

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and **Read** all over

Friday, May 10, 2024 | 6 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 83



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## BARGE vs. BRIDGE

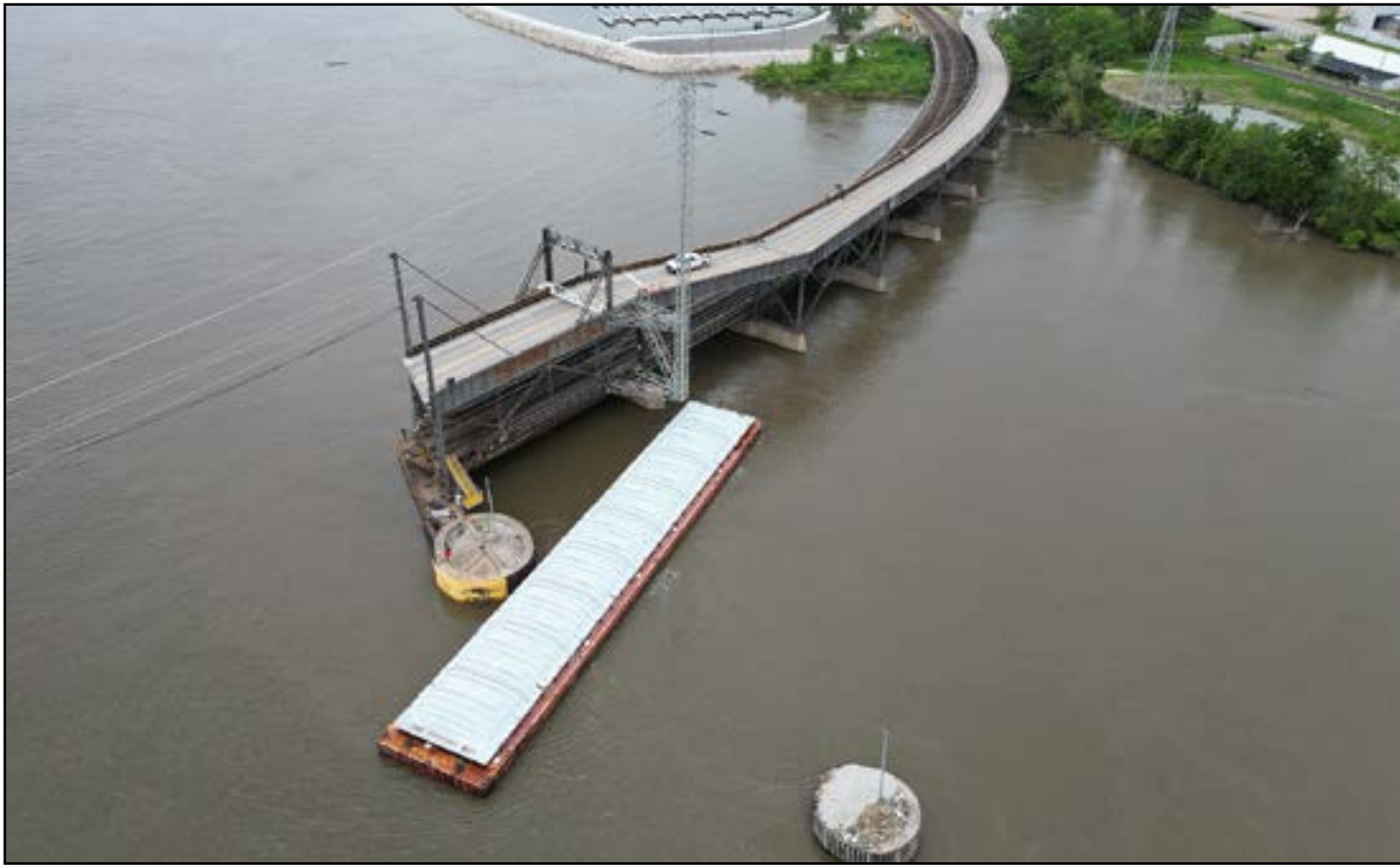


Image from Jacob Mohrfeld/Special to Pen City Current

A section of a barge rests up against the pilings on the BNSF Bridge in Fort Madison Thursday afternoon. The barge struck the bridge at about 1:15 p.m. causing sections to break free and start to sink into the channel. Below, patrons at the Turnwater Bar and Grill watch tugs try to corral a loose barge segment.

### **COLLISION:** Barge strikes BNSF bridge Thursday afternoon prompting closure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A southbound barge struck the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge Thursday causing the barge sections to separate and at least one to begin to sink in the Mississippi River Thursday afternoon at about 1:15 p.m.

