

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, May 25, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 106



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## IVANHOE SHOOTING



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff talks with Lee County Sheriff's deputy Bryson Hennigar in Ivanhoe Park Monday evening following a shooting in the park. A 31-year-old man was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The suspect was still at large as of 11 p.m. Monday night.

### **AT-LARGE:** Authorities still looking for assailant as investigation continues

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Law enforcement agencies are currently looking for a suspect in connection with a shooting that took place Monday night in Ivanhoe Park.

Fort Madison Police and Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to the report of a man being shot in the leg and that suspects had fled the scene in a vehicle at 6:53 p.m.

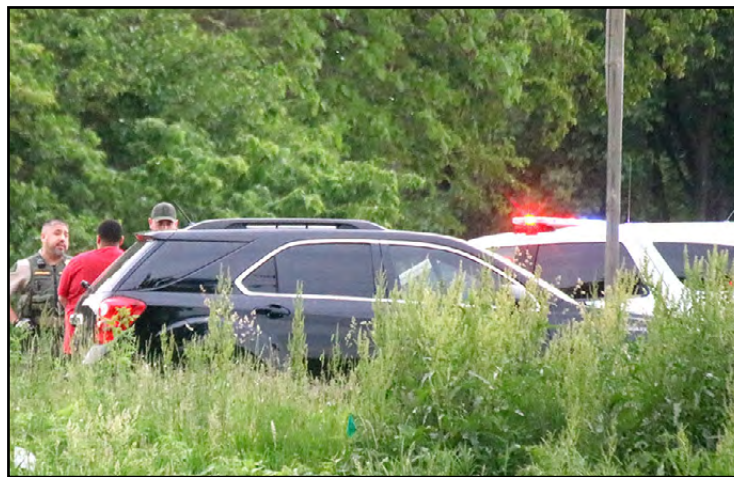
A Lee County deputy arrived at the scene first and provided first aid to the 31-year-old victim who was subsequently taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital for treatment of a non-life threatening injury.

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said further details of the incident and names are being withheld during the investigation into the incident.

"A connection has been established between the victim and the assailants, and it is not a random assault," Rohloff wrote in a release Monday night.

"Although a suspect is presently at large, the threat was isolated to an individual and not the public."

Police and deputies conducted several investigations into vehicles matching descriptions from witnesses at the park, in the area of 48th Street and River Valley Road shortly after the



A Lee County deputy questions a motorist Monday night near River Valley Road and 48th Street as part of an investigation into a shooting at Ivanhoe Park.

shooting, as well as a vehicle in Aztec Park.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue and Lee County EMS also assisted at the scene.

Rohloff said additional details on the incident could be released as early as Tuesday.

### LEE COUNTY

## Supervisors table sale of Estes Park

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Two non profits are haggling over the Estes Park property in Keokuk, which is currently owned by the county.

At Monday's regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, Josh Kirchner of Connection Bank, and current president of Keokuk Main Street, said that group was focusing on Estes Park as a part of their long-range planning and was hoping to be part of the discussion on the park.

The Keokuk Dam Commission is hoping to put an Ameren turbine on display in the park and currently needs county approval to do so.

The county owns the property just east of the Heritage Center, apparently deeded from a bank years ago, and the county is willing to part with property to help with the project.

The county, by Iowa Code, can't separate with the property for less than fair market value, so deeding it over to one of the groups for the typical dollar purchase is no longer an option.

Kirchner and representatives of the Dam Museum were both part of the meeting Monday and said they would be getting together to try and come up with a resolution to the property.

"I have to say from the Main Street board standpoint this thing came to a head quicker that we were aware of," Kirchner said.

"Hurricane Kathy made an appearance in my office on Friday and we had some discussions so I just called (Lee County Supervisor Chairman) Matt (Pflug) and asked in general if you guys would postpones some decisions until both boards have a chance, or at least representatives from the Dam Museum have a chance to come present their side of things to our board."

