Suspected thief leads LEOs on rural hunt

Deputies comb fields, timber looking for DM theft suspect

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies are looking for a man who led officers on a chase and then fled on foot.

Deputy Stacy Weber said the man stole an F250 construction type truck in Des Moines and was spotted in Lee County when the chase started.

“We tried to initiate a stop and a chase ensued. I got in at the end when he came right at me on a gravel road going 75-90 mph. I spun around and chased him to a construction area where some people had bought some property and were going to build a home,” Weber said.

“He drove past me and then headed into a field and into a wooded area where he drove through some trees and then into a creek bed, where he hit a tree and then bailed out. After that it was anybody’s guess where he was.”

Weber said both dogs were in Sioux City Monday getting certified and couldn’t be used in the chase. Montrose police tried to deploy stop sticks during the chase, but the suspect was able to avoid them.

Deputies combed the timber and field lines in the area, hoping to flush the suspect out, and several other volunteer and law enforcement officers were involved.

See CHASE, page 8

Harmony 3rd cruise line ship
to visit FM’s shores

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph cuts the ribbon with American Cruise Line officials Sunday morning with the arrival of the newest ship in the fleet, the American Harmony

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It docked a bit early, and the anticipation of seeing passengers walk out the nose of the ship was dashed with low water levels, but one of American Cruise Lines’ newest ships landed at Fort Madison Sunday morning to about 150 greeters.

Mayor Brad Randolph was on hand again to greet passengers coming off the boat as were several city councilman including Matt Mohrfeld, Bob Morawitz, and City Manager David Varley.

Randolph and Cruise officials celebrated a second ribbon cutting to honor the American Harmony’s maiden voyage up and down the Mississippi River.

“I think you’ll find that you’ll have a really enjoyable time in our fair community. We have a lot to offer and please take advantage of that,” Randolph told the visitors. “Please ask questions. We’re here to answer any questions you may have in terms of information and we

See HARMONY, page 6

Central Lee voters
to decide $12.9M bond today

DONNELLSON – Voters will go the polls tomorrow to decide the fate of a $12.9 million bond referendum that will fund several large scale upgrades on the Central Lee School District campus southeast of Donnellson.

If approved, the bond would provide the district with funds to incorporate a new office at the main entrance of Central Lee High School that would improve security and allow staff to better monitor visitors entering and exiting the building. This would add to measures already taken to enhance safety through the addition of secured front doors and a school resource officer. The district and Lee County Sheriff’s Department have an agreement that puts a deputy on school grounds during school days.

Superintendent Andy Crozier said he would like to see that agreement continue even if the bond is passed Tuesday.

The funds would also be used for new classrooms for band and vocal programs, along with new preschool classrooms to meet space needs at the elementary level. There would also be a new competition and performance gym for elementary, middle, and high school events and ADA-accessible locker rooms. Additional plans call for an expanded commons area for better

See VOTE, page 8

Don’t forget Social Media!
Check out on the following sites @pencitycurrent:

INSIDE:
Water levels are low, but catfishing is still good.

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MURIL DEE PHILLIPS

Muriel Dee Phillips, 78, of Keokuk died Wednesday, September 3, 2019. He was born on August 20, 1941 in Carthage, IL, the son of Glen and Faye Howell Phillips. On November 20, 1962 he was united in marriage to Darnetta Wilson in Scottsdale, AZ. She preceded him in death on March 23, 2017.

Muriel joined the Navy in 1958 where he earned his high school diploma as well as an Associate Degree. He proudly served in Vietnam as a member of HAL-3 (Seawolf) from 1969-1970. Muriel retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer in 1978.

After retiring from the Navy, he worked as a roofing consultant in the Los Angeles area. The family moved back to Keokuk after a forty-five minute drive took three and a half hours in 1986. Muriel had been employed by Hubinger and retired from Roquette in 2003. He was a member of the Grain Mill Union.

