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SPORTS:

FMHS boys and girls both get tennis wins Monday night.

See page 4

Pen City Current

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 99

Sheriff's dept. involved in another high-speed pursuit

this morn-

ing after a

chase that

reached in

excess of

K9 used to track suspect who ran into the woods

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - An early morning high speed chase through central Lee County has resulted in the arrest of a Burlington man with 14 outstanding warrants.

According to Lee County Chief Deputy Will Conlee, William J. Kirchner, Jr., 29 of Burlington, was apprehended by Lee County deputies at about 6:30 a.m.



KIRCHNER JR.

100 mph along River Road ER JR. and Hwy.

Lee County deputies clocked Kirchner allegedly traveling at 105 mph in a 65 mph zone in the 2900 block of Hwy. 61 and began a pursuit. Deputies were able to catch up to the vehicle in the 2900 block of River Road and pursued him along county roads until he jumped out of the vehicle just south of Central Lee schools on 270th Street and fled on foot into the woods.

"He parked and left on foot into the woods and K9

Kion was deployed to track him," Conlee said. "We got just enough light that we were able to apprehend him shortly after that without incident."

Kirchner was driving a Ford Fusion with Iowa plates that had been reported stolen out of Hancock County in Illinois.

Conlee said he has been charged with unlawful

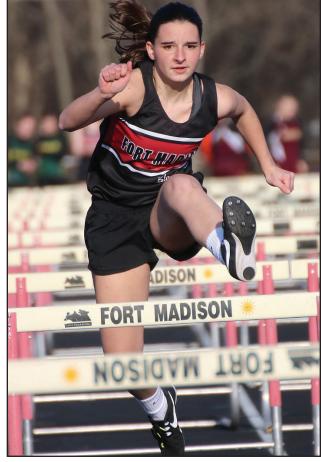
possession of prescription drugs, possession of stolen property, aggravated eluding, driving while suspended, excessive speed, fraudulent use of registration, in addition to the 14 outstanding arrest war-

It's the third high speed chase the sheriff's depart-

See CHASE, page 2

Pen City Relays

FMHS freshman **Taylor Barnes** takes the first leg of the girls 100-meter shuttle hurdle relay Tuesday afternoon at the Pen City Relays. Below, distance runner Claire Mendez stays with the pack in the girls 3000-meter run. The Relays are the only home track meet of the the year for the Bloodhounds. Complete results will appear in Thursday's edition of Pen City Current.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Fedler, supervisors at odds over jail staffing

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

MONTROSE - A replacement for the Lee County correctional officer spurred a hot debate among supervisors as to how to go about controlling spending.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Supervisors, Supervisor Ron Fedler held up a vote on replacing a correctional officer in the Lee County Jail because of a state memorandum this week that indicated approximately \$98,000 in commer-

cial property backfill money may not be paid by the state in the 2019 fiscal year and beyond. The 2019 fiscal year budget has already been approved by the board.

The board eventually approved the part-time replacement as a back-

700

FEDLER

fill for another part-time correctional officer who will be promoted to fill a vacancy. Fedler wanted the motion tabled for several months until the new fiscal year budget went into effect.

"Now we're looking at what I said earlier. The state is constantly

doing this where they don't care about our budget, they just want to balance their budget," Fedler said.

"The reason I'm bringing this up at this time is that we have about 2.5 months left

in this fiscal year budget and these would be permanent positions. Are we going to continue to deficit spend to fund programs?"

Fedler told Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber that the budget for the sheriff's department had "exploded" under Weber's leadership.

The board approved adding two deputies and two correctional officers earlier in the year after seeing an increase in crime in the county and witnessing a video where a correctional officer had engaged in a fight with an offender and it was several minutes before another officer could arrive to assist.



WEBER

"The one thing I've noticed is the budget we used to have for the sheriff's department and the one we have now has exploded dramatically and somewhere along the line someone pays for that. A lot of it has been done with deficit spending and that's what my big concern is," Fedler said.

Weber said he has to make sure the jail is a safe environment for the inmates and

See **SUPERVISORS**, page 8

News Index

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

JAMES MICHAEL

James Michael "Mike" Grogan, 69 of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, April 5, 2018 at UnityPoint Health- Keokuk in Keokuk, IA.

He was born April 11, 1948 in Keokuk, IA the son of John and Hazel Collins Grogan. On November 18, 1969 he was united in marriage to Judith Mann in Keokuk. She survives.

