



Pen City Current

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Kempker's family line creates solid Fort Madison legacy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - There's a saying that goes something like, "They broke the mold when they made him".

In a small community it may be better if the mold isn't broken all the time. Because if we had more people with the simple beliefs of community...of business... and most importantly, family, it just may be an easier world to live in.

Robert "Bob" Kempker was one of those people to many in Fort Madison over the past decades. Bob died June 7th at the age of 84.

Bob was a husband to Barb Hunsaker whom he married in 1953. The couple had one son, Chuck, and four daughters Sandra, Debra, Sharon, and Peggy. They have 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

"He loved mom. He just adored her and that's what makes this so hard," said Bob's daughter Sandy Holtkamp, who lives in Fort Madison with her husband Dave.

Bob and Barb founded Kempker Hardware in 1969 and owned and operated that business for more than four decades.

In and around southeast Iowa, when you hear the name Kempker, you think hardware. And even though that's on the tip of the tongue, stories weave a more colorful tale of love for community and family.

"I guess through my eyes grandpa was always larger than life," said Jason Kempker, who manages the Kempker's Hardware in Grimes, Iowa and is one of the 12 grandchildren. "One thing that will be missed very noticeably when we get together will be his laugh."

Bobby Holtkamp, another of the grandchildren, tells a story of a rooster call waking up anyone staying overnight in Barb's and Bob's home.

"He is known for his rooster call. Whenever we would stay at grandpa's and grandpa's he would wake us up with this rooster call. He would run the house doing that call so we all new breakfast was ready," Holtkamp said with a laugh. "We had a tribute for him and we all did a shot of his favorite whiskey and gave a rooster call."

Dustin Kempker, the son of Chuck and Dawn Kempker, who own and operate



In Memoriam
Robert H. "Bob" Kempker
June 14, 1932 - June 7, 2017



"They both have affected my life and the way I carry myself. I can see grandpa in dad and myself, and I hope someday my son will see that in me."

-Jason Kempker,
Bob's grandson

Kempker's True Value Rental in Fort Madison, said no one escapes the rooster call.

"We always stayed, it was nothing to just go over and stay the night at grandpa's and grandpa's," he said. "Bobby and I are the same age and we have a lot of cousins so we always had sleepovers. We'd sleep under the pool table if we had to. He would come down with that rooster call to get us up for breakfast. My friends would also stay with us and they all fell victim to

the rooster call. And it wasn't just when we were little. Sometimes Christmases are late nights. If we stayed there he still got us with that rooster call."

Jason said Bob's influence has affected his life and choices.

"He had a nickname for me - 'Jaybird' - he always called me that," Jason said. "I'm a third generation hardware man following in the footsteps of him and my father. They both have affected my life and the way I carry myself. I can see grandpa in

dad and myself, and I hope someday my son will see that in me."

The Kempker's Hardware days started when Bob worked for the railroad and risked being relocated to Kansas City. Chuck said Bob didn't want to move because he loved Fort Madison so he started the hardware store instead of making the move.

"It was pretty competitive at that time and they started this business right downtown because they didn't want to leave this town," Chuck said. "But this was every bit Bob's and Barb's business. They built this thing together."

He said his parents wanted to raise the family in a smaller community.

"They built this business to take care of the family and at one point or another we all worked here. They have five children and we were his employees at different times."

He said as the business grew in the community the family started to give back.

"He was the best promoter of Fort Madison," Chuck said. "The number one rule of business is to keep politics out, so he didn't do those things. But he would always have that conversation whether it was with the city or the chamber...whomever. If it was right for Fort Madison, he wanted to do it and he did what he could to help."

Sandy said her parents always supported each other in growing the business.

"Mom put in just as many hours as dad did and she was always supporting him, and vice versa. If dad came up with an idea mom supported that, and if mom came up with something, dad was right there behind her. It's something that every couple needs to follow," she said.

Jason said one of the keys to the family's retail success is that everyone was a customer, whether they were in the store or not.

