



# Pen City Current

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 | 10 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 214



## St. Paul couple enjoying the 'fruits' of their labors

*Kenny and Judy Sanders using retirement to capitalize on booming market for American-produced Aronia berries*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - Tucked back in the fertile farmland of rural Lee County is about 40 acres of land owned by Ken and Judy Sanders.

The two dabble in chestnuts and hazelnuts and battle critters and deer for the nuts on their farm just southwest of West Point. They live in St. Paul but work this farm that's been in Ken's family since his father purchased it in the late 60s. Now the acreage is home to KJM Berries and Nut Farm.

This couple, well into retirement, spends their mornings, sometimes seven days a week, working the land, but not just for nuts. They sell a few here and there to specific buyers in central Iowa, but the real cash crop is Aronia berries. In 2011, the two heard that the market for the violet-black berries, also known as chokeberries, was going to become a high demand market and planted rows on their property.

Ken said he was selling chestnuts to a customer in the Missouri valley and during the sale he brought up the rise in popularity of the aronia berry and the two planted some as a hobby the next year.

Judy said the berries are native to the United States, but Russia and Poland started growing them wholesale and importing them to the United States.

"They were sending Aronia berry juice to the U.S. and a guy in northwest Iowa said we should be growing them in this country."

In 2011, Kenny and Judy planted some as a hobby and saw how well the fruit produced and heard of the growing market.

In 2012 we planted about 4,000 bushes and about 2,600 of those died due to a really hot June. We didn't have irrigation then. In 2015 we replaced those and now we have irrigation so we don't have to worry about dry conditions as much.

Usually in the middle of August is harvest time. Ken said the berries used to be picked by hand.

"One year we got about 3,000 lbs. by hand," Ken said. "The next year we rented a harvester and picked them that way. Now we have our own machine and we rent that out to other planters."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Kenny and Judy Sanders stand next to some of the taller aronia bushes on some acreage owned by their son, Mark. The fruit-bearing bushes are almost eight feet tall on that part of the farm.

Judy said the season they picked by hand took them about six weeks picking for about eight hours a day.

Kenny and his father and brother used to do harvesting for area farmers and he spent time working full time with JJ Nichting in St. Paul.

"Yeah, we used to get up at 4:30 or 5 and he'd go to work and go full time with JJ Nichting and then he would harvest, get home at about midnight, fall into bed and then do it all over again the next morning," Judy said. Judy is a retired registered nurse who also grew up on a farm.

"We started this as a hobby," Kenny said. "and then we turned it into a business."

This year the couple, along with their son Mark, who has 40 acres himself adjacent to his parents

land, pulled about 30,000 pounds of berries off the bushes. The berries get pulled, sorted into totes and then cooled, before refrigerated trucks come and take them to where they will be sold.

The berries grow on clusters on bushes that grow up to about 8-foot tall. The clusters have 12-15 berries per clusters. The berry has a tart juice off the bush, the tartness can be reduced by freezing. The juice is also dry and resembles a dry fruit wine due to tannins in the berries. They're becoming more widely sold for their polyphenol characteristics. Polyphenols are micronutrients packed with health benefits.

The berries are sold at area farmers' markets and

See ARONIA, page 8

### Advertiser Index

Classifieds .....Ps.6-7	Lee County Health Department.....Ps.3,9
Fort Madison Area Arts Association..... P.10	Professional Services..... P.6
Fort Madison Family YMCA..... P.4	Public Notices..... P.7
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups ..... P.2	Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness ..... P.10
Great River Regional Waste Authority ..... P.8	RSVP of Lee County ..... P.2
Griffin Muffler & Brake Center ..... P.5	Scotts Miracle-Gro Company ..... P.7
Harvestville Farm Mercantile..... P.2	Test Kitchen Education Foundation..... P.4
Hope Associates Real Estate ..... P.7	The Kensington ..... P.2
IWitnessBullying.org ..... P.2	Tony Fullenkamp Edward Jones..... P.4

### News Index

Area News .....Ps.2-3
For the Record..... P.3
From the front..... P.8
Local News..... P.10
Lottery Numbers ..... P.3
Obituaries ..... P.2
-Michael David Sheets
Sports .....Ps.4,8,10
Weather .....P.2

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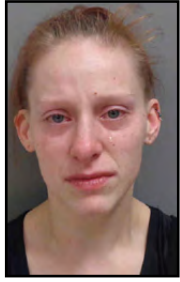


## Obituaries/Area News

# Task force busts up drug house

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa couple.

