort Madison Food Pantry Garden for the past five years.

Scotts Miracle-Gro has been the primary sponsor of the garden plot since its inception. Dale Heidbreder, the technical manager for the Fort Madison Scotts facility, organized the full clean up of the garden after all the produce had been removed.

The company originally provided most of the materials and tools needed to build and sustain the garden, and then fenced it in with a heavy, black chain link fence. They also paid to have two hydrants put in the property and ran irrigation hoses throughout the planting beds. The produce from the garden is tended to and harvested by volunteers with the United Way RSVP program and donated to the local food pantry.

“We liked about the building, and when Scotts decided to get involved, aside from providing for the food pantry, is we used it to teach kids about gardening,” Heidbreder said.

“We used to get a lot of kids in there and we’d let them plant the seeds and different things and it really worked out well for the little ones.”

Heidbreder added he’d like to see more of that kind of education on going on with the students in the area.

“We’re always looking for future growers, of course, being Scotts,” he said.

The Fort Madison High School built the storage shed on site and the United Way of the Great River Region’s

Employees from Scotts Miracle-Gro get to work cleaning up the Fort Madison Food Pantry’s Community Garden Monday morning behind Hy-Vee in the 2600 block of Avenue L. Employees get to take advantage of a Scotts program that allows employees 16 hours of paid time a year to give back to their communities.

“We don’t have a lot of windows in the factory, so it’s nice to be outside,” McGraw said she was unaware that the company was involved in the program, and that the food went to local needy families.

Heidbreder said the garden, as it is, is growing enough produce to keep the food pantry stocked with vegetables. But he said there is room on the west end of the garden to expand.

“Right now it’s probably producing enough for what they need, but we have more space to the west by the sign if we need it,” he said.

The crews started pulling weeds and pulling vining plants off the black, heavy chain link fencing. Heidbreder divided the crews into 10 teams. By 11:30 all

See SCOTTS, page 8
Sheriff’s office looking for escapee

MONTROSE - The Lee County Sheriff’s office is looking for an escapee and is asking the public for help in locating the individual.

Shawn DeHaven left the Lee County Jail this morning for a court-ordered work release and removed his GPS ankle monitor and is being sought for escape.

If you have any information about where he might be at, please contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or 911.

DeHaven has a dangerous history of eluding officers and leading law enforcement on chases through residential areas.

In November, the sheriff’s department received information through a CrimeStoppers tip that DeHaven, 46, of Fort Madison, who was wanted for assaulting a peace officer in connection with a high speed chase in Fort Madison where he allegedly rammed a Lee County Sheriff’s vehicle causing major damage but no injuries. That chase took place on April 7 and originated out of Des Moines County. DeHaven was spotted by witnesses who reported it to CrimeStoppers.

Local law enforcement were notified and began pursuing DeHaven on County Road 103 before the suspect pulled over his vehicle and took off on foot. Chief Deputy Will Conlee and a reserve deputy, Gayle Williams, chased DeHaven and Conlee eventually used a Taser to end the chase.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 19,182 times and was engaged with 5,640 times.

Bikers line up QBall for students

Students from Kim Fullenkamp’s 2nd Grade class at Richardson pose with Renegade Pigs Adam Benda, back left, Randy Strunk, middle, and Andrew Cartwright, right whose group purchased a QBall that amplifies students voices in the classroom.
Saturday mishap claims two lives on Hwy. 2

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A two-vehicle accident on Hwy 2 west of Fort Madison has claimed the lives of two motorists.

Emergency crews responded to the accident near Appleberry Orchard about three miles west of Fort Madison at about noon Saturday morning where a west bound vehicle and an eastbound vehicle collided head on.

LeeComm dispatched Lee County Sheriff’s Department and Lee County EMS ambulance services to the accident where both motorists were entrapped. Donnellson Fire & Rescue personnel were also immediately dispatched. Upon arrival, sheriff’s deputies found the vehicles smoke-filled and then reported the vehicles, a white SUV and a black passenger vehicle, were both engulfed in flames on the south side of the highway.

West Point Fire & Rescue personnel were also dispatched to the scene as were Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Department of Transportation. Pen City Current will update this story as more information becomes available.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 62,759 times and was engaged with 35,859 times.

Illinois man ID’d in weekend tragedy

Hamilton’s Vincent Seaver one of two killed in Saturday head-on collision near FM

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Iowa State Patrol has identified a Hamilton, Ill., man as one of the victims of a two-car collision that resulted in two fatalities on Saturday morning near Fort Madison.

A two-vehicle, head-on collision that claimed the lives of the two drivers is still being investigated by the Iowa State Patrol. The collision occurred on Highway 2 about three miles east of Fort Madison near Appleberry Orchard and 248th Avenue at 11:53 a.m.