"Grandpa treated everyone like customers. They were his number one priority of the business, but that was him. His customers were part of his business family, so everyone was family," he said. "It's kind of funny. You're naive growing up and in my mind I always thought he never had any enemies. So out of the blue one day

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Local News

Victim of Wednesday fall dies from injuries

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison police have released the name of the man who has died from injuries related to a fall while working on a construction site near the Boulders Inn & Suites in Fort Madison.

The victim of the fall has been identified as Brian Wood, 45, of Linn Creek, Missouri.

On Wednesday at approximately 3:30 p.m. Fort Madison Fire and Police Emergency responders and Lee County Ambulance was dispatched to 4901 Ave. 0 in response to a report of a fall at a construction site at that location.

Upon arrival officers observed Wood lying on the ground near the north end of the building. A witness advised the subject had fallen out of a wooden box that was being lifted up by a fork lift. The subject fell approximately 20 to 25 feet.

The subject was tended to by Fire and EMS personnel and was transported to Fort Madison Community Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

AG rules deputy justified in June 12 shooting

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

Editors Note: A video of the incident prior to the shooting is available at the bottom of this article. Readers can click on the video thumbnail to launch the video in their browser and watch it. The video was released by the Lee County Sheriff's Department.

MONTROSE - The Iowa Attorney General's office issued a statement today indicating the shooting of a Montrose man early last week was a "justifiable" shooting and considers the case closed.

Lee County Attorney Clinton Boddicker released a statement at 3 p.m. stating that Lee County Deputy Dakota Foley had been cleared of any wrongdoing in a shooting that took place June 12 at about 12:35 a.m.

The suspect, Joshua Welborn, has been charged with burglary in the first degree, criminal mischief in the 2nd degree, and assault on a peace officer. He is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the issue was never in question with him.

"I never doubted the outcome," Weber said. "Deputies Foley and Bentley are well-trained and reasonable. I anticipated the (AG's response) as I also reviewed all the video involved. But it's always good policy to have an independent third party review these types of things."

Weber released details of the incident this afternoon. "On June 12th, 2017 Deputies Dakota Foley and Evan Bentley responded to an emergency call of a burglary in progress at 2480 270th Street #15 at 12:14 a.m.

Upon arrival, Deputy Foley encountered a man inside the residence beating on the walls with an unknown object. Deputy Foley announced who he was and the man exited the residence and began to walk towards Deputy Foley. The man had blood on his arms from his hands to his wrists and he was carrying a large

metal hammer in his hand. Deputy Foley ordered the man to show his hands and to stop numerous times, all while backing away from the man to avoid being assaulted.

When Deputy Foley backed beyond his partner, Deputy Evan Bentley, the man hesitated and began to raise the object in his hand in a manner that both deputies felt he was going to hit Deputy Bentley. Deputy Foley used his 40-caliber Glock firearm to fire one round into the torso of the man, stopping the threat to himself and his partner.

Shortly after the man was shot, both Deputy Foley and Bentley began life saving measures to assure the man was cared for until First Responders could advance to the scene. During this time and interactions, the man identified himself as Joshua Welborn.

Montrose Fire and Rescue, along with Lee County EMS, stabilized Mr. Welborn and transported him to the Fort Madison ER where he was then air lifted to the University of Iowa Hospitals.

Today, the Iowa Attorney General's Office released their findings of the Officer Involved Shooting Investigation, clearing Deputy Foley of any wrongdoing. In the letter, the Attorney General's Office commends the actions taken by Deputy Foley by saying 'Deputy Foley demonstrated great restraint in his actions toward Welborn. He attempted to resolve a very intense situation peacefully and fired only when necessary'.

Weber said a portion of the body camera footage will be made available to the public, however he cautioned that the case is an ongoing investigation and part of the video "needs to remain preserved for a viewing by a jury if Mr. Welborn so chooses to go to trial."

Deputy Foley has been a member of the Lee County Sheriff's Office for the past two years.

See SHOOTING, page 3

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Starting at 5pm



Country Musician



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Area News/For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/20/17 - 9 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 06/20/17 - 11:22 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2500 block of Hwy 61.
 06/20/17 - 12:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Alta Drive.
 06/20/17 - 12:44 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on the 700 block of 14th Street.
 06/20/17 - 5:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5800 block of Avenue O.