See **PARK**, page 3

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
**TUE 25 May**.....Heavy Rain, 76° F/ 65° F  
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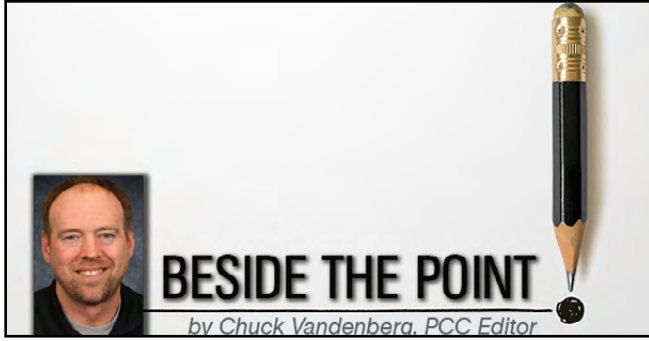
## Opinion

# Ding-dong ditching and loud traffic not much fun

Back in college, we used to watch a lot of David Letterman. As a matter of habit, I would try to get back from the library before 10:30 so I could catch the late night host.

One of my favorite bits of the legend was when he would conjure up that old man's voice and bellow "You damn kids get outta my yard."

It was funny at the time, but I think I've entered my own cranky stage. Someone ding-dong ditched me early this morning at about 12:45 a.m. I just happened to be



**BESIDE THE POINT**

by Chuck Vandenberg, PCC Editor

watching a movie at the time after a night of surf and turf at Martini's. I had the surf, and Lee had the turf. I had some of her turf, and she had a bite of my surf.

By the way, they have a chocolate mousse cake there that comes with this side blanket of Kahlua

whipped creme drizzled with strawberry and chocolate sauce. That concoction should be its own food group. I left about half the cake.... and finished an old-fashioned with Maker's. It's quickly becoming one of my favorite after-dinner sips.

But back to the story

at hand. So someone dings the door and we've had transients knock on the door at all hours of the night here before. I usually grab the 3-wood because I hit that better than the driver, but this time I picked up a lightweight Louisville aluminum 33" the girls used to hit softballs with, and stepped out on the porch.

"Chuck, get back in here," Lee said from the recliner scrolling Facebook after alerting Fort Madison's finest.

I think I know who it was because he had a history of doing it in high school and he was back for graduation. But with all the crap going on in town (Someone actually stole the wheels off the trailer for the new cruise boat out of Nauvoo - really???) and the vandalism going on in Old Settlers Park just a quick walk from the house, I decided I better let the police in on it.

They stopped by and we looked around the house.

"We'll probably get more calls tonight," the officer said. "I wouldn't assume it was kids because it is the time of year transients are in the area."

We had a guy knock on the door a couple years back who couldn't speak well and was

trying to find a hotel at about 4

a.m. Cops paid him a visit as well. I'm not usually one that's easily intimidated, but not doing anything could put someone else in harm's way, and that doesn't work for me.

So the ding-dong ditching's getting a bit annoying, but what really puts me in the class of the grumpy is the loud vehicles. We live on E and have windows on the E side. When we try to get some air through the house we have to deal with the glass packs and muffler-less trucks that guys, and some girls I guess, like to stand on off the new stops signs that catch most.

Then there's the manhole covers that bounce trailers about six inches off the ground only to clang back down to the ground. This is no exaggeration. It really sounds like a collision at the intersection and I'm constantly pivoting to look out to make sure everyone's okay.

But I don't begrudge men and women their vehicular toys. I've never been in the group of people who like loud cars that leave their impact on the neighborhood decimal limit, or rubber on the streets. I don't even really mind the people down the street who shoot fireworks off and then run into the house when the police

make a drive-by.

I didn't narc nobody! It's their likes and passions and fun. For God's sake we need more fun. It used to drive my daughter crazy because she enjoys the small neighborhoods and trees and people associated with rural Iowa. She lives in Manhattan and doesn't get that anymore. She would yell something provocative out the window as they gunned it at the stop sign or whistled a bottle rocket up and let it smack over our house.

But trying to watch the final round of the PGA Championship (right now) and having a truck or cycle gear up at the intersection is getting annoying as I try to see if my sawbuck on Phil Mickelson to win (12 to 1) is gonna pay off today. I just had a feeling at the start. He's trimmed down and focused and has one more major in him. Might as well be today.

Now thinking just logically, and not with the testosterone that started to leak from organs magically and tragically about 25 years ago, a person could rev up the glass packs out in one of the 539 other square miles in Lee County - or Des Moines County, where only the pheasants, opos-

See TRAFFIC, page 3



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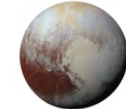
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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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**Opinion/From the Front**

**If you're gonna rev, make sure you wave**

**TRAFFIC** - Continued from Page 2

sums and birds would be annoyed. But as our Mayor Matt Mohrfeld likes to say – it's part of Americana.

