

2017 - A Year in Review

July & August

#1
Originally published
July 19, 2017

Task Force arrests multiple tri-state area residents

Looking back on 2017

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of multiple tri-state area residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

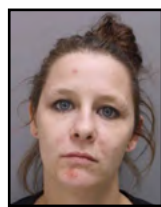
Joshua Allen Loveless, 32, of 5208 River Valley Road, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on July 16th, 2017 in the 300 block of Main Street in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Loveless is charged with Possession with Intent to Deliver Marijuana within 1000 Feet Of A Public Park, a class D felony with an enhancement, Drug Tax Stamp Violation, a class D felony, two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance (marijuana and methamphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Loveless faces up to 17 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.



LOVELESS

The arrest of Loveless stems from the Keokuk Police Department responding to a call for service in the 300 block of Main Street. Loveless was located and during an investigation into the disturbance, items supporting the charges were discovered in the possession of Loveless.

In an unrelated matter, Erica Renee Woodbury, 25, of Box 127, Wayland, Mis-



WOODBURY

souri was arrested on July 17th, 2017 at 923 South 14th street in Keokuk on a felony drug charge. Woodbury is charged with Delivery of Methamphetamine Less Than Five Grams, a class C felony. If convicted, Woodbury faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.

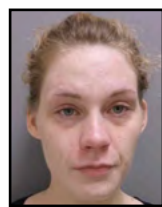
The arrest of Woodbury stems from an investigation into allegations that she is involved in the distribution of methamphetamine in the Keokuk area.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force also reports the arrests of two other individuals on July 17th, 2017 at 923 South 14th Street in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.



ROGERS

Dakota Lee Rogers, 24, of 923 South 14th Street in Keokuk is charged with Possession with Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine less than Five Grams, a class C felony, Manufacture of Methamphetamine in Excess of Five Grams, a class B felony, Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, Possession of a Controlled Substance (Morphine), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Rogers faces up to 38 years and



ELLINGSON

30 days in a state correctional facility. Shaunna Lynn Ellingson, 23, is charged with two counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance (marijuana and methamphetamine), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Ellingson faces up to 2 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Rogers and Ellingson stem from allegations that they were involved in the use, distribution, and manufacture of methamphetamine in the Keokuk area. A search warrant was served in connection to this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Keokuk Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole 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.

Editors Note:

As the year comes to a close, it is customary to look back at the stories that affected us throughout the year. Being an all-digital newspaper with multiple social media channels, we have many avenues to consider when deciding to review the year behind us.

We chose to feature the Top 10 Best Read news articles from our website pencitycurrent.com and the Top 10 Facebook posts that impressed the most readers from each month.

Each issue of 2017 - A Year in Review will feature two months of these stories as they originally appeared.

These stories touched thousands of lives this year, whether they were heartbreaking or heartwarming, good news or bad.

We hope you enjoy looking back on the year with us as we usher in a new year filled with new stories. You can rest assured Pen City Current will be reporting those stories in a factual, unbiased way in the manner you've become accustomed to - whether you're reading them on our website, on our mobile app, in our e-Edition, or in any of our social media channels.

We thank you for your patronage and wish you a peaceful new year.

Teens injured in Friday ATV mishap

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DENMARK - Two teenage girls are in stable condition today after they were both seriously injured late Friday night in a single ATV accident in northern Lee County.

The accident occurred in a heavily wooded area off Old Quarry Road northeast of Denmark and northwest of Wever.

The two girls, who have not been identified as of Saturday morning, were both airlifted to two different hospitals and are in stable condition this morning, according to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber.

One of the girls suffered head injuries and the other is hospitalized with back injuries.

LeeComm notified Lee County Sheriff's deputies and Denmark Fire and Rescue of the accident just a few minutes before midnight Friday.

Initially an AirEvac helicopter was dispatched to the scene and then a second helicopter was requested. Due to the location, the helicopters had trouble finding a safe landing place and the victims had to be transported by ambulance to the closest landing area.

#2
Originally published
July 2, 2017

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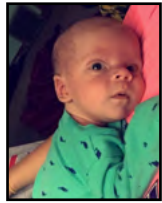


2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

OBITUARIES

DAWSON MICHAEL NYE

Dawson Michael Nye, 7 weeks, of Ft. Madison passed away on Thursday, July 27, 2017 in Keokuk.