06/20/17 - 9:11 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Dale Melin Hall, 78, of Fort Madison on Iris Lane on a charge of dog running at large.
 06/21/17 - 10:44 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
 06/21/17 - 1:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited and released Jacob William Klesner, 32, of West Point at the intersection of Avenue H and 15th Street on a charge of driving under suspension.
 06/21/17 - 2:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of personal injury accident in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 06/21/17 - 7:48 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Bailey

Lauren Nicoli, 18 of Keokuk, at the Fort Madison Police Department on a charge of accessory after the fact to Vehicle theft and vehicle burglary. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/21/17 - 11:53 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Joseph Allen Akers, 33, of Keokuk in the 300 block of Main Street on warrants of a felon in control of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance use in structure or vehicle, contempt of court-failure to pay fines and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the

Lee County Jail and held.
 06/21/17 - 6:10 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Ivy Jean Marie Mills, 19 of Fort Madison, on a charge of domestic assault with bodily injury. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

06/20/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, two false alarms and a vehicle accident.
 06/21/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.

All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 23 Jun



Light Rain
 Low - 65.3° F | High - 76.9° F

SAT 24 Jun



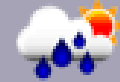
Clear Skies
 Low - 61.8° F | High - 74.2° F

SUN 25 Jun



Light Rain
 Low - 57.5° F | High - 76.2° F

MON 26 Jun



Moderate Rain
 Low - 63.1° F | High - 67.7° F

TUE 27 Jun



Moderate Rain
 Low - 69.8° F | High - 77.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Sheriff's Dept. releases incident video

SHOOTING - Continued from Page 2



The Iowa Attorney General's office has cleared Lee County Sheriff's Deputy Dakota Foley of any wrongdoing in a shooting that took place in the early morning of June 12. The Lee County Sheriff's Department has released a portion of the body camera footage from the incident. Readers can view the video by clicking on the image at left.

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All or Nothing™ - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:45 pm
All or Nothing™ - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:45 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm
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Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm

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 6/22 EVENING
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 11 12 13 20 23 24

Pick 3 iowa
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 2 4 3
 6/22 EVENING
 3 2 1

Pick 4 iowa
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 3 5 5 4
 6/22 EVENING
 4 7 8 1

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Sports

Crusaders battle Cardinal in 10-inning affair

Comets introduce a little chaos to score game-winning run

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - Three hours of pretty darned good baseball was decided in just a few seconds of play Thursday night as Holy Trinity lost 4-2 to Cardinal of Eldon at South Park in West Point.

Cardinal (7-10) took advantage of a bit of trickery in their half of the 10th inning to break up the stalemate that had gone on for about four innings when Marcus Olson opened the top of the 10th with a single to left off reliever Reed Fehseke.

The Comets' Trey Albert then pushed a bunt down the first base line that Fehseke couldn't catch up with as Albert went racing by to the bag. As the Crusaders went to reset, Albert slid off first and Fehseke turned and started a run down. Meanwhile Olson crept around third looking for home. Fehseke, among shouts from all dugouts and players, watched both players and as Olson moved back toward third, Fehseke went for the out at first and overthrew first allowing Olson to score what amounted to the game winning run.

Albert raced to third on the play and was eventually driven in on a fielder's choice ground out to second. Fehseke got the next hitter to strike out followed by another ground out to second to end the inning.

"I was on my way out to call time out to reset and I looked up and that guy was in between the bases," Crusaders Head Coach Albert Schinstock said.

But the Crusaders went into the bottom half of the 10th with the top of the order up. Fehseke reached on a walk, but got caught up in a double play when Jason Thurman ripped a line drive that landed in the Comet's



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Vasin Thurman puts a tag on the face of a Cardinal runner in the eighth inning Thursday night in the Crusaders 4-2 10 inning loss to the Comets. The runner was safe on the play.

2nd baseman's mitt. Fehseke was about 1/3 of the way to second and had to turn back to tag but was too late and the bases were cleared with two outs.

