3:45 p.m. Emergency crews were called to the scene because of concerns of a gas leak, but no tree fell on a trailer at Aztec Park Wednesday night after a storm blew into the area at around 6:45 p.m. Hull this morning.

The new sleek, bright red SeaArk 24-foot rescue boat was parked behind the Fire Station about two weeks ago, where a car port will be built to keep it out of the sun. The new boat replaces the 19-year-old airboat that the department has been using. Captain Mike Schneider said it was time to upgrade the department’s capabilities on the river.

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters have a new supercharged rescue vehicle at their disposal – and this one goes on the river.

“FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters have a new supercharged rescue vehicle at their disposal – and this one goes on the river. ‘That older boat was still working fine and we got a good trade on it from Dave’s Marine here in Fort Madison, but it didn’t go in reverse, was loud and not as efficient as this one.’

‘The city will end up paying about $25,000 for the upgrade to the new rescue boat, which was also purchased from Dave’s Marine.’

On the back end of the boat sits at 100 horsepower outboard motor that will give rescue personnel faster response times to emergency situations. The boat will be kept at the department, but the city still holds a slip at the marina should the boat need to be moored there.

Schneider said the motor is situated so the boat can still maneuver in shallow waters, which was the strength of the airboat.

Firefighter Alex Meierotto said the boat is equipped with a large water pump to assist with river fires or boat fires. It also has room for medical gear and is GPS equipped with sonar detection capabilities.

“If we were ever to be looking for a body, this GPS equipment will help us with that search,” he said. “We also have a certified diver in the department so we can have someone in the water, too.”

Schneider said he expects the boat will last the next 5 years.

The new boat replaces the 19-year-old airboat that was still working fine and we got a good trade on it from Dave’s Marine here in Fort Madison, but it didn’t go in reverse, was loud and not as efficient as this one. “That older boat was still working fine and we got a good trade on it from Dave’s Marine here in Fort Madison, but it didn’t go in reverse, was loud and not as efficient as this one.”

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Schneider said he expects the boat will last the next 5 years.

FORT MADISON – The Young Fort Players Summer Theater Program will be performing The Rules of Comedy by Peter Bloedel. The show opens Friday July 26th at 7:30 pm and runs through the weekend. Saturday night’s show also begins at 7:30 pm while Sunday’s performance is a matinee starting at 2:00 pm. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for students (5-17). They are available online and at the door.

The young actors have been in rehearsal for several weeks under the direction of Richar Abel.

“This is Richar’s sixth year in charge of our youth theater and everyone has such a great time,” OFP President Ty Clute said.

“The kids even won first prize for their float in the Fourth of July parade! We were so excited for them that we kept the trophy in the lobby. It was a good opportunity for us to promote the play and our theatre and the kids we rewarded for their efforts. We’re very proud of them all.”

See BOAT, page 4
Kenneth "Kenny" Pilkington, 62, of Niota, Illinois, passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at the Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa. Born July 10, 1957, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Louis Amos and Donna May (Russell) Pilkington.


He was preceded in death by his father: Louis.

Kenny was a 1976 graduate of Nauvoo-Colusa High School. He worked as an engineer for the Santa Fe Railroad. He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo and the Hacienda Flats Saddle Club. He enjoyed attending the Tri-State Rodeo fishing, mushroom hunting and donating to St. Jude’s.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 19, 2019, at Schmitz – Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo, Illinois, where a Parish Rosary will be recited at 4:30 p.m.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 20, 2019, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo with Father Thomas Seydlik as celebrant. Burial will be at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Nauvoo. A memorial has been established in his memory for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

You’re invited to Holy Trinity Catholic’s New Elementary School OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH - 3:00-6:00 PM

HTC’s new school is a showcase for faith-filled values in an environment focused on educational excellence. Please join us for guided tours on Friday, August 9th at our open house.

Judy H. Roberts, 69, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 8:20 PM at the West Point Care Center.

She was born on August 10, 1949 in Ft. Madison to Alvin and Mabel Wedel Childers. Judy worked at Sheaffer Pen Company and later at the Daily Democrat. Judy loved poetry and writing short stories. She also enjoyed gar- dening and was a good artist.

Survivors include one daughter, Angie McBride of Ft. Madison; one grandson, Jesse Hagmeier of Ft. Madison and one great grand- son, Weston Hagmeier of Ft. Madison; four sisters: Betty (Skip Gipe) Brooks of Mills, MO, Mary (Jerry) DeFrates of Bettendorf, Becky (Keith) Cook of Mineral Point, WI and Bonnie (Greg) Scheele of Plymouth, WI; several nieces and nephews; companion, Jerry Stalzer of Ft. Madison and her best friend Susie Muerhoff of Ft. Madison. She was preceded in death by her parents, and two sisters, Patty and Deborah.