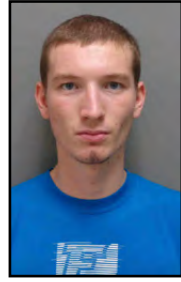


MERCER

Dakota Cheyanne Mercer, age 25, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 18th, 2018 on the following charges: possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of methamphetamine, child endangerment and maintaining a drug house all misdemeanors charges. If convicted, Mercer faces up to 4 years and 60 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Mercer stems from an investigation by the Keokuk Police Department, Department of Human Services and Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the use of illegal

drugs with children present. During the investigation and as officers were on scene, they located Michael Axtell age 21, hiding in Mercer's residence. Axtell was arrested on an Iowa warrant for violation of his probation.



AXTELL

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Department of Human Services, Keokuk Police Department, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

## OBITUARIES

# MICHAEL DAVID SHEETS

Michael David Sheets, 40, of the Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 7:08 a.m. Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at his home in Nauvoo.

Born December 28, 1977, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Leroy Melvin and Linda Lou (Jondall) Sheets.

Survivors include his mother: Linda of Fort Madison, Iowa; one sister: Angela Klesener of Nauvoo, Illinois, one brother: Leroy Sheets, Jr. of Lumber Bridge, North Carolina, one nephew: Nicholas Klesener. He is also survived by several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father: Leroy and brother-in-law: Randy Klesener.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz-Banks and Beals Funeral Home for cremation.

A private family memorial service will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 201, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354.

Schmitz-Banks and Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.sbbfuneralhome.com](http://www.sbbfuneralhome.com)

### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries 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.

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### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

**FRI 21 Sep** \_\_\_\_\_  
Light rain  
High – 65.1° F | Low – 51.1° F

**SAT 22 Sep** \_\_\_\_\_  
Clear Skies  
High – 62° F | Low – 47.7° F

**SUN 23 Sep** \_\_\_\_\_  
Clear Skies  
High – 66.7° F | Low – 48.2° F

**MON 24 Sep** \_\_\_\_\_  
Clear Skies  
High – 72.1° F | Low – 69.0° F

**TUE 25 Sep** \_\_\_\_\_  
Moderate Rain  
High – 79.8° F | Low – 58.4° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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## For the Record/Area News

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

No report received

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

09/18/18 - 2:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested John Richard Jones, 36, of Keokuk, at the Adams County Jail in Quincy, Ill., on warrants for failure to appear, violation of probation and assault with bodily injury. He was held in custody. 09/18/18 - 3:34 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Dean Marsh, 47, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 330th Avenue on a charge of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/18/18 - 12:10 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a three-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. According to reports, a vehicle driven by Carrie Lynn Carlson, 62, of Cedar Rapids struck a vehicle driven by Jason Ryan Nelson, 31, of Washington, when Nelson was passing on Carlson's

left. A third vehicle driven by John Robert Emmett, 72, of Fort Madison was struck by debris from the accident. No injuries were reported at the scene, Carlson was ticketed for failure to maintain control. 09/19/18 - 9:05 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cody Scott Glasgow, 27, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/19/17 - 9:38 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61 near Hwy 16. A vehicle driven by Hope Elizabeth Lozano, 27, of Fort Madison was headed northbound on Hwy. 61 and slid in rainy conditions into the east ditch striking a power pole's support cables. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene. 09/19/18 - 1:54 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sharell Ann Grell, 56, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's office on four counts of violation of a no-contact order. She was taken to the