Other survivors include, four daughters, Joni Greenslaugh of Keokuk, Traci Billings (Bruce) of Keokuk, Angela Grogan of Keokuk and Tiffany Dietrich (Dwayne) of Keokuk, ten grandchildren, Michael Greenslaugh (Jesse), Heather Rose (Josh), BJ Billings, Nickolus Billings (Sarah), Gabriale Billings, Zachary Gundy and Kortney Gundy, Jacob Dietrich (Kaitlin) Dietrich and Joshua Dietrich, nine great- grandchildren, Ryan and Hannah Rose, Lucas Greenslaugh, Landon, Adrianne, and Oliver Billings, Isabella Gundy, and Stella and Jett Dietrich, three sisters, Kaye Vollers of MN, Lil Kraus (Joe) of Keokuk, and Sue Fink (Keith) of Indiana, one brother, John Grogan (Diane) of Keokuk, two sisters-in-law, Geraldine Grogan and Sara Grogan Humphrey and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son,

"MIKE" GROGAN



GROGAN

and her husband John and Ellen Marie Grogan in infancy, two brothers, Thomas Grogan and Gerard Grogan and one brother-in-law, Robert Vollers. Mike graduated from Keokuk High

Todd Hawley, two sisters, Jean Ketterer

School with the Class of 1966.

He had been employed by Burlington Northern Railroad for thirty-five years before his retirement. He had also

worked at Ace Hardware in Keokuk.

He was a member of All Saints Parrish in Keokuk.
Mike was a talented carpenter and jack of all trades.
He was a loving husband and father and grandfather who leaves for his family a lifetime of wonderful memories.
He especially enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and he will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, at the Vigen Memorial Home Keokuk, IA.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established.
Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

GARRY M. DINWIDDIE



DINWIDDIE

Garry M. Dinwiddie, age 61 of Montrose, passed away on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

He was born on August 29, 1956 in Hannibal, MO to Rollie and June Cooper Dinwiddie. On October 27, 1990 Garry married Karen Pihl in Montrose. He worked for the City of Ft. Madison in the street department and retired

after thirty years of service. Garry loved fishing, arrowhead hunting and mushrooming. He also was a history buff, especially Native American. He was a volunteer for the Montrose Watermelon Festival for many years. Gary served in the US Navy from 1974-1976.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Dinwiddie of Ft. Madison; his son, Jake Pihl of Redlands, CA; four grand-children, Zoe Burgess, Ali Burgess, Miles Burgess and Madalyn Weigand; one brother, Ron (Sue) Dinwiddie of Montrose, two sisters, Susan Marshall of Montrose and Patti Dinwiddie of Pittsburg, PA; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory. Friends may call after 2 PM on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4-6:30 PM. Burial will be at a later date in Montrose Cemetery.

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

Suspect had 14 outstanding arrest warrants

CHASE - Continued from Page 1

ment has been involved in in the past three weeks. On Saturday night, a Lee County Cruiser was damaged as a suspect sped through Fort Madison after being chased into the county by the Des Moines County law enforcement.

The suspect in that chase collided with Lee County Deputy Joshua Wade who tried to block the suspect at the intersection of Avenue F and 10th Street, causing more than \$7,000 damage to the cruiser.

That suspect also jumped

out of the vehicle, in the 1600 block of F, leaving the vehicle running and led authorities on a chase, and was still at large on Sunday.

In the early morning hours of March 20, deputies pursued a vehicle driven by Adam Huss, 29, of Fort Madison, through Fort Madison with Fort into the county. Huss allegedly hit speeds of 75 mph in Fort Madison city limits and then 90 out on Hwy. 61 heading north where he was apprehended near Wever. A deputy was successful in a maneuver to stop Huss' vehicle, but sustained minor damage.

