Burlington woman charged with theft in Sunday incident

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A Burlington woman has been charged with 2nd degree theft in connection with a bizarre incident Sunday that had area law enforcement looking for an armed suspect.

Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said Monday afternoon that 24-year old Karissa Coughenour, of Burlington has been charged with theft and is currently in the Lee County Jail. The theft is a Class D felony under Iowa law.

Coughenour is charged with theft from a vehicle in a Fort Madison residence Sunday. At 4:52 p.m. Fort Madison Police were called to a scene on the crest of Old Denmark Hill where Coughenour allegedly took control of the vehicle and sent it vaulting into the woods southbound.

Coughenour was discovered by emergency crews in the woods after she was able to get free of the vehicle, but couldn't give police additional information on any other people associated with accident or the theft.

The woman was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital after being tended to by emergency respondents. Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig said Monday afternoon that 24-year old Karissa Coughenour, of Burlington has been charged with 2nd degree theft in connection with a bizarre incident Sunday that had area law enforcement looking for an armed suspect.

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24-year-old taken to jail after being treated for minor injuries

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – It may be Montrose Dog Boarding now, but they still call it "Dave's."

Amanda and Matt Mullins have been running a boarding shelter out of their home in Montrose for the past year or so, but the demand became so large they had to expand operations.

Now, the two own the former Dave's Meat Market building at 111 Spruce Street in downtown Montrose and are living the dream. They've converted the space into a boarding center for dogs and cats and have other ideas that Matt says are all part of Matt's Big Dream.

But the passion for the business comes from Amanda's side.

"I asked her if there was anything in the world she would rather be doing than what she was, and she said this," Matt said, walking through the new boarding center Monday morning.

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"The demand for boarding was growing at home so we knew we were going to have to expand and then this building came up for auction. We got it at a good price and the first thing we did was buy a ping-pong table, set it up and started playing ping-pong talking about how this would look,"

The most striking marketable feature of the new business, which will be holding its grand opening on Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m., is that they are open Monday through Sunday by appointment and also can be found on site.

"We live just three blocks from here so anyone can call us and we can be down here in a matter of minutes," Amanda said. "And we've had several people call already and say, 'Can you take our dog, like immediately', and we can do that."

Matt said the last thing he wanted was for people to think, "Oh, I don't want to call and have to make an appointment."

"We can be reached anytime day or night and even on Sundays," he said. "We can come down, if you get back in town on weekend, and get you back with your pet right away."

The grand opening will feature some special promotions like $5 dog daycare, which is regular.
Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft on 5/17/19 – 11:08 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of Ave. F. 5/17/19 – 8:21 p.m – Albert Harper, 41, of Fort Madison was arrested on a charge of OWI First.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report 5/17/19 – 11:49 a.m – Brett Allen Michael Montgomery, 25, of Keokuk, was arrested on a charge of Contempt – Failure to Pay Fine! Cost, in the 2100 block of Ave. H. 5/19/19 – 3:30 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1400 block of Ave. C. 5/19/19 – 11:29 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1400 block of Ave. C. 5/17/19 – 11:37 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1400 block of Ave. C.

Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1400 block of Ave. C. 5/17/19 – 11:29 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1400 block of Ave. C. 5/1/19 – 11:37 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1800 block of Ave. H. 5/19/19 – 4:52 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at the intersection of Old Denmark Rd. and Old Denmark Hilltop. 5/19/19 – 8:45 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1700 block of Ave. C. 5/18/19 – 6:49 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Ave. A. 5/19/19 – 8:29 a.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1500 block of Ave. C.

Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1400 block of Ave. C. 5/17/19 – 11:29 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1400 block of Ave. C. 5/17/19 – 11:31 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1500 block of Ave. B. He was arrested and held at the Lee County Correctional Center. 5/18/19 – 11:51 a.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1700 block of Ave. C. 5/18/19 – 8:49 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1800 block of Ave. C. 5/19/19 – 8:29 a.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of Richards Dr. 5/19/19 – 3:30 p.m – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit run in the 1800 block of Ave. H.