Collin Thornton singled through the middle and Kyle Bredemeyer drew a walk. Garrett Hannum came into pinch run and the Crusaders were in business with two outs in the inning with senior Cameron Bahl at the plate in the five spot. A strike call and a foul ball set up an 0-2 count and the next pitch was a breaking ball in the dirt that had Bahl out in front on a check swing. The ball bounced in the dirt, Cardinal freshman Ryan Clark scooped it up and tagged Bahl. Bahl looked to the homeplate umpire who rung him up on the check-

swing and tag out to end the game.

The Crusaders got 5 2/3 of solid work from senior Nathan Bredemeyer who worked in a mid-range fast ball with some deep breaking stuff to keep the Cardinal's hitters off balance most of the game before giving way to Fehseke in the sixth. Bredemeyer gave up two runs on four hits and five walks including a lead-off walk in the first inning that resulted in a run on an error.

"We only wanted to let Nathan throw about 90 pitches so we could have him for Senior Night on Monday,"

See EXTRA INNINGS, page 5

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Sports

Monday is HTC Senior Night; Wilson Bros bringin' on the BBQ

EXTRA INNINGS - Continued from Page 4

Schinstock said. "But he looked really good with strong command of his pitches and was throwing strikes."

Fehseke came in the sixth for the first time on the mound since injuring his arm about three weeks ago and struck out six giving up the two runs in the 10th on just three hits.

"This was a very good team effort. I'm really proud of the way the kids played tonight. Even considering our 12-1 win over Danville, this was the best I've seen them play," Schinstock said.

In addition to the strong pitching game, Schinstock had special praise for catcher Kyle Bredemeyer who went the whole game behind the plate, including throwing out a runner stealing to end the fifth inning.

The Crusaders scored their runs in the fourth

inning when they took a 2-1 lead. Thornton, who went 4-4 on the night with four singles to right-center singled to start the inning. Kyle Bredemeyer flew out to shallow center and then Bahl lined a single to center scoring Thornton who was given second on a balk call. Ben Tinguely popped out to first and Nathan Bredemeyer worked a walk bringing up Kaden Medland. Schinstock came down the line to have a short conversation with Medland who stepped into the box and lined the first pitch to left field scoring Bahl from second. Quentin Schneider grounded to the pitcher on a check swing to end the rally.

Cardinal put up their second run in the top of the sixth after a lead-off walk to Albert and a wild pitch moved him to sec-

ond. Mason Aschenbrenner then singled to right to drive in Albert.

The Crusaders now are now 2-14 on the year and are off until Monday night when Columbus Junction comes to town for a varsity-only 5:30 game. Wilson Bros. BBQ will be on hand serving for a good will donation.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sliding into third, HTC's Ben Tinguely is called safe on a two-out triple that got over the head of the Comets' Tanner Collins in right field in the bottom of the sixth inning Thursday. Tinguely was stranded at third and didn't score.



Beating the tag at second, the Crusader's Collin Thornton slides safely into second in the bottom of the eighth inning. Collin had reached on an error. Thornton would get to third base on a fielder's choice but got stranded when Ben Tinguely flied out to center to end the inning.



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PUBLIC NOTICE
Completion of Five-Year Review
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County Road X-23 Superfund Site
Lee County, Iowa

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed the fifth Five-Year Review for the E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. County Road X-23 Superfund Site. The review is required to assess whether the remedy continues to be protective. EPA has determined that the remedy at this site is protective of human health and the environment. This report was signed May 12, 2017.

EPA has assessed the ability of the local public to access the Five-Year Review report through an internet-based repository, and has determined that the local community has this ability. As a result, the Five-Year Review report for this site is available through the following website:

<https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/07/SC35765>

Questions or requests for site information and/or the five-year review process can be submitted to:

Pamela Houston
U.S. EPA Community Engagement Specialist
Toll-free: 800-223-0425
Email: houston.pamela@epa.gov

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From the Front

Readers asked to share memories for the family

TRIBUTE - Continued from Page 1

I just asked if he had any enemies and the family could only come up with one person. Right there that secured everything I ever thought about him."

Bobby Holtkamp, owner of Holtkamp's Floors, Decor, and Furniture in Fort Madison, said he would always go to Bob for direction.

Holtkamp started his own furniture store and then last year bought his parents' store Floors, Decor, and More and combined the two businesses.

