PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, April 12, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 78



www.pencitycurrent.com

Swindell added to 2020 reboot



Image Courtesy of Edwards Marketing LLC

Cole Swindell has been added to the list of acts set to perform at the 2021 Tri State Rodeo. The event was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

2021 THEMES: CINCH Chute Out starts four nights of action Sept. 8

FORT MADISON – The Tri-State Rodeo Chairman, Tony Johnson, stated "For over seventy years, the Tri-State Rodeo has been a yearly gathering for so many of us. Year after year we see generations of families coming in from all over the Midwest (and further) to enjoy a week of activities in Fort Madison, Iowa. It has been a difficult year, for each of us in our own ways. But I wanted to start this year off by saying, on behalf of the Tri-State Rodeo, thank you and we have missed you!"

The Tri-State Rodeo is proud to announce that 5 of the 6 musical artists announced in 2020 have been rescheduled for the 2021 Tri-State Rodeo. Nelly, Mark Chesnutt and David Lee Murphy will be on the main stage the Joe Stamm Band and Stumptown inside the Bud Light Stockyard this September! The rodeo is also, very excited to announce that Cole Swindell has been added as the Saturday Night Headliner

this year! Music on the main stage will start immediately after the rodeo ends each night (Thurs, Fri, and Sat) and will be followed by entertainment inside the Bud Light Stockyard (Wed, Thurs, Fri, and Sat).

Each night of the rodeo will be unique with rodeo and musical entertainment. There will also be a theme to each night this year! Wednesday September 8th is the CINCH Chute Out, Thursday September 9th is Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night, Friday September 10th is 90's Country Throwback Night and Saturday September 11th is Military and First Responder Night. We will have more details on these themes and how the public can get involved coming out over the next several weeks.

Tickets for the 73rd Tri-State Rodeo will go on sale Friday April 23rd ,at 8 AM. Tickets will be available online at www.tristaterodeo.org or by contacting the Rodeo Ticket Office.

lowa News

Trooper murdered in stand-off in Grundy Center

GRUNDY CENTER – On Friday Iowa State Patrol Sergeant Jim Smith, a 27-year-veteran of the Iowa State Patrol, was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a barricaded subject in Grundy County.

On Friday, April 9th, at approximately 7:22 p.m., Grundy Center Police attempt-

ed to conduct a traffic stop on Lang, within Grundy Center City limits. Lang fled from Grundy Center Police and he was chased to an area southeast of town. Lang pulled over on 250th Avenue, exited his vehicle and assaulted the Grundy Center Police Officer who chased him. During the assault, Lang yelled, "shoot me" mul-

tiple times to the Officer. Lang disarmed the officer of his Taser, removed his radio and put the Officer in a chokehold.

Law enforcement responded to the area of the assault. A Grundy County Deputy arrived on scene and witnessed the Of-

See **DEATH**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

Supervisors to get FM Marina pitch

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON – Lee County Supervisors will get a turn to look at the proposed \$6 million Fort Madison Marina project Monday.

Supervisors will hear the presentation from Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld as he continues to get the project in front of stakeholders.

The Fort Madison City Council approved a resolution is support of spending \$1.5 million of city funds on the project. That could trigger an equal investment from Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission for waterside improvements including four new docks, two covered and two uncovered.

See MARINA, page 5

RESCUE

Firefighters pull swamped boaters off Mississippi

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters pulled a stranded boat off the Mississippi River Sunday morning. No one was injured in the incident.

At about 10:20 am the Fort Madison Fire Department was dispatched for a report of a boat that was taking on water approximately a mile north of the Santa Fe bridge. Fire crews responded with the department's utility truck, along with rescue boat 9481.

Upon arrival at the entrance of Riverview Marina, the crew made contact with the 911 caller. The caller provided the crew with the phone number of a person on the stranded vessel. Contact was made

See **RESCUE**, page 8

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WEATHER

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 TUE 13 Apr
 Scattered Clouds, 55° F / 39° F

 WED 14 Apr
 Broken Clouds, 45° F/37° F

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CHARLOTTE J. INMAN

Charlotte Jean Inman, 75, of West Point, IA, passed away at 2:52 a.m. on Friday, April 9, 2021 at her home. She was born on November 17, 1945 in Quincy, IL to Sylvester G. & Martha L. Kellogg Durand. She attended school in Fort Madison and graduated from