He was born on June 8, 2017 in Ft. Madison to Brittany Nye. Dawson was super smart and was a very happy baby boy. He enjoyed car rides with his Mom. Dawson made everyone around him happy and touched many hearts for the short time he was here. He was definitely a Momma's boy and his face would light up at the presence of Brittany.

Survivors include his Mom, Brittany Nye of Ft. Madison; and uncle, Riley Nye of Donnellson; Grandma and Step Grandpa, Janel and Leroy Kent of Donnellson, Grandpa and Step Grandma, Gary and Deana Nye of Keokuk; Great Grandma, Belva Skinner of Argyle; Great Great Grandpa, Don Leight of West Burlington and several great aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his Great Grandma, Diane McVey; Great Grandpa, Leland Nye; Great Aunt, Jamie Quigley and Great Uncle, Robert Nye.

The celebration of life will be held on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 2 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Pastor Donnie Skinner officiating. The family will meet with friends from Noon until the time of the service at 2 PM.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

#3

Originally published July 30, 2017

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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Fareway vandalism rewards offered

EDITORS NOTE: Pen City Current will not be running the photo of this or any other vandalism done in our city. The work of criminals that are defacing property and harming the community will not get a highlight reel from this publication. However, PCC will feature the mug shots of those arrested in our publication when an arrest is made.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The recent string of graffiti vandalism in the area including damage to the Fareway Grocery building currently under construction is being met head on by local authorities and businesses.

An anonymous donor has offered up \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrator.

Fareway CEO Reynolds Cramer said Saturday the company will match that offer and add some.

"We appreciate the local individual who is offering up to \$1,000 to catch the individual(s) responsible for this act. Fareway will match this same offer for any information leading to the arrest of the perpetrator(s)," Cramer said.

"We will donate \$1,000 to the Fort Madison Police Department. We believe in this community and the local law enforcement who protect it."

Pen City Current will also contribute to the reward for information leading to an arrest.

During the overnight hours of June 29-30 2017 a person or persons vandalized the new Fareway Grocery building at 1820 Ave. H in Fort Madison.

The nature of the vandalism is a spray painted message on the east side of the building. The message is "SHOOT COPS NOT DOPE".

Earlier this year the Police Department investigated a number of incidences of spray paint graffiti. It is unknown at this time whether this incident is related or not.

In a statement Friday, Police Chief Tim Sittig said the crime is a simple misdemeanor, but if the message has legitimacy the perpetrator's could be charged with terrorism, a felony which could result in up to a \$7,500 fine and five years in prison.

Anyone having any information regarding this crime can contact Investigator Jack Gray of the Fort Madison Police Department at 319-372-2525 or Lee County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-382- 8900.

#4

Originally published July 2, 2017

Authorities close to arrests in theft of statues

Statues from Keosauqua, Donnellson found in Mt. Pleasant scrap yard

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - Police officials in Donnellson said an arrest could be made over the weekend surrounding the theft and destruction of a statue from Railroad Park on Mill Street.

Police Chief Brad Roberts said Friday afternoon that pieces of the statue have been recovered from Grandinetti's Metal Recycling yard in Mt. Pleasant which is owned and operated by Philip Grandinetti. However Roberts said that he didn't foresee any charges against the ownership of the recycling yard.

The statue depicted three children on a log and was valued at over \$4,000 not including the cost of installation at the park. It is suspected to have been taken during the late hours last Friday night or early Saturday morning.

Around the same time frame, another statue was taken from Lacey-Keosauqua State Park in Van Buren County. That statue, depicting a Civil Conservation Corp worker has also been recovered from the recycling yard. That statue is valued at over \$20,000.

"We're still investigating our end of it," Roberts said late Friday. "I would

say at this point the two incidents are related and we're expecting to make our arrests tomorrow."

"We don't anticipate any charges against Mr. Grandinetti as he's been cooperating fully with the investigation. We have other suspects."

The statue was recovered by a city employee who went to Mount Pleasant to retrieve it, according to Roberts.

"It's completely in pieces," Roberts said.

He said the arrests will carry a 2nd-degree theft charge plus restitution additional damage and the costs involved in that. Under Iowa Code, 2nd-degree theft is a Class D felony and, upon conviction, can carry a punishment of up to five years in prison with fines ranging from \$750 to \$7,500.