Matt's been known to leave a few skid marks around town and that's where his quality of life comes in. It's their joy and pleasure, and brings a smile to their face. I'm good with that. Bouncing a shot in on hole 15 at Sheaffer's from about 110 out on the second bounce brings a smile to mine. That's only happened one time, but it was two weeks ago and my brother saw the "hole" thing.

So I'll just turn up the volume, continue to enjoy the breeze, and tip my hat to those that, as my wife likes to say, "Vroom, Vroom" their way past our home. I won't tell you the exact address, some of you know I'm sure. But if you choose to gun it, just look in, wave, and smile as you go by.

That.... will bring a smile to my face.

We also need to start having conversations about real answers to the all the crappy, petty vandalism that's going on in town. Thefts, BBs at windows, damage to parks. The answer may be adding to police staff, but they're still going to have to rely on information from witnesses and those keeping an eye out. And that means more community financial support. Personally, I don't see it solely as a responsibility of the police or the city, but all of us. How do you keep an eye out at 2 a.m., 3 a.m. when the riff-raff is out and we're all trying to get REM sleep?

Vandalism is a part of life, but the proactive communities can contain it. Maybe this is a topic for the city's new safety committee...But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor and co-founder of Pen City Current and can be reached at [editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com).

**County shouldn't have sold Rashid building for less than market value**

**PARK** - Continued from Page 1

The turbine, being acquired from Ameren, is about 14 wide by 9 feet high and would sit on a concrete foundation.

The issue was tabled until the next supervisor's meeting, which will be Tuesday, rather than Monday due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Kirchner said he would spearhead a meeting of the two groups this week to help hash out ownership of the park going forward, and plans for the turbine.

The Keokuk City Council turned down an offer to buy the property at a meeting last week, which Supervisor Gary Seyb said surprised him, because the city had just purchased undeveloped property within the city.

"They would accept a property that wasn't developed, but they wouldn't accept a property that has already been developed," Seyb said.

"There's a lot longer history than I've been attached to the board, and you folks know more than I do. I just hope the organizations can come together instead of trying to outbid each other."

The issue also brings to light property that was recently sold to the Fort Madison Food Pantry. The city of Fort Madison deeded the Idol Rashid Building to the county, because the city couldn't sell it for less than market value. The city wanted to basically give the building to the food pantry to divest itself of the property and associated upkeep costs, but couldn't do it, so they deeded it to the county.

The county then sold the building to the food pantry for a dollar, a move that was brought up

in the county's annual audit. The county isn't allowed to sell property for less than market value either. But no notations were made in the county's audit other than a verbal acknowledgment of the improper sale. Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said no penalties were handed down because of the stipulations of the Idol Rashid family that the building be used by non-profits.

Seyb said there was rich history in the park, including a large building that use to be a Civil War hospital that cared for both Union and Confederate Soldiers. He said he's hearing that's how Keokuk got a National Cemetery.

In an unrelated issue, the board approved support of an application for fiscal year 2022 Living Roadway Trust Fund grant.

County Engineer Ben Hull said the county is in its second year of having reestablished the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management plan and have a state-approved plan the board recently approved. The plan allows the county to go after grant funds to help get an inventory of the county's roadside vegetation.

The state did award about 20 acres of native grass seeding for the county to use on roadsides, and the grant would help pay for a systematic look at the whole county in 1/10 mile segments for invasive or noxious weeds, or see what native plants are already in place.

Hull has been working with Lee County Conservation Director Nathan Unsworth on the program.



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# Sports

## HOUNDS PREVIEW

# Hounds handle CC-A to move to substate finals

Fort Madison to face No. 4 Pella Wednesday for right to go to state tourney

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – “Fantastic. Impressive.”

Those were the words from Fort Madison Head boys soccer coach Kevin Wellman after Fort Madison eliminated No. 13 Clear Creek-Amana on Monday night 5-1 in the Class 2A Substate semifinals.

Fort Madison, currently ranked No. 9 in Class 2A will take on No. 4-ranked and Substate 5’s top-seeded Pella in Pella on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Wellman said the game plan was to press the Clippers early and often and force the game at the outset.

“We watched film on Clear-Creek Amana and couple things we identified was they played goal kick short so part of our game plan was to press them high. Our game plan from the kickoff was to press right away and go right at ’em and the

boys did that,” Wellman said.

The Hounds got on the board first when Xander Wellman scored moving the defense to the right of center and then slashing a shot across the front of the goal to the left that found the back corner for a 1-0 lead just 6:20 into the first period.