He enjoyed computer hide and seek games, woodworking, horse racing and gambling. Depending on which duty station he was stationed at, he also enjoyed golfing, scuba diving, boating and fishing, (he was always after that one salmon), bowling, shooting pool, dune buggying, dirt bike and motorcycle riding.

Muriel loved spending time with his rather large, extended family, especially his two uncles, Francis (Frank) and Henry (Hank) Howell. He will be greatly missed by those that loved him.

He is survived by his loyal four legged companion, Bear, one daughter, Tammy Phillips of Keokuk, one sister, Janet Gipe (Wilber “Sam”) Hall, two brothers, Harvey “Skip” (Bette Brooks) Gipe, Jr., and Jerry (J.C.) Gipe, brother-in-law, Gordon Wilson, one aunt, Darlene Fuller, one aunt-in-law, Gwen Howell and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He is also preceded in death by his parents, Harvey and Faye Gipe, his father Glen Phillips, two brothers, Tommy and Steve Gipe and several aunts, and uncles.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday, September 9 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with the family meeting with friends from 5 -7 p.m. and cannot be used without express written permission. All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday, September 9 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with the family meeting with friends from 5 -7 p.m. A graveside service with military rites will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 10 at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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Lee County – During the week of September 9, 2019, the United Way of the Great River Region will kick off the Fall 2019 campaign with a goal of raising $200,000 to fund needs in our tri-county area.

The theme for this year’s campaign is “Give your Way with United Way.” When you “Give your Way with United Way” everyone in Clark, Hancock and Lee counties will benefit. Your efforts will support United Way partner agencies in our tri-county area in three priorities:

• Education: helping children and youth achieve their potential through education
• Health: improving people’s health and access to services
• Income: helping families become financially stable and independent

Some of the highlights this year include:

• Grant funding to 27 funded partnering agencies in the tri-county area
• Literacy Projects in 4 elementary schools use volunteers to help students reading below grade level
• Volunteers enrolled in the 55+ Initiative/Retired Senior Volunteer Program provided services to 21 community organizations
• Volunteer Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the IRS helped 212 taxpayers
• Back to School Festival with Trinity United Methodist Church distributed over 500 backpacks filled with school supplies

Join us and “Give your Way with United Way”. For more information on how to participate call 319-524-4504 or email director@unitedwaygrr.org.

Theme of this year’s campaign is “Give your Way with United Way”.
DeETTA B. “DEE” HERDRICH

DeEtta B. “Dee” Herdrich, 68, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at her home in Fort Madison. She was born on December 2, 1950, in Grinnell, Iowa, the daughter of Charles F. and Myrtle (Bell) Orcutt. On July 26, 2002, she married Jim Herdrich in Louisville, Texas. She is survived by her husband; Jim; one daughter: Tina M. (Dave) Whiteaker; one son: Michael W. (Jamie) Lindsey; one step-daughter: Shelda Parodas; one step-son: Keven M. (Maricella) Herdrich; one brother: Lewis (Carol) Orcutt; two sisters: Elaine Orcutt and Ellen (Bill) Pithan; fourteen grandchildren; twelve great grandchildren and nine nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; father and mother-in-law; Shorty and Wanda Herdrich; brother and sister-in-law: Tommy and Fern Orcutt; three nephews and one great niece.

Dee was a member of Saint Peter’s United Church of Christ in Franklin. Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Friday, September 20, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 21, 2019, at St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Franklin, Iowa with Pastor Michael Bennett officiating.

Burial will be at St. Peter’s Cemetery rural Franklin, Iowa. A memorial has been established in her memory for St. Peter’s Church. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

TRACY JO HYMES

Tracy Jo Hymes, 58, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. She was born on November 16, 1960 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Wayland T. and Karen Thompson Lander. Tracy married Russell L. Hymes in 1978 in Hamilton, IL. She had been employed at Silgan Container in Ft. Madison, IA for fifteen years.

