



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Sept. 19 | 10 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 212

County attorney wants victim's advocate in 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County could have a victim/witness coordinator in place next fall if all pieces fall into place.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Lee County Attorney Ross Braden and First Assistant Jonathan Stensvaag approached supervisors about the possibility of hiring someone to advocate for victim's rights in the county.

Braden said an application process for a grant to fund the position's salary is due on Sept. 28, so the county needs to move quickly.

He said the found the county currently has 222

victims in case management and that doesn't include assistant county attorney Bruce McDonald's files which are not indexed in the case management system. He said with those files figured in, the count is probably closer to 250.

"It's important for our office to establish a relationship with these people and maintain communication, not only because the victims deserve that attention and not only because it's mandated by code, but because it helps us in the long run when we prosecute the cases," Braden said.

"We are processing cases and showing up in court. We simply don't have the time or resources to give the community what it needs in establishing the rapport and maintaining this communication with victims of

crimes."

He said prepping witnesses and victims, especially children, takes a lot of time to develop a rapport and the trust with the individuals.

Braden said the grant would cover a salary of approximately \$39,000, but asked the county to pay for the benefit package.

He said 70% of the counties in Iowa have at least one victim/witness coordinator. He said of the 30 that don't have the officer, 26 of those counties have a population less than 20,000 people. Lee County has about 34,000 residents.

Funds for the position wouldn't be available until Oc-

See COUNTY, page 4

No outlaws here These Pigs ride straight

*Iowa's only chapter of the
International Renegade
Pigs Motorcycle Club is
based in Fort Madison*

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Renegade Pigs don't need you - but you just might need them.

This Iowa chapter of the International Renegade Pigs Motorcycle Club is very specific about who they are and what they do. They find solace in each other in an otherwise demanding world of every day life.

You may see these men riding down the road and think that Fort Madison is now home to Hell's Angels, but you'd be better off just dropping the "Hell's".

"Those are what we like to call 1% gangs," said Adam Benda, the president of the group. "That's the term given to outlaw clubs."

But these guys are no outlaws. As a matter of fact, they're mostly former military or police officers who've taken up careers in public safety. They now dawn leather vests with three patches on the back



Adam Benda looks over a painting that was converted to the insignia patch for the group. The painting depicts an older, worn down Charlie Brown and Snoopy, who look down over a cliff with the sun setting on the world. Benda also shows the three-patch identifiers on the back of his leather vest.

indicating their membership in Renegade Pigs as the only Iowa Chapter. Benda said the three patches they wear on their

backs can be confusing to other riders.

"We're trying to change

See BIKERS, page 10

LCEDG kicks off 2023 fund campaign

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Economic Development Group tore the seam off the group's next five-year fundraising campaign with a goal of \$1.6 million Tuesday morning.

LCEDG officials spoke to about a hundred attendees at a breakfast at the Quality Inn and talked about the importance of continuing the multi-faceted work of the economic development group.

Joe Steil, CEO of the LCEDG, gave the opening remarks and announced the next five-year campaign goal of \$1.3 million to \$1.6 million.

See LCEDG, page 2



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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From the Front/Weather

LCEDG already at halfway point of fundraising

LCEDG - Continued from Page 1

"We truly need everyone to own a piece of our future successes. Be a part of the momentum and action making a difference. Invest in Lee County's future," he said.

Jenny Steffensmeier of Steffensmeier Welding & Mfg., a gold division co-chair and secretary of the LCEDG board of directors, talked about her evolution with the LCEDG and how she's made a commitment to economic development.

"I did not pour over my books before I came here and I can't go down a list and tell you I've got x amount of dollars because of my involvement here, but I can tell you with certainty that I have developed relationships with people that created opportunity and I'm really, really grateful for that," Steffensmeier said.

She said LCEDG puts people in the room to network and learn and problem solve.

"We all have lots of reasons to do what this orga-

nization is doing. Making us vibrant communities where our families want to live."

Dennis Fraise, COO of LCEDG, said the world is changing around us whether we like it or not, and Lee County is no different.

He said said five years ago the staff was looking at a roomful of strangers. He said 37 investors took a leap of faith and wrote checks totaling \$1.3 million.

Fraise said 1 in 4 jobs and \$250 million in wages comes from industry in Lee County. Lee County typically leads the state in unemployment, despite the low levels now, and are typically in the top four in generational poverty, and he said workforce became a mantra for the group.