The barge struck the north side of the open swingspan causing at least four sections to break free. One tucked up against the side of the bridge, the other sections passed through and made their way down river.

A tugboat from Ingram Barge Co. appeared to be pushing a section to the shallower water to keep the section from sinking, but it broke free and got back into the channel while the boats were chasing other sections of the barge.

Law enforcement officials barricad-



ed the bridge after the vehicles on this side of the bridge had to back down the bridge. Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said the bridge is closed but didn't know how long it would shut down.

BNSF officials couldn't be reached for comment. The towboat that was moving sections of the barge is owned by Ingram Barge Co. based out of Nashville, Tenn, a subsidiary of In-

gram Industries.

Motorists that were on the bridge at the time of the collision were forced to back off the bridge and find different routes to Illinois.

Calls to the barge company and Burlington Northern Santa Fe were not immediately answered or returned as of this posting.

City officials directed all calls to BNSF officials.

### LOCAL NEWS

## Sec. Pate pays visit to HTC seniors

Secretary of State presents Holy Trinity High School with Catt award Thursday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate made an appearance at the Holy Trinity Catholic Senior Award Ceremony Thursday morning.

Pate said HTC was one of just 43 schools among the hundreds in the state to get the Carrie Chapman Catt award for the top performing schools in voter registration of eligible students.

Pate created the award in 2019 and Fort Madison High School was one of the early recipients. Holy Trinity tied for the fourth highest percentage of eligible students registered to vote with 94% this school year.

The award is named after Catt who grew up on a farm near Charles City and attended Iowa State University, then known as Iowa Agricultural College. In 1887 she began to campaign for women's suffrage on the state and national level.

Pate congratulated the students and staff for their work, and said the Catt award was a significant award. He said Catt crusaded across the entire country to give women the right to vote. Before that effort he said half of the country's population wasn't included in the voting process and the country needs to continue to recognize those efforts.

He challenged the seniors and the other high school students to continue to place value on being registered voters and join voting rolls as soon as possible.

"You seniors are graduating, and the underclassman will be following and you are the next chapter," he said.

"Elections can be very close and you're voice does count. A few years ago we had a congressional race in this area where we had some 300,000 votes cast and the victory lap was determined by just six votes," he said.

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### WEATHER

FRI 10 May .....Mostly sunny and cool, 68° F/50° F  
SAT 11 May .....Sunny and warm, 71° F/51° F  
SUN 12 May .....Sunny and warm, 79° F/58° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 05/08.....10 22 43 55 57, Powerball: 2  
LOTTO AMERICA 05/08.....5 11 18 38 57, Star Ball: 5 All Star Bonus: 2  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/08.....17 30 31 33 44, Lucky Ball: 16  
PICK 3 MIDDAY 05/08.....8 3 8  
PICK 3 EVENING 05/08.....0 8 3  
PICK 4 MIDDAY 05/08.....0 4 3 5  
PICK 4 EVENING 05/08.....1 5 8 3  
POWERBALL 05/08.....7 41 43 44 51, Powerball: 5 Power Play: 2

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## For the Record/From the Front

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

05/08/24 - 9:35 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5100 block of Avenue O.

05/08/24 - 2:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Candace Jade Guhan, 38, of Fort Madison at the FMPD on a charge of 3rd degree theft. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

05/09/21 - 1:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident in the 600 block of 23rd Street.

#### Keokuk Police Report

05/08/24 - 1:26 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Ellen Mae McGee, 44, of Keokuk in the 1600 block of Palean Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

05/08/24 - 4:09 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 700 block of Johnson Street.

05/08/24 - 4:24 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a property damage and personal injury accident in the 1400 block of Main Street.

05/08/24 - 7:02 p.m. - Keokuk Police cited Steve Shayne Legett, 59, of Keokuk, in the 1400 block of Missouri Avenue on a charge of 5th degree criminal mischief.

05/08/24 - 7:06 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at Main Street and Royal Road.

05/08/24 - 10:28 p.m. - Keokuk Police cited Cecil Alanzo Austin, 42, of Keokuk, in the 100 block of N. 15th Street on a charge of driving under suspension.

05/09/24 - 1:11 a.m. - Keokuk Police cited Trevor Steven Mason, 24, of Keokuk, in the 2200 block of Main Street on a charge of driving under suspension.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/08/24 - 7:12 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 175th Street and Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Dale Byron Kurth, 61, of Wever, was traveling east on 175th Street and angled south to get a better view of oncoming traffic. A vehicle driven by Jerry Lee Northup was traveling behind Kurth and was unaware of the angle of the intersection. Northup passed Kurth on the left and then Kurth came back into the eastbound lane strik-

ing Northup. No injuries or citations were reported. Both vehicles were driven from the scene.