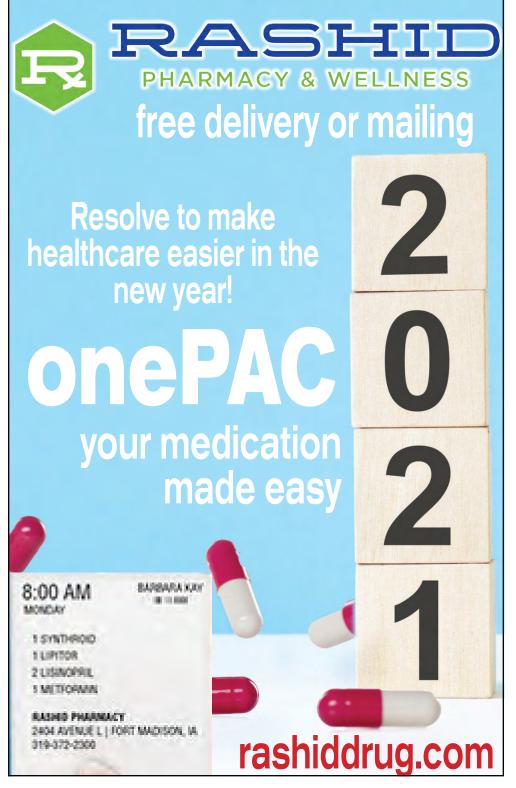
INMAN

Aquinas High School in 1963. She married Michael B. Inman in Keokuk, IA in 1967. He preceded her in death in October of 1990. She worked for 42 years at Henniges in Keokuk, retiring in August of 2006. She served as Steward & Treasurer of Local 444L for 14 years. She enjoyed reading, bowling, playing cards & Bunco, dining out and spending time with family and friends. Her family was a treasure and she loved get togethers (big or small) and being the host was a joy for her. Her door was always open.

Charlotte is survived by: 1-son: Rick (DeAnna) Inman of Donnellson,

IA; 3-grandsons: Andrew Inman of Keokuk, IA, Nicholas Inman of Miami, FL & Austin Inman of Donnellson, IA; 2-sisters: Virginia (Albert) Butler of Quincy, IL & Pat (Clell) Hauser of West Point, IA; 1-brother: Francis "Frank" (Donna) Durand of Denmark, IA; 1-sister in law: Mary Durand of Pea Ridge, AK; 3-Godchildren: Bruce Durand, Lori Hanes & Kerri Durand and many beloved nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 1-son: Todd Inman, 2-sisters: Sylvia Merschbrock & Genevieve Durand; 2-brothers: Roscoe Conover & Henry Durand &; 2-sister in laws: Gerry Conover & Vicky Jean Young; 1-brother in law: Maurice Merschbrock & 2-nephews: Phil Conover & Randy Merschbrock.

A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The memorial service will immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Les Featheringill officiating. Burial will be held at Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery in Keokuk, IA. A memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Online condolences and a video of the memorial service may be left and viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



OBITUARIES

JULIA V. STUEKERJUERGEN

Julia Veronica Stuekerjuergen, 87, of West Point, Iowa, formerly of Mt. Hamill, Iowa, passed away at 2:38 a.m. Friday, April 9, 2021, at Arbor Court in Mount Pleasant under hospice care following a brief illness.



She was born on June 25, 1933, the daughter of the late Henry P. and Irene (Holtkamp) Conrad of Houghton. After losing her mother, Henry remarried Armella Menkhaus of Cincinnati, Ohio. On September 15, 1953, she married James John Stuekerjuergen. James served in the Korean War and after their marriage, they settled near Houghton and started raising dogs in 1968. After nearly thirty-five STUEKERJUERGEN years running Corner View Kennels and raising a large family, Julia remained active in the business she loves, as well as traveling with

and seven step great grandchildren.

friends and playing cards. Julia was preceded in death by her parents: Henry and Irene; husband: James; one brother: Leroy Conrad; step-mother: Armella, one son: Dale Stuekerjuergen and one grandson: Dustin Menke. Surviving family include her six children: Jean Stuekerjuergen of West Point, Carl (Rita) Stuekerjuergen of Sterling, Virginia, Earl (Leanne) Stuekerjuergen of Houghton Julie (Allen) Nelson of Fairfield, Karen (Dale) Menke of New London and Duane (Kristin) Stuekerjuergen of West Point. Julia is also survived by fifteen grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, three step-grandchildren

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 16, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family will receive friends from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. that evening. A Christian Wake Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17, 2021, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant. Mass will be lived streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on her obituary "Tribute Wall" on our website following the service at: www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

A memorial has been established in her memory for St. John's Catholic Church Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with local arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.