She was of the Christian faith. Tracy was very athletic and competitive and enjoyed playing softball in her younger years on the Women’s Superstar Team. Spending time outdoors in the sun was her favorite pastime and she loved being in the water and participating in water sports. She was an avid fan of the Hawkeyes, the New England Patriots and the Chicago Cubs. Tracy also enjoyed listening to the great music of the ‘70s, playing billiards and riding her motorcycle. She was a lover of animals and her cats and dogs had a special place in her heart. Tracy’s greatest joy in life was spending time with her daughter.

She is survived by her daughter, Jamey Lynn Hymes of Keokuk, IA, one sister, Terri Lander (Robert Williams) of Keokuk, nieces and nephews, Kara, Chad, Michael and Andrea Lander, great-nieces and nephews, Harley Jo Fifer, Olivia Tague and Tristin Tague and a dear friend, Diane Gassaway.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Master Sergeant Julie Lander (Dave) Whiteaker; one son: Michael W. (Jamie) Lindsey; one daughter, Jamey Lynn Hymes of Keokuk, IA, one sister, Terri Lander (Robert Williams) of Keokuk, nieces and nephews, Kara, Chad, Michael and Andrea Lander, great-nieces and nephews, Harley Jo Fifer, Olivia Tague and Tristin Tague and a dear friend, Diane Gassaway.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Calvin Stevens officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 noon -1 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
Elks Club hands out scholarships

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Elks Club recently awarded annual scholarships to seniors Faith Diephuis and LilliAnna Scott.

Diephuis was awarded a $1,500 vocational scholarship awarded by the Southeastern chapter of the Elks. She is enrolled in a 2-year physical therapy program at Kirkwood Community College. She is shown here with Scott Meller, Exalted Ruler with the Fort Madison Elks Lodge #374 during a celebration in her honor at a recent Elks Friday Fish ’n More dinners.

Ms Scott was awarded a $500 scholarship as part of the Elks Most Valuable Student scholarship opportunity. She is enrolled in a 4-year program at the University of Iowa.

Chamber Ladies Golf Outing
The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce will be holding its 8th annual Ladies Golf Outing on Sept. 13. For more information or to register your team email the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Loebsack rep at City Hall
U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack will have district representative Jared Herscherger at the Fort Madison City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, Sept. 9. Residents with concerns, or those having trouble with a government agency are encouraged to attend.

Riverview Games
The Fort Madison Riverview Games are back! On Sept. 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Riverview Park. Fort Madison service clubs, OCI Iowa Fertilizer, Hy-Vee, the Fort Madison YMCA, Kemper’s True Value Rental and the Chamber are sponsoring this year’s event. Volunteers are still needed. Contact the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com for details or to volunteer.

Pop Can Drive
The Fort Madison Middle School bands will be hosting their annual Pop Can Drive on Sept. 14th at FMMS from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off location is no north side of the school. All redeemable cans and plastic bottles will be accepted. No glass or recyclables.

HTC Science Club Chicken Dinner
The Holy Trinity Catholic Science Club will be hosting a fundraiser at the Charleston Board of Trade on Sept. 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is $10 for adults and $6 for children for an all-you-can-eat chicken buffet. Tickets are available from any science club member or by calling the school office at (319) 372-4267 with questions.

Bloodhound Booster Events
The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and includes cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is hosting their annual Pop Can Drive on Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Riverview Park. Fort Madison service clubs, OCI Iowa Fertilizer, Hy-Vee, the Fort Madison YMCA, Kemper’s True Value Rental and the Chamber are sponsoring this year’s event. Volunteers are still needed. Contact the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com for details or to volunteer.

Future Ready Iowa Summit
Sponsored by the Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Business Council, Iowa Association of Business and Industry and Cryotech, the summit will be held at Cryotech in Fort Madison Sept. 10 at 7 a.m. Click here to register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-ready-iowa-employer-summit-fort-madison-tickets-69231620641

North Lee County Relay for Life
The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year’s theme is “idols of strength.”