A spokeswoman for the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department said the incident is still under investigation and no further information would be released at this point.

#5

Originally published July 30, 2017

2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

Top July Facebook Posts

#1 Originally published July 8, 2017
Reached 33,871 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1810188785959349>

Pen City Current
Published by WordPress [?] · July 8 ·

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - After being on the market for close to a year, Vel's Amigos, the iconic Fort Madison Mexican restaurant will go up for the highest bidder. According to Corey Fraise of Fraise Auction & Real Estate, the auction will begin on Monday and run through August 22. "This has been one of the most successful, family-owned restaurants for generations in Fort Madison," Fraise said. [449 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../amigos-put-business-sale-.../>



Amigos to put business for sale online Monday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - After being on the market for close to a year, Vel's Amigos, the iconic Fort Madison Mexican restaurant will go up for the highest bidder. According to [Read More...]

PENCITYCURRENT.COM

#2 Originally published July 30, 2017
Reached 32,526 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1822534698058091:0>

Pen City Current
Published by Lee K. Vandenberg [?] · July 30 ·

King-Lynk Obituary - Neva Peak, 87, Fort Madison
Neva L. Peak, 87, of Ft. Madison and formerly of Table Grove, IL passed away on Friday, July 28, 2017 at 8:45 PM at her home. She was born on October 28, 1929...

Read Neva's complete obituary here:
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../king-lynk-obituary-neva-p.../>



#3 Originally published July 1, 2017
Reached 27,176 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1806162403028654>

Pen City Current
Published by WordPress [?] · July 1 ·

EDITORS NOTE: Pen City Current will not be running the photo of this or any other vandalism done in our city. The work of criminals that are defacing property and harming the community will not get a highlight reel from this publication. However, PCC will feature the mug shots of those arrested in our publication when an arrest is made. [289 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../fareway-ceo-responds-vand.../>

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STORES

Fareway CEO responds to vandalism

EDITORS NOTE: Pen City Current will not be running the photo of this or any other vandalism done in our city. The work of criminals that are defacing property and harming the community will not [Read More...]

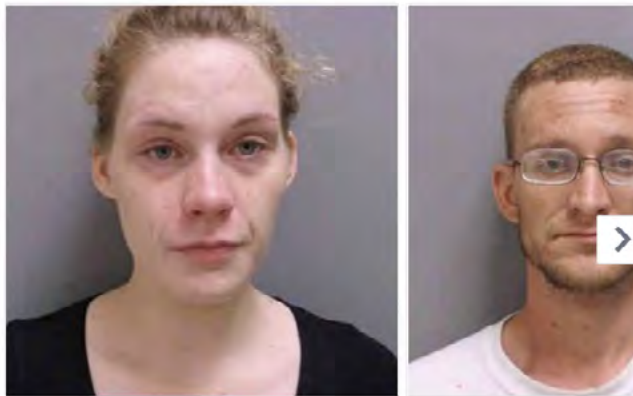
PENCITYCURRENT.COM

#4 Originally published July 18, 2017
Reached 20,952 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1815707605407467>

Pen City Current
Published by Lee K. Vandenberg [?] · July 18 ·

Task force makes multiple arrests

Read the entire story here: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../task-force-makes-multiple.../>



Task force makes multiple arrests > PenCityCurrent.com

Task force makes multiple arr PenCityCurrent.com

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Pen City Current
Founded in 2016

P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

Top July Facebook Posts

#5 Originally published July 27, 2017
 Reached 19,851 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1717126635265565>

Pen City Current
 Published by Chuck Vandenberg [?] · July 27 ·

FM man wanted on offender registry violation >
 BY PCC STAFF FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison man is current being sought by law enforcement for failure to comply with state sex offender registry rules....
 Read the entire story here: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../fm-man-wanted-offender-re.../>



#6 Originally published July 1, 2017
 Reached 14,491 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1805920539719507>

Pen City Current
 Published by Chuck Vandenberg [?] · July 1 ·

Lee County emergency crews are on the scene of a single ATV accident in the 3000 block of Old Quarry Road that occurred just before midnight northeast of Denmark. Denmark Fire & Rescue and Lee County Sheriff deputies are on the scene and two rescue helicopters have been dispatched. Two teenagers have been injured in a heavily wooded area and helicopters are looking for a place to land.

