



Pen City Current

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Stars in the Spotlight



Swingspan, Fortissimo

At top from left, Nathan Nall, Devin Beckert and Sydney Weiler, perform during FMHS' exhibition at the end of the Fort Madison Show Choir Invitational. At left, Fortissimo, the FMMS show choir performs in the afternoon.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mt. Pleasant wins Grand Champion at two levels

BY PCC STAFF
FORT MADISON - Thirteen schools invaded Fort Madison High School's Bloodhound Dome on Saturday as part of the annual Fort Madison Show Choir Invitational's Stars in the Spotlight.

Mt. Pleasant's "InMo- tion", came away as the grand champion winning Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Band and Best Male Soloist - Wyatt Carlston. The Panthers were the only group in the mixed Tier II group but swept the finals held Saturday night.

"Northside Establish-

ment", the mixed vocal group from Davenport North was one of four Tier I schools competing on Saturday and took runner up position in the finals.

"River City Revue" out of Hannibal, Mo., took 3rd place overall competing in the Tier 1 category.

"Light, Inc." of Des Moines Christian, a Tier IV school that competed with Danville's "Vocal Chords" took 4th place overall.

"Christopher Jive and the Uptown 45", took 5th place overall and was

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Body found in Hamilton is one of missing fishermen

Records, family identify man as Bill White, Sr.; officials still searching for Wagner

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A body found Saturday just below Lock and Dam 19 has been identified as Bill White, Sr. of Argyle, one of two men missing in a fishing boat accident since Jan. 3.

According to a press release from Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, White's body was found by a citizen who alerted Hamilton, Ill. police, who then requested the Lee County Sheriff's department to assist at the Montebello Access. The body was identified by Kendall Beals, the Hancock County coroner and was taken to a local funeral home pending an autopsy.

Dental records and family confirmed White's identity. The cause of death was confirmed as a drowning.

White was fishing with Ron Wagner of Montrose on the Mississippi River. Wagner has still not been located.

The Keokuk Volunteer Emergency Corps, Montrose Fire and Rescue, Lee County Sheriff's Department, Iowa State Patrol Air and Patrol divisions, Keokuk Fire and Rescue, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Lee County Emergency Manager, Illinois State Police K-9 division, Montrose Police Department, Lee County EMS, Lee County Conservation, Muscatine County Sheriff Dive Team, the Iowa Department of Transportation, Hamilton Fire Department, Adams County Emergency Corps, AirEvac and Lee County Attorney's office as well as many private individuals have contributed to the the investigation and continue to look for Wagner.

Wagner and White were fishing in the Mississippi Tuesday, Jan. 3 off a launch in Montrose when their boat capsized at approximately 2 p.m. Emergency crews battled bitterly cold temperatures, winds and icy conditions searching for the two men for almost five hours that night.

The search resumed the following day with air support from the Iowa State Patrol and all the agencies listed above. Law enforcement and rescue personnel continued to search for the bodies when weather permitted to know avail.

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Sports



Freshman honors

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS freshman varsity wrestlers receive honors from head coach Ryan Smith at the FMHS Wrestling Awards banquet Sunday night. Pictured from left to right are Jarrett Settles, Danen Settles, Diego Lozano, Nathan Steffensmeier, and coach Ryan Smith. Not pictured is Quinton Ross. Lozano was named co-varsity newcomer of the year. Ross was named outstanding junior varsity wrestler. Danen Settles was named most-improved varsity. Lozano was also named first-team all conference.



Sophomore honors

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS sophomore varsity wrestlers receive honors from head coach Ryan Smith at the FMHS Wrestling Awards banquet Sunday night. Pictured from left to right are Sam Hayes, Alex Lauber, Courtney Six, and coach Ryan Smith. Not pictured are Reuben Eid and Elton Kruse. Eid was named most improved jv wrestler. Elton Kruse was named co-varsity newcomer of the year. Sam Hayes was named all-conference honorable mention.



Junior honors

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS junior varsity wrestlers receive honors from head coach Ryan Smith at the FMHS Wrestling Awards banquet Sunday night. Pictured from left to right are Skylar Schau, Heath Hoenig, Aaron Steffensmeier, Harlan Steffensmeier, Ryan Steffensmeier, and coach Ryan Smith. Aaron Steffensmeier was named all-conference all-academic team, honorable mention all-conference, and Iron Hound for perfect attendance. Harlan Steffensmeier was named first team all-conference, all-conference all-academic, third place at state 138 lbs., outstanding varsity wrestler, Iron Hound, set a new school record with 32 pins, and set a season record with 47 wins. Ryan Steffensmeier was named first team all-conference all-academic, eighth place at state 113 lbs., most improved varsity wrestler, and Iron Hound.



The Hammer Award

Long-time FMHS wrestling supporter Duane Sherwood presents Central Lee junior Harlan Steffensmeier with the annual Hammer Award. Sherwood presented the award to Steffensmeier as the outstanding wrestler for FMHS.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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From the Front/Editorial

GUEST SUBMISSION

Bigfoot sightings in Southeast Iowa

(Editor's Note: The following is a submitted article as part of the Pen City Current's ambition to allow room for people to submit articles of fiction or non-fiction. Pen City Current has no made no effort to confirm any of the material herein, but submits it for entertainment purposes only. Submit your fiction or non-fiction articles to Chuck Vandenberg at editor@pencitycurrent.com.)

BY FRANK M. STATLER
SUBMITTED ARTICLE

The Southeast Iowa area is a beautiful forest covered wonderland with a diverse and rich animal life. Its many creeks wind peacefully through the thick forest and crop filled country side. Edible plants and berries are plentiful. There are many places that a wily Bigfoot or a family of Bigfoot could hide out of sight. According to local Bigfoot hunter Steven Reynolds, Bigfoot is quite prevalent in this area of Iowa. Steve says he personally has sighted Bigfoot and families of Bigfoot in the surrounding lush countryside.