"I always went to him for advice," he said. "If I'm working with a customer and something goes wrong, I think - it's kind of cliché but what would grandpa do - make the customer happy."

During the visitation prior to his grandfather's funeral, Bobby said he heard many stories from people who had been customers or friends or volunteers with his grandfather.

"One story that sticks in my mind was when Mike Hennigar came up and told me when he was little,

around 10 years old, he and his sisters went into the hardware store with a bunch of change and wanted to buy their mom a blender. Mike said they picked out the blender and took it to the cash register. Grandpa was working the cash register that day and they asked him if it was enough. Grandpa said, "It's just perfect." Mike said he knew they had to have been about 10 bucks short but grandpa said they had enough."

Dustin said it was his grandfather's approach to life that will be his legacy.

"I guess his biggest impact on me would be his attitude. He was never not in a good mood. He always brought that undertone everywhere he was. He was just that kind of person.

We heard several comments that he never met a person he didn't like and vice versa. He really was happy go lucky," he said.

"He was a social butterfly. He needed to talk to people, business was secondary to him. His customers were his friends

and business just kind of happened. He was just happy talking to people whomever it was and if he sold some stuff along the way... then he sold some stuff."

YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson said he got to know the Kempkers from being friends with the grandchildren.

"I got to know Bob through being good buddies with his grandkids, Dustin Kempker and Bobby Holtkamp. In doing that I got to know Bob as a person who was always smiling and having a good time. My favorite thing about Bob was when I would ask how he was doing each morning I saw him at the Y. He would respond with a big smile on his face and say 'Super,'" Wilson said.

"I got to know Bob and his wife Barb really well as they would come in every Monday-Wednesday-Friday about 6:25am to work-out. A few years ago we added the TV and coffee to the Y lobby and next thing you knew, that was Bob's

favorite place to be. You could check your watch and at about 7:45am Bob would make his way to the coffee pot, fill his cup, and get HIS chair."

One of the staples of the Kempker household was card parties. Chuck said his parents had a group of couples they would play cards with for the past forty or fifty years.

"I think there's only one man left in that group now," he said.

Sandy said her parents would either host the parties and the kids would play games in other rooms, or her parents would take them to the homes of other group members and they would play there while the adults played cards. Her dad was also involved with local 4-H groups and had a bowling team that frequented local lanes.

"I think they mostly played Euchre. They tried different things at times but that was one of their real joys, building those friendships over time," she said.

She said Bob and her mother have taught them the value of people and community.

"They did wonderful bringing us kids up and they've taught us about people ...about being kind to everybody and helping the community," she said. "He just loved people - smiled all the time. Not a bad bone in his body and he really, really loved making sure there were things for the children to do. He was so excited when the Baxter Sports Complex opened up."

"He was one of a kind," Bobby said. "He always had a smile on his face and when he tells a story he does it with his hands and it always ends up with his right middle finger pointed down spinning and he would always say, 'We're a hummin'."

Editor's Note: The Pen City Current would like to invite our readers to share their stories of Bob and the Kempker family in the website or Facebook comments for the family to reflect upon.



He loved mom. He just adored her and that's what makes this so hard.

- Sandy Holtkamp, Bob's Daughter



If it was right for Fort Madison, he wanted to do it and he did what he could to help.

- Chuck Kempker, Bob's Son



I guess through my eyes grandpa was always larger than life.

- Jason Kempker, Bob's Grandson



He was one of a kind. He always had a smile on his face and when he tells a story he does it with his hands and it always ends up with his right middle finger pointed down spinning and he would always say, 'We're a hummin'."

- Bobby Holtkamp, Bob's Grandson

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Great River Regional Waste Authority will hold a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event during KEMPKER'S TRUE VALUE

FT. MADISON CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT! Saturday June 24th, 2017 ~ 9:00am to 12:00pm

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Great River Regional Waste Authority will be accepting the following Household Hazardous Waste items during Kempker True Value's Fort Madison Customer Appreciation Event!

We encourage you to call ahead and make an appointment for the collection.

NO LATEX PAINT PLEASE!



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 - & MORE!

Call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointed time or to check to see if your items qualify for this event.

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