#7 Originally published July 28, 2017
 Reached 14,317 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1821722114806016>

Pen City Current
 Published by WordPress [?] · July 28 ·

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG DONNELLSON - Police officials in Donnellson said an arrest could be made over the weekend surrounding the theft and destruction of a statue from Railroad Park on Mill Street. Police Chief Brad. . . [273 more words]
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../donnellson-chief-says-arr.../>



Donnellson chief says arrests coming in statue theft
 BY CHUCK VANDENBERG DONNELLSON - Police officials in Donnellson said an arrest could be made over the weekend surrounding the theft and destruction of a statue from Railroad Park on Mill Street. Police Chief Brad [Read More...]
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#8 Originally published July 1, 2017
 Reached 14,163 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1806302909681270>

Pen City Current
 Published by WordPress [?] · July 1 ·

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR DENMARK - Two teenage girls are in stable condition today after they were both seriously injured late Friday night in a single ATV accident in northern Lee County. The accident occurred in a heavily wooded area off Old Quarry Road northeast of Denmark and northwest of Wever. The two girls, who have not been identified as of Saturday morning, were both airlifted to two different hospitals and are in stable condition this morning, according to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber. [79 more words]
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../two-teens-stable-late-nig.../>



Two teens stable after late-night ATV accident
 BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR DENMARK - Two teenage girls are in stable condition today after they were both seriously injured late Friday night in a single ATV accident in northern Lee County. The accident [Read More...]
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#9 Originally published July 6, 2017
 Reached 11,708 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1809175292727365>

Pen City Current
 Published by WordPress [?] · July 6 ·

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - The reconstruction of the intersection at 27th Street and Avenue L is scheduled to begin in the next 10 to 12 days, according to city officials. At Wednesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, Public Works Director Larry Driscoll said the work would begin in the next week and a half. [479 more words]
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../27th-street-intersection-.../>



27th Street intersection work to start soon
 BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - The reconstruction of the intersection at 27th Street and Avenue L is scheduled to begin in the next 10 to 12 days, according to city officials. At [Read More...]
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Pen City current

2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

#1
Originally published
August 3, 2017

Two suspects, one arrest in statue theft

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON - Donnellson police have made one arrest and are on the lookout for a suspect in connection with the recent theft of statues in Lee and Van Buren counties in Iowa.

According to a Wednesday evening press release from Donnellson/West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts, on August 1st, 2017, the Donnellson Police Department obtained arrest warrants for persons suspected of stealing a bronze statue from the Railroad Park in Donnellson.

Information regarding the theft of the statue was investigated over the course of the past 10 days and led officers to evidence supporting the request for arrest warrants on Skylah Christine Beach, 25, of Burlington, and Gregory Michael Crall Jr., 32, also of Burlington.

In the early morning hours of July 23rd, 2017, suspects stole a bronze statue from Railroad Park in Donnellson. The statue, valued at over \$4000 was labeled "Lazy Days" and located in a flower bed in

the park. Suspects tied a chain around the statue and dragged the statue from its location, north on Main St., to a gravel road in Lee County, where the statue was broken into pieces. Suspects later drove to a scrap recycling center south of Mt. Pleasant, and were issued checks for the items.

On August 2nd, 2017, Skylah Beach was arrested at a residence in Burlington, IA for the warrant, and transported to the Lee County Jail, where she is being held pending a court appearance. She was charged with 2nd-degree theft, a Class D Felony, which carries a maximum penalty in Iowa of five years imprisonment. Phone calls to Chief Roberts on Wednesday evening went unreturned and Crall is assumed to be still at large.

Donnellson Police Department was assisted in the investigation by the West Point Police Department, the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, the Henry County Sheriff's Office, and the Lee County Attorney's Office. Anyone with information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the Donnellson Police Department 319-835-5714 or Lee County Crimestoppers at 800-382-8900.

