

# Pen City Current

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## 2018 - A Year in Review

September & October

### No outlaws here

# These Pigs ride straight

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

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

on the back indicating their membership in Renegade Pigs as the only Iowa Chapter. Benda said the three patches they wear on their backs can be confusing to other riders.

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

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

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



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

these guys are home."

Benda said the club has met with Mayor Brad Randolph and most of the police officers in

town so they are aware of the club's activities and makeup.

See **BIKERS**, page 13



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Montrose man nabbed on meth charge

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Montrose, Iowa man on a felony drug charge.

Jason Hartman, 38, of Montrose, Iowa was arrested on Sept. 11th, 2018 on a felony drug charge. Hartman is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted, Hartman faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.



HARTMAN

The arrest of Hartman stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal

drugs in the Lee County area.

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

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

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 9,043 times and was engaged with 3,138 times.*



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Kim and Megan Shacklett, Lisa Lihs, and Lisa Edwards stand with the Lee County Bank booth at the North Lee County Relay for Life.

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2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Club becomes a brotherhood for those chosen

## BIKERS - Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

**Mike Fullenkamp**, a firefighter with the Fort Madison Fire Department said the group and the riding is therapy for him.

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

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

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

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

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

They found a club in the Quad Cities, but wanted to form their own. Renegade Pigs national charter requires a minimum of five members in a club and the two couldn't get three additional members who fit, so they joined the Quad Cities group and drove four hours each month to the meetings.

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

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

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

Adam and Strunk.

“I got in in 2017 when I patched in. Originally I didn't have a bike, but I ended up getting a bike. I knew Benda and Strunk, but I didn't know anybody else,” Cartwright said.

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

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

“I drove up to the meeting and it was cold and somebody looked out and said, ‘Wholly crap somebody rode a Honda up here?!’”, he said to laughs from the group.

“I ended up having dinner with them and met everyone and I eventually ended up training my Honda in for what I call a Dirty Sally, and my Dirty Sally is a Harley Davidson Ultra Classic.” he said to more laughs.

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

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

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

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

“I'm gonna be 66 next month and I intend to keep riding and stay with the club until I get too old to ride. Then maybe I'll find a trike with a reverse.”

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

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

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

“It's exhausting, man. Everywhere we go we read people. It's our instinct and

“

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

-Randy Strunk  
Renegade Pig

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

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

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

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

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

*This feature story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 19,956 times and was engaged with 6,895 times.*



2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

*"It hasn't hit me I'm an IRONMAN yet."*

-Fort Madison's Wes Holtkamp

# Holtkamp now an IRONMAN

30-year-old finishes grueling 14-hour Maryland event on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay Saturday in first-ever attempt

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

Holtkamp, and an entourage of family, trekked to Cambridge, Maryland over the weekend where he completed in the IRONMAN Maryland 2018. A grueling 140+ mile event where the Fort Madison native swam 2.4 miles in the Choptank River, a salt water tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, then biked 112 miles in a dual loop through the hills of Cambridge, and then ran a full marathon through Cambridge, finishing on the city's historic Long

CAMBRIDGE, Maryland - "It hasn't hit me yet that I'm an IRONMAN".

Fort Madison's Wes Holtkamp is an IRONMAN.

Not because it was on his bucket list. Not because someone challenged him. Not because he always wanted to be an IRONMAN. But be-



cause....and people who know Wes will agree....it looked like fun.

Wharf.

"Two and half to three years ago, I decided



Photos courtesy of Bobby Holtkamp

*"It's a whole different ballgame at this level. You're not allowed to use audio. You're out there 14 hours just thinking and paying attention to your body. Fighting through the pain and cramping."*

-Wes Holtkamp, IRONMAN participant

I was going to do IRONMAN," Holtkamp said from the family's rented home in Maryland. "I had done a sprint triathlon and I liked it so I told myself I think I can push a 70.3 IRONMAN."

The 70.3 are shorter versions of the full IRONMAN competitions and Holtkamp said he started training in 2016 for the Haines City IRONMAN 70.3 that he said he would know more about what he was getting into.

"It's a whole different ball game at this level," he said. "You're not allowed to use audio. You're out there 14 hours just thinking and paying attention to your body. Fighting through pain and cramping."

He said the family got out to the location on Friday and started setting up itineraries as to where he would be at certain times during the day. The day also provided an opportunity for Holtkamp to set up gear for transitions and started to mentally prepare

for what Saturday would bring.