Lee County Jail and held. 09/19/18 - 3:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Dean Marsh, 47, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/19/18 - 7:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Derek Alan Miller, 24, of Carthage, in the 2100 block of Hwy. 61 in Fort Madison, on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/19/18 - 8:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kelly Rae Miller, 39, of Keokuk in the 2100 block of Hwy. 61 in Fort Madison on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

# Authorities identify body found in Alexandria

*Jared Matlock of Montrose found Tuesday near river*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Authorities have identified the body of a man found near the Mississippi River on Tuesday as Jared Matlock, 34, of Montrose.

A release from Clark County Sheriff Shawn Webster said the cause of death is still under investigation and extended

sympathies to the family.

On Tuesday at about 6:10 p.m., the Clark County Sheriff's Office received a report of a body that had been discovered near the Mississippi River at Alexandria, Missouri. The body was discovered in water and appeared to have been there at least 24 hours.

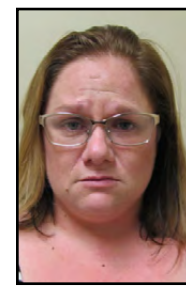
Officers from the Clark County Sheriff's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol with their Water Patrol Division, Keokuk Water Rescue, and a Missouri Conservation Officer were on scene. Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said his office was also helping provide information for the investigation, but had no personnel involved.

# County task force gets Keokuk woman on felony drug charges

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa woman on multiple Felony drug charges.

Lindsay Riddle, 32, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 20, 2018 on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Riddle is charged with the following:



RIDDLE

- Possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver in excess of five grams within 1000 feet of a park, second or subsequent offense, class B felony with enhancements,
  - Delivery of methamphetamine in excess of five grams, second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with enhancements,
  - Possession of marijuana with intent to deliver within 1000 feet of a park, second or subsequent offense, class D felony with enhancements,
  - Drug Tax Stamp Violation, class D felony,
  - Possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor.
- If convicted, Riddle faces up to 156 years in a state correctional

facility.

The arrests of Riddle stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the use and distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Keokuk Police Department, and Lee County Sheriff's Office, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

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### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	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



9/19

4 39 48 50 51  
Powerball: 11  
Power Play: 3



9/19

12 13 25 33 40  
Star Ball: 8  
All Star Bonus: 5



9/19 MID-DAY  
0 0 8  
9/19 EVENING  
5 9 2



9/19 MID-DAY  
2 2 4 2  
9/19 EVENING  
9 4 2 4

# Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Please Join Lee County Health Department as we celebrate the retirement of

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Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 2:00pm-4:30pm  
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Pen City Current

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Sports

# HTC moves to 3rd in state with new rankings

*Crusaders breeze through SEI Superconference tourney pool play; finals set for Saturday*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

DANVILLE - Holy Trinity is going into Saturdays' Southeast Iowa Superconference tournament title with a little bit of revenge on their minds.

The 3rd-ranked Class 1A Crusaders blew through pool play Thursday night in Danville, knocking off Danville, Lone Tree, Cardinal of Eldon and Pekin with little resistance.

Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier said last year's loss in the conference tournament championship to New London didn't sit well with the girls.

"Finishing second last year, that kind of left a sour taste in our mouths," Freesmeier said after Holy Trinity wrapped up the four-match tournament Thursday night.

In four matches with each match being the best two of out three to 21, the Crusaders missed on just eight serves. Taylor Boeding who had a stellar night in the front and back row, had 33%

of playable serves go for aces. She served 39 of 42 from the service line with 13 aces, had 29 digs, and was 26 of 29 at the net attacking with 10 kills.

"Taylor Boeding was all over the court, serving-wise and defense-wise. Our defense, with her and Elyse, those two are just there in the back doing there jobs every night," Freesmeier said.

