



# Pen City Current

Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 1

## Armed man dead after Tuesday shooting

*Officer shot armed intruder twice in chest at facility*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – According to releases from the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, a 42-year-old West Point man shot by police at a Fort Madison manufacturing facility Tuesday night has died.

The release also revealed that the man, Robert Allen Elfgren, was carrying a handgun. DCI officials are not releasing any information about the subject pending notification of family.

Per protocol, the name of the officer involved in the shooting is also being

withheld pending interviews with DCI officials.

Departments responding to the incident including Fort Madison Police, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Department of Corrections-Probation and Patrol, Iowa State Penitentiary, West Point and Donnellson Police, Fort Madison Fire Department and Lee County EMS.

Law enforcement was called to the Scotts facility on the city's west side at about 10:56 p.m. where the suspect had entered the building and was running through the building armed before being shot. The shooting incident was a spillover from another incident that happened at about 10:15 in the 3100 block of Avenue O where another male in his 50s was shot in the neck.

The victim was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transferred by air to an area hospital.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Law enforcement officials investigate an officer-involved shooting late Tuesday evening at Scotts Miracle-Gro on Fort Madison's west side. A suspect that ran into the facility was shot by Fort Madison police shortly after 11 p.m.

## Marsden wants to re-open market

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

NIOTA – After an outpouring of support, Kirby Marsden has changed his mind about a different occupation.

The 64-year-old owner of Quality Fisheries in Niota was about to call it quits after his business of 22 years burned to the ground in the early morning hours of Dec. 3.

The fish market, a favorite regionally for fresh, frozen and smoked seafood and fish, caught fire around a smoker on the building's southeast corner. The only thing left standing was a stand-alone freezer stocked with offerings for the winter.

Some of that inventory will



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A Dec. 3 fire destroyed the Quality Fisheries market in Niota. Owner Kirby Marsden said plans are being formulated to open for business again.

be used to hold a fundraiser fish fry at the Fort Madison Elks Club Sunday, December 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elks at 719 Avenue H in Fort Madison. A \$10 free will

donation is being requested for the fish fry that day.

A second benefit for the Marsdens is planned for Feb. 23 at the Pink Tavern in Dallas City. That event will

be a fish and chicken dinner. More details on that, and possibly additional fundraisers will be available on the

See **MARKET**, page 8

## Extension hosts youth ag groups

LEE COUNTY - Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Lee County is promoting Ag careers by encouraging youth in 8th through 12th grade to participate in a Youth Ag Career Group. Each month from January to May, this group will tour a different Ag business and learn what it takes to work in the Ag industry.

"It is never too early to start thinking about the future. We are partnering with Beck's Hybrid, J.J. Nitching Company, Hinterland Dairy, Heartland Co-op and the Southeast Iowa Research Farm to provide educational experiences to help youth start thinking about careers," stated Whitney Weisinger, ISU Extension and Outreach Program Coordinator.

These tours will be on the second Wednesday of every month for 1 to 2 hours starting at 1:00 pm. Transportation will be provided for each tour from the Lee County Extension Office to the business. Departure time will vary depending on location of tour. Parents will be responsible for transportation to and from the Lee County Extension Office.

All tours will be free. To register please contact the Lee County Extension Office at 319-835-5116 by January 1.

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DEBORAH ANN BISHOP

Deborah Ann "Debi" Bishop, 66 of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at her home.

She was born August 27, 1953 in Oklahoma City, OK the daughter of Henry and Berta Lou Bishop Unger. She was united in marriage to Rodney Sewell. He preceded her in death.



BISHOP

In her younger years, Debi had been employed as a medical technician in Santa Barbara, CA. She later was self-employed.

Debi loved crafts and made beautiful jewelry and wood burning gifts and shared them with others.

She is survived by her son, Larry (Nadia) Claudy of Los Angeles, CA, two granddaughters, Mikayla Arianna Bishop and Ashley Ann Bishop, two grandsons, Isaiah W. Claudy and Azriel K. Claudy, three sisters, Sandra (Jerry) Melancon of MD, Deena (Frank) Morales of CA and Nancy (Gary) McCarty of Keokuk and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one son, Damian Michael Bishop and her parents, Henry Unger and Berta Stevenson.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Dawn Butler officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 6-7 p.m., Monday, at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made for her daughter-in-law, Nadia, who has been battling cancer for many years.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time 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.

## OBITUARIES

### JUDY M. FOSS

Judy M. Foss, 72 of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, December 8, 2019 at her home. She was born August 22, 1947 in Kirksville, MO, the daughter of John Leon and Lois Johnson. Judy graduated from Novinger High School in Novinger, MO.