"You'll see educators, stakeholders, and industries in the same room," Fraise said. "We have tough conversations and we've taken schools into industries and industries into schools and mixed

them up and we've worked to get them to speak a common language."

He said Grow Lee has garnered state and national attention and Gov. Reynolds goes around the state and uses Grow Lee as an example.

"Grow Lee exists today because of you. We built a state and national award-winning workforce development program because of you and your hard work."

He said 4,000 students participated in Grow Lee and STEM activities and five years ago that number was 0.

Scott Smith, of Frank Millard & Co., Inc., said the Iowa Fertilizer Plant came because Orascom, the IFC parent company, and the State of Iowa worked with a team at LCEDG.

"Within that team was the Board of Supervisors... within that team was the City of Fort Madison... within that team was the City of Keokuk," he said.

Smith said the existing



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At left, Ann Menke, a campaign co-chairperson for the Lee County Economic Development Group, and Matt Morris unveil the to-date total investments for the Lee County 2023 Forward Together fundraiser breakfast Tuesday morning.

industries are growing and see more growth in the coming years and the influencers in the room are part of that growth.

"We have a great story to tell because everyone in this room is on the same page and you're going to get the return on your investment," he said.

Matt Morris, president and CEO of Connection Bank, talked about the relationships between the

Fort Madison and Keokuk Economic Development corporations and the LCEDG and how that has improved over the past five years.

Morris said state officials and Lee County didn't have a good relationship either, but over the past five years the group has taken large strides to improve the communication between all the organizations, including putting

a member of both city economic groups on the LCEDG board.

He said he and Connection Bank chose to be involved in LCEDG because the group said what they were going to do and they did it.

Ann Menke, a co-campaign chair, then unveiled that \$875,000 of the money has already been raised in the campaign through 24 private donations.

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 High- 66.2° F | Low - 52.2° F

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 High - 68.5° F | Low - 53.3° F

SUN 23 Sep
 Clear Skies
 High- 77.8° F | Low - 63.4° F

OpenWeatherMap

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Business News/From the Front

Silgan expansion in full swing

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - It's an exciting time for Silgan Containers Corporation in Ft. Madison. The addition of a brand new quick-top lid production line is in full swing and represents an investment of over \$10 million and an additional 20% more capacity to produce lids for aluminum food containers. Additional production capacity increases are being discussed for 2019 and beyond which means new jobs right now and the possibility for more in the future for Lee County and the surrounding areas.

The plant has been abuzz with activity over the last few months. Foundation work began in late June and the new line is projected to be running at full capacity before the end of the year. At the same time, six new offices are currently being added and

the training room is being expanded to handle the growing employee population. "The growth we have going on right now is really exciting" said Plant HR Manager Tim Ewing. "We have hired 22 people so far this year and we're still recruiting skilled mechanics and electricians to join our team." Ewing said the plant is on track to hire six to eight more mechanics and four electricians over the next several months.

The Ft. Madison plant is located in the Jefferson Industrial Park south of Highway 61 on 263rd Ave. It was built and began operation as Central States Can Company in 1975 and was purchased and expanded by Armour-Dial in 1978, changing its name to Fort Madison Can Company. Silgan Containers Corporation was founded in 1987 by former Continental Can

Company executives Phil Silver and Greg Horrigan with the purchase of 13 can making facilities owned by Carnation Company. The Ft. Madison plant was the first acquisition of the new Silgan venture in 1988.

The plant produces aluminum cans and lids for the protein or canned meat market in both the human and pet food side of the container business. Operating on a continuous four crew basis, the Ft. Madison facility produces seven different sizes of cans on four lines and eight different Quick-top ends from 10 press lines and ships to over 30 customer locations both in the U.S. and abroad. The plant produces over 650 million cans per year and over 3 billion quick-top lids, with the capability of producing nearly 11 million lids every 24 hours!

County OKs Keokuk ask to abate taxes on 14 properties

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

tober 2019. The funds require a 25% match, which would be at least \$8,500. Braden said the benefits package would be between \$20,000 and \$22,000. He said the funds work as a reimbursement program where the state reimburses the county for that portion of the salary on quarterly payments.