Weekly Book Sale
Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sale from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday’s at the Public Library.

Volunteer Fair
The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library’s Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening
The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Booten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stuekerjuergen DJing until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Fort Madison Farmer’s Market
The farmer’s market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid’s Day at the market.

Kensington events
The Kensington is offering Senior’s Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. The event is free for seniors and includes cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.
Rivers slowly dropping, but channel cats are biting

DES MOINES - The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for south-east Iowa lakes and rivers.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa River is at a stable level. The NOAA forecast is for it to slowly drop a couple of inches this week. Channel Catfish - Good: Continue to fish the outer edges of the flooded timber in shallow water; smaller ones are in shallow.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The Skunk River continues to slowly drop this week. There is still enough water to get around with jon boats. Channel Catfish - Good: Work the pools just downstream of the rock riffles, slow drifting crawdads or nightcrawlers to catch some nice eating size catfish. Don't forget to work the brush piles.

For more information on the above lake, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 684.2 feet. Channel Catfish - Slow: If we get some rain to knock it back. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Interesting bluegills remain out in deeper water; smaller ones are in shallow.

White Crappie - Fair: Use minnows or bright jigs over brush piles.

Lake Macbride

The main ramp is still closed for repaving. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Any sized motor may now be used at any water speed (5 mph). Walleye - Slow: Any sized motor may now be used at any water speed (5 mph). Black Crappie - Slow: Wiper (Hybrid Perch) - Slow. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the rock jetties or small jigs fished in brush. Black Crappie - Fair: Fish brush piles or drift the basin with jigs.

Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers continue to pick up crappies out of 20 to 25 feet deep. Try vertical jiggling or using a slip bobber and minnow. Black Crappie - Fair: The nicer bluegills remain out in deeper water; smaller ones are in shallow.

No Plastic Bags in the recycling bins

When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

- Lucky for Life® Mon & Thu 8:30 pm 9:08 pm
- Mega Millions® Tues & Fri 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
- Powerball® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 9:59 pm
- LOTTO America® Wed & Sat 8:59 pm 10:00 pm
- Pick 3 - Midday Daily Noon 12:20 pm
- Pick 3 - Evening Daily Noon 12:20 pm
- Pick 4 - Midday Daily Noon 12:20 pm
- Pick 4 - Evening Daily Noon 12:20 pm

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Surrender of the contract may be subject to surrender charges. Withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may result in a 10% IRS penalty tax. Additionally, there is a charge for the Simple7 Income Rider once it is activated. Qualifications and restrictions apply for activation. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA.
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materials in your regular trash cans.

Any curbside bins containing these
materials can potentially
compromise an entire load.

GRRWA will
be closed
Christmas Day &
New Year’s Day

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!
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CLASSIFIEDS
Suspect still sought in Monday chase

CHASE - Continued from Page 1

off-duty deputies patrolled the gravel roads off 300th Street between Old Highway 218 and Hwy 27.

Weber said he didn’t have information on whether the suspect was still in the area or was able to contact someone for a ride. He advised residents in the area to lock up all their property and vehicles and report any suspicious individuals or vehicles in the area to local law enforcement.

“We don’t know anything about him other than he didn’t want to get caught today and he was in a stolen vehicle,” he said.

“If lock everything up and use extreme caution if you see anything suspicious, and especially if you see suspicious vehicles and try to get a plate.”

Iowa State Patrol and several local police departments assisted in the search.

Hall Towing gives assist to cruise liner

HARMONY - Continued from Page 1

just really appreciate American Cruise Lines choosing Fort Madison as a stop.

He said American Cruise Lines celebrating this new ship on its maiden voyage is a milestone in itself, which adds to the milestone that’s been created in Fort Madison.