The Crusaders made quick work of Danville 21-11, 21-11 and Lone Tree 21-7, 21-4 before a break in play. Then squared off against Cardinal of Eldon in the third match. HTC raced out to a quick 6-3 lead when senior Emily Box made a kill at the interior front. She then stepped back on the side out and served up an ace. Two Cardinal errors on attacks had the Crusaders up 9-3. It was then a 10-2 run for Holy Trinity that put the first set out of reach.

Cardinal went on a 5-0 run with Junior Rachel Lewman serving. HTC senior Eryn Anderson had a couple of kills go long and an error at the net, but then HTC put the game

away on a double hit by Eldon. In the second set, the Comets got a bit of-fensive minded out of the gate with a back-to-back kills from Maddie Cloke and Madison Guiter, but Boeding ended the threat with a kill at 3-2.

HTC would then go on a 12-3 run with Anderson putting up a couple blocks with Katie Denning pairing up at the net. Anderson also had two kills at 10 and 12. Freshman Kassi Randolph reeled off 10 straight service points, including four aces in the run to put the Crusaders up 17-5. Box got kills at 19 and 20 and then a net error by the Comets gave Holy Trinity the match.

It was much the same with Pekin when HTC held onto the ball for most of the match with long serving stretches from Anderson and sophomore Bailey Hellweg. Box, who finished with 25 kills on 38-42 hitting on the night, had four kills and a block in the run. Anderson and junior Avery Hopper teamed up for some blocks on the right side to give HTC a comfortable 17-4 lead. Boeding would fire another ace keeping the Panthers off base moving her serve around the court. An attack that went long by Pekin ended the game at 21-7.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC sophomore Katie Denning gets in a kill against Cardinal in the Crusaders' run through SE Iowa Superconference pool play Thursday night. Below left, Elyse Pothitakis keeps things going for Holy Trinity on defense.

The Crusaders pushed to a 10-4 lead in the final set of the night with a couple aces from Hellweg and

Boeding, but then Pekin couldn't get out of their own way committing five errors in a 7-point swing before senior Ellie Ledger found the floor with an attack to cut the lead to 16-6. Anderson and Box would set the tone the rest of the way with four kills over the next five points to end any thought of a Pekin rally.

Freesmeier said the girls were able to keep the energy up throughout the four matches and got the job done.

"We wanted to come out of here as the No. 1 seed and get onto Saturday," she said. "We needed to keep our energy up and we did a pretty good

job that. We did what we were supposed to do tonight.

Anderson was 27-35 with 17 kills and Claire Pothitakis was 28-31 hitting with 10 kills. Randolph led the Crusaders with 34 assists and Hellweg added 29. Elyse Pothitakis had 23 digs on defense. Box and Hopper each had six blocks on the night.

The conference finals start at 5 p.m. Saturday at Southeastern Community College. The Crusaders have yet to drop a set this season and improved one spot in the state rankings with Starmont moving from 3rd in Class 1A to 5th.



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# the classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Fort Madison  
Community School  
District  
1930 Avenue M  
Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting  
September 17, 2018**

I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:00 p.m. Directors Ross, Hotop, Steffensmeier and Young were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater and Secretary Elmore. Directors Hope and DiPrima were absent.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience and explained the procedures for the meeting.

Enter: DiPrima at 6:02 p.m.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the vision, mission and beliefs statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications

A. Student Rep report. Alyse Schmidt gave an update of activities at the High School.

B. Curriculum Corner. Middle School Accelus overview. Middle School Principal, Todd Dirth, updated the Board on the purpose, implementation and use of the Accelus program at the Middle School.