FOSS

She was first married to Kyle Kimmel, he died in 1978. On December 15, 1978 she was united in marriage to Robert Eugene Foss. He preceded her in death on September 13, 2012.

Judy had been employed by Bridgeway/Optimae in Keokuk since 2011.

She enjoyed dancing and also enjoyed taking camping trips. Judy liked watching baseball and was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Judy adored her grandchildren and loved caring for her grandson, Brayden.

Judy is survived by one son, Jason Foss of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Brayden Foss, Karon, Keith and Kyle McClanahan, two great-grandchildren, Jakson and London Jessop, two sisters, two brothers, two nieces and four nephews.

Besides both of her husbands, she was also preceded in death by one daughter, Trudy McClanahan and two nephews.

Services will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Optimae in Keokuk or Chariton Valley Association in Kirksville.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com).

## OBITUARIES

### WENDY ANNE ROBERTS

Wendy Anne Roberts, 47, of Burlington, IA, formerly of Keokuk, IA,

died Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at the Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, IA.

She was born February 12, 1972 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Gary and June Sturm Roberts.

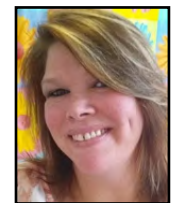
Wendy graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1990.

She had been employed by Keokuk Steel Castings in Keokuk, Methode Electronics in Carthage, IL and Thomas Cardella in Keokuk.

Wendy enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing. She also enjoyed making jewelry, coloring pictures and watching zombie movies. Above all, she adored her grandchildren and loved playing with them.

Wendy is survived by her mother, June Roberts of Burlington, IA, one daughter, Eleni Roberts of Burlington, IA, three sons, Shane Roberts of Keokuk, Ethan Whitt of Hamilton, IL and Deric Whitt of Burlington,

IA, five grandchildren, Zhane Roberts, Amara Roberts, Braxton Roberts, Adalynn Whitt and Bryler Whitt, one sister,



ROBERTS

Shannon Roberts Johnson of Keokuk, three brothers, Glen Roberts (Valerie) of Keokuk, Gene Roberts of Kahoka, MO and Gary Lee Roberts (Janine) of Crawfordsville, IA, several nieces and nephews, including Timothy Johnson of Montrose, IA and aunts and uncles.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gary Roberts and one sister, Angela Roberts.

There will be no services.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com).



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## For the Record/Lottery Numbers

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

12/10/19 – 10:01 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2400 block of Henry Ladyn Drive.

12/10/19 – 1:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4500 block of Avenue O.  
12/10/19 – 8:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2200 block of Avenue C.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

12/10/19 – 8:09 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident east bound on Hwy. 2. According to the report, a vehicle driven by

Brent Michael Krajicek, 21, of Denison, lost control of his vehicle and left the roadway entering a ditch where he spun 360-degrees and rolled on time coming to rest on its wheels. Krajicek left the scene was contact later as part of the investigation and was cited for failure to maintain control. Injuries and circumstances about the accident are unknown at this time.

12/10/19 – 10:33 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Paul Douglas Bowden, 35, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
12/10/19 – 11:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested April Lee Jacob-

son, 51, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for being a fugitive from justice. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

12/10/19 – 5:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Martin Thomas Decker, 27, of Montrose, on a warrants for violation of probation and operating a vehicle without owner's consent. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

12/10/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one false alarm and three medical calls.



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



**12/10**  
18 31 46 54 61 25  
Mega Ball: 25  
Megaplier: 2



**12/10 MID-DAY**  
8 6 8  
**12/10 EVENING**  
4 6 3



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## Sports

# West Hancock keeps Bloodhounds in check

## Titans hold Fort Madison scoreless in 2nd quarter

BY PCC STAFF

WARSAW – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds were held scoreless in the second quarter and lost to host West Hancock 53-25 on Tuesday night.

The Titans got 20 points from Drake Hammel including eight in the first period at they put Fort Madison in a quick hole 16-4 going into the second period. Hammel put up another six in the second period as

the Hounds couldn't find the basket and trailed 29-4 at halftime.

Sophomore Dayton Davis, who'd been averaging close to 15 points per game didn't get on the board until the fourth quarter where he scored six of his team-high eight points.

Senior Jayden Fedler had five points, followed by Reiburn Turnbull with four, Romeo Maestro had three, Michael Mosen and Miles Dear each had two points.