Top July Facebook Posts

#10 Originally published July 27, 2017
Reached 11,317 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1821025324875695>

Pen City Current
Published by WordPress (7) · July 27 ·

Dawson Michael Nye, age 7 weeks, passed away on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 8:03 AM at his home in Keokuk. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../king-lynk-death-notice-da.../>



King-Lynk Death Notice – Dawson Michael Nye, 7 weeks, Keokuk
Dawson Michael Nye, age 7 weeks, passed away on Thursday, July 27, 2017 at 8:03 AM at his home in Keokuk. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk...
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Top July Stories #6-10

#6 Vel's Amigos goes up for sale online Monday
Originally published July 9, 2017
Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/07/08/amigos-put-business-sale-online-monday/>

#7 Task force gets Keokuk woman
Originally published July 28, 2017
Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/07/27/keokuk-woman-busted-running-drug-house/>

#8 Fareway names managers ahead of grand opening
Originally published July 27, 2017
Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/07/26/fareway-names-management-team/>

#9 Fort Madison man facing felony drug charge
Originally published July 27, 2017
Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/07/26/local-man-arrested-drug-charges/>

#10 Area woman nabbed on drug charges
Originally published July 19, 2017
Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/07/18/area-woman-nabbed-felony-misdemeanor-drug-charges/>

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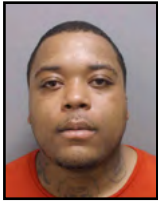
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2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

Keokuk man faces felony drug, firearms charges

Smith caught on traffic stop



SMITH

BY PCC STAFF
 KEOKUK – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Tyrell Devon Smith, 23, of 307 Morgan Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on July 29th, 2017 in the 500 block of Concert Street in Keokuk on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Smith is charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance (amphetamine/dextroamphetamine) With Intent to Deliver While In Possession of a Firearm, a class C felony with an enhancement, Possession with Intent

to Deliver Methamphetamine Less than Five Grams While in Possession of A Firearm, a class C felony with an enhancement, Possession with intent to Deliver Cocaine While in Possession of a Firearm, a class C felony with an enhancement, Carrying Weapons, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of a Schedule IV Drug (Alprazolam) with intent to Deliver, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, Smith faces up to 49 years in a state correctional facility. The arrest of Smith stems from a traffic stop conducted by a Keokuk Police Officer. During the traffic stop, items

that support the charges were discovered. The investigation is ongoing. The Lee County Attorney's Office and the Keokuk Police Department 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.

#2
 Originally published August 2, 2017

Ziouis acquire Parthenon Steakhouse

#3
 Originally published August 17, 2017

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
 PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It didn't take even take a month for the The Parthenon Family Steakhouse in Fort Madison to be taken off the "for sale" list. According to Jadi Zioui, her and husband Amine, the head chef at Atlas Smokehouse, announced the acquisition of the business Wednesday evening. "We're not going to change a whole lot," Jadi said Wednesday evening.

"We're going to clean it up a bit, but it's going to be the same style just upgraded a little. It's a fixture in Fort Madison and what I'm doing with other groups of people is trying to turn this into a resort town, but we want to preserve as much of it as we can without alienating those that are already here and love it. The restaurant was put up for sale by Nick Hantzeas, who owns the business along with his mother Maria, on August 1. Jadi said she and Amine were interested in acquiring the building as soon as it went up for sale. Amine will be the head chef and she will run the front of the house. "My husband is from the Mediterranean so he's gonna be doing some

more authentic dishes that he did when he was in Miami. He may change the sauces with the spaghetti and stuff and he's bringing Rockefeller chicken, which is off the chain. Oh and the bacon butter...that's gonna change your life." Jadi also owns the Fort Mad Emporium, 718 Avenue G, and is marketing director for the Kingsley Inn, and hosts Friday meetings at the Emporium for anyone interesting in helping improve Fort Madison. If anyone wants to get more information we have meetings at 1 p.m. every Friday. "Anyone who cares or just wants to see Fort Madison do better or just wants more information on what we're doing, is welcome to attend."



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2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

OBITUARIES

ALAN JAKE LITTLE

Alan Jake Little, 24 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Wednesday morning, August 16, 2017 in Fort Madison. Jake was born March 31, 1993 in Burlington, Iowa, a son of Alan Chet Little and Lorlinda Williams.

He attended Fort Madison High School.

He is survived by his father, Chet Little of Fort Madison; his mother, Lorlinda Williams of Jacksonville, Florida; one daughter, Natalynn Marie Little and her mother, Misty Guzman of Fort Madison; one sister, Starr (Chase) Brown of Charlotte, South Carolina; his maternal grandmother, Nina Sparenberg of Denmark, Iowa; one aunt, four uncles, one nephew, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, maternal grandfather, and one uncle.

His body has been cremated. His family will greet friends from 6:00 - 7:00 pm Monday, August 21, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison.