"It is the responsibility of the county and the county attorney to make sure victims have their rights protected and make sure they get proper justice. So often I hear so much about the rights of the person accused of the crime and I felt for years victims are almost like a secondary citizen. This is a very important step forward for us as a county doing our job to protect the rights of victims in the county," said supervisor Ron Fedler.

In other action, supervisors

- approved forgiving taxes on 14 properties in Keokuk as requested by the city officials so the city can begin dealing with the properties. Several hiccups in the abatements took place when legal paperwork on the property certificates didn't include proper entities. The tax abatements amounted to just over \$21,500.

- approved hiring Scott Edwards as a new full time building and maintenance technician.

- approved a tax suspension for property at 402 Avenue A in Fort Madison.



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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



9/17
3 5 6 19 47
Lucky Ball: 15



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6 9 3
9/17 EVENING
4 2 6



9/17 MID-DAY
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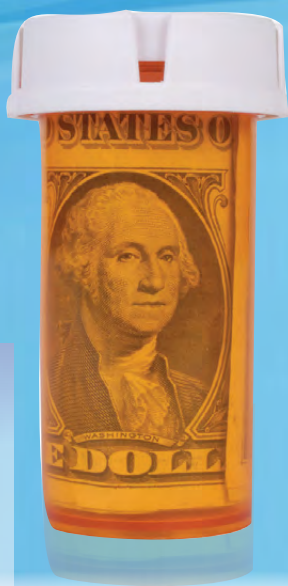


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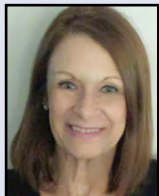


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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

09/14/18 - 12:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 09/14/18 - 7:30 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1400 block of Avenue D. 09/15/18 - 11:07 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue L. 09/15/18 - 11:30 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue G. 09/15/18 - Fort Madison Police arrested Rodney Lee Monroe, 41, of Fort Madison in the 2300 block of Avenue N, on a warrant for failure to appear and a charge of interference with official acts. He was taken to the Lee County Jail 09/15/18 - 10:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600 block of Ninth Street. 09/16/18 - 5:39 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 1400

block of 38th Street. 09/16/18 - 6:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at the intersection of 14th Street and Avenue E. 09/16/18 - 7:54 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 3100 block of Avenue H. 09/16/18 - 8:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1500 block of Avenue D. 09/16/18 - 10:32 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue H. 09/16/18 - 10:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of Avenue E. 09/16/18 - 11:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue H. 09/16/18 - 2:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 5100 block of Avenue O. 09/16/18 - 3:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report

of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue M. 09/16/18 - 4:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 09/16/18 - 8:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 800 block of 29th Street. 09/17/18 - 6:16 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2100 block of Avenue I. 09/17/18 - 7:53 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 5100 block of Avenue O. 09/17/18 - 10:10 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2100 block of Avenue J. 09/17/18 - 12:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue D. 09/17/18 - 12:41 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 09/17/18 - 12:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property

damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue H. 09/17/18 - 4:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 09/17/18 - 6:48 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2100 block of Avenue I. 09/17/18 - 7:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue J. 08/18/18 - 12:23 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Samantha Dawn Schnider, 20, of Fort Madison in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of public intoxication, disorderly conduct and under age consumption. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 08/18/18 - 1:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Nathaniel John Mortimer, 39 of Keokuk, in the 1200 block of Avenue H, in Fort Madison on a warrant for perjury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's report
09/14/18 - 8:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested, 47, Fort Madison in the 1600 block of 330th Avenue on charges of violation of temporary restraining orders and violation of a no contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/14/18 - 4:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a three-vehicle accident in the 3500 block of Hwy. 218. Where an as of yet unidentified vehicle collided with a vehicle driven by Leona H. Durso, 81, of Hamilton, Ill., who vehicle struck a trailer attached to a vehicle driven by Mark Alan Hawkins, 52, of Montrose. No injuries were reported and no citations were issued at the scene. 09/15/18 - 5:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Linda Darlene Bruce, 64, of Keokuk, at the Cellar in Keokuk on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance. 09/16/18 - 2:44 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Evan Jensen, 29, of Burlington at the sheriff's office on a warrant for contempt of

court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/16/18 - 3:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cyrus Keith Folker, 18, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/16/18 - 3:21 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Lee Davis, 31, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/16/18 - 5:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Troy Daman Burke, 41, of Fort Madison at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 09/17/18 - 10:15 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brittany Marie Goldie, 24, of Keokuk at the south Lee County Courthouse on charge of first-degree harassment and criminal trespass. She was released on bond. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Current-Lee/Classifieds

CURRENT-LEE

Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

Toxic Clean-Up Event in Mt. Pleasant

Great River Regional Waste Authority (GRRWA) is bringing their Toxic Clean-Up Mobile Event to the city of Mt. Pleasant and rural areas. Residential household hazardous waste disposal will be available this Friday, Sept. 21 from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm by appointment only.