According to a crash report issued by the Iowa State Patrol late Sunday night, the identity of one of the drivers is being withheld “pending further identification”. The other victim is listed as Vincent Seaver, 47, of Hamilton. The victims were both taken to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

According to the report A light-colored 2004 Ford Expedition was heading westbound on Hwy. 2, crossed the centerline, and struck Seaver’s 2010 dark-colored Chevrolet Malibu. Both vehicles came to rest on the south shoulder where both vehicles then became fully engulfed in flames before the victims could be extricated.

Lee County Sheriff’s deputies and Donnellson Fire and Rescue were paged to the scene by LeeComm dispatchers. The first deputies on the scene immediately requested additional fire support as smoke and fire were visible from both vehicles.

West Point Fire & Rescue personnel, as well as West Point/Donnellson police, were also dispatched to the scene as were Iowa State Patrol troopers, Iowa Department of Transportation officials, and several utility personnel. Pen City Current will update this story as more information becomes available.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 21,695 times and was engaged with 12,346 times.
2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

Keokuk PD makes KPLAY theft, forgery arrest

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - A Keokuk man has been arrested in connection with the misuse of funds and forgery associated with the non-profit KPLAY organization.

On Wednesday Keokuk Police Chief Dave Hinton released the arrest of Stephen Tyler McGhghy of rural Keokuk, age 36, at 10:15 a.m. He was charged with 2nd-degree theft and four counts of forgery.

"On October 24th, 2018, on a warrant for Theft 2nd Degree and, Four Counts of Forgery. The arrest is as a result of an investigation into the misappropriation of money donated to a local non-profit organization, which has been pending further identification. The caution pending further information can be left at 1-800-382-8900. Crime Stopper rewards up to $1,000 could be available for criminal information that leads to an arrest. Crime Stopper information can be left at 1-800-382-8900. This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 11,514 times and was engaged with 4,635 times.

State Patrol names other victim of Oct. 6 crash

BY PCC STAFF
LEE COUNTY - The Iowa State Patrol has identified 26-year-old Taylor Joseph Ruble of Afton as the second victim in a fiery two-vehicle collision west of Fort Madison on Hwy 2 Oct. 6. that claimed two lives.

Vincent Seaver, 47 of Hamilton, Ill., was identified as the other victim of the Saturday morning tragedy. Seaver’s name was released the day of the investigation, as the other victim of the Saturday morning tragedy. Seaver’s name was released the day of the investigation, as the other victim of the Saturday morning tragedy.

The ISP crash reporting website didn’t update the report and only holds about eight days worth of reports so the name was never listed on a published report. ISP officials said this morning the name had been on the report for some time, but doesn’t get updated on the website.

Pen City Current only inquired today about the second name at which time ISP officials in Mt. Pleasant indicated the name had been released.

The collision occurred on Highway 2 about three miles east of Fort Madison near Appleberry Orchard and 248th Avenue at 11:53 a.m.

This breaking news story was read on pencitycurrent. com and social media 10,772 times and was engaged with 2,227 times.

Sheriff issues warning about roadway hazards

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber issued a warning Thursday afternoon to motorists regarding large rocks being left in the middle of Hwy 61.

Weber said he wasn’t sure if the recurring problem is an issue of vandals trying to damage cars or if trucks are dropping the rocks in transit to and from construction locations.

“I really don’t know how it’s happening but we’re seeing more and more occurrences and motorists need to exercise caution, especially at night,” Weber said. “At 65 mph you can still see, but when you’re going over that speed limit on the highways you can outrun your headlights and can hit these things and there doing some damage to cars.”

The Lee County Sheriff’s Department’s Facebook page had the following warning posted late this afternoon.

Ross said the felonies also could carry restitution and fines of anywhere between $750 and $7,500 per felony. Theft of property valued at $1,000 to $10,000 is considered 2nd-degree theft in the state of Iowa. No hearing dates have been set.

McGhghy was taken to the Lee County Jail where he was booked and then bonded out on a $5,000 cash bond. KPLAY was the group responsible for helping bring Bentley’s Playground to the city’s Tolmie Park.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

This news story was read on pencitycurrent.com and social media 9,942 times and was engaged with 4,984 times.

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HTC’s Matt Hellige (1053) comes down the final chute in the 2017 State Cross-Country meet on Oct. 28 last year. Hellige will return to try and improve on his 90th place finish this Saturday in Fort Dodge. Below left, Hellige does stretching drills after a mile run as part of Wednesday’s workout.