Fort Madison only got to the free throw line eight times and converted just two for a 25% from the line. The Hounds are now 1-3 on the year and travel to

Fairfield (0-3) on Friday in a junior varsity/varsity doubleheader.

On Tuesday, Turnbull led the Fort Madison junior varsity squad with 23 points in a 58-57 nailbiter. Matt Hopper had 10 points in the loss. Landes Williams had eight for Fort Madison.

On Monday, the junior varsity boys downed Keokuk 47-30 behind Turnbull's 17. The Hounds trailed 7-10 at the end of the first quarter but came rushing back with 17-5 run in the second quarter to set up the win.

Phillip Goldie had 10 for Fort Madison. Nathan Wiggins and Tate Johnson each had six in the win.



Holy Trinity Catholic senior Matt Hellige signed on Wednesday to continue his running career at Mt. Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. Hellige was a state qualifier the last two years for Fort Madison in track and the last three years for HTC in cross-country. His best cross-country state finish was his senior year when took 24th at the Class 1A boys run in Fort Dodge. Hellige will run track and cross country for the Mustangs. Congratulations, Matt!

## HTC girls drop first game in last 20

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Holy Trinity Catholic eighth grade girls dropped their first game in almost two years on Monday.

The girls fell to visiting Cardinal 21-29 and move to 8-1 on the year. Mary Kate Bendlage once again led the Crusaders with 13 points. Natalie Randolph added five points, while Taegan Denning chipped in with two and Reagan Holvoet had one point.

The seventh graders also suffered a loss, their second of the season falling to 7-2 on the year with a 14-19 loss.

Isabella Callison had six points, followed by Teagan Snaadt and Anna Bendlage with three each. Ellie Lake had two points on the night.

The Crusaders play at Central Lee Thursday night starting at 4:30 p.m.

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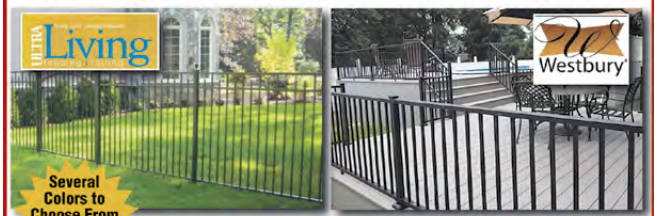
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**Sports**

# Hounds sweep Tuesday mat triangular

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Bloodhound wrestlers swept a home triangular Tuesday night downing Wapello 63-12 and then taking out a short-handed Mediapolis squad 63-11.

In the early contest with Wapello, Mason Schau started the Hounds off with three points on a 9-4 decision at 160 lbs before Nathan Steffensmeier got the Hounds their first pin in just :40 over the Indians' Caleb Ealey.

Levi Lowney would get a 6-3 decision at 195 lbs and Diego Lozano won by forfeit at 220. Danen Settles would get the quickest pin of the night at :28 over Dakota Boline starting a string of falls for the Hounds with Emmett Kruse (106), Matthew Steffensmeier (113), Owen Kruse (120) and Gage Roberts (126) all recording pins.

Roberts was down to Wapello's Elijah Belzer, but turned the tables in the third period and was able to slip out of a hold, score a reversal and get the pin to start the third period.

Mitchell Moore would get a pin over Gavin Wiseman at 132 and the Bulldogs Daniel Meer would score a fall on Tanner Settles at 145. But Jakob McGowan won by decision over Christopher Ewart 8-4 in a match where both wrestlers had chances for falls.

Mediapolis only put up six wrestlers in their match with the Hounds. Emmett Kruse got the first win for Fort Madison with a pin at 106 lbs before Owen Kruse got another pin for the Bloodhounds at 1:06 in the 120 lb match.

Mepo's Quinten Aney scored at 19-4 tech fall over Gage Roberts at 126 lbs. Mason Schau at 160 lbs and Nathan Steffensmeier at 170 were the only other Hounds to take the mat. Schau won by decision and Steffensmeier lost 3-0.

Fort Madison won the other eight matches by forfeit.

Fort Madison travels to Liberty Wentzville High School in Wentzville, Missouri on Saturday for a 19-school invitational.