Saturday morning was an early rise at 4 a.m. with a light protein breakfast of hard-boiled eggs and peanut butter toast. Holtkamp said he didn't want so much in his stomach that it became an issue during the day.

"Once we got there a little after 5, I got stretched out, and then I just watched the water and got my heart rate down," he said.

At about 6:30 a.m. he said he put his wet suit on. The water in the bay was about 73 degrees which permitted the swimmers to wear wet suits for warmth. Participants were lined up based on how fast each swimmer thinks they will complete the course. Holtkamp said he planned on a 1 hour, 45 minute swim, because he'd been training in a pool and not in actual water, but he knew his time in the pool was quicker.

"Once I got in the water I felt great and I made the course in 1:21. You have to swim two loops on the course which was like a box and you go through a chute where they get your time for the first half. You have to hit a time or you can get a Did Not Qualify and I didn't want that so I pushed it. When I saw the first time was down, the second lap I swam in faster."

After exiting the water and running to the bike, Holtkamp said he felt fantastic and having the family there cheering him on pushed him to get on the bike and start the 112 mile ride.

"Coming out and hearing the family

screaming was a feeling I just can't explain. It was awesome," he said.

The bike course was a looped course as well, with a total elevation gain of about 1,500 feet throughout the course that started and ended at the same point. Holtkamp said he was able to meet up with the support crew at 24 miles and again at 60 miles, and each time it provided him with a renewed adrenaline. At the 60-mile point he was able to stop and snarf down a PB&J within three to four minutes and then headed back onto the course.

He said he set a goal to get the first 20 miles out of the way before he would consider a break, but he pushed through to the first 24-mile support group meet up when he chugged a Gatorade in 30 seconds and then took off. Then every 10 miles after that he would grab a water and do a quick leg stretch on the bike and be off again. He finished the cycling portion in under seven hours and then moved to the 26.2 mile marathon.

Entering the running portion, Holtkamp told himself it didn't matter how long it took, he was going to finish

"Once I got off the bike, I just knew I had 26 miles, I was going to get there. I don't care how long it takes me I'm just going to keep going forward. Even when I stopped running it was a walk. I never stopped moving forward and knew I was getting closer," he said.

"It's one of those feelings - I made it this far, but I have so far to go.

See **HOLTKAMP**, page 8

## SENIOR COMMUNITY BINGO

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Turning Hope into Reality

2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Not finishing was not an option as the day went on

**HOLTKAMP** - Continued from Page 1

You see mile markers and I set goals every 10 miles where they had tables for volunteers handing out nutrition. The end goal was just to finish for me.”

He said at that point, his forearms were burning more than his legs because of gripping the handle bars and that was different than what he expected, but shaking his hands out as the run started helped bring feeling back into his fingers.

The pain then shifted to his legs and calf muscles, but he said he didn't get that pain until about 15 or 16 miles in and he was feeling pretty good up to that point.

“We had a stretch that shifted from concrete to a grassy area and I don't know if that transition threw my legs to a different feeling, but that's where it really started to hurt and I started cramping,” he said.

“That's where the mental battles started and it was a rough last half hour for sure.”

He said he fought for the last hour or so and then the last mile was a siege on his senses.

“I fought through it four an hour and then the last mile it really hit me, but I was bound and determined to get across the finish line. I told myself I could cry after that, but I was gonna make it,” he said.

“The last mile you run though the downtown area, and the atmosphere was electric and was awesome ...and then you hear everyone chanting. -- ‘You're an IRONMAN...You're an IRONMAN. I have to get there.’”

As he ran through the town he saw people who had collapsed and couldn't finish the run.

“I saw a lot of people go down along the way and I didn't want to have that happen. My heart was breaking for those people, because the athletes themselves are spectacular. They work together to get through the race. I had a local guy run with me for a couple of miles and that was good for both of us to help each other through that part.”

Fourteen hours, two minutes, and one second after running into the cool Chesapeake Bay waters, Wes Holtkamp ran under a banner and passed the high tech gadgetry that recorded his final time into a database that recorded him in 872 out of 1,462 participants, 641st out of all men, and 68th out of 104 men ages 30 to 34.

Wes' support group included Sandy and Dave Holtkamp, his mother and father, Bobby and Jessica Holtkamp, his brother and sister-in-law, Scott and Abby Holtkamp, his oldest brother and sister-in-law, and his girlfriend Jenny.