Madison Police and then

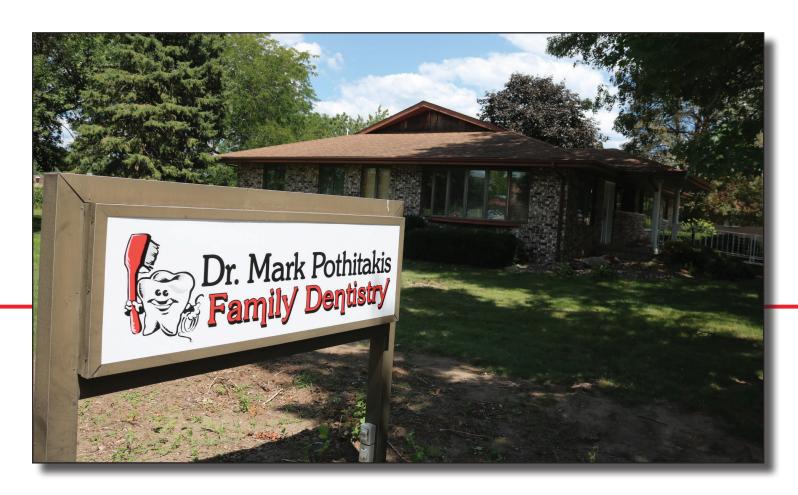




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Tennis/Lottery Numbers

Lady Hounds one of two 3-0 teams in state

BY CHUCK **VANDENBERG** PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison girls tennis team downed Keokuk Monday 6-3 and then turned around and shut out an overmatched Davis County squad Tuesday night. The wins have the Bloodhounds with a lofty 3-0 record, one of only two teams in the state at

The Monday match was very similar in results to the Saturday matchup between the two squads in what was salvaged in the blustery conditions that shorted the Fort Madison Invitational.

Despite the continued cold temps from the weekend, the Hounds knocked off the Chiefs in the 3-6 seeds with wins highlighted by senior Kearstyn Johnson who downed Keokuk's Maddie Miller 8-0 at No. 3 singles and Mercedee Doty downed Haylee Broadwell 8-0 at No. 5 singles.

At Nos. 4 and 6, juniors Larissa Ferrill and Lanie



Kunts both won 8-2. At Nos. 1 and 2, senior Katie Larson lost to Keokuk's Jakala Hall for the second time in two nights, this time 5-8. Sophomore exchange student Miho Shirai gave the Chiefs' Daniela Lozano, a Chilean exchange student, a better match at 6-8.

Shirai and Larson fell in doubles to Hall and Lozano 2-8, but Johnson and Ferrill, and Doty and Kuntz both took Nos. 2 and 3 doubles 8-6 and 8-1, respectively.

On Monday, the Hounds took all nine matches from Davis County highlighted by Johnson's 8-0 shut out at No. 3 singles. Johnson has only dropped one of 24 games on the young

Larson, who's coming off an off-season knee injury, got in the win column for the first time this year with an 8-2 win over junior Abby Vaughn. Shirai got her first win as a Bloodhound with an 8-1 stroll over Davis County's Haley Swan. Shirai ran into case of serving yips in the the Monday cold, but seemed to have ironed those out in the win Tuesday.

"Katie and Miho both played with much more confidence tonight which made a huge difference in both singles and doubles," said head coach Amy Doherty. "After great singles games, Larissa and Kearstyn struggled to find



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, sophomore exchange student, Miho Shirai, connects on a return against Keokuk's Daniela Lozano in Monday's action. Shirai got her first win of the season at No. 2 singles on Tuesday against Davis County. Above left, senior Katie Larson catches a volley on the run in her Monday match against the Chiefs' Jakala Hall.

their groove in doubles, but got it together enough to win in a tiebreaker."

Ferrill, Doty, and Kuntz all breezed to easy wins Tuesday. Larson and Shirai also took an 8-2 win over Vaughn and Riley Jones at No. 1 doubles. Johnson and Ferrill needed a 7-1 tiebreaker to take the No. 2 doubles 9-8 over Swan and Avery Thompson. Doty and Kuntz rolled to an 8-4 No. 3 doubles win over Rebekah Settles and Abby Rotloe.

In junior varsity action, Zoe Ramatowski and Alyse Schmidt won 6-4, Lilli Scott and Lily Cadwallader won 5-0, Lauren Bailey and Deanna Warner fell in a close 3-4 match. Abbee

Kelly and Jamie Folks won 6-4, Aniah Ross and Kelsey Penrod won 5-2, and Shayla Hoenig and Rachel Hellman lost 4-6. In junior varsity singles, Taylor Ann McGee won 5-3.

The Lady Hounds are off until Monday when they test their perfect record on the road at Mt. Pleasant.

to win over Keokuk Monday lead FMHS hurmans

BY CHUCK **VANDENBERG** PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - The Fort Madison boys tennis team moved to 1-1 on the season with a close 5-4 win over Keokuk on the road Monday night.

Two freshman brothers, Jason and Vasin Thurman, accounted for two of the Hounds' three singles wins on the night.