AC T PREP CLASS
Sundays, 6-8pm; Dinner served at 6
There’s still room! Join us this Sunday!
KEOKUK - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds survived what can only be described as the goofiest first two minutes of football most of the spectators had ever seen, to wrap up the 2018 season on a winning note.

The Hounds disposed of a spunky Keokuk Chiefs team 35-14 to wrap up Class 3A District 6 football action for both the teams. The Bloodhounds finish the season 3-6, a game off the 4-5 inaugural season for Head Coach Tony Shifman. The Chiefs finish the season at 1-8.

The Hounds were preparing for the Chiefs to throw everything at them in both teams’ final game, but botched an opening game sideline kick. The Chiefs recovered at the Hound 49-yard line and, after an Eddie Lee 2-yard loss on the first carry, quarterback Cory Skinner mishandled the snap on 2nd and 12 and the Bloodhounds’ senior Sam Avery recovered at the Hounds’ 39.

Lennon Barker then took a shotgun snap on the Hounds first possession, rolled right, and threw an interception at the Chiefs’ 31.

The Chiefs’ Brayan Martinez took the first snap after the pick and bounced to the right sideline and shot 5 yards to the Hounds’ 15. Two plays later Skinner hit Martinez for a 14-yard touchdown to put Keokuk up 6-0 at the 10:15 mark. The two-point conversion failed.

The Chiefs tried another onsides kick, but Harley Pennamoon covered the ball at the 50. Barker found Parker Denning for a 6-yard gain on 1st and 10 and then hooked up with senior Trey Kuntz, but the Chiefs snuffed out the play and brought Kuntz down for a 3-yard loss to the Hounds’ 47. With Fort Madison facing a 3rd and 8, Barker flushed out of the pocket and pulled the ball away before landing out of bounds in front of the Keokuk bench for his second pick of the game. Barker found Mike Mosena on a bubble screen to the left on 1st and 10, but the Chiefs defense would hold.

Fort Madison recovered at the Chiefs’ 31 and sophomore Anthony Potratz connected for a 1-yard pass play on 1st and 15, Skinner let one fly to Mueller on the Chiefs 35-yard line. On 4th and 6, Skinner took a shotgun snap and, with a little time, found sophomore Anthony Potratz in the back of the endzone but Redd-Donald got in the way again and got a first down.

On 3rd and 4, Skinner found Tyjai Mueller on a short gain, the two hooked up again on the 2 point conversion on a Potratz sliding catch to put the Chiefs up 14-7.

Keokuk took the ball on their first possession of the night and, after a 5-yard holding penalty on Keokuk had the Chiefs at 1st and 15, Junior Kali Maestro got nothing on 1st and 10, Barker was sacked for a 10-yard loss, but then found Kuntz again for a 34-yard gain on 3rd and 20. Fort Madison didn’t get much on the next two plays, but Barker found Denning streaking across from left to right and hit him in stride before stepping out at the three for a first down. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty pushed the Hounds to 1st and goal from the 18. Barker incompletions had the Hounds at 3rd and goal from the 18. After Shifman called a time out, the Hounds set up a play where Parker again was streaking from left to right, but this time in the back of the endzone and Barker found him for the score. Nolting’s PAT was blocked and the Chiefs held a 14-13 advantage with 2:48 left in the 1st quarter.

The Chiefs took the next possession and ran 13 plays and moved the ball to the Hounds’ 35. On a 1st and 15 from the Chiefs’ 36, Skinner rolled back and found Martinez streaking behind the secondary and lofted a pass over the defense that bounced off Martinez’s helmet as he tried to adjust to the arching throw. Skinner then kept the ball and right read and gained a yard. On the next play, Skinner threw to the right sideline, but the Hounds’ Sheymouhr Redd-Donald recovered the route again to the right flat and Kuntz kept his feet slipping between two defenders and then turned the ball over on the next play when Mueller stripped the ball with a punt to the Chiefs’ 31.

Keokuk ran 13 plays and got a first down when Skinner and Potratz connected for a 5-yard gain on 3rd and 20. Fort Madison didn’t get much on the next two plays, but Barker found Denning streaking across from left to right and shot 54 yards for his second pick of the game. Barker found Mike Mosena on a bubble screen to the left on 1st and 10, but the Chiefs defense would hold.

The Hounds next possession resulted in a touchdown. The Chiefs took the ball at the Hounds’ 36, Skinner rolled back and threw an interception at the Chiefs’ 31. 

Senior Trey Kuntz scores on the Hounds’ second possession of the night in Friday’s win. Kuntz finished with seven catches for 102 yards and the touchdown.

Mosena on a bubble screen to the left on 1st and 10, but turned the ball over on the next play when Mueller stepped in front of a Barker pass and picked it off at the Chiefs’ 35-yard line.

