



Pen City Current

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 271

Burglars hit Rashid Pharmacy

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information in connection with the Monday morning burglary at Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness in Fort Madison.

Fort Madison Police are looking for suspects involved in the burglary that occurred sometime after 3:30 a.m. Monday.

Pharmacy owner, Joe Rashid, said Monday morning he is offering \$1,000 for information that leads Fort Madison police to the suspects involved in the incident.

Rashid said the burglars cut the phone lines to the building at about 3:30 Monday morning and then broke in a door to see if the alarm had been disconnected.

"They cased the place for about two hours after cutting the lines and then came back and took some narcotics," Rashid said.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A Fort Madison Police Cruiser is parked in the alley way behind Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness in the 2400 block of Avenue L Monday morning. Burglars broke into the pharmacy sometime between 3:30 and 7 a.m. Monday and stole an undisclosed amount of narcotics.

He said he couldn't disclose additional information about the theft because the investigation is underway. He said there is video evidence and that will be released today to help with the investigation.

The store was closed for about three hours until

about 11 a.m. when it was reopened for business.

Anyone with information on the incident should contact the Fort Madison Police Department at 372-2525.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, who was at the scene this morning, authorities

received a report of the burglary at approximately 7:30 a.m. Monday morning.

Sittig said investigators reviewed video evidence of the break-in and worked with pharmacy staff to determine what medications and how much were taken.



Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,
Pen City Current - Editor

Rolling into our third year

Seven hundred sixty-three days and counting. Pen City Current will enter its third year of writing about the people of north Lee County on Dec. 6... and we couldn't be happier to still be here.

I've been reading a lot lately on the shape and future of community news gathering. The landscape is slowly improving and media experts are pointing to community journalism as the models that produce the most trustworthy news. If you follow social media a lot you'll see that people are starting to filter what they are reading, but it's a cycle that's taking way too long to sort itself out.

As we continue to carve out our hyperlocal niche, and figure out growth strategies, it seems a good time to look at how things are changing in the world of reporting local news.

Pen City Current spent a year working for the release of video taken at a public school. A video that attorneys for the Fort Madison School District said wasn't releasable due to it being a personnel matter and therefore confidential. With the help of Tri State Public Radio, we acquired the video and released it to the public to make its own determination. We've heard both the issue was serious and the issue was much ado of nothing.

Our goal wasn't to sway anyone's opinion but to fight for the release of the record. It's our hope to continue to shine a light on public bodies even if that light isn't the best for those public bodies. We also don't hold the district responsible. It's sincerely our opinion that this is a learning curve for everyone.

Over the past two years several things stand out as evidence that the stripping of the local newsroom is having a dramatic effect on public bodies and organizations that deal with them.

A representative of Vikings Cruise line spoke to the full Dubuque City Council earlier this fall and as part

See **CURRENT**, page 7

Chamber plans another Hawkeye Day for Dec. 29

Tickets are just \$10 for kids and \$15 for adults

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce has once again partnered with the University of Iowa Athletics to secure premium seating for the community to enjoy a Iowa Men's Basketball game. This year, we will

cheer on the Hawkeyes as they take on the Bryant Bulldogs on Saturday, December 29th at 7 p.m. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, December 5th at 9 a.m. at the Fort Madison Partners office, located at 614 9th Street.

A number of businesses in the community have



COLLIER

stepped up to help us provide a t-shirt with every ticket purchase.

"We are excited

to have the community sitting in the stands of Carver Hawkeye Arena all sporting a Fort Madison Day t-shirt!" said Savanna Collier, Fort Madison Chamber Coordinator.

Tickets will be available for \$10 for children and \$15 for adults. The Chamber is also partnering with Burlington Trailways to offer a bus ride to Iowa City for the game. Bus tickets will cost \$5 per person.