The collection site will be located at the Public Works Building at 1201 North Broadway Street in Mt. Pleasant. Enter on West Winfield Street – exit out on West Harlan Street.

To make an appointment, call toll-free: 1-877-429-2436 or 319-753-8758.

GRRWA has several guidelines in place for those planning to take part in this event:

- Please no latex paint (only oil and lead-based paints)
- Please no motor oil or antifreeze
- No containers over 5 gallons
- No batteries

Although these items will not be accepted during this mobile event, they are accepted on a regular basis at GRRWA facilities or the HazChem Center.

This is a mobile event open to residents of Mount Pleasant, and rural Henry County, Iowa. This is a collaborative effort of Great River Regional Waste Authority (GRRWA) 319-372-6140 and the HazChem Center of Southeast Iowa.

Chamber Ladies Golf Outing

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Ladies only golf outing will be held Sept. 21 at Sheaffer Golf Course. To register email the chamber at chamber@fort-madison.com

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 organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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• Motown Sound: Fantasy Band 9/22 at 3:00 PM
• Visual Artists at Keokuk Depot



• Glass Menagerie 9/21 at 7:30 PM at GRP Building
• Rod Pierson Jazz 9/21 at 8:00 PM Grand

MERGES WITH Fort Madison Art In Central Park



• Temperance Brass at Grand 9/23 at 3:00 PM
• Musicians in Gazebo at Central Park



• Kids Activity Fun Zone
• Visual Artists Under the Shade Trees
• More Info at fmaa.com



• BBQ & Brews at Shelter House
• Lee County Plein Air Competition

We Bridge the Arts in Lee County



September 21-23, 2018

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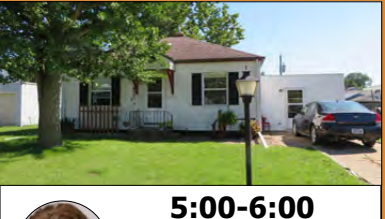
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5:00-6:00
20 Storms Court,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Judy Holterhaus
KLM Realty
Listing #20171348



5:00-6:00
1733 Avenue L,
Fort Madison

Host: Todd Morrow
KLM Realty
Listing #20170641



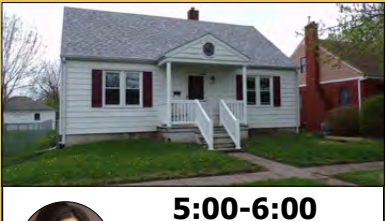
5:00-6:00
3215 Avenue J,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Jill Kruse
KLM Realty
Listing #20170556



5:00-6:00
911 29th Street,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Kara Morrow
KLM Realty
Listing #20171240



5:00-6:00
2928 Avenue K,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Carla McEntee
Fraise Auction
& Real Estate
Listing #20169748



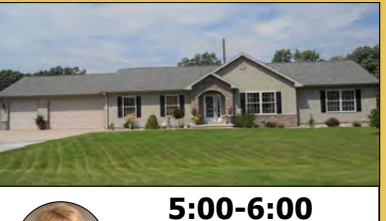
5:00-6:00
1239 Avenue B,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Tami Stuekerjuegen
Fraise Auction
& Real Estate
Listing #20169971



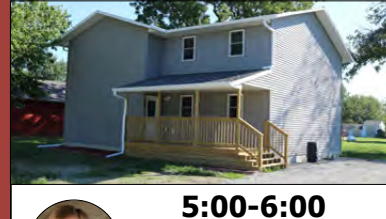
5:00-6:00
3215 Avenue I,
Fort Madison

Host: Dan Roach
Fraise Auction
& Real Estate
Listing #20170743



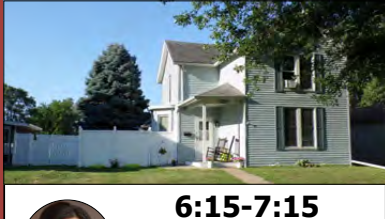
5:00-6:00
2879 Bittersweet Drive,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Deb Sylvester
Fraise Auction
& Real Estate
Listing #20171225