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Opinion

Local author to hold meet and greet for first book

It is with great pleasure I announce a book signing and "Meet the Author" for L. Kephart-Nash, better known as Linda Nash, of Ft. Madison. This gala affair will take place on Saturday, April 24th, at 1:00 p.m., at the First Christian Church in Ft. Madison, 608 10th St. Masks and social distancing will be observed. If it's a nice day (hope, hope), we'll meet across the street in Central Park where it will be easier to social distance and enjoy nature. Yours truly (me) will be introducing L. Kephart-Nash to the community and world, although for those of you who know her, she needs no introduction.

At 83, this is her first book. "When the Tempest Passes...and the Wicked is No More" is a smash hit. No fooling. It's about her Norwegian grandparents' life in SE Minnesota/NE Iowa, eking out a living on hard-scrabble land. The story is rife with silent abuse, an arranged marriage and even the possibility of murder. At the turn of the 20th Century, suffrage was a but whispered topic around the dinner table, that took second and third place to hard work, minding your own business and following the Will of God. It was a tough life where men ruled and women fell in line.

Beautifully written with breathtaking prose, and a story line that can stop you dead in your tracks, not once, not twice, but multiple times with an unfolding mystery, "When the Tempest Passes" might be the Great American Novel of the 21st Century. I say this in all seriousness. I don't hand out compliments that easily, but L. Kephart-Nash might be a Virginia Woolf, Emily Dickinson, or Harper Lee in disguise. Sucking up her courage, she took my creative writing class

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm and exploded on the

page. I just stood back in amazement and made sure she had free rein to write with abandon. Like writers of old, she writes everything longhand. Her daughter does the word processing.

Here is what one of my readers had to say. "I am a retired school teach-



er....I just finished rereading 'When the Tempest Passes' by L. Kephart-Nash

and I can't thank you enough for connecting me to this book and author. What an amazing story along with such beautiful prose! My book club has chosen Ms. Nash's book for discussion....I read that you are perhaps planning a meet-the-author

party for her and wanted to make sure we didn't miss the chance to know about and attend that event."

And another reader: "I enjoyed the book, (except I don't know if enjoy is the word to use). It was one that really made me think and I went back to reread parts. I am passing it along to my sister. I hope the author does write more books."

Well, yes. L. Kephart Nash has written another book. No one-book

wonder is she! "A Spacious Place" will be released soon. This makes two books in little over a year. "Prolific" doesn't even begin to express energy of that nature.

A retired RN, moving from obstetrics to geriatrics, married to a Presbyterian Minister, and having six children, Nash has experienced the full gamut of heartbreaks and rewards of a full life. Never having written before, she writes stories that are within her, the ones that have been

begging for exposure all her life. "Raw talent" is a good descriptor of her, another is "brave," still another, and the most important is, "Christian."

You won't be disappointed in L. Kephart-Nash, A.K.A, Linda Nash. Books will be available at the "Meetand-Greet." If we're lucky, she'll even read a little selection from "When the Tempest Passes."

For those of you who can't make it, books are available on Amazon.

We are where you are.



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Obituaries

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OBITUARIES

GLORINE PIEPER

We are saddened to report the passing of Glorine Pieper. Please keep the Pieper family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Glorine Pieper, 92, wife, mother, business partner, and friend to many died peace-

fully in West Burlington, IA, April 8 2021.



PIEPER

Passionate about her faith and committed the family business, she cherished her family above all else – devoted children: Jeanne (Tom) Lawrence of Woodinville, WA; Joe (Linda) Pieper of Peoria, IL, Mike (Cheryl) Pieper of Fort Madison, IA; Maggi (Paul) Choplin of Kansas City, MO; Bill Pieper of West Des Moines, IA; Matt (Karen) Pieper of Westminster, MD; and Barb (David) Gonzalez of Glenview, IL.; grandchildren include Kathryn (Lawrence) Foreman, Emily (Pieper)

Stein, Zach Pieper, Kim Pieper, Lindsey Pieper, Jillian (Pieper) Mohrfeld, Jordan Pieper, Shanon Pieper, Logan Pieper, William Gonzalez, Drew Gonzalez, Clare Gonzalez and 13 great grandchildren. Other surviving loved ones include many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband William J. "Bud" Pieper, parents Joseph J. and Virgilia Nichting, brother, Sylvan Nichting, sister, Pat Winnike, and grandson Matthew Lawrence.