Tickets and t-shirts will be available before Christmas and will make the perfect gift for that

See **HAWKEYE**, page 7

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

11/30/18 - 12:05 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L. 11/30/18 - 3:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2000 block of Avenue B. 11/30/18 - 4:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 12/01/18 - 1:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at

the intersection of 10th Street and Avenue G. 12/02/18 - 5:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O. 12/03/18 - 7:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2400 block of Avenue L. 12/03/18 - 9:27 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 7th Street. 12/03/18 - 11:52 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1000

block of Avenue H. 11/30/18 - 4:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tricia Theresa Friant, 35, of Fort Madison in the 3900 block of Bluff Road on a warrant service. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 11/30/18 - 4:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Hamilton Eugene Parker, 31, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of Avenue E on a charge of domestic abuse. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/01/18 - 1:31 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Brent Lee Pilkington,

40, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report

11/30/18 - 4:17 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Channeon Leo Strode, 52, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine. 11/30/18 - 5:14 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathaniel John Mortimer, 39, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office on warrants for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/01/18 - 4:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and Mississippi River Road. According to the report a vehicle driven

by Brooke Ann Finney, 17, of Donnellson, was headed southbound on Hwy. 61 and prepared to turn onto Mississippi River Road and entered the intersection striking a vehicle driven by Holly Christine Jarrell, 40, of Keokuk. Both vehicles suffered disabling damage and all parties declined medical treatment at the scene. Finney was cited for failure to yield. 12/01/18 - 6:25 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ryne Steven Sackman, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 12/01/18 - 11:41 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Derek Alan St. Clair, 25, of Argyle, in the 1800 block of 294th Street on charges of intimidation with a dangerous weapon and reckless use of firearm without injury. 12/02/18 - 9:14 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle

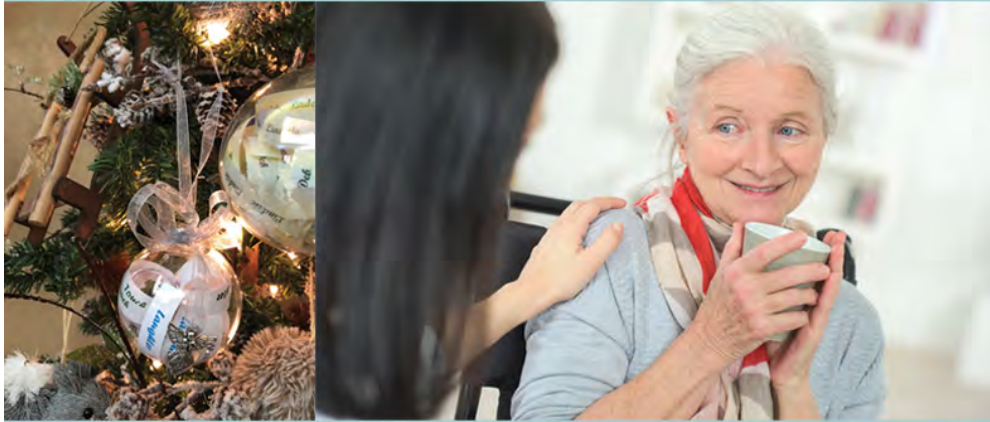
accident on 190th Street. According to the report a vehicle driven by Katherine Sue Taylor, 59, of Davenport made a U-turn on 190th Street and was struck by a vehicle driven by Christopher Alan Lindner, 48, of Keokuk. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 12/02/18 - 4 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Antrell Devon Branton, 24, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of assault with injury to a law enforcement officer. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

11/30/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls. 12/01/18 - Fort Madison firefighters had no calls. 12/02/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE Through the Journey of Life & Death ONE PERSON AT A TIME

FMCH Home Health is now providing Hospice services. The same people you trust to keep you safely in your home after illness or surgery will now be there to provide support and care for you and your family during the end of life journey.



Grief & the Holidays

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 ♦ 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
FMCH Business Center Conference Rooms

We understand the holidays are an especially difficult time after experiencing the loss of a loved one.

We invite you to join us for a special session where we will provide tools to deal with your grief and create a special remembrance project for your loved one.