The Clippers would take the center ball and go right up the field, but keeper Reiburn Turnbull made a jump save on a shot from about 20 feet at the 7:02 mark.

The Hounds got the most exciting goal of the night when Mitchell Pothitakis sent a corner kick from the northeast corner of the pitch at the Baxter Sports Complex, high in front of the net and senior Will Larson caught a header into the back center with the CC-A goalie coming out to make a play on the corner kick assist.

Wellman would give Fort Madison a 3-0

lead with 6 minutes left in the first half on a couple nifty balls from Anthony Barnes and Pothitakis. Leif Boeding would make it 4-0 just before halftime with assists from Jacob and Mitchell Pothitakis.

Kevin Wellman said he’s been challenging the Hounds to strike fast after halftime in the past three game and they’ve responded with goals in the first 90 seconds each time.

This time Xander Wellman got a ball from Will Gager and popped it past the Clippers’ goalie again with just 51 seconds gone in



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds’ Will Larson (8) heads a corner kick from Mitchell Pothitakis past the Clear Creek goalie to give Fort Madison a 2-0 lead in the first half. Fort Madison’s Xander Wellman (11) and Will Gager (5) watch the play from the right.

See WIN, page 2

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 27, 2021, at Heartland Co-op, east of Wever.

### PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAY 3, 2021

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Office Building, on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Ron Fedler, Rick Larkin and Garry Seyb. Present electronically was Rich Harlow.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input-Harlow received a call from a resident of Denmark asking if it is possible to have a directional sign with the mileage to Denmark put at the by-pass. County Engineer Ben Hull said that the Iowa Department of Transportation does not allow this because Denmark is not incorporated. Harlow also received another inquiry about trash along X32 leading to the landfill. He spoke with the new director of the landfill that assured him that he will be warning and fining those that do not have their loads covered.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve a three-year agreement with Regional Planning for Floodplain Administration Services. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve Final Contract Construction Progress Vouchers for FM-TSF-C056(100) --5B-56, HSIP-SWAP-C056(102)-FJ-56, FM-TSF-C056(103)--5B-56, and STBG-SWAP-C056(106)-FG-56. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to approve an amendment to an agreement with Advanced Correctional Healthcare for health

care services to inmates. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to fill a Correctional Officer vacancy. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Business Property Tax Credits for 2020. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, April 26, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Harlow, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a correction to EMS Director Dennis Cosby's salary from \$82,690.50/annually to \$84,344.40/annually, effective 3/29/21 and a new hire for the Sheriff's Office, Jacob Mentele, Correctional Officer, \$17.67/hr., effective 5/4/21. Motion carried.

Received and filed a Manure Management Annual Update for Dobson Family Farms in Van Buren Township.

Committee Reports: Harlow reported on a Children First Board meeting. Seyb reported on an EMS Advisory Council meeting, a dedication of a track in Keokuk and a Career Exploration Steering Committee meeting. He has also been monitoring the secondary roads that are being used during construction on Hwy 2. Fedler reported on a RUSF Zoom meeting. Pflug reported on a meeting with the Heritage Senior Center board members. Health Department Director Michele Ross gave an update on the Covid-19 situation in Lee County.

At 9:30 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Matt Pflug, Chairman  
Attest: Denise Fraise,  
Lee County Auditor

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Coast/Coast, splys

..... 172.98  
Democrat Co, publ.. 93.12  
Disc Tire, svcs ..... 67.95  
RK Dixon, equip .. 1785.76  
Dnnllsn Hlth, svcs... 181.21  
Dnnllsn Tire, svcs ... 822.20  
Farm/Home, splys ..... 222.25  
R Fedler, exps ..... 62.39  
Fehseke/Gray, svcs ..... 180.00  
5th dist Adtrs, edu... 30.00  
Floyds, svcs..... 65.00  
Gr Prairie, svcs..... 283.67  
GRHS, svcs..... 3000.00  
GrWst Trust, svcs ..... 1050.00  
TO Haas Tire, svcs... 84.65  
Hall Excvtng, svcs .. 500.00  
Hffmn Wld, equip.... 33.91  
HyVee, splys..... 1758.49  
ICCS, dues ..... 2000.00  
iconnectyou, svcs... 128.00  
IA Brdg/Civrt, mtrl ..... 48631.24  
IA Pblc Sfty, splys ..... 2418.00  
IA DOT, splys ..... 1908.40  
IA Law Enfnt, ed .. 150.00  
IA Off/St ME, svcs ..... 1900.00  
J&S Elec Bus, splys ..... 29.22  
Jays Auto, svcs..... 49.71  
Jet Gas, fuel ..... 11727.41  
Jhnsn Co ME, svcs ..... 283.04  
Keo Water, svcs ..... 138.37  
KingLynk Fnrl, svcs ..... 1200.00  
Klingner Assc, svcs ..... 6590.78  
R Kuntz, svcs ..... 200.00  
Lane Plmbg, svcs... 134.94  
Law Enfrc Sys, mtrl ..... 131.00  
LeeCo Adtr, CtrlPur ..... 232.74  
LeeCo EMS, svcs ..... 75000.00  
LeeCo Lbry, ctrb ..... 25362.50