“You hit this wall - and then you hear someone

call your name and you push through. They were awesome. They were loud and I always knew they were around, even if they weren't physically with me, I knew they were there and if something went wrong and I didn't finish, they were going to be there celebrating with me for what I did get done. It was very emotional for me at times and it helped me find that next level.”

Holtkamp said he was also humbled the outpouring of support from back home in texts and social media posts.

“I had a lot of messages and phone calls from people in Fort Madison who wished me luck the night before and that's awesome, too. Knowing that whatever happens happens and all these people have your back. That pushed me, too.”

“It was a lot of thinking and knowing I'd set this goal nine months ago,” he said. “I started training and part of that was training mentally. I'm gonna do it. Whatever it takes I need to to cross that finish line.”

The 14-hour time was pleasing to Holtkamp but he said his goal now is to deal with the soreness and make sure he's healthy, but he said he felt good and was going to celebrate with a bottle of champagne and have an easy day.

“I haven't done a lot of research on how to come down from a long day like that. I'm sure today's going to involve a lot of Icy Hot and walking. I don't want to sit because I don't want to stiffen up and need to keep the blood flowing. My toes have been numb



Photos courtesy of Bobby Holtkamp

Fort Madison's Wes Holtkamp celebrates his finish with the IRONMAN Maryland competition held Saturday in Cambridge, Maryland. Holtkamp said the reward of the hard work was worth the challenge.

since the end, but I have read up on that and they say that's normal and will return with time. At least that's what the Internet says,” he said with a laugh.

The future may hold some shorter distance events that involve three or four hour works.

“The all day thing, I don't see myself doing another one. Obviously, with the sweat and tears I put in, the outcome was fantastic. But I may look at doing Warrior dashes or something like that. I see these things and pick 'em as I go. I say, ‘Hey that looks like fun,’ and then I set goals and just try to achieve them. I don't even know what the next thing is.”

Holtkamp said this isn't something you do every-day and probably won't ever do again.

...But you never know.

This feature story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 15,004 times and was engaged with 3,758 times.



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## 2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Police looking for two of three stolen vehicles

*Three vehicles swiped in 24 hours, one located in Quad Cities*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Area law enforcement agencies are on the lookout for two cars that were stolen in the past 24 hours. A third vehicle that was also stolen locally in that time frame was recovered in the Quad Cities.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, the other vehicle is still missing.

“On Saturday night, Sunday morning, there was reported a gray, 2007 Ford Edge missing from a hotel in town. This vehicle has been recovered in Illinois near

the Quad Cities area and the owner has been contacted. This case is still under investigation and charges may be pending in this case.

“The second car was reported stolen early Monday morning from the 2100 block of Ave. I and is described as a white 2004 Toyota Camry, Iowa License CQJ821 Ia. This vehicle has not yet been recovered.”

Sittig said there are no suspects at this time involving the second theft.

There was also another vehicle reported stolen in Lee County overnight and Sittig said it is unknown if these cases are related or not.

Donnellson/West Point police chief Brad Roberts said he is investigating a third vehicle theft of a white 2004 Toyota off property in Donnellson. He said the vehicle shouldn't be hard to identify because he believes

the front and back bumpers are zip tied to the frame and there is a butterfly print on the seat covers.

The thefts could also be related to garage break-ins where tools and other implements have been reported missing.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said he was alerted to the three vehicle thefts and said these, again, appear to be crimes of opportunity. He said residents need to take proper precautions with their vehicle and belongings.

“It seems to be from people leaving keys in their cars,” Weber said. “We would just remind people to make sure you get your keys out and lock your doors. Make yourself a tough target.”

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 8,752 times and was engaged with 2,852 times.*

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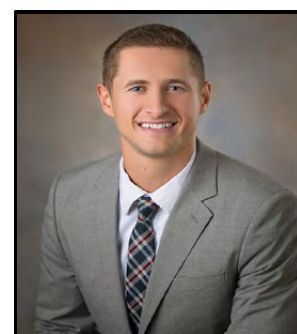


## HTC project ahead of schedule



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Construction crews from SG Construction of Burlington lift and install a 46-ton three-story concrete pre-fabricated wall Thursday morning to what will be the new \$6 million Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School in West Point.



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2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Scotts staff cleans up community garden

About 50 show up for a day of pulling weeds and resetting garden for the spring

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It may not have been the “Miracle” the company’s brand had in mind, but the transformation Monday of the Fort Madison Community Garden in just three hours was pretty miraculous.

Just over 50 full-time staffers from the Scott’s Miracle Gro facility in Fort Madison descended on the 200’x75’ plot behind the Hy-Vee, property that’s been designated as the Fort Madison Food Pantry Garden for the past five years.