*R.S.V.P by calling 319-376-2166
Light refreshments will be provided.*



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Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



12/2 MID-DAY
2 8 0
12/2 EVENING
4 2 9



12/2 MID-DAY
6 5 1 1
12/2 EVENING
7 7 0 2

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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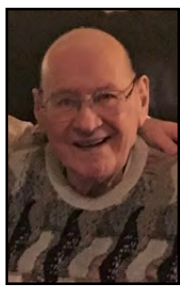
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Obituaries/Current-Lee

OBITUARIES

GEORGE D. DEMETRAL



DEMETRAL

George D. Demetral, 91, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Monday, December 03, 2018 at 1:33 AM at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

He was born on March 23, 1927 in Chicago to William and Emma Hoefling Demetral. On March 17, 1949 he married Shirley Wright in Chicago, IL and she passed away on January 17, 2005. George was a member of Holy Family Parish and a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus member. He was

a lifelong diehard Chicago Bears fan and also a master woodworker. George was a lover of pets, especially his dog "Baby". George served in the US Navy during WWII and the Korean Conflict.

Survivors include one son, David (Kathy) Demetral of Stockton, CA; two daughters, Ann (Bill) Ferrel of Barstow, CA and Dale (fiancé, Mark) Leshner of Wever, IA; nine grandchildren, Kelly, Lindsey, Ashley, Casey, Corie, Megan, Melissa, Katy and Tyler; seven great grandchildren; one brother, Jim Demetral of Frankford, IL and one son-in-law, Andy "Butch" Parrilli of Joliet, IL. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; a daughter, Dawn Parrilli; son-in-law, Tim Leshner and a sister, Margaret Leonard.

The Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 9:30 AM at Ss. Mary & Joseph Church. The family will meet with friends from 9 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will follow in Gethsemane Cemetery with military rites performed by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard.

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

ROGER A. PLOECKELMANN

Roger A. Ploeckelmann, 80, of Fort Madison, passed away on Monday, December 3, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 04 Dec	Light Snow High- 30.2° F Low - 21.9° F
WED 05 Dec	Clear Skies High- 31.8° F Low - 25.3° F
THU 06 Dec	Light Snow High- 24.7° F Low - 20.8° F
FRI 07 Dec	Clear Skies High- 24.1° F Low - 20.9° F
SAT 08 Dec	Clear Skies High- 34.4° F Low - 28.9° F

OpenWeatherMap

CURRENT-LEE

Community Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be holding a blood drive on Dec. 7 at FMHS from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dec. 8 at Cultural Hall- 2193 Old Denmark Road from 8-10:30 a.m.

Tree of Love Gatherings

The Lee County Health Department is hosting a series of gatherings to help with holiday healing after a loss. The events are on Wednesday Dec. 5, 12, and 19th from 2 to 3 p.m. at 3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison.

You-Time Yuletide

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Business Women Connect will hold a You-Time, Yuletide at Harvestville Farm at 1977 Hwy 2 near Donnellson. The event will be held on Dec. 6th from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. will feature hors d'oeuvres, drinks and fund. RSVP to the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Journaling Workshop

The Fort Madison Public Library will be hosting a journaling workshop on Dec. 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the library.

OFF's "Making God Laugh"

The Old Fort Players will be bringing "Making God Laugh" to the stage Dec. 7-9 & 14-16. Shows start at 7:30 on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Old Fort Players playhouse at 725 Avenue G.

Downtown Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison downtown Enchanted Forest will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G on Dec. 8, 15, and 22, with visits with Santa from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and

CURRENT-LEE

cash prizes are awarded. December's BINGO games will be held Wednesday, December 12.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. December's luncheon will not be held due to falling on Christmas Day. The next luncheon will be held January 22, 2019. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit rates also available. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

SCHMITZ FUNERAL HOMES & MONUMENTS, INC.

Donnellson - 319-835-5716 • Farmington - 319-878-3716 • West Point - 319-837-6331
Business Office: 211 Madison Avenue, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625

We recognize that the holidays can be a difficult time for families after the loss of a loved one; our desire is to continue our service to you at this time of year by inviting you to attend a Holiday Service of Remembrance, which will be held on:

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson

If you are unable to attend this service, a Holiday Open House will be held at the following locations

Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington
Thursday, December 6, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point
Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

As the holiday season approaches, we would like for you to know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. With each funeral service that we conduct, we feel as if within a few days we become a part of your family and you of ours. In appreciation of the trust you have placed in us, a Christmas ornament will be available to you at the Service of Remembrance or the Open Houses. We hope you find peace during this season.