A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Little Family may be at www.barrmemorialchapel.com. Barr Memorial Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

#4

Originally published August 18, 2017

Amigo's holding benefit for Hernandez

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A day at the gym turned tragic for a former Fort Madison couple earlier this month. Cameron Hernandez, 31 of Burlington was working out the Burlington YMCA when he experienced a sharp headache. He stopped his workout and went home and when the headache hadn't subsided his family urged him to go to the ER and a short time later he was airlifted to Iowa with a brain bleed from a weakened artery in his head.

During an angiogram to repair the artery, Hernandez suffered a stroke leaving his right side limp and compromised.

Hernandez is employed with Winegard Company in Burlington has insurance so the family is focusing on getting him better, but Vel's Amigos restaurant will be holding a benefit for the Hernandez family all day on Friday.

Amigo's will be donating 10% of all sales on Friday to the family as well as having people on site selling 'Hernandez Strong' wristbands and car and window decals.

Hernandez, and his wife Ashley (Orlandini) Hernandez have two boys, Kellan, 6, and Jax, 2. He was kept in Iowa City ICU for three weeks before being sent to Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Omaha.

"He'll do the rest of his rehab there and then hopefully they'll send him home," said Cameron's mother Lori.

"He's doing well now but he has a long way to go. He's walking with some assistance and his mind is all there so he's really doing remarkable."

Lori said she didn't even know about the donations until she saw the event on Facebook and then was moved to tears.

"They have just decided out of the goodness of their heart to do this for us. My mother, who has passed now, was good friends of the owners and so was my husband's dad. We also have a GoFundMe page to help raise money, but this is just their way of helping."

The site is located at <https://www.gofundme.com/CameronHernandez>

According to the site, "Cameron had suffered a massive brain bleed.

It has been determined that he has an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM), which had ruptured and bled into his thalamus area of the brain. What this means is that his brain was under a great deal of pressure to accommodate his bleeding, causing significant damage. An MRI has determined that his brain stem is unharmed, but that there is an area of significant permanent damage in his brain. It remains undetermined what level of function will return."

The site has set a goal of \$25K and as of Aug. 29 was at just under \$15,000.

Ashley had an in-home day care business that she's since had to close down in order to care for the family. Lori said that Cameron will likely be moved to some sort of disability depending on the how his body rehabilitates.

She said it's breathtaking how a community can come together to help one of their own.

"The outpouring from the community has been so overwhelming I almost can't breathe sometimes," Lori said.

Another benefit is being planned for Nov. 5 in Burlington but the details on that event aren't available yet.

#5

Originally published August 30, 2017

Top August Facebook Posts

#1 Originally published August 2, 2017
Reached 26,543 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1823976701247224>

Pen City Current
Published by WordPress [?] · August 2 ·

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR DONNELLSON - Donnellson police have made one arrest and are on the lookout for a suspect in connection with the recent theft of statues in Lee and Van Buren counties in Iowa. According to a Wednesday ...
[295 more words]
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../one-arrest-made-tuesday-s.../>

BREAKING NEWS

One arrest made Tuesday in statue theft
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR DONNELLSON - Donnellson police have made one arrest and are on the lookout for a suspect in connection with the recent theft of statues in Lee and Van Buren counties [Read More...]
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Top August Stories #6-10

- #6 Great River Health looking at FM site**
Originally published August 24, 2017
 Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/08/23/great-river-health-systems-looking-build-citys-west-end/>
- #7 Sunday accident sends cyclist to the hospital**
Originally published August 28, 2017
 Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/08/27/sunday-accident-sends-one-hospital/>
- #8 Boom rattles windows Tuesday**
Originally published August 16, 2017
 Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/08/15/did-you-hear-that/>
- #9 FM has \$50K unclaimed Powerball ticket**
Originally published August 16, 2017
 Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/08/15/fort-madison-still-50k-winning-ticket-somewhere/>
- #10 Suicide attempt prompts local action**
Originally published August 31, 2017
 Read the article here: <http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/08/30/students-suicide-attempt-spurs-action/>

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Kinky Boots is Broadway's huge-hearted, high-heeled hit! With songs by Grammy and Tony winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, this joyous musical celebration is about the friendships we discover and the belief that you can change the world when you change your mind. Inspired by true events, Kinky Boots takes you from a gentleman's shoe factory in Northampton to the glamorous catwalks of Milan. Charlie is a factory owner struggling to save his family business. Lola is a fabulous entertainer with a wildly exciting idea. With a little compassion and a lot of understanding, this unexpected pair learns to embrace their differences and creates a line of sturdy stilettos unlike any the world has ever seen! But in the end, their most sensational achievement is their friendship!