05/08/24 - 11:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Morgan Elizabeth McCall, 38, of Keokuk in the 700 block of Avenue F in Fort Madison on a charge of voluntary absence from custody and an active warrant. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

05/07/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls, false alarm, and one motor vehicle accident.

05/08/24 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one power line poll hit by vehicle.

# HTC gets voter registration award

**PATE** - Continued from Page 1

"Less than the number in this senior class decided who would be the next Congresswoman."

He compared the Catt award to a championship in high school sports and said Iowa is one of the top states in the country in getting youth engaged in registering to vote.

"We are thrilled with the record number of schools being recognized this year and the thousands of

young Iowans who have registered to vote as a result of the Carrie Chapman Catt Award program," Pate said.

"It is clear that Iowa students are highly engaged and interested in the elections process, and we look forward to seeing that reflected when they head to the polls once they are eligible."

Pate then invited the students at the ceremony to come up and have their photo taken with him prior to senior awards being handed out.

The seniors were honored with 40 different scholarships, awards and recognitions as part of the ceremony.

## Iowa gets cell phone providers' settlement

DES MOINES—Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird today announced a \$10.25 million settlement with AT&T Mobility, Cricket Wireless, T-Mobile USA., Cellco Partnership, Verizon Wireless, and TracFone Wireless. This settlement closes investigations by 47 attorney general offices into the phone companies' deceptive advertising practices.

"Phone companies have a duty to connect Iowans with the truth," said Attorney General Bird. "This settlement will hold phone companies accountable and ensure Iowans have the information they need to pick the best phone plan for themselves and their families."

The investigation was prompted by consumer complaints about the phone companies alleging misleading advertising practices including:

"Unlimited" Data Plans: Failing to clarify limits on data usage and effects on data speed.

"Free" Phone Offers: Not revealing all conditions required to qualify for the free phone.

Incentives for "Switching" Networks: Misrepresenting how benefits would be provided for switching networks.

Wireless Carrier Plan Comparisons: Leaving out key differences between plans.

# DIAGNOSED WITH NEUROPATHY?

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## Sports

# FM boys, girls shine at Mt. Pleasant state qualifier

**ON TO STATE:** Julian Dear and Avery Rump lead Bloodhound contingent to Drake Stadium and state meet

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MOUNT PLEASANT – The Fort Madison boys and girls track teams got off to a strong start at the Class 3A Mt. Pleasant District qualifier Thursday evening, and then just kept it going.

Sophomore Lady Hound Avery Rump qualified for the IGHSAA/IHSAA State Track and Field meet next week in Des Moines in four events.

She won the 3000-meter run and the 1500-meter run and anchored a very strong 3rd leg of the 4x800 relay team that set a PR for the event with a 9:57.23. Rump won the 1500 with a time of 5:00.73, and the 3000 with a 11:02.12 a full 16.6 seconds ahead of the field. She also anchored the distance medley team that earned a spot with a second-place finish.

Brylie Lorence won the shotput in the girls event with a 38'0.25" heave besting the field by 2'2.25". Lorence was 3rd in the discus at 107'9", which could qualify based on that mark among other non-qualifiers across the state.

Mara Smith qualified on a second-place in the 800-meter run with her season-best 2:21.04. Washington's Iris Dahl won the event with a 2:19.99. Smith also ran a similar split in the 4x800 running the second leg behind Makayla Schinstock and in front of Avery and Addison Rump.

That group hadn't been under 10 minutes all season and Smith said it was just the motivation of going to state. That's all she had to explain speedy times in the cool and rainy evening air.

"Our goal was to win districts and get to state and we did it," Smith said. "I was just thinking 'pain' in my head. That's what one of my teammates told me to think and I just embraced it. It helped me to have people in front of me to chase.

Addison Rump had Washington distance warrior Dahl behind her on the final leg of the 4x800 and that was something that motivated her.

"I knew she was back there somewhere and I wanted to keep the lead that our team got," Addison said.

"I was really scared that I was going to be the one to lose that, so it motivated me to stay in first. I wasn't really looking at the clock, but I saw it about



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison junior Kenden Bowie clears the 6'3" bar at Thursday evening's district qualifier at Mt. Pleasant. Bowie finished second on the day and will advance to the State Track and Field Meet in Des Moines starting Thursday.

50 yards away and it was 9:30 and thought, 'Hey, that's really fast.'

Avery, who had come off the 3000 about 20 minutes before the 4x800 said she was feeling a little pain after the 3000 but didn't want to let her team down. Rump was just about in a full sprint on her first lap of the 3rd leg.