Sincerely - Brian Schmitz, Mitch Beals, Wendy Vonderhaar, Jan Loges, Emma Dravis, Cody Warth, Dave Dingman, John King & Lyndsey Schmitz



Sample of the ornament you will receive

One letter is being sent to each family. Please feel free to forward this invitation on to other family & relatives. All are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend, please contact us to make arrangements to receive your holiday ornament engraved with your loved one's name. (Additional ornaments may be purchased at \$20 per ornament)



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726 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-3614

Local News/Education News

LCHD Hospice holds holiday relaxation session

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The first of three of the Lee County Health Department's Hospice Tree of Love Gatherings will be on Wednesday, December 5th from 2:00-3:00pm around the LCHD Tree of Love in the lobby of LCHD (#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison). The gatherings are free and open to the public.

This week's gathering will be guided by Julie Schneider, LCHD Hospice Massage Therapist, which will focus on relaxing during the holidays with breathing techniques and comfort skills. A short candlelight

ceremony will be held at the end. "We invite everyone to join us as we prepare for the holidays to learn about taking a moment for ourselves," says Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator.

Other gatherings will be on Wednesday December 12th and 19th.

The sessions take place in conjunction with the LCHD-Hospice Tree of Love which allows people to support hospice through ornaments in honor/memory of loved ones. Purchase of an ornament is not required to participate in the Tree of Love Gatherings.

The public can attend one or all the sessions. An RSVP is not necessary, but appreciated. If you have any questions about the Tree of Love Gatherings please call LCHD at (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672.



SCHNEIDER

Bloodhound Trades Program wins again

DES MOINES - The FMHS Bloodhound Construction Crew took home yet another state carpentry championship for the third year in a row. The crew consisted of two returning members, Elton Kruse & Brandon Reichelt, and three new members, Alex Steffensmeier, Alec Nolting, & Dominic Frantz.

This year's competition consisted of 20 teams throughout the entire state of Iowa. Students are given a blueprint and materials with 4.5 hours to build. Students come into the competition not knowing what to expect until the blueprint is in their hands and the clock starts ticking. Not only is there a time-pressure, students are only given the materials that they absolutely need. Giving them little room for error.

The FMHS crew was able to finish 20 minutes early while others struggled to finish on time. Kobelt attributes this timeliness to their ability to work efficiency both as a team and independently.

"Most of the teams had to do everything as a group, but the FMHS crew were able to split-off into different side projects and come together to create the finished product." Kobelt said

Kobelt said he is very proud of these young men who are gaining a considerable amount of hands-on experience and leadership skills.

"It was really cool to see the guys working so well together, but it was also cool to see how each individual's talents were clearly showcased in the final project," he said.

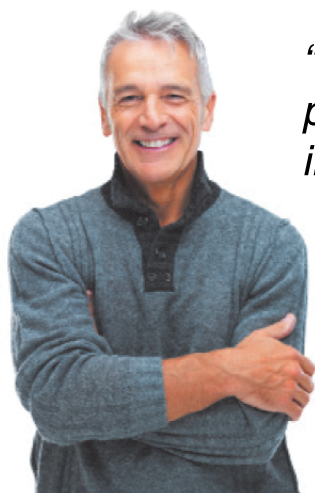


Courtesy photo

Fort Madison Community School District's building trades program grabbed the spotlight at the state competition this year again taking home the title. The championship Bloodhound Construction Crew is pictured here.

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Owner

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RASHID
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WEEKDAYS - 8:00am to 8:00pm

SAT. - 8:30am to 6:00pm SUN. - 10:00am to 2:00pm

Tree of Love Gatherings

Lee County Health Department would like to invite you to a series of gatherings that will take place in LCHD's lobby along with our annual Tree of Love which will be making it's first debut in its' new home.