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2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

Top August Facebook Posts

#2 Originally published August 15, 2017
Reached 25,701 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1829738087337752>

Pen City Current
Published by WordPress [?] · August 15 ·

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - Dig deep in your wallets, look under the car seats, check the sofas. Someone purchased a \$50,000 winning Powerball ticket... [236 more words]
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../fort-madison-still-50k-wi.../>



Fort Madison still has a \$50K winning ticket somewhere
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - Dig deep in your wallets, look under the car seats, check the sofas. Someone purchased a \$50,000 winning Powerball ticket in Fort Madison and it's still unclaimed. [Read...]
PENCITYCURRENT.COM

#3 Originally published August 30, 2017
Reached 22,573 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1836456619999232>

Pen City Current
Published by WordPress [?] · August 30 ·


BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - A day at the gym turned tragic for a former Fort Madison couple earlier this month. Cameron Hernandez, 31 of Burlington was working out the Burlington YMCA when he experienced a sharp headache. He stopped his workout and went home. When the headache hadn't subsided his family urged him to go to the ER and a short time later he was airlifted to Iowa with a brain bleed from a weakened artery in his head. [433 more words]
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../amigos-donating-10-friday.../>



Amigos donating 10% of Friday sales to Hernandez family
BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - A day at the gym turned tragic for a former Fort Madison couple earlier this month. Cameron...
PENCITYCURRENT.COM

#4 Originally published August 25, 2017
Reached 20,887 people
See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/videos/1834320850212809/>

Pen City Current
Published by Shavna Beelman Ross [?] · August 25 ·



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Merry Christmas

Pen City Current
Holiday e-Edition Publishing Schedule

- Christmas Eve - No Paper
- Christmas Day - No Paper
- December 26th - Year in Review
- December 27th - Year in Review
- December 28th - Year in Review
- December 29th - Year in Review
- New Year's Eve - No Paper
- New Year's Day - No Paper
- January 2nd - Year in Review
- January 3rd - Year in Review

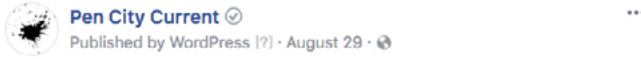
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2017 - A Year in Review: July & August

Top August Facebook Posts

#5 Originally published August 29, 2017
 Reached 20,098 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1835983470046547>



BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - An enterprising sophomore at Fort Madison High School who was moved by video of people needing rescued from flooding waters in southern Texas, has mobilized local officials and businesses to help take up the cause.... [906 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../sophomore-mobilizes-high-.../>

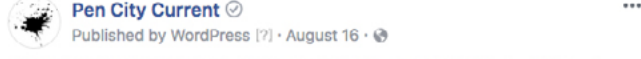


Sophomore mobilizes high school effort for Hurricane relief

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - An enterprising sophomore at Fort Madison High School who was moved by video of people...

PENCITYCURRENT.COM

#6 Originally published August 16, 2017
 Reached 18,977 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1830212787290282>



BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - It didn't take even take a month for the The Parthenon Family Steakhouse in Fort Madison to be taken off the "for sale" list. According to Jadi Zioui, her and husband Amine, the head chef at Atlas Smokehouse, announced the acquisition of the business Wednesday evening. "We're not going to change a whole lot," Jadi said Wednesday evening. [248 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../ziouis-acquire-parthenon-.../>

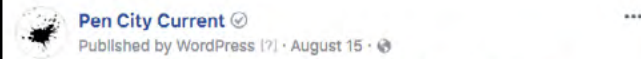


Ziouis acquire Parthenon restaurant

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - It didn't take even take a month for the The Parthenon Family Steakhouse in Fort Madison to be taken off the "for sale" list. According to Jadi [Read More...]

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#7 Originally published August 15, 2017
 Reached 18,572 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1829717587339802>



BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - Local authorities are chalking up a large boom this morning to a sonic boom most likely from a jet overhead. Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said he was making a call to the Federal Aviation Administration... [223 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/08/15/did-you-hear-that/>

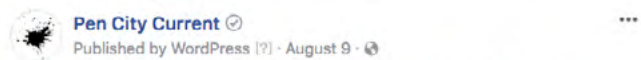


Did you hear that?