Friends may call after 2 PM on Friday, July 19, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home where the family will meet with friends from 4:30-6:30 PM. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at Joy Baptist Church with Rev. Earl Beal officiating. Burial will follow in Gethsemane Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter and online condolenc- es may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Bridge could stay closed

"The bridge was sched- uled for replacement in FY 2021. We’ve actually done surveying on it for replacement and we did have embargoes on the weight limit," Hull said. "There was one ele- ment we were keeping our eye on. But since it’s jointly owned by us and Henry County it will be a two-county decision on what to do with it. We’ll have to determine how expensive it will be to repair the pile caps and whether the two boards want to spend money to fix a bridge that’s going to be replaced."

Hull said one of the op- tions is to leave the bridge closed until it is replaced. Motorist have access to a hard surface road, J20, that runs parallel about a mile north of the bridge, and Hull said there are several gravel roads on the Lee County side that can be utilized in the interim.

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Cur- rent is published Sunday through Friday mornings.
First RAGBRAI visitors expected this weekend

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – The Keokuk RAGBRAI organizing committees are ready to welcome the first wave of RAGBRAI visitors this weekend. RAGBRAI participants from all over the country will make their way to Keokuk on Friday to meet up with charter companies and fellow riders before heading to Council Bluffs Saturday, where this year’s ride is set to begin on Sunday.

Well over a thousand parking passes have been purchased by riders who will leave their cars in secured long-term parking locations, designated all over Keokuk. In addition to selling out area hotels, several hundred riders will camp near the Keokuk RAGBRAI Headquarters located near Hoerner YMCA and Keokuk High School. Residents can expect temporary road closures in that area on Saturday morning, as charter buses load, and should avoid the area if possible.

The main Keokuk RAGBRAI festivities will take place next weekend, Saturday July 27th, as the 47th annual ride ends in Keokuk with The Biggest Dam Dip on the Mississippi. Cyclists will enter Keokuk from Mississippi River Road and continue onto Grand Avenue before turning south on 4th Street. They will ride to Blondeau Street where they will turn west before making a series of turns—south onto 2nd, west onto Lucas Ave, south onto 1st, and west onto Main Street (underneath the Keokuk/ Hamilton bridge). Riders will enter Victory Park through a misting water feature that will mimic the Keokuk dam’s famous spillways. They will continue on to the riverfront, passed the George M. Verity Riverboat Museum where local band, Glitter Salad, will stage their up-beat performance from 10:00am-2:00pm and Radio Keokuk will conduct its live remote broadcast throughout the day.

Just beyond the band, riders will find the dip site just south of Howard’s Boat Dock. The Meierotto Shelter House will be the site of Main Street Keokuk, Inc’s beer garden, which is set to offer a variety of beverages including beers, seltzers, and a local craft beer option from V’s Brewpub. The garden will also feature the office RAGBRAI beer, Tailwind. Vendors will be set up in the parking lot between the shelter house and riverfront and will feature a wide variety of food options including barbecue, gyros, vege-

Area man nabbed with cocaine, ecstasy, pot, and firearm

Subject faces felony and misdemeanor charges in arrest

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Donnellson man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Anthony Smith, 33, of Donnellson, Iowa was arrested on July 16th, 2019 at his residence in Donnellson. Smith is charged with possession with intent to deliver cocaine – class C felony; possession with intent to deliver ecstasy – class C felony; possession of a firearm by a felon – class D felony; maintaining a drug house – an aggravated misdemeanor; possession of a schedule IV narcotic – serious misdemeanor; possession of marijuana – serious misdemeanor; and possession of drug paraphernalia – simple misdemeanor.

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

The arrest 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 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.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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Central Lee rolls into district championship

BY COLIN MAGNESUN
RADIO KEOKUK SPORTS DIRECTOR

DONNELLSON – Throughout the 2019 season they’ve got the job done in just about every way possible. They’ve won mercy-rule shortened games. They’ve come from behind. They’ve pitched their way to victory and they’ve slugged it out.

After going 18-2 and securing a Southeast Iowa Superconference South Division Championship, the Central Lee Hawks baseball team also made light work of their first round district playoff opponent Tuesday as well.

Oddly enough, this victory got started off on a shaky note. With Senior ace Waylon Weirather on the mound, anyone familiar with this team figured a few runs of support would be all the Hawks would need.