These sessions are being offered to help bring people together during the holidays & to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. You are welcome to join any or all gatherings. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact
Lee County Health Department.
3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison (319) 372.5225

#1: Relax

Wednesday
December 5th
2:00-3:00pm

Gather around the Tree of Love for:
Relaxation & comfort skills
Breathing techniques
Candlelight memorial

#2: Connect

Wednesday
December 12th
2:00-3:00pm

Gather around the Tree of Love for:
Grief support with Larry Wallingford
Share stories & pictures of loved ones

#3: Listen

Wednesday
December 19th
2:00-3:00pm

Gather around the Tree of Love for:
Share favorite songs
Live Music by Denise Coovert
How music heals

Classifieds

the classifieds

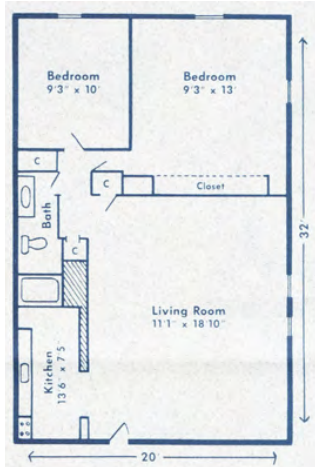
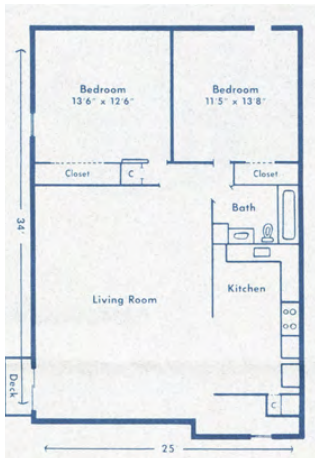
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From the Front

Like any consumable product, news has a price

CURRENT - Continued from Page 1

of the discussion handed out a presentation that went along with a video. The representative said he wasn't really prepared to discuss the specifics of Vikings plans, and asked that the presentations be returned as they weren't ready for public consumption. This was a discussion in front of one of the state's largest cities with an international company, and neither side realized that the information was automatically public when it was handed to elected officials.

Maybe no media was in the room at the time. That's an assumption, but in newspaper's heyday that would have been contested at that moment, at a minimum cleaned up after the meeting.

I can say that covering most public bodies in north Lee County, at one point or another there was an issue where open meetings records or processes came into question and we do our best to question and work with the groups to make sure things are handled correctly. It's not a "gotcha" mentality, but a relationship-building approach.

I didn't take body language classes in high school, but I think I'm pretty good at reading people from the body language. It's no secret that some in the district are upset with the coverage of the video. We just hope it serves to show that we are here to report the news to the best our resources at this point allow.

This business, like all others, is constantly evolving. Relationships change and new sources become part of the fold. It is the sincerest intention of Pen City Current to work with, and not against, our sources and resources. It's our intention to follow the good news, and yes, the unfortunate news. We expend our resources to follow one student eight hours to a state cross country meet just as we would a team.

We strive for fairness in political reporting, keeping the space and time between major political parties equal. We wait for confirmation on news so we aren't putting things out that aren't verifiable on our part.

This is all our passion. It comes with a price. We look to the communities of north Lee County to help support this project of ours through advertising and subscription donations. Covering schools, athletics, governments, and business has intrinsic costs, but those costs are akin to a commodity and the value is determined by each consumer. We fully subscribe to the saying that you can't please all the people all the time. And we don't try that, but what we do try to do is be as complete of a service to this area as we can.

In a twist of an old Italian saying, success has a hundred parents, but failure is an orphan. To that end, we thank the 5,837 current Facebook users that like our site and those that have visited our site more than two million times, for your continued patronage as we continue to learn what it is to be your news and information source.

THERE'S also an old paraphrase that says the only thing needed for evil to succeed, is for good men to do nothing. There was a burglary Monday morning at Rashid Pharmacy in Fort Madison. There's a private reward offered by Joe Rashid for information leading to the arrest of those involved. CrimeStoppers would be interested in information as well, but that's Beside the Point.

Tickets go on sale Wednesday for Hawkeye Day

HAWKEYE - Continued from Page 1

Hawkeye fan in your family! To ensure prompt delivery, the opportunity to purchase tickets runs through Thursday, December 13th at 4 p.m. Tickets ordered after December 13th are not guaranteed a t-shirt with their ticket purchase.

Other perks are being negotiated at this time with the Athletic Department at the University of Iowa.

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Decrease your need for paper products. Choose paperless statements, use digital shopping lists & other documents.
- Reuse**
Instill new life into items you would normally throw away.
- Go Waste Free**
Make a conscious effort to stop using your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end-of-life solution.
- Buy Recyclables**
Only purchase what's made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.
- Compost**
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