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - Local authorities are chalking a large boom this morning to a sonic boom most likely from a jet overhead. Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said he was [Read More...]

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#8 Originally published August 9, 2017
 Reached 17,856 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1826809874297240>



BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - After 20 years in what was traditionally a man's world, a Fort Madison woman has shown that well...maybe not so much. Heather O'Tool has spent the past 20 years... read the complete story by clicking the link below [918 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../20-years-not-just-mans-wo-.../>

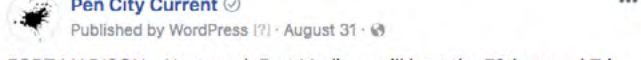


After 20 years...it's not just a man's world

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR FORT MADISON - After 20 years in what was traditionally a man's world, a Fort Madison woman has shown that well...maybe not so much. Heather O'Tool has spent the past [Read More...]

PENCITYCURRENT.COM

#9 Originally published August 31, 2017
 Reached 12,961 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1836849996626561>



FORT MADISON - Next week Fort Madison will host the 70th annual Tri-State Rodeo. During this time the Fort Madison Police Department along with the Lee County Sheriffs Office and the Iowa State Patrol will providing services to the residents and guests of Fort Madison including traffic control and enforcement efforts. Enforcement efforts will be conducted with assistance of the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau. [33 more words]

<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../fmpd-conduct-owi-traffic-.../>

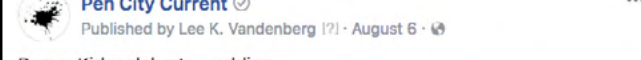


FMPD to conduct OWI, traffic patrols during rodeo week

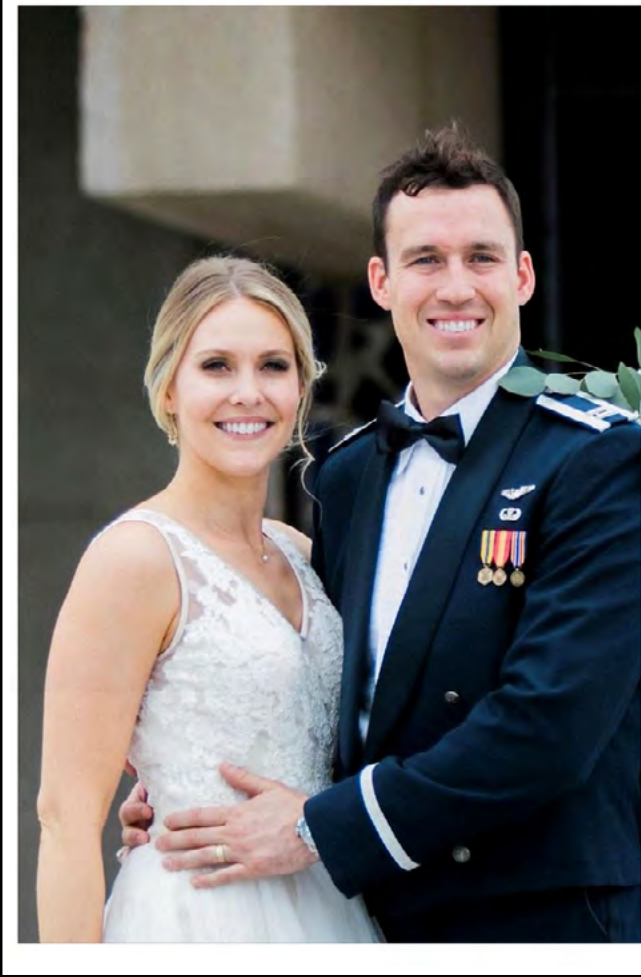
FORT MADISON - Next week Fort Madison will host the 70th annual Tri-State Rodeo. During this time the Fort Madison Police Department along with the Lee County Sheriffs Office and the Iowa State Patrol will [Read More...]

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#10 Originally published August 6, 2017
 Reached 11,021 people
 See the post here: <https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1825808784397349>



Rump, Kirk celebrate wedding
 Read the Kirks' complete wedding announcement here:
<https://www.pencitycurrent.com/.../rump-kirk-celebrate-wedding>



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