"The Thurman brothers have done a nice job of gaining confidence in just their first year," Head Coach Dean Hogan said after the match. "That's really good to see."

Jason Thurman was the highest seed to get a win on the cold evening in Keokuk shutting out freshman Callum Tackes 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3.

The Hounds lost at No. 4 singles when Blake Feuerhammer fell 4-6, 4-6 to freshman Kaiden Stoneking, while Vasin Thurman got a 6-2, 6-4 win over the Chiefs' senior Nick Payne.

FMHS was able to split the singles matches when Gage Hind came from down a set 4-6, to beat Keokuk's Jared Evans 6-1 in the second set and then take the tiebreaker 10-8.

At No. 1 singles, Sam Avery fell to Gavin Haner 1-6, 6-4, (8-10 tiebreaker) and Austin Krueger lost to freshman Abbott Haner 7-5, 4-6 (4-10 tiebreaker).

Avery and Krueger rolled to an easy No. 1 doubles win over Abbott Haner and Stoneking 6-3, 6-0. The Thurman boys dropped their doubles action to Gavin Haner and Tackes 6-1, 6-2. But

Feuerhammer and Hind returned the favor in their doubles match with Payne and Evans 6-2, 6-1 to give the Hounds squad the

"Day-to-day all these boys are gaining confidence," Hogan said. "They all played very well tonight. Our top seeds both went into tiebreakers and we just fell short there but it was good experience for them and they're all getting better as we practice

Draw Days

Mon & Thu

Tues & Fri

Wed & Sat

Wed & Sat

Daily

Daily

Daily

Daily

and play in these really cold conditions."

In junior varsity action, Bryce Workman downed Tucker Hannan 6-0, 6-4.

Approx.

9:38 pm

10:00 pm

9:59 pm

10:00 pm

12:20 pm

10:00 pm

12:20 pm

10:00 pm

The Hounds take on Burlington at home on Thursday.



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9:40 pm

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Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader says integration needs to be looked at Middle School

Dear Editor

One thing I immediately noticed that gave me concern upon moving to this community was the inclusion of the 4th and 5th grade students in the middle school. While I understand they are separated, many can argue the socializations occurring before and after school can have a huge impact on such a young child. In addition to this, I noticed the posting of A and B honor rolls for 4th and 5th grade students. This was also concerning to me and leads me to wonder if we are not putting too much pressure on very young children who are still learning and still growing both physically and emotionally.

I think research needs to be completed (and if it already has please publish the results) regarding the effects of integrating young children (especially 4th graders)

into the middle school environment. My very quick research I conducted showed a result of 5th graders entering the middle school and it was stated that some 5th and 6th graders would benefit from the protective environment of elementary school. They may be pushed too hard academically or socially. I would argue there could be detrimental effects to pushing children hard socially and academically at such a young age. These effects can range from bullying to dropping out of school or giving in to peer pressures.

Students are often lumped together developmentally between the ages of 11-14 with similar experiences and needs. I would argue the 9 and 10 vear olds have different needs and could benefit from staying in the protective environment of elementary school.

I am very much 100%

on board with a new elementary school being built in this town. I was not impressed with my tour of the two that exist. However, I would urge those making decisions and those voting to conduct a study on the effects of 4th graders and even 5th graders being included in the middle

school environment and the effects of having comparative grading scales to older kids at such a young age. Perhaps the 9th graders could stay in middle school to utilize the space the 4th and 5th graders use. This may allow more space at the high school, which I am certain will be the next

issue tackled after the elementary school. Of course, this should also be researched as to the effects of keeping 9th graders in the middle school.

Perhaps in doing research we will find the effects are not terrible, or we could determine things we can do to minimize these effects. Either way, we should do our due diligence and ensure we are providing the best opportunities for our children and our community.

> Sarah A Johnson Ft. Madison, Iowa

irijins go green Event

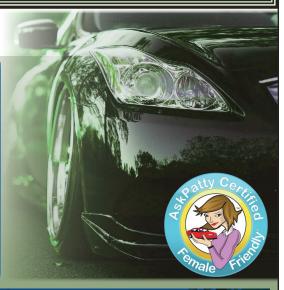
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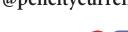
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Area News/Weather

Backfill shortage proposal cuts \$96K from county

SUPERVISORS - Continued from Page 1

the staff.