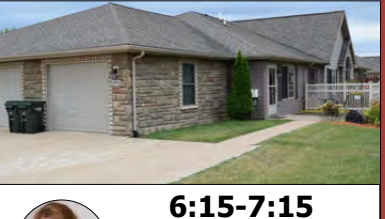
5:00-6:00
306 4th Street,
Franklin

Host: Corey Fraise
Fraise Auction
& Real Estate
Listing #20171390



6:15-7:15
1716 Avenue I,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Carla McEntee
Fraise Auction
& Real Estate
Listing #20170695



6:15-7:15
4911 River Valley Road,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Lori Sproul
KLM Realty
Listing #20170836



6:15-7:15
508 2nd Street,
West Point

Hostess: Lori Sproul
KLM Realty
Listing #20169830



6:15-7:15
104 South Oak,
Donnellson

Hostess: Jill Kruse
KLM Realty
Listing #20168508



6:15-7:15
3219 Avenue K,
Fort Madison

Hostess: Cynthia Otte
KLM Realty
Listing #20171469



6:15-7:15
1528 36th Street,
Fort Madison

Host: Todd Morrow
KLM Realty
Listing #20171313



6:15-7:15
511 33rd Street,
Ft. Madison

Hostess: Nicole Panther
KLM Realty
Listing #20169994



6:15-7:15
27 29th Place,
Ft. Madison

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Club becomes a brotherhood for those chosen

BIKERS - Continued from Page 1

perceptions," he said. "Most three-piece patches are considered 1% outlaw clubs. We're looked at differently because we wear three. Outlaw clubs notice that we wear that and there's some friction, but because of that other people also notice and automatically assume we're on the wrong side of this."

Randy Strunk, one of the original members with Benda, said the club meets once a month and travels to sanctioned events throughout the year. But while riding in town, it's important for people to know who they are and what they are about.

"We want this town to know that it's our home," Strunk said. "Speaking for myself, I want to feel this town knows that when they see us they know these guys are home."

Benda said the club has met with Mayor Brad Randolph and most of the police officers in town so they are aware of the club's activities and makeup.

"When we go by a cop I always wave, and usually they initiate the wave to me, and they know when we go by... they know a bunch of cops just drove by. I don't know about everyone else, but that makes me feel good to know he knows we're a bunch of cops."

Strunk said the group raises money each year through poker runs and registered rides and they donate the money to area projects, typically focusing on public safety and the families of those serving in those capacities.

"One guy from work's house burnt down and we raised \$2,300 in less than a week," Strunk said. "We've had events in the Quad Cities where we raised thousands of dollars in just a few days to help law enforcement. At national rallies out east, riders will pass hats for many different donations and the more than 300 Renegade Pigs at the rally will donate more than \$6,000 in a weekend."

Recently the group donated water to a Central Lee High School class that was building houses in Donnellson and gave a teacher a microphone ball to help students and teachers hear better in the classroom.

The seven current members each have different, and often inside and humorous stories, of how they prospected, the probationary period of membership, and why the group is so important to them.

Mike Fullenkamp, a firefighter with the Fort Madison Fire Department said the group and the

riding is therapy for him.

Fullenkamp said Benda's wife and his wife hung out together, which opened up a chance for him and Adam to start chatting about motorcycles. Fullenkamp said he had never owned or ridden a bike before. Then Benda started tagging him in all the Renegade Facebook posts and he started to get an appetite for a motorcycle.

"I told Adam I had seen one that I liked and one day he showed up at my house with a trailer and we went up to look at it. I fell in love with it and we loaded it up that day, drove it back and it was the best thing I ever did," Fullenkamp said.

"I was in the military and I miss that brotherhood. We have it at the fire station, but not as much. I see the tight-knit group these guys have. You can't explain it, you go on these rides and you have the wind in your face. It's therapy and when you do it with guys like this it's a brotherhood, it's a group, it's love...it's family. This was kind of one of those things that's changed my life."