C. "Did You Know?" The "Did You Know?" document was accepted as presented.

D. Superintendent Goal Report. Superintendent Slater reviewed the Indicators of Progress towards the Board's goals.

E. District Presentations. There were none.

V. Approve the agenda. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Young to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VI. Consent agenda. It was moved by Young and seconded by Ross to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the August 20, 2018 regular meeting, financial reports from the monthly balance sheet, revenue summary sheet, expenditure report and activity report; accounts payable for the August weekly warrants, September computer warrants, activity warrants and nutrition fund; resignations from Janie Warner, associate at the Middle School,

Jean Chesnut as associate at the Middle School, Ruth Applegate as secretary at Central Office, Debbie Augustine as secretary at Central Office, Todd Watts as food service delivery driver, Marcia Keran as bus driver, Christy Powell as bus associate, Norene Eid as bus monitor and Carol Salladay as bus monitor; employment of Willie Johnson as bus driver, David Richards as custodian at the Middle School, Debbie Green as key club advisor (1/2), Jason Crooks as assistant football coach, Charles Knipe as 8th grade volleyball coach (1/2), Sharlynn Upton as 7th grade volleyball coach (1/2), Luke Rickelman as assistant football coach (1/5), Derek Doherty as assistant football coach (1/5), Jason Crooks as assistant football coach (1/5), Justin Menke as assistant football coach (1/5), Casey Yager as assistant football coach (1/5) and Debbie Wiseman as freshman class sponsor (1/2), Jennifer Helling as TLS facilitator, Carrie Schneider as TLS facilitator and Liz Pollpeter as TLS mentor. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

VII. Action Item

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services

B. Superintendent

1. Consider approval of policy changes.  
a. 700 – Purpose of Non-Instructional and Business Services. The Board reviewed policy #700. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Young to approve policy #700 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

b. 704.1 – Local – State – Federal – Miscellaneous and Business Services. The Board reviewed policy #704.1. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve policy #704.1 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

2. Consider approval of lane changes. The Board reviewed the lane changes. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the lane changes as submitted. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

3. Consider approval of the request for travel from Bonnie Slee and the FFA students. The Board reviewed the trip request. It was moved by Hotop and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the trip request from Bonnie Slee for the

FFA group to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, October 24-27, 2018 as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

4. Consider approval of Current/Past/Future Fundraisers within the Athletic Department. The Board reviewed the list of current/past/future fundraisers within the Athletic Department. It was moved by Hotop and seconded by Ross to approve the list of fundraisers as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

5. Consider approval of the agreement between the district and Southeastern Community College for joint enrollment courses. The Board reviewed and discussed the sharing agreement between the district and Southeastern Community College for joint enrollment courses. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the agreement between the district and Southeastern Community College for joint enrollment courses as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

6. Consider annual Board appointments. The Board reviewed and considered the Annual Board Appointments. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the Annual Board Appointments as presented. The motion passed on a 6-0 voice vote.

a. Kim Harmon, Title IIA, Title VI, Title IX, ADA and 504 coordinator

b. Kim Harmon, compliance officer (Step II) of grievance procedure as it relates to discrimination issues.

c. Erin Slater, child abuse / harassment alternate investigator (Level I), AAO / EOE officer

d. Kim Harmon, child abuse / harassment investigator (Level I)

e. Kevin Moon, asbestos coordinator

f. Sandra Elmore, insur-

ance trustee IEBP

g. Reconsideration committee

i. Licensed employee – Mary Hellige

ii. Media specialist – Michelle Bentler

iii. Administrator – Kim Harmon

iv. Community member – Janice Burch

v. High School representatives – Kate Young, Lilli Scott and Logan Rashid

h. Affirmative Action Officer – Erin Slater

i. Bus Driver Testing Program – Kevin Moon

7. Consider personnel matters.

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager

VIII. Selection of temporary chair for organization meeting. Consensus was given for Board Secretary Elmore to perform the duties of temporary chair for the

organization meeting.

IX. Adjourn 2017-2018 Board sine die. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President

September 17, 2018

Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary

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## From the Front/Sports

# Berries still on hand at the farm for area residents

**ARONIA** - Continued from Page 1

to Hy-Vee. They are harvested from a picker that's pulled behind a tractor and a wing on the side of the picker pulls the bush stems in with the help of someone walking along guiding the bush into the wing on the picker. The unit then separates the berries from twigs and leaves and drops them in a tote. The leaves and twigs are blown out a chute on the side of the picker.