Randolph then presented the captain of the new boat with a green Fort Madison flag to keep on its voyages.

Varley said Hall Towing brought in a barge on Friday and hooked it up initially at no cost to the city.

He said the cruise line had concerns in the middle of the week about river levels and being able to hook up to the pier, so a barge was hooked up to the large cement barriers in the river and the American Harmony pulled up alongside.

Crew hands were out with squeegees pushing the late Saturday, early Sunday morning rain off the barge to allow safer walking for passengers disembarking for one of two tours through the area.

Marietta Stokes of Summamish, Wash., spoke with Morawitz on the pier and said this was her first trip on this itinerary, but had taken several other cruises before.

Fort Madison Chamber Coordinator Savanna Collier and Fort Madison City Tourism Director Jean Peiton were on hand giving out information bags to the folks heading out on the Trailway buses for historic Fort Madison tours and tours of area agribusinesses.

Collier and Peiton also help with the guided tours through Fort Madison and north Lee County farms.

The city will see its first back-to-back docking days on Sept. 18 and 19th, which are the next scheduled Marietta tours and tours of area agribusinesses.

The city will see its first back-to-back docking days on Sept. 18 and 19th, which are the next scheduled Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent


3rd and 4th floors.

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet 3rd and 4th floors.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

The board has presented a bond question that would not increase local property taxes. If passed, the tax rate in the Central Lee Community School District would be $12.19 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

The school district is using some of its sales tax revenues to offset a portion of the bond. Coupling that with the increased county valuations, the district was able to create a bond package that would not increase the current $12.19 per $1,000 equalized valuation on district tax payers’ bills.

“I think the biggest thing is that people are using those ‘now or never’ words. I don’t know if that’s appropriate, but with the large valuation increase, taxes will go down with a no vote,” Crozier said.

Crozier said if the district has to put up a referendum for a third time if this fails that’s not sure they’ll be able to do it without a property tax rate increase.

The district held several community meetings and many VOTE YES committee meetings to help educate the district voters on the issues.

Crozier said the district also hired a communications firm to help with getting bond information to district residents.

“I think that was more thorough than last time and I feel people are very well-informed. Our strategy was better than last time,” Crozier said.

“We gotta move forward one way or another. It’s always nice to see this come to a conclusion and have some kind of final result. Either way, security will be an important factor for us as well as the other aspects we want to improve with the master facility plan. But if this fails, we will go back to the drawing board and see how we go about getting these important goals met for the school district.”

In 2018, Central Lee voters failed to pass a similar bond referendum with only 56.4% voting in favor of a $9.8 million bond. That figure represented a 64.6% approval in early absentee voting. State law requires a 60%+1 mandate in local school bond referendums.

The district was looking to expand the high school building, add common areas, improve entry ways in both district buildings to improve security, create a new childhood center, and improve parking conditions.

Voting Tuesday will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Central Lee High School.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 10 Sep
Light Rain
High– 85.2º F | Low – 72.6º F

WED 11 Sep
Light Rain
High– 87.8º F | Low – 73.0º F

THU 12 Sep
Heavy Intensity Rain
High– 83.9º F | Low – 71.4º F

FRI 13 Sep
Scattered Clouds
High – 78.1º F | Low – 64.7º F

SAT 14 Sep
Partly Cloudy
High– 83.8º F | Low – 71.6º F

Senior Community BINGO

2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm in our dining room

All Seniors Welcome
Cash Prizes

The Kensington
Senior Living Community Center
2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243

From the Front/Classifieds

the classifieds

HELP WANTED

YOUR AD HERE

BARTENDER & WAITRESS NEEDED

Columbus Club in Fort Madison is looking for a part-time bartender who is available to work primarily evening hours a few nights a week. We are also in search of a waitress who is available from 4:30 to 8:30 Friday evenings. Contact Lee 319-371-4129 for details.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT


3rd and 4th floors.

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet 3rd and 4th floors.

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