The complete results are listed below:

Fort Madison (FOMA) 63.0 Wapello (WAPE) 12.0 160: Mason Schau (FOMA) over Evan Ross (WAPE) (Dec 9-4) 170: Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Caleb Ealey (WAPE) (Fall 0:40) 182: Chance Hocker (FOMA) over (WAPE) (For.) 195: Levi Lowney (FOMA) over Owen Housman (WAPE) (Dec 6-3) 220: Diego Lozano (FOMA) over (WAPE) (For.) 285: Danen Settles (FOMA) over Dakota Boline (WAPE) (Fall 0:28) 106: Emmett Kruse (FOMA) over Dawson Tipps (WAPE) (Fall 1:33) 113: Matthew Steffensmeier (FOMA) over Garret Dickey (WAPE) (Fall 1:15) 120: Owen Kruse (FOMA) over Chase Witte (WAPE) (Fall 3:44) 126: Gage Roberts (FOMA) over Elijah Belzer (WAPE) (Fall 5:20) 132: Mitchell Moore (WAPE) over Gavin Wiseman (FOMA) (Fall 2:21) 138: Will Larson (FOMA) over (WAPE) (For.) 145: Daniel Meeker (WAPE) over Tanner Settles (FOMA) (Fall 5:02) 152: Jakob McGowan (FOMA) over Christopher Ewart (WAPE) (Dec 8-4)

Fort Madison (FOMA) 63.0 Mediapolis (MEDI) 11.0 182: Chance Hocker (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 195: Levi Lowney (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 220: Keegan Akers (MEDI) over Diego Lozano (FOMA) (Dec 5-1) 285: Danen Settles (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 106: Emmett Kruse (FOMA) over Mak Kennedy (MEDI) (Fall 0:39) 113: Matthew Steffensmeier (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 120: Owen Kruse (FOMA) over Owen Russell (MEDI) (Fall 1:02) 126: Quinten Aney (MEDI) over Gage Roberts (FOMA) (TF 19-4 2:08) 132: Gavin Wiseman (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 138: Will Larson (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 145: Tanner Settles (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 152: Jakob McGowan (FOMA) over (MEDI) (For.) 160: Mason Schau (FOMA) over Lucas Wagenbach (MEDI) (Dec 9-4) 170: Caden Benz (MEDI) over Nathan Steffensmeier (FOMA) (Dec 3-0)



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Fort Madison's Gage Roberts gets a reversal working on Wapello's Elijah Belzer at 126 lbs as part of the triangular Wednesday night in Fort Madison. Roberts would score a pin in the third period to help lead the Hounds to a 63-12 win in the night's first match. Below, Fort Madison's Owen Kruse closes in on a pin in the 120 lb match with Wapello's Chase Witte Tuesday night in Fort Madison.





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**If you have any questions, please contact**  
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<p><i>#1: Traditions</i></p> <p>Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00pm</p>	<p><i>#2: Listen</i></p> <p>Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00pm</p>	<p><i>#3: Connect</i></p> <p>Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00pm</p>
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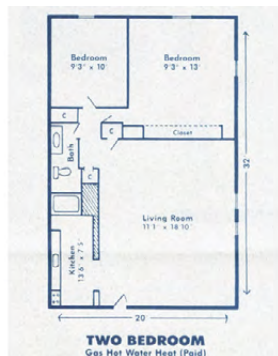
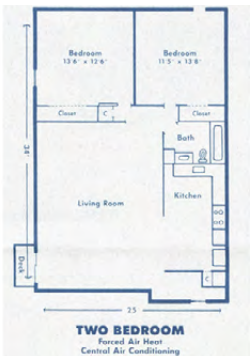
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## Scene Around the Area/From the Front

# Fishery had 90 minutes of fame with Alton Brown

### MARKET - Continued from Page 1

Quality Fisheries website at [www.niotafishmarket.com](http://www.niotafishmarket.com).

Marsden said after the fire he thought maybe it was time to try something else.

"I'm 64 and I thought about going and doing something else for a while," he said.

"But we've had a big response from the public, longtime employees, and long time fisherman who don't have a place to sell. And we've had an outpouring from the customers. So someday... somehow, we'll either rebuild or find a suitable building we can move into."

Moving into another building in the area might be the least expensive and quickest way to get back to operations, he said.

Insurance on the building was only about 1/4 of what it would cost to rebuild. Marsden said the facility was old and he had trouble finding an insurance company that would insure it at replacement value.

"We're weighing several options and we do plan on being back in operations as soon as possible," he said.

"When the benefits are all done and insurance company has settled, we'll adder up and see what we can get done."

Despite the fire and income coming to an immediate halt, Marsden said he still has bills to pay and was able to get a lot of payments off to fisherman and vendors this week.

The fire was actually spotted by a volunteer Niota fireman who happened to be traveling by the market at about 12:45 a.m. and saw the fire in the corner of the building and called for help.