That notion was in doubt early in the first inning against a Charlton Chargers team that checked in with just six wins on the season, but had just defeated Des Moines Area Community College to play batting a whopping .593 in his final season before heading to Des Moines Area Community College to play baseball.

The perfect bat in the lineup to lead to the Hawks put up two runs in the bottom half of the inning on a Luke Simmons groundout that plated Hopp. The ball squirted through the shortstop’s legs for an error, allowing KJ Skow to come in to score as well.

That’s what we expect from our hitters. We hit strikes and take walks if that’s what’s there. We’ve been able to square up a lot of balls this year and we did that early tonight.

The seven runs of support is all that the head coach needed to see as he pulled Waylon after three innings in favor of Sophomore Dylan Stuecker who worked the final two scoreless innings giving up just a pair of hits which he struck out four, walked two, and didn’t give up a hit.

In came Sophomore Dylan Stuecker who worked the next two scoreless innings giving up just a pair of hits while striking out one to get the hold as Central Lee scored three in the fifth inning to end the game, capped off by a Sam Hirner walk-off RBI single.

The early run support and ability to bring Stuecker in means that pitch count won’t be a factor heading into Saturday’s district championship game, according to Coach Weirather.

That early breathing room from the run support we got was nice and Dylan came in and did a great job to finish up for us. We’ve got all of our pitchers available to pitch against a solid Davis County team.

The Hawks and Mustangs had been scheduled to meet May 29th but that game was cancelled due to wet field conditions and was never made up.

Mustangs ace Trevor Slayton got the shutout against EBF and threw exactly 90 pitches which means he will be eligible to throw against the Hawks. Had he thrown one more pitch he would have been ineligible to pitch until Sunday.

Nonetheless, Weirather feels at this point in the season it’s more about what his team does on the field than who they play against.

“We’ve just got to keep doing what we’re doing. It’s all about us. We could have played better tonight but if we play good ball we feel like we’re pretty hard to beat.”

The Hawks will host Davis County Saturday at 7 p.m. from Central Lee High School in the Class 2A District 8 Championship.
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“Rules Of Comedy” is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com) and sponsored by a generous grant from the United Way.

“As young as they are, there are still several cast members with many years of experience on stage. They share their expertise with the first-time actors and help me manage rehearsals,” Richar Abel said.

“It’s really a joy to see them become comfortable speaking in public and expressing their creativity and expanding energy in constructive ways. That’s our goal with the youth program. We all love the theater and we want to share that with our young people.”

Bring the whole family to watch this family friendly show. The audience is given a side-splitting lesson in what’s funny and what’s not funny. In order to prove that the Rules of Comedy work, they are hilariously inserted into one of the most popular tragedies of all time: William Shakespear’s Hamlet. The Rules of Comedy is a physical- comedy “blow-out” with an interesting twist that showcases the cast’s ability to handle tragic drama, as well. Playing by the rules has never been so much fun!

Here’s our cast: Narrator 1 – Sandra Abel; Narrator 2 – Mallory Troutman; Dramaturg – Juniper Strickland; Hamlet – Don Tackett; Polonius – Isaiah Meek; Laretes – Zephan Abel; Ghost – Ariana Bauswell; Horatio – Isaiah Meek; Claudius – Jackson Meek; Gertrude – Ariana Bauswell; Orsice – Jackson Meek; Ophelia – Aida Troutman; Understudy – Sunshine Zion; Stunt double – Jackson Meek; Translator 1 – Zephan Abel; Translator 2 – Aida Troutman; Extra Cast members – Iley Troutman, Rosie Strickland, Elena Inman

Founded in 1980, Old Fort Players has been entertaining Fort Madison and the surrounding area for almost 40 years. The theater is located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. You can call 319-372-9559, like them on Facebook or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that’s going on at the theater.

Keeping up the garden

Erie Freitag, from Fort Madison’s Turbo Wash car wash centers, stands next to the new mulch he put in as part of his volunteer commitment to the several gardens he sponsors in Riverview Park. New mulch was also put in along the sidewalks just southeast of the entry ways. This spring and summer flooding has damaged a lot of the garden plots with some needing tending to and some already rehubbed.

More than a dozen youth to take the OFP stage

OFF - Continued from Page 1

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Pen City Rollers
Pen City Current’s Chuck Vandenberg and Brian Wright spent some time Wednesday afternoon getting beat up in Wii bowling at Sunnybrook Assisted Living. The Pen City Current team lost 727 to 345.

Committee still needs volunteers for riders

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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