Glorine was born in Fort Madison, Iowa on December 26, 1928. She grew up in Pilot Grove, IA attended St. Paul Catholic School in St. Paul, IA. She attended Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart College in Omaha, NE. She was the office manager for her father's business, J.J. Nichting Company, then was the bookkeeper for the family's farm operation in Green Bay Bottom until she retired at 70 years of age. She met Bud in the Houghton/St. Paul area where they grew up, then raised seven children together. They enjoyed reciting the rosary daily throughout their 68 years of marriage. Known for her warm, friendly and outgoing personality, she was a devout catholic who loved growing up in Iowa and loved the Southeast Iowa

Glorine served on the Aquinas Catholic School Board, volunteered with Hospice four 15 years and was a longtime member of many service clubs including, P.E.O. Chapter J.O., Searchlight Study Club, T.T.T. Society, Fort Madison Area Arts Association and North Lee County Historical Society.

After having a busy life raising seven children, working, and serving the community, she enjoyed retirement in Fort Madison and wintering in Arizona.

Even as her health declined she retained her daily prayers, love for family and kindness toward her caregivers.

A Rosary with family and friends will be recited at 9:30 am Monday, April 12, 2021 at Ss. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison. There will be a visitation from 10:00 – 11:00 am Monday, April 12, 2021 at church. Mass of Christian Burial will follow and begin at 11:00 am Monday at Ss. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church, with Reverend Joseph Phung as Celebrant. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed. A Catholic Committal Service and burial will be at Gethsemane Cemetery, Fort Madison.

Memory Letter/Memorial:

If you are unable to attend, the Pieper Family is asking that a memory of Glorine be sent that will be shared with the family.

You can sign an online guest book, share your memory, and view her recorded Mass of Christian Burial following the services at <u>www.barrmemorialchapel.com</u>. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish. Memorials and your memory letter may be mailed to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.



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Sports/From the Front

City looking for letter of support from supervisors

MARINA - Continued from Page 1

The commitment from the city also was required as part of a federal Community Project Fund administered as part of the American Recovery Plan through U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks' congressional

The initial price tag on the project is \$6 million, but Mohrfeld has been up front in saying the project could range to \$11 million when all facets of a multi-phase plan have been implemented.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding is also coming into play in the re-dredging of the marina, which is set to begin in September. That will also require the pulling off of all current dock slips, which are set to be replaced.

The city is looking for a letter of support from the county to be used in applications for additional funding mechanisms including the congressional grant.

A multi-tiered public/private lease structure is planned to be in place for the 5-star marina with maintenance funding coming from proceeds of the brand new hospitality center that is being planned as new construction.

A poll is posted at Pen City Current's Facebook page regarding the marina at the following link:

https://poll.app.do/pg/fort-madison-marina-project In other action, supervisors are scheduled:

- to hear a letter of support to have Optimae designated as a Community Mental Health Center for Jefferson, Des Moines and Lee counties. State officials have hedged on the designation as Optimae is a for-profit mental health center.
- hear an update on the county's five-year plan from secondary roads.



Wellman's goal lifts Hounds past Washington

Fort Madison rolls MP 10-0 in rain-shortened Saturday soccer tournament

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - It wasn't the most pleasant of nights, but the Fort Madison Bloodhounds got their first soccer win of the year on a chilly, wet night at Baxter Sports Complex.

With some other events canceled due to weather, the Hounds took to the pitch and a came away with a 4-2 win over Washington to move to 1-1 on the year and 1-0 in Southeast Conference action.

Xander Wellman and Jacob Pothitakis both had two goals in the win, each with a goal in both the first and second half.

A goal into the right side of the net past a sliding keeper from Xander Wellman proved to be the winning goal at the 24:12 mark.

The Hounds opened up a 1-0 lead when Pothitakis took an ball from Williams at with 28:08 left in the first half and punched it in. Then just three minutes later Wellman scored on an assist from Mitchell Pothitakis.

On Washington's next trip down the field, the Hounds were whistled for a knock down on a Demon attack resulting in a penalty kick, which squirted by FM keeper Reiburn Turnbull with 24:11 left in the period for a 2-1 score.

No other goals were scored in the first half.

The Demons would tie things up at the 29:47 mark with on an attack from Turnbull's left side. The Demon's shot the ball across the front of the net and into the net as Turnbull dove to his right to make it 2-2.

Most of the rest of the match was played on Fort

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Madison's side of the field with plenty of action at midfield.

Wellman broke the tie with his shot from the left side into the right bottom of the net. Mitchell Pothitakis would miss a penalty kick to the right side and high before Jacob Pothitakis would cap the scoring on an assist Mitchell with just over four minutes left in the game.

Head Coach Kevin Wellman said the Hounds are still seeing two different styles of play with the inaugural year of a combined Fort Madison and Holy Trinity Catholic team.

"We're still working some kinks out the different styles of play and that's causing some trouble deciding when to play certain styles," he said.