"They called me and I got down there a little after 1 a.m. and it was pretty well engulfed by then," he said.

"We don't know exactly what caused it, but we were smoking fish that night. That's the first thing we suspected."

Marsden said there was also a natural gas valve in that area too that was fueling the fire. He said firefighters got that shut off quickly, but it was too late.

The market is a storied outlet. Marsden purchased the building in 1997 and has been running wholesale and retail sales since that time. The market was originally owned and operated by John Haigh, who also owned the Riverview Super Club in Dallas City.

"A lot of people knew John. He was a pretty big name around here and started the fish market in 1955...64 years ago."

Haigh operated the market and the restaurant for many years before selling to another man, who then sold to Marsden who moved to the area after selling fish wholesale in the Chicago area.

"I loved that business and being in the big city," he said.

"The only reason I moved back here was I was having back issues and my doctor told me to get out of the trucks or I'd be in a wheel chair. I took him at his word."

In 1997 the Marsdens completely remodeled the market and brought it up to food-grade standards, and then started making a name for themselves with area and regional fisherman.

He said revenues from the market increased every year as he built the business and established relationships not only

with customers from as far away as the Quad Cities, but also with fisherman from all around the Midwest.

He said Food Network celebrity Alton Brown stopped into the market for about an hour one afternoon when he was filming for his show "Good Eats". Brown was on a tour of the Mississippi River from New Orleans to the river's beginning at Lake Itasca in Minnesota.

"He was on a motorcycle but had a crew of about eight people and came in and tried the fish," Marsden said.

"One of his scouts found out about us and he included us on the trip. He stayed for about an hour and half. It was a really neat experience and it ended up in his book."

The family ended up making friends with the customer base at the market over the years, and began seeing people week in and week out.

"We carried some unique items and we always carried top-grade, which makes a huge difference," he said.

"We developed a big following and our smoked fish became a big hit. It was a very big deal for Niota, I think."

Marsden is planning a large sale several days before Christmas where he will sell the remaining frozen fish and seafood that was saved in the freezer. He said more details on that will come later. Customers can sign up for news and updates at the website.

There is also a GoFund me page set up at [www.gofundme.com/f/quality-fisheries](http://www.gofundme.com/f/quality-fisheries) where individuals can make donations to help get the Marsden family back in business. A Facebook page is also updated regularly with new information at [www.facebook.com/QualityFisheries/](http://www.facebook.com/QualityFisheries/).



The Lee County Health Department unveiled its Trees of Love last week at the LCHD offices in Fort Madison. Pictured left to right: Janie Johnson, LCHD Administrative Assistant; Jeri Giebelhausen, LCHD Volunteer Coordinator; Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator; Becky Worster, LCHD Community Health & Nursing Program Director; Larry Wallingford, LCHD-Hospice Chaplain



A Tree of Love was also housed at UnityPoint Health of Keokuk. Pictured left to right are: Jeri Giebelhausen, LCHD Volunteer Coordinator; Rita Hickey, LCHD Volunteer; Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator; Vickie Reneau, UnityPoint Health-Keokuk Administrator; Larry Wallingford, LCHD-Hospice Chaplain; Becky Worster, LCHD Community Health & Nursing Program Director.

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## HOLIDAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.  
at our Donnellson, Iowa location**

The service will include lighting a candle for those we have lost this past year & a glass ornament will be given to each family in remembrance of your lost loved one. If you're unable to attend the service, you may receive your ornament at the following locations:

**Schmitz Funeral Home, Farmington, IA  
Thursday, December 12, 3-4:30 p.m.**

**Schmitz - Banks & Beals Funeral Home, Nauvoo, IL  
Friday, December 13, 3-4:30 p.m.**

**Schmitz Funeral Home, West Point, IA  
Saturday, December 14, 9-10 a.m.**

*We hope you find peace during this season.*

*Sincerely - Brian Schmitz, Mitch Beals, Wendy Vonderhaar, Jan Loges,  
Cody Warth, Dave Dingman, John King, & Lyndsey Schmitz*



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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 12 Dec



Overcast

High- 45.1° F | Low - 38.7° F

FRI 13 Dec



Overcast

High- 44.3° F | Low - 37.3° F

SAT 14 Dec



Light Snow

High- 25.1° F | Low - 19.3° F

SUN 15 Dec



Snow

High- 24.7° F | Low - 24.2° F

MON 16 Dec



Heavy Snow

High- 26.5° F | Low - 10.1° F

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