Strunk and Benda tried to get a club going after taking part in an event in Springfield honoring law enforcement officers who had died that year.

"I'm pretty out there and I say it like it is," Strunk said. "They baggiped and we looked at each other like two school girls and fell in love with it and realized this is where we need to be."

They found a club in the Quad Cities, but wanted to form their own. Renegade Pigs national charter requires a minimum of five members in a club and the two

“

We don't actively go out and look for nobody. People come to us and we turn a lot of people away because you have to be like-minded to who we are.”

-Randy Strunk
Renegade Pig

couldn't get three additional members who fit, so they joined the Quad Cities group and drove four hours each month to the meetings.

"Originally, we didn't want to join Quad Cities, we wanted to have our own chapter. We met with them in 2014 and we had five guys we thought were good," Benda said. "Three decided to step away and so we sat on it for a couple months and we said, 'Screw this,' we wanted to be a part of the chapter. So we contacted Quad Cities and asked if we could be a part of their chapter and they said yeah, but we'd have to drive there every month. Well (shoot), that's was just another chance to ride."

He said they got a lot of respect from other chapters because of their willingness to go four hours to be a part of a monthly meeting. Strunk and Benda both patched, which means they were accepted into the group after a prospecting, or a probationary, period. That lasts from six months to a year where both sides evaluate whether or not the relationship will work.

Andrew Cartwright and Mike Benda are also charter members of the Fort Madison club in 2016 with Adam and Strunk.

"I got in in 2017 when I patched in. Originally

I didn't have a bike, but I ended up getting a bike. I knew Benda and Strunk, but I didn't know anybody else," Cartwright said.

"They told me about the club and what is was about. I was all for it - giving back to people. That's what I do whether it's through coaching or my profession, this is our community and that's what I'm about. Our motto is family first, work second, and club third. But these guys are a spin-off of my family."

Justin Smith said he was looking for something that had the same values he had. After talking with Adam, he was encouraged to check out a club meeting.

"I drove up to the meeting and it was cold and somebody looked out and said, 'Wholly crap somebody rode a Honda up here!'" he said to laughs from the group. "I ended up having dinner with them and met everyone and I eventually ended up training my Honda in for what I call a Dirty Sally, and my Dirty Sally is a Harley Davidson Ultra Classic," he said to more laughs.

Club members can only be considered for membership if they ride a Harley Davidson, a Victory, or Indian American made motorcycles.

Smith came in with Tim Mason and the two prospected together and became friends.

Tim Mason, who is former military, but is the only club member who is not in public safety, is a civilian by profession.

Mike Benda is the patriarch of sorts of the group. Adam, who is his son, says Mike is the voice of reason among guys who don't always talk with reason.

"I'm gonna be 66 next month and I intend to keep riding and stay with

the club until I get too old to ride. Then maybe I'll find a trike with a reverse."

Strunk said the group is as big as it needs to be, but the right people are the right people. He said the patches hold that value and carry meaning for each member.

"What this means to us, all these guys wearing these cuts, we don't need anybody. We don't actively go out and look for nobody. People come to us and we turn a lot of people away because you have to be like-minded to who we are," Strunk said. "We push you to check your personality and we expect you to take it and then some. It's 100% to vote you in, and 70% to vote you out."

He said his life in corrections is exhausting because officers are trained to read people at all times.

"It's exhausting, man. Everywhere we go we read people. It's our instinct and our training but that's what's sucked about my career in corrections. It's exhausting," he said. "But in this group, I don't have read anyone. I know who they are. Even if we're at an event somewhere in other parts of the country. I can just relax."

Benda agreed saying he, too, sits with his back against the wall when he's out, but when he's with the Renegade Pigs parties he can relax.

"Everybody's got me there, I go out for dinner now and I sit with my back to the wall and read people. Here, I just don't have to worry about it. It's a comfort level no one else has in this profession, because everywhere you go into you're constantly aware of what's going on around you. But with the club, I don't have to worry about that."

Strunk said each member's loyalty to each other goes even beyond what most people think they have with family.

"People think they have that. Everyone thinks they got someone to come help move a fridge because it blew up or whatever and they put out a request for help, and maybe a dad or brother shows up," he said. "But we put out a text and they all come. This is why we don't just take anyone. We're brothers."

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