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The Mullins also have a Facebook Page at https://www.facebook.com/MontroseDogBoarding/, and a website for additional information at www.montrossedogboarding.com. Appointments can be set by calling 515-360-8901.

In Matt’s “Big Dream” he would like to turn the center at times into a fundraising mechanism for area groups and clubs. The idea would be to bake homemade pet treats that were pre-sold and then donate the majority of the proceeds to the group helping with the baking. Amanda has made sugar-free pet treats from home ingredients like beef broth, oatmeal, mint leaves, flour and egg. The treats are for sale now at the center.

The Mullins said another part of the "Big Dream" would be to build a deck above the outside play park so people could watch the animals playing from above.

Amanda is also accustomed to special needs dogs and can provide those services such as for blind or diabetic animals.

“What’s nice is that we don’t charge extra for that. People can get all those services, including playtime with the animals, and pictures of how their pets are doing.”

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Patricia A. Petty, 84, of Wever, IA, passed away at 4:30 a.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019 at the Keosauqua Health Care Center in Keosauqua, IA. She was born on April 24, 1935 in Kingston, IA to Floyd & Florence Wasson Brockway. She married Larry E. Petty, they later divorced. She worked at the Wever Bank later at the Department of Human Services. She enjoyed watching figure skating.

Patricia is survived by: 1-daughter: Lynn Petty of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Christopher Petty of Wever, IA; 3-grandchildren; 4-great grandchildren & 1-brother: Kenneth Brockway of rural Mediapolis, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents & 1-son: Wes Petty.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynn Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to Patricia’s family may be left at the King-Lynn Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynn.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

Driver questioned by law enforcement, jailed

THEFT - Continued from Page 1

ers and questioned by Fort Madison Police. After being treated for minor injuries she was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

“She was playing the game pretty good with officers,” Sittig said. Several reports from witnesses in the area said they heard what sounded like gun shots just prior to the incident, but Sittig said police have no information connecting those with the incident.

“At this point, we don’t think they are connected at all. There’s the possibility someone was target shooting in the area at that time,” he said.

After the accident, based on information allegedly given by Coughenour, police, Lee County Sheriff’s on and off-duty personnel, and Iowa State Patrol officers began a search of the wooded areas between 10th and 15 streets and north of Avenue B for an armed subject.

Sittig said Monday that information may have been inaccurate, but police did arrest a suspect in the area who was wanted on several warrants. That individual’s name has not been released by the police as the full report has not been completed.
Scene in Sports

Fort Madison 3rd baseman Reed Fesheke gets ready to apply a tag to a Burlington Grayhound baserunner Monday night in Fort Madison. The runner was tagged out, but was given the base on a balk call against pitcher Jordyn Gerdes.

HTC striker Audrae Vincent lets loose with a shot on goal in Monday night’s district game with Mediapolis. The Crusaders won 3-2 with Vincent scoring the game winning goal with 3:40 left in the first half. Holy Trinity will face West Liberty at Burlington Notre Dame on Wednesday.

Fort Madison pitcher Jordyn Gerdes looks for the ball after getting drilled in the leg in the fourth inning Monday night against Burlington. The Bloodhounds lost 11-7, but trailed 9-0 after four.

Watch pencitycurrent.com for full stories.

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Lee County Attorney's Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim Witness Coordinator position is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney’s Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and/or their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of file/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for effective prosecution, and assist with case management.

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level degree or in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or related fields or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.
7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney’s Office computer programs.
8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
9. Ability to multi-task.
10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.
11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.
12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims and witnesses of crimes.
13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with superviors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court.
14. Ability to maintain a large case load.
15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of $35,000 annually plus benefits.