"It felt like I was in pain. I think we just wanted to run really fast, tonight. We wanted to be district champs so that really motivated us," she said.

"It almost felt more difficult than normal running the 3000 before, because I was hurting a little bit after that. But I drank some water between the two

and a little Gatorade so I think that helped."

The girls 1600-meter distance medley also earned a spot at the state meet with another PR of 4:23.01 surpassing their best mark of the season by a full nine seconds. That time put up by Lillian Gelsthorpe, Olivia Buckner, Smith and Avery Rump would

See STATE, page 4

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# Sports



Above, sophomore Mara Smith passes Davenport Assumption on the way to clearing the second leg of the 4x800, while below Gavin Callahan pulls the second leg of the boys' shuttle hurdle relay.



Sophomore Avery Rump battles at the start of the 3000-meter run above, while below, Urijah Brooks works his final shotput throw in the 3A boys' final Thursday in Mt. Pleasant.



## Dear wins 100, 200 dashes to lead Bloodhounds

**STATE** - Continued from Page 1

be in the top 26 in the state as of yesterday.

The Hounds' Kenden Bowie qualified for Thursday's state meet with a 6'3" jump in the high jump. Bowie said last week that he struggled to jump in the rain, but was able to fight that off and hold off a Fairfield rally in the higher leaps to capture second place.

Bowie said he was excited to qualify in his first year ever jumping, but said he was disappointed in his performance.

"Sometimes it irritates me because I have a good jump and then I go back down and have to work myself up again," he said.

"But I feel like I have a 6'5" or 6'6" in me. I'm excited about going Thursday, but I'm still kinda focused on here today. I think I could have done a lot better."

Bowie's jump at the 6'2" mark was cleared easily and could have been his best jump of the day.

The Hounds' Brandon Klein also qualified for state in the wheelchair shotput with a throw of more than 18 feet. He also took 2nd in the 100, 200 and 400-meter race.

Julian Dear won the 100-meter dash and qualified for state with a time of 11:14 his fastest time of the year. Then he turned around and won the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.52 also qualifying him for next week's state tournament.

Mason McLey captured the top spot and a qualifying time in the 400-meter dash with a 53.12. Henry Wiseman's 15.27 in the 110 meter hurdles could qualify after all times are turned in from Thursday's sectionals.

The 4x100 relay team of Adam Sobczak, Dayton Lamar, Hayden Segoviano and Dear will compete at state with a 44.24. The 4x200 meter relay team of Segoviano, Gavin Callahan, Marcus Guzman and Lamar finished third with a 1:33.81 and that time will have to wait to be determined if it is a qualifying time. The 4x800 team of Peyton Lambert, Mason McLey, Riley Tripp and Nolan Guzman finished 4th but in a time of 8:15.67 just .28 seconds off 2nd place and could qualify in one of the remaining time spots.

The boys shuttle hurdle relay team of Sobczak, Callahan, Kiawante Smith, and Wiseman qualified for a 2nd-place finish with a 1:00.66 behind Clear Creek-Amana.

The girls finished fifth overall out of eight teams in the district, while the boys captured 2nd place with 119 points behind Clear Creek-Amana.



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## Scene Around Town/Iowa News



Image courtesy of Jacob Mohrfeld/Special to Pen City Current

A towboat tries to push a section of barge to shallower waters as crews try to rein in several sections that got loose after striking the BNSF Railbridge in Fort Madison Thursday at about 1:15 p.m.

# Reynolds orders flags at half-staff for peace officers

DES MOINES – Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered all flags in Iowa to be lowered to half-staff beginning at sunrise on Friday, May 10 for Iowa’s Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony, until sunset on Saturday, May 18 for the duration of National Police Week.

This year, two fallen officers will be honored during the Iowa Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony. Officer Kevin Cram of the Algona Police Department and Officer Phoukham Tran of the Des Moines Police Department lost their lives in the line of duty in 2023.

“Officer Cram and Officer Tran served their communities with pride and compassion. As we reflect on the impact of their lives and service, let us never forget the lasting significance of the sacrifice they made,” said Gov. Kim Reynolds.

“To their brothers and sisters in law enforcement, you are the legacy keepers of our fallen heroes. Your willingness to carry it forward in this noble profession inspires all of us.”

Flags will be at half-staff on the State Capitol Building and on flag displays in the Capitol Complex. Flags will also be at half-staff on all public buildings, grounds and facilities throughout the state.

Individuals, businesses, schools, municipalities, counties and other government subdivisions are encouraged to fly the flag at half-staff for the same length of time as a sign of respect.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate stands with seniors at Holy Trinity Thursday morning. Pate presented the school with the Carrie Chapman Catt award for having 94% of eligible students registered to vote this year.

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