Scotts Miracle-Gro has been the primary sponsor of the garden plot since its inception. Dale Heidbreder, the technical manager for the Fort Madison Scotts facility, organized the fall clean up of the garden after all the produce had been removed.

The company originally provided most of the materials and tools needed to build and sustain the garden, and then fenced it in with a heavy, black chain link fence. They also paid to have two hydrants put in the property and ran irrigation hoses throughout the planting beds. The produce from the garden is tended to and harvested by volunteers with the United Way RSVP program and donated to the local food pantry.

“What I liked about it, and when Scotts decided to get involved, aside from providing for the food pantry, is we used it to teach kids about gardening,” Heidbreder said.

“We used to get a lot of kids in there and we’d let them plant the seeds and different things and it really worked out well for the little ones.”

Heidbreder said he’d like to see more of that kind of education going on with the students in the area.

“We’re always looking for future growers, of course, being Scotts,” he said.

The Fort Madison High School built the storage shed on site and the United Way of the Great River Region’s



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Employees from Scotts Miracle-Gro get to work cleaning up the Fort Madison Food Pantry’s Community Garden Monday morning behind Hy-Vee in the 2600 block of Avenue L. Employees get to take advantage of a Scotts program that allows employees 16 hours of paid time a year to give back to their communities.

RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) received a grant to put in the cement pad the building sits on.

Heidbreder said the staff was able to come out and work as part of Scotts Give Back to Grow program, where all full-time employees can work up to 16 hours paid, in service to the communities they live in.

“We pay people 16 hours for the chance to go out and give back to the community and do this kind of work,” he said. “All of our full-time associates can do that. It has to be a non-profit and if it’s around the food pantry, or educating on gardening, as we obviously support that.”

“We get our regular pay while we’re out here volunteering,” said Karen McGraw of Argyle, a 21-year employee.

“On a nice day like today, I’d much rather be outside.

We don’t have a lot of windows in the factory, so it’s nice to be outside.”

McGraw said she was unaware that the company was involved in the program, and that the food went to local needy families.

Heidbreder said the garden, as it is, is growing enough produce to keep the food pantry stocked with vegetables. But he said there is room on the west end of the garden to expand.

“Right now it’s probably producing enough for what they need, but we have more space to the west by the sign if we need it,” he said.

The crews started pulling weeds and pulling vining plants off the the black, heavy chain link fencing. Heidbreder divided the crews into 10 teams. By 11:30 all

See SCOTTS, page 8

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2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Scotts wants young gardeners

**SCOTTS** - Continued from Page 7

the weeds had been pulled and raked and all the garden beds had been cleaned and raked. The only remnant of the garden were the leafy stems of asparagus on the west side. He said those would be left until frost, and then they would be cut down to the stalks.

“This isn’t easy work. It’s messy work and stinky work, but it’s good they can get out of the factory for a while.”

Tammy Hudson, the director of the Great River Region United Way’s RSVP program, said volunteers and Scotts staffing helped fill the pantry with produce this year.

“I feel that without the volunteers who came every week to pick produce, weed eat, etc. the garden wouldn’t have done as well as it did. I feel that the garden produced quite a bit of produce such as; green peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers. I also liked the willingness of volunteers to undertake this garden project and do whatever needed to be done on a weekly basis to keep it going,” she said.

Jenna Lozano, who just started full-time and didn’t know the garden was used to provide healthy food choices to families in need, said she enjoyed being out and helping with a good cause.

Michelle White, an 18-year employee at the facility on the city’s west side, said it was a learning experience for her.

“It was very educating. You’d never done it before and knowing what they do - what Scotts does over here and for the community was interesting, because I had no clue,” she said. “You’re contributing and you’re helping out with the community. It’s different coming out and seeing everything because I’d never done it before. We got together as a team and everybody just went and did it.”

Heidbreder said it was the most productive crew he’s had on the site.

“I have had a lot of work crews down here, but it’s been mostly management. But this is the best crew I’ve ever had down here,” Heidbreder told the group to applause.

Then they ate pizza....provided by Scotts.

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 7,901 times and was engaged with 1,327 times.*

# Sheriff’s office looking for escapee

MONTROSE - The Lee County Sheriff’s office is looking for an escapee and is asking the public for help in locating the individual.

Shawn DeHaven left the Lee County Jail this morning for a court-ordered work release and removed his GPS ankle monitor and is being sought for escape.