"Farmers are planting 100s of acres of bushes. They're planting that many bushes because they see what the market's going to be like in 2 to 3 years," Judy said.

"Athletes are using them now as a recovery after workouts."

Kenny said he puts Aronia in Gatorade and juice. He's also created an award-winning wine and brandy with some of the berries they keep on the farm.

Judy said the berries are being used to fend off cancer and diabetes and macular degeneration.

Iowa State has an article on how Aronia can be a part of a regimen to prevent breast cancer from recurring. And although Food and Drug Administration hasn't signed off on any of the health benefits, nutritionists and athletic advisors are recommending the berries for its antioxidant properties.

Since the 2012 plantings, Ken had an irrigation drip line installed along each row to prevent drought conditions from ruining crops.

"We wouldn't have had any berries last year if we didn't have the irrigation because of the drought conditions," Judy said.

There is also black plastic running along the bases of the plants to help keep weeds down. Judy said there's a machine that puts the plastic down, but the first year they put it on manually.

"We had to go down each row on our hands and knees. We had knee pads because my kids played volleyball, but after that we had a machine do it."

On the shorter bushes the automated picker doesn't get close enough to the ground to get all the berries but the taller bushes are picked clean.

Production crews from Merschman Seeds came out and did a video of the farm using a drone that can be located here: <https://youtu.be/bUgMwq3yGX8>.

With the harvest for 2018 complete, the Sanders have a portion of the harvest in a freezer on the farm and those interested in getting their hands on the fruit for winter baking, juicing, smoothies, or just to snack on, can reach out Judy at [jds10148@gmail.com](mailto:jds10148@gmail.com) or by calling the farm at 319-850-0862.

# Solon brings one of state's best teams to FMHS

**BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

**FORT MADISON** - Every game the Hounds have played this year has been a shut out. Twice the Hounds held their opponents scoreless and twice the tables were turned.

Fort Madison is looking to put some points on the board, but it will be tough going as Keith Miller and the 4th-rated Solon Spartans come to town on Friday night.

The Spartans smacked the Bloodhounds around last year 62-0 enroute to a season where they gave up only 37 points the entire season before Cedar Rapids Xavier ended their season in the playoffs at the UNI-Dome 7-35.

But Fort Madison Head Coach Tony Shiffman said despite the Spartans being maybe a little smaller this year, Solon is still Solon.

"They are one of the best teams in the state. They're a well-coached, physical group of kids."

Spartan senior Adam

Bock carries the workload from the backfield with 38 carries for 263 yards and four TDs and is averaging just under seven yards per carry.

But Solon will spread the carries around with Kula Hunter taking the ball 37 times for 209 yards and junior quarterback Cam Miller has 135 yards on 34 carries.

Miller, a junior and the son of Solon Head Coach Keith Miller, has also thrown for 604 yards on 47 of 79 efficiency. He's tossed for 11 touchdowns and has been picked off three times.

Miller has a corp of six or seven receivers that he can check to in the Spartans' passing game.

AJ Coons, a 6'4" junior wideout, leads the team with 18 receptions for 256 yards and four scores. Coons is tall and can jump and catches a lot of balls over shorter defenders in the secondary. Senior Dillon Holt has seven catches for 113 yards and a score.

Bock also leads the team in tackles with 27,

however the Spartans only have 3 sacks on the year and eight tackles for loss in four games so the Spartans defense isn't looking for penetration off the line, but more to shut down the running game and patrolling the secondary to keep passes in front of them. Holt has four interceptions on the year patrolling the secondary from his strong safety position, half of Solon's eight on the season.

Fort Madison is coming off a disappointing 0-31 loss to the Burlington Grayhounds. After the loss, head coach Tony Shiffman had little to say about the game and didn't know what identity his 2-2 Bloodhounds were carrying.