LeeCo Treas, fees ..... 10207.30  
US Bnk Eqp, equip ..... 2167.69  
VD Sply, splys ..... 14374.82  
Verizon, svcs ..... 40.01  
M Walker, svcs ..... 200.00  
Zep Mfg, svcs ..... 310.49  
4imprint, splys..... 1070.08

LeeCo Treas, fees ..... 389779.24  
LeeCo Treas, costs ..... 433173.05  
Liberty Util, gas.... 239.15  
Lynch Dallas, svcs ..... 1254.50  
M-B Co, svcs ..... 1188.85  
Madison Apts, rent ..... 200.00  
Mail Svcs, svcs..... 983.85  
McFarlands, splys ..... 170.19  
R Meller, svcs ..... 200.00  
G Mrschmn, svcs ..... 1176.35  
Meyers Dwy, svcs ..... 1050.00  
MidAm Enrgy, gas ..... 557.82  
T Mohrfeld, rent .... 100.00  
Moore Equip, parts ..... 6066.11  
Optum Rx, splys ..... 1159.77  
Outdoor Rec, equip ..... 96670.00  
Plak Smckr, mtrl ..... 1769.41  
Prairie Farms, splys ..... 326.40  
Rashid, Rx ..... 54.75  
Rathbun, svcs..... 171.50  
M Ross, exps..... 11.00  
RSM US, svcs ..... 333.00  
SEIL Fiscal, svcs ..... 625175.00  
Shottenkirk, svcs .... 520.29  
SE Dist ISAA, edu ..... 300.00  
C Spann, exps ..... 60.70  
Staples, svcs ..... 596.74  
S Stice, exps..... 159.75  
Stkrjrgn law, svcs.... 371.70  
K Stkrjrgn, exps .... 117.69  
Truck Rpr, parts

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## We remember and celebrate all those who fought for our freedom on this day.



Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition on Monday or Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> & June 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7 and we will resume publication of the e-Edition Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Please celebrate safely and responsibly. We care about all of you.  
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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Will Larson celebrates after scoring on a header off a corner kick assist from Mitchell Pothitakis in Monday's 5-1 win over Clear Creek-Amana in Class 2A substate 5 semifinal action.

## Hounds press Clippers right from the start Monday

**WIN** - Continued from Page 1

the 2nd period.

The Hounds would start subbing liberally with about 10 minutes left in the game and the Clippers would get on the board with about 8 minutes left to avoid the shut out.

"At halftime against Keokuk, I challenged them to press really hard and go get one and they did. Keokuk was 60 seconds. Tonight I told them 90 seconds and they did it in 51," Wellman said.

Xander Wellman said the Hounds knew the Clippers were a good team and a fast team.

"We knew they were good. We've played tough teams before and we knew if we played our game we didn't have to worry. We know there are good teams out there and we've played good competition. But when we play 100% we're a great team as well," he said.

Coach Wellman said they didn't know what to expect from the Clippers.

"It's so hard to tell things when you're watching from a screen up in the stands. But I was pleasantly pleased with how it turned out," he said.

Pella comes into the match with a 14-4 record, but ranked 4th in the state in Class 2A.

Xander Wellman said they don't know much about the Dutch, but they do know a lot about themselves.

"We don't know a lot about them, but we're not focused on them. We're focused on us playing our game," he said.

"People see the scores and everything, but they don't see the practices and everything we put into it. We've got parents letting us come over for team meals and bonding. We are a family, you know, not just a soccer team."

The Hounds are 16-1 on the year with the only loss coming to Class 1A top-ranked Burlington Notre Dame to open the year.

Wellman said that was a learning experience.

'Honestly I just use it like a loss. It shows we're not perfect. So all we gotta do is keep pushing through and finish the season as best as we can.

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