If you have any information about where he might be at, please contact your local Law Enforcement Agency or 911.



DEHAVEN

DeHaven has a dangerous history of eluding officers and leading law enforcement on chases through residential areas.

In November, the sheriff’s department received information through a CrimeStoppers tip that DeHaven, 46, of Fort Madison, who was wanted for assaulting a peace officer in connection with a high speed chase in Fort Madison where he allegedly rammed a Lee County Sheriff’s vehicle causing major damage but no injuries. That chase took place on April 7 and originated out of Des Moines County. DeHaven was spotted by witnesses who reported it to CrimeStoppers.

Local law enforcement were notified and began pursuing DeHaven on County Road 103 before the suspect pulled over his vehicle and took off on foot. Chief Deputy Will Conlee and a reserve deputy, Gayle Williams, chased DeHaven and Conlee eventually used a TASER to end the chase.

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 19,182 times and was engaged with 5,640 times.*

# Bloodhounds look for answers at Washington



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Bloodhounds’ Danen Settles (57) and Diego Lozano, try to wrap up Fairfield’s Xavier Kapijimpanga (8) in Friday’s 42-14 loss to the Trojans. The Hounds have another tough test tonight at 3-3 Washington.

# Bikers line up QBall for students



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Students from Kim Fullenkamp’s 2nd Grade class at Richardson pose with Renegade Pigs Adam Benda, back left, Randy Strunk, middle, and Andrew Cartwright, right whose group purchased a QBall that amplifies students voices in the classroom.

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2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Saturday mishap claims two lives on Hwy. 2

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - A two-vehicle accident on Hwy 2 west of Fort Madison has claimed the lives of two motorists.

Emergency crews responded to the accident near Appleberry Orchard about three miles west of Fort Madison at about noon Saturday morning where a west bound vehicle and an eastbound vehicle collided head on.

LeeComm dispatched Lee County Sheriff's Department and Lee County EMS ambulance services to the accident where both motorists were entrapped. Donnellson Fire & Rescue personnel were also immediately dispatched. Upon arrival, sheriff's deputies found the vehicles smoke-filled and then reported the vehicles, a white SUV and a black passenger vehicle, were both engulfed in flames on the south side of the highway.

West Point Fire & Rescue personnel were also dispatched to the scene as were Iowa State Patrol, Iowa Department of Transportation. Pen City Current will update this story as more information becomes available.

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 62,759 times and was engaged with 35,859 times.*



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Emergency responders were called to the scene of a double fatality, two-vehicle accident Saturday just after noon on Hwy 2, about three miles west of Fort Madison.

## Illinois man ID'd in weekend tragedy

*Hamilton's Vincent Seaver one of two killed in Saturday head-on collision near FM*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Iowa State Patrol has identified a Hamilton, Ill., man as one of the victims of a two-car collision that resulted in two fatalities on Saturday morning near Fort Madison.

A two-vehicle, head-on collision that claimed the lives of the two drivers is still being investigated by the Iowa State Patrol. The collision occurred on Highway 2 about three miles east of Fort Madison near Appleberry Orchard and 248th Avenue at 11:53 a.m.

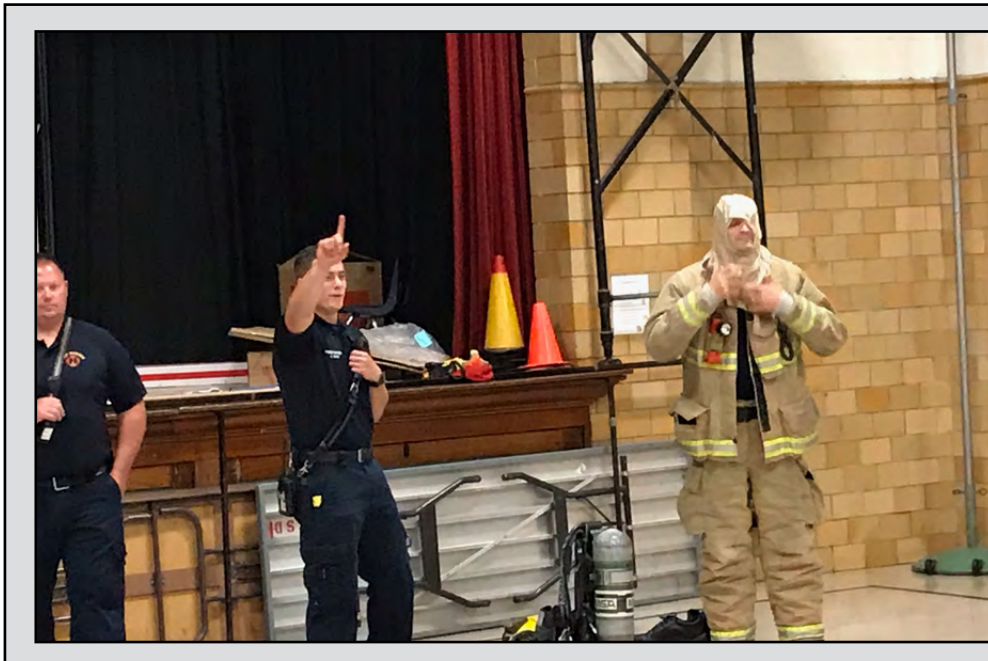
According to a crash report issued by the Iowa State Patrol late Sunday night, the identity of one of the drivers is being withheld "pending further identification". The other victim is listed as Vincent Seaver, 47, of Hamilton. The victims were both taken to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