Offense numbers indicate the Bloodhounds played better than the score would indicate. Parker Denning caught a pass on the first play of the game on a half-back pass from Diego Lozano, but lost his feet

See **PREVIEW**, page 10

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## Sports/Local News

# Shiffman said poor execution in last two games was key

**PREVIEW** - Continued from Page 8

turning around with no one between him and the endzone. Kaeli Maestro coughed up the ball at the 5 after the Hounds put together a long drive to start the third quarter, and a holding penalty killed a drive with the Hounds in the redzone. Denning had 103 yards on just five catches including a 31-yard leaping circus catch in front of the Hounds' fans and sideline.

"If ifs and buts were candy and nuts we'd all have a wonderful Christmas," Shiffman said. "So there were too many ifs and buts. It's one of those things where, not to take

anything away from Burlington because they are a good football team, but yeah, if a couple things went differently - who knows maybe its a 14-7 game instead of 21-0 in the third quarter."

He said the good thing out of the game was that there were no negatives from players after the games. He said quarterback Lennon Barker messaged him and said the team should watch tape on Saturday even though coaches had given them the day off. So the team ran video from the Burlington game for over an hour on Saturday.

He said the Hounds have to be more consistent in their approach to each game.

"We've gotta be more consistent with our competitiveness. We have to hit adversity back when adversity hits us," Shiffman said. "This won't happen overnight. It's something they've got to learn, and they are learning. They are doing better."

Barker is 75 of 133 throwing for 902 yards, but only two touchdowns. Senior Dom Frantz has both touchdown receptions and has 17 catches on the year for 259 yards.

Shaymour Redd-Donald didn't play last week due to an injury to his knee but should be in the lineup this week at home. Senior Alex Lauber who plays on the line on offense and defense left Friday's game with a possible concussion, but has passed protocols and should be in the lineup this week as well.

Mike Mosena leads the Hounds in receptions with 18, usually the benefactor of bubble screens and throws in the flat from Barker.

Maestro has the lion's share of carries this year with 40 carries for 167

yards. Lozano has only 14 carries on the year for 111 yards and two scores. Barker has a net -27 yards rushing but has scored four times carrying the ball on read runs and goal-line plunges.

Junior Deigo Lozano leads FMHS from his inside linebacker spot with 29 tackles, including 13 in Friday's loss at Bracewell Stadium in Burlington. Four of those tackles were for losses on Burlington's Taven Harris who leads the state in rushing. Lozano has nine tackles for a loss on the season. Juniors Quentin Schneider and Romeo Maestro have 21 and 19 tackles, respectively.

Maestro has three sacks on the season.

Shiffman said the Hounds just need to execute off the ball on both sides. Solon won't be doing anything differently than they have in their previous four wins. Most of those wins were lopsided with the exception of a 7-0 overtime win over West Liberty in week 2.

"They're not as big as they were last year, but with a team like Solon that doesn't matter," Shiffman said. "They'll be just as physical, just as well-coached, and just as aggressive as they've been in years past. Yeah, it's a different team, but it's still a Solon football team."

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## High school rodeo qualifier this weekend

FORT MADISON - Two qualifying rodeos for the Iowa High School Rodeo Association and the Wrangler Junior High Rodeo Association will be held on Saturday, September 22nd and Sunday, September 23rd, 2018 at the Fort Madison Rodeo Arena. There will be cutting starting at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning, and Saturday's performance will start at 11 a.m. Sunday's performance will start at 8 a.m. There will be over 165 high school and junior high rodeo contestants competing this weekend.

Events: The high school contestants will participate in the all the rodeo events such as: breakaway roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, bull riding, saddle bronc, bareback bronc riding, goat tying, pole bending, and barrel racing.

The junior high contestants will participate in the rodeo events such as: breakaway roping, ribbon roping, calf roping, team roping, bareback steer riding, saddle bronc steer riding, chute dogging, bull riding, goat tying, pole bending, and barrel racing.

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