The following are several examples from the Big Foot Research Organization or the B.F.R.O:

1. In the summer of 2010 there was a Bigfoot sighting in Keokuk county Iowa. According to the eyewitness report turned in to the B.F.R.O the witness stated "It was June 16th 2010 and I was sitting in my home with a friend and we heard the dogs barking loudly". "I looked out the window and saw my dogs hurriedly running west up my gravel driveway". She goes on to say "I saw a large dark figure running up my long driveway." "What I saw when I looked was a shadow darker than the shadow of a tree." "It was taller than a human being but I couldn't tell the exact size." "The next day a friend and I were walking on my farm and found a strange footprint."

The B.F.R.O representative said that he thought the witness was very reliable. Another interesting aspect to this case is that an area near the sighting is called "Monkeys den".

2. The next case takes us to Lee county Iowa. A place I personally know very well and have visited on my own Bigfoot hunt. It was Shimeck Forest in Lee County. This story is also very special because this person also sent a version of this to Outdoors magazine.

As the story goes this man was out turkey hunting one morning in between the months of June and October. As he was laying still waiting for prey, a tall figure came out of the early morning fog. At first he thought that it was another hunter dressed in what is called a ghille suit, a hunting outfit covered in strips of cloth to break up a hunters outline. Suddenly, he realized this was no man. It was a large man like creature. Their eyes locked and they both stood motionless for several tense moments. The hunter fearing for his life raised and unlocked his weapon. The creature jumped towards him. But, almost at the same instant he turned and walked away never taking his eyes off the hunter. Slowly he faded in to the dense thick woods without a whisper. Taking this cue the hunter grabbed his belongings and quickly left the area vowing never to return. As of this date he claims he never has.

3. The last place we will visit is Jefferson county Iowa. Jefferson County, especially around a quaint little burg by the name of Lockridge, has been a hotbed of Bigfoot sightings since the early 1970's. In 2010 a citizen in the area reported that they had seen a hairy biped in the woods surrounding their home. Shawn Morrissy, of Jefferson county conservation, says that he thinks what the reporter saw was a person in camo hunting in the woods or a misidentified animal. The county officials did not even bother to investigate this reporting. Still, there is no denying that something is going on in this rural county and has been for many years.

In conclusion, Southeast Iowa is one of the best places in the State to spot Bigfoot. With Its many reports and the thick lush countryside and the dense woods, combined with fresh water streams and plentiful edible foliage, a Bigfoot or family of Bigfoot would have no trouble surviving and thriving in the area.

FM squads perform exhibitions

SHOWS - Continued from Page 1

the only school in the Tier III group performing out of West Branch.

"In Session" out of Springfield, Ill, rounded out the top six positions. "In Session" also competed in Tier 1.

The Fort Madison High School's Swingspan rounded out the Saturday performance with an exhibition as they do not compete in the event they host. Fort Madison Middle School's Fortissimo also performed an exhibit in the afternoon but did not compete.

Other groups performing were "Electric Blue" of Quincy High School, "Center Stage" from Davenport North, "CENTRifugal Force" of Central Lee, and "EnerJive" of West Branch. Two junior highs performed with "Chain Reaction" of Mt. Pleasant being named Grand Champion and "Adrenaline" from Central Lee taking 1st Runner Up.

Post 82, American Legion to meet Tuesday

Post 82, The American Legion, will meet 7PM on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the Eagles Club in Fort Madison, IA. All members and those interested in The American Legion are encouraged to attend.



Any questions? Call George Shields, Adjutant 319-371-5755 or Dan Vice, Commander 319-470-7377.

CLASSIFIEDS

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has positions available

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has preschool/pre-kindergarten openings

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has 2 part-time positions available for our Child Care Programs. We are also seeking child care substitutes to fill in as needed. The following qualifications are required:

- Able to pass background check
- At least 16 years of age
- Excellent communication skills with children and adults
- Promote the social and emotional well being of children using patience and care
- Work collaboratively as a team with program staff
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at 319-372-6428 or stop by the ECC at 2213 Ave. J to complete an application

The Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center has openings available for preschool/pre-kindergarten substitute teachers. The following qualifications are required:

- College degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education
- Other college degree accepted with completion of the Substitute Authorization Program
- At least 21 years of age
- Able to pass background check
- Ability to have a flexible schedule, on call
- Able to complete training as required by DHS.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at 319-372-6428 or stop by the ECC at 2213 Ave. J to complete an application

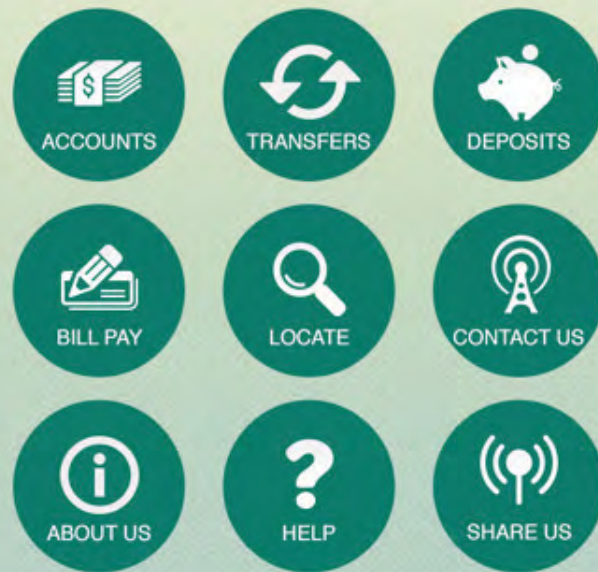


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