At the end of the day a judge puts people in jail and we've got to live with those numbers," Weber said. "We feed the and house them safely and I have the obligation to protect our staff from the assaults. When they come in, often times they're on drugs. I want to make sure we have enough staff to deal with them without anyone getting hurt. Deputies are the same way. The increased amount of deputies on the streets is very noticeable."

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked what impact not replacing the officers would have on the department.

Jail Administrator John Canida said the department would be saddled with overtime.

"If we don't do this today, they're going to have ongoing overtime," Pflug said. "So I don't see why we wouldn't just replace them."

Fedler, who spent close to 20 years as a correctional officer at Iowa State Penitentiary, said it's understood, regardless of staffing size, that you're at risk of being assaulted when you accept the position.

Weber said the Southeast Iowa Area Crime Commission indicated the department needed six additional correctional officers, and the board approved two.

"I appreciated those two and the staff appreciated those, but I'm doing what the experts are telling me needs to be done and what I see needs to be done," he

Fedler said the ISP staffing levels have dropped tremendously since he was an officer there.

"I have a hard time understanding that the state continues to reduce staffing at ISP from the level it was when I worked there. It's ridiculously low. So how can they get by reducing their staff and then people are telling you you can't?" Fedler asked.

Pflug said his information is that ISP may not be as

safe of a place to work as it once was because of the reductions in staffing.

"Is it a safe working environment? I hear it isn't," Pflug said. "The scuffle that went on in that jail cell here, that was a bad situation."

Weber said it also makes it hard to attract staff when you get a reputation for being unsafe.

"If you have a reputation of a dangerous environment, you won't have people apply here. They're having that same trouble at ISP," he said.

The new officers are included in the 2019 budget, but County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom clarified that a budget amendment would be needed for the 2018 budget to pay for this year's costs of the added deputies and corrections staff.

"Where does it stop, Cindy?" Fedler said. "It's in the '19 budget but that revenue is being reduced. We have to find a way to reduce expenditures in that budget. Otherwise we're going to be in big trouble in this county when it comes to paying our bills."

Fedler voted in favor of the measure after telling Folluo, who made a motion to to approve the replacements, he was only doing so with an expectation that the board begin hard discussions on being more fiscally responsible.

Supervisor Rick Larkin said he didn't want the message getting out that the county wasn't being responsi-

"Ron, I don't like when you say we need to start to be more fiscally responsible," Larkin said. "Them cutting our money form the state has nothing on how we budgeted. We are being fiscally responsible. You can look at our spending and I don't want the message going out that we're not being responsible. The message will go out that we're spending like crazy and I don't think we have been."

Sheriff to join in drugged driving campaign

MONTROSE - Like drunk driving, drugged driving is impaired driving, which means it is illegal in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Whether the drug is obtained legally or illegally, driving while drug-impaired poses a threat to the driver, vehicle passengers, and other road users.

Between April 20 and April 22, the Lee County Sheriff's Office will join participating law enforcement from Arkansas, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma in "Driving High? Kiss Your License Goodbye!"— a six-state Drug Impaired Driving enforcement campaign to put an end to drug-impaired driving.

Law enforcement officers across the state will patrol hundreds of miles miles of roadway. By concentrating law enforcement on high traffic corridors, organizers hope to put motorists on guard and encourage sober and safe driving.

"Drug impaired driving is a serious safety issue for drivers and law enforcement on county roadways," Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said Monday. "By intensifying enforcement of drug-impaired driving laws, we hope people will think twice before driving while impaired by any drug. It is deadly for the driver, but also for his or her passengers, and for other people on the streets. If you are taking any type of drug, prescription, over-thecounter or illegal, make plans for a sober driver. Do not get behind the wheel of a vehicle."

The bottom line is this: It doesn't matter what term is used, if a person is high, stoned, wasted or drunk, he or she is impaired. Driving while impaired by any substance is illegal and can be deadly to the driver and other road users.

"Our goal is to save lives and we're putting all drivers on alert - Drug impaired driving is against the law. Remember "Driving High? Kiss Your License Goodbye!" Weber said.



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 11 Apr



Partly Cloudy High - 62.8° F | Low - 61.5° F

THU 12 Apr



Scattered Clouds High- 67.2° F | Low - 65.9° F

FRI 13 Apr



Moderate Rain High- 70.6° F | Low - 65.5° F

SAT 14 Apr



Light Rain High - 50.4° F | Low - 42.4° F

SUN 15 Apr



Snow High- 33.1° F | Low - 28.0° F

OpenWeatherMap

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

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