After a 5-yard holding penalty on Keokuk had the Chiefs at 1st and 15, Skinner let one fly to Mueller who had gotten free down the middle of the field. Redd-Donald knocked Mueller off the route, but was called for pass interference on the play that could have resulted in a touchdown. The Chiefs took the ball at the 25 1st and 10, but the Hounds defense would hold.

The two-point conversion failed, to wrap up the 2018 season on a winning note.
Denning prowls secondary for 127 yards, 2 TDs

WIN - Continued from Page 5

when senior Nick Carter picked off a Skinner pass in the endzone with about 58 seconds left in the half.

With a 1st and 10 at the 20, the Hounds went to work through the air trying to salvage some points before halftime. Barker threw incomplete to the right and then an illegal substitution on Keokuk gave the Hounds a 1st and 10 at the 35. Barker skipped a low pass to Denning that went incomplete, but Maestro took a carry 12 yards on the next play. Shiffman called a timeout with 24.8 seconds left in the half. Barker again threw incomplete on 1st and 10, Maestro carried for a yard to make it 3rd and 9. Barker found Redd-Donald to the right for a seven yard gain to the Hounds' 42.

The Hounds lined up in their usual spread formation and Barker took the snap and rolled just slightly to his right and lofted a pass to the back endzone pylon where Parker Denning raced under it making a catch over his shoulder for a touchdown with no time left to give Fort Madison a 19-14 lead. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

Shiffman said the Hail Mary at the end of the first half was the turning point of the game.

“It was a pretty even and crazy game up until that point, but I think it took the air out of ‘em,” he said.

Keokuk had a good drive to start the second half including a 14-yard run by Martinez, who finished with 90 yards on the ground in the game. But on 3rd and 6 from the 35 Skinner was looking for Mueller who slipped in his pattern and Will Larson had an easy interception that he returned to the Hounds’ 44. The Hounds then put their longest drive of the game together taking almost six minutes off the clock, culminating with a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Barker into the north endzone. Again the point after was no good and the Hounds were up 25-14.

Fort Madison, looking to take advantage of the momentum tried their own onside kick that bounded around a couple of Chiefs before Keaton Poe slid under and recovered the ball. Barker went right to work through the air with a quick 9-yard strike to Kuntz and then went off tackle for six more yards. But three of the next four throws were incomplete and the Hounds turned the ball over on downs at their 25.

The next four series resulted in punts for both teams. The Hounds turned the fifth series over on downs and Keokuk tried a fake punt on the sixth series of the second half, but Lozano sniffed it out and brought Skinner down for a loss. Fort Madison wouldn’t get anything going with a quick three and out and then the Chiefs turned the ball over on downs.

Fort Madison took the ball and went seven plays before Barker slid in from the 3-yard line for the Hounds’ last touchdown. AJ Nolting would add a field goal in the final seconds to set the final score.

Denning finished with 113 yards and two touchdowns on seven receptions to lead Fort Madison in receiving.

“I just wanted to do everything I could to help the seniors win the game. That’s what this was all about,” he said. “We worked on some different routes this week in practice and their corners were a bit softer than we were used to this year, but I just wanted to do everything I could for the seniors tonight.”

Barker said the passing game came easier tonight, despite being flushed out of the pocket on a regular basis. “We were able to get a lot of stuff short...short...short and then we were able to get the long passes in, so the passing game came along tonight.”

He said the season wasn’t what he anticipated for the Hounds, but he said winning the final game of the season and keeping the County Seat trophy at Fort Madison felt pretty good.

Shiffman said the game was crazy at the beginning but the Hounds were able to settle in.

“Yeah, one of the assistants came up to me and said that was probably the craziest first couple of minutes of football they’d ever seen, but then we settled in and really did some good things tonight,” Shiffman said.

“Parker had a really good night tonight, Shey had two interceptions, Trey had over a hundred yards and touchdown and Diego Lozano had 12.5 tackles and eight of those were for losses. That’s just phenomenal. We got some things done tonight for these seniors and I’m happy for them.”

Redd-Donald said he was disappointed in the season as a whole, but wanted to have a clean game tonight.

“This isn’t what I had in mind for my senior year,” Redd-Donald said after the game. “But I came tonight to give it my all and help the team finish with a win and for the other seniors.”

Barker finished with 20-44 passing for 271 yards and three touchdowns with two interceptions. Lozano led the team on defense. Maestro led the Hounds on the ground with 24 yards on 11 carries.

This sports story was read on penicitycurrent.com and social media 10,111 times and was engaged with 2,001 times.
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-Chuck & Lee

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