"But the chemistry when we have the ball in the middle of the field is fantastic. Really good short passes amongst the midfielders. Even transition to defenders to the midfielders is really good, we're just having a bit of a disconnect getting into the attacking third of the field."

Fort Madison took 24 shots on the night to the just nine from the Demons. The Hounds had 13 shots on goal. Turnbull had two saves

The Hounds host a seven-team tournament starting at 9 a.m. Saturday at the sports complex.



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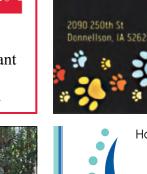




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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Pledge of Allegiance Approve Agenda Public Input

Presentation of Fort Madison Marina Project

Consider Approval of Letter of Support for Fort Madison Marina Project

Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2022 Secondary Roads Five-Year Program

Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2022 Iowa **DOT Secondary Roads** Budget

Discussion and Consider Approval of Letter of Support for Community Mental Health Center

Designation

Consider Approval of Agreement with Health Solutions for Wellness Program

Consider Approval of Resolution to Receive Interest on Capital Project Funds

Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Bar Candy, West Point

Consider Approval of Monday, April 5, 2021 **Board Minutes**

Consider Approval of Claims

Personnel Actions: A. Step Increases-Health Department (5)

Reports: A. Treasurer's Report of

B. Auditor's Report of

Fees Collected

Fees Collected

C. Manure Management Annual Update for Dingman Farms in Marion Township

Commission or Committee Reports Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

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Everyone has the right to marry. Not everyone has basic rights.

In 31 states, it's legal to discriminate against LGBT Americans.

Get the facts at Beyond I Do.org



From the Front

Trooper had been stationed in Fairfield

DEATH - Continued from Page 1

ficer recovering from the assault and Lang in the area of the Officer's patrol vehicle. The Deputy drew his weapon and gave commands to Lang to put his hands up. Lang did not comply, stating, "Come get me," and subsequently got into his vehicle and fled the area.

The Deputy pursued Lang back into Grundy Center but lost sight of him. The Deputy went to Lang's residence located at 305 G Avenue, saw Lang's vehicle parked in the driveway, and Lang walking into the residence through the garage. The Deputy requested assistance from other law enforcement officers. Responding law enforcement set up a perimeter around the house. Lang's father arrived at the house and advised law enforcement that Lang had multiple firearms inside the residence, including a .410 shotgun.

At approximately 8:55 p.m., Sgt. Smith, three additional ISP Troopers, and a Hardin County Sheriff's Deputy K-9 unit made entry into the residence through the door of the garage leading into the residence. Prior to entering the residence, Sgt. Smith and the entry team verbally identified themselves as law enforcement. They also announced that they would send in a K-9. As Sgt. Smith

and the entry team began to clear the upstairs of the residence, Sgt. Smith was hit by gunfire coming from inside the residence. After Sgt. Smith was shot, members of the entry team observed Lang emerge from the doorway holding a black pump action shotgun.

Two members of the entry team retreated into the basement while other members of the entry team pulled Sgt. Smith from the residence. Lang then barricaded himself inside the residence and refused to come out. Members of the entry team that remained in the basement stated that Lang made several statements about having shot Sgt. Smith and expressed a desire to shoot more police officers. Lang remained barricaded inside the residence for several hours.

At approximately 11:50 p.m., an ISP Tactical Team attempted to make entry into the residence with a wheeled armored personnel carrier. During the entry, Lang shot multiple rounds at the personnel carrier. Lang was subsequently taken into custody by ISP Tactical Team members.

Trooper Smith began his career as a member of the Department of Public Safety's 19th Basic Academy in 1993. Upon graduation, he was first stationed in Fairfield – District 13, and in 1996 relocated to District 10 – Oelwein.

Tourney fisherman pulled ashore by FMFD

RESCUE - Continued from Page 1

with the stranded boat which confirmed their location and that there were two people aboard. The rescue boat was launched from the Willow Patch boat access at 10:42 am. The crew arrived at the stranded boat at 10:53 am. Firefighters found a boat up against shore with two persons aboard. The boat had been swamped by multiple large waves prior to arrival causing it to no longer be operational.

The boat rescued was one of the team fisherman that were part of the Twisted Cat Catfish Tournament on Pool 19 of the Mississippi River.

Firefighters towed the boat, along with the persons on board, back to Riverview Marina arriving at 11:38 am.

While today's incident had a good outcome, any incident on the river can quickly become dangerous. With the summer months approaching, FMFD would like to remind the public to practice proper boater safety and to never hesitate to call for assistance on the river.

The Fort Madison Fire Department is fully equipped to handle emergencies on the water.

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