According to the report A light-colored 2004 Ford Expedition was heading westbound on Hwy. 2, crossed the centerline, and struck Seaver's 2010 dark-colored Chevrolet Malibu. Both vehicles came to rest on the south shoulder where both vehicles then became fully engulfed in flames before the victims could be extricated.

Lee County Sheriff's deputies and Donnellson Fire and Rescue were paged to the scene by LeeComm dispatchers. The first deputies on the scene immediately requested additional fire support as smoke and fire were visible from both vehicles.

West Point Fire & Rescue personnel, as well as West Point/Donnellson police, were also dispatched to the scene as were Iowa State Patrol troopers, Iowa Department of Transportation officials, and several utility personnel. Pen City Current will update this story as more information becomes available.

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 21,695 times and was engaged with 12,346 times.*



Fort Madison firefighters toured Fort Madison schools last week as a precursor to National Fire Prevention Week. The FMFD will be hosting groups at the fire station this week.

Photo courtesy of Fort Madison Fire Department

*There's  
Snow Place  
Like Home  
for the  
Holidays.*



Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, December 23 through Tuesday, January 1. Our special 2018 Recap editions will publish Wednesday, January 2 through Tuesday, January 8. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

*As we enjoy the holidays with family and friends,  
we thank you for your support and patronage and  
wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*

Pen City  
current

2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Keokuk PD makes KPLAY theft, forgery arrest

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - A Keokuk man has been arrested in connection with the misuse of funds and forgery associated with the non-profit KPLAY organization.

On Wednesday Keokuk Police Chief Dave Hinton released the arrest of Stephen Tyler McGhghy of rural Keokuk, age 36, at 10:15 a.m. He was charged with 2nd-degree theft and four counts of forgery.

"On October 24th, 2018, on a warrant for Theft 2nd Degree and, Four Counts of Forgery. The arrest is the result of an investigation into the misappropriation of money donated to a local non-profit organization, which



MCGHGHY

McGhghy was serving as the president of. The investigation was conducted by the Keokuk Police Department and the Lee County Attorney's Office," the release indicated.

Hinton said the forgery instruments were checks, but wouldn't elaborate on the value assessed to the alleged thefts, as the case is still being investigated

According to Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, McGhghy is facing five class D felonies, with each carrying a maximum five-year prison sentence, if convicted.

In addition to the 25 years potential prison penalty,

Ross said the felonies also could carry restitution and fines of anywhere between \$750 and \$7,500 per felony. Theft of property valued at \$1,000 to \$10,000 is considered 2nd-degree theft in the state of Iowa. No hearing dates have been set.

McGhghy was taken to the Lee County Jail where he was booked and then bonded out on a \$5,000 cash bond.

KPLAY was the group responsible for helping bring Bentley's Playground to the city's Tolmie Park.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*This breaking news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 11,514 times and was engaged with 4,635 times.*

## State Patrol names other victim of Oct. 6 crash

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY - The Iowa State Patrol has identified 26-year-old Taylor Joseph Ruble of Afton as the second victim in a fiery two-vehicle collision west of Fort Madison on Hwy. 2 Oct. 6. that claimed two lives.

Vincent Seaver, 47 of Hamilton, Ill., was identified as the other victim of the Saturday morning tragedy. Seaver's name was released the day of the investigation, but Iowa State Patrol officials didn't release the name of Ruble pending further identification.

The ISP crash reporting website didn't update the report and only holds