For more information about duties email request to bbowden@leecounty.org or e-mail rbraden@leecounty.org

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Keokuk’s Hawthorne Elementary sees reading growth

BY COLIN MAGNUSON
Radio Keokuk News Director

Mike Marsden arrived in Keokuk just under four years ago. The upstate New York native had been hired as the Assistant Principal at Hawthorne Elementary school to serve under then-Head Principal Jeremy Negus. Marsden felt that two of the biggest challenges he faced were curbing the number of behavioral issues among students and improving the reading scores of the children at the school.

One year later, Marsden moved even closer to front and center in that directive as he was named Head Principal at the Kindergarten through 3rd grade school after Negus accepted a position in Iowa City.

One of the first obstacles that Marsden identified in improving reading levels throughout the school was finding a way for teachers to spend more time with students that were struggling without sacrificing classroom time set for other learning disciplines.

Along came the concept of “Chief Time.” In 2017 the Keokuk School Board adopted a district-wide policy that called for 20 minutes per day to be set aside for interventions in areas where students were struggling. This can include small group learning or one-on-one training with the teachers.

The district defines an intervention as any time above and beyond what is mandated daily by the state to be spent as any time above and beyond what is required with the teachers.

In 2017 the Keokuk School Board adopted a district-wide policy that called for 20 minutes per day to be set aside for interventions in areas where students were struggling. This can include small group learning or one-on-one training with the teachers.

The district defines an intervention as any time above and beyond what is mandated daily by the state to be spent. The Early Literacy Intervention (ELI) Law that was passed by the Iowa Department of Education requires that 90 minutes per day are spent on reading instruction. Chief Time has allowed the administration teams throughout the district to properly implement interventions beyond what the ELI Law mandates but also doesn’t force instructors to interrupt normal learning time set aside for classes such as math and science. Under Marsden, Hawthorne has become a model for the district in proving the growth that can come with the proper time being set aside for these interventions.

“We wanted to be more purposeful and targeted with our interventions that we were providing to kids. That has been helpful in making sure we are getting the kids the right things because not all kids are the same in the way they learn.”

Those targeted interventions have paid off as Hawthorne saw its students’ scores rise significantly in the 2017-18 school year. The Iowa state assessment tests are taken three times yearly at the school and Marsden explained that the data that was compiled from those tests and it showed Hawthorne sat in the top echelon of schools in the state in terms of reading proficiency growth.

“The state puts out benchmarks that we want to try to attain for the kids… We use those to assess how they’re doing three times a year. Last year we had right around 13% more of our students building wide who were proficient in reading during the spring as compared to the previous fall. That led to us having the 7th highest reading growth in the state.”

The delay in results of the assessment tests are due to the fact that those results are sent off to the state to be compiled and historically it has taken until well into the following school year to receive them back. The schools can see the immediate results of the proficiency tests but as far as using them as a benchmark against growth statewide, it has taken time, went on to state that he feels those numbers justify the current plan that includes the “targeted, purposeful interventions”.

“That was a huge accomplishment that led us know that what we’re doing is working. We continue to target those foundational skills to continue that growth.”

One of the challenges that is specific to Hawthorne is that students coming into the school as kindergartners, they have differing levels of reading abilities before they even walk in the door.

“We’ve got our work cut out with some of those younger grades and that’s a big portion of it. Learning those foundational skills that some of those students may not come in with them in place. Some of those kindergartners may not have had much exposure to letters and numbers but by winter and spring they’ve grown tremendously.”

The Head Principal is heading into his fourth year as the lead administrator at Hawthorne and he closed out by saying that there is still plenty of room for growth as the school has had higher reading numbers decades ago but he felt they’re trending in the right direction.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 21 May

Very Heavy Rain
High– 50.8º F | Low – 50.6º F

WED 22 May

Light Rain
High– 74.4º F | Low – 61.2º F

THU 23 May

Light Rain
High– 81.9º F | Low – 71.7º F

FRI 24 May

Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 82.4º F | Low – 71.2º F

SAT 25 May

Moderate Rain
High – 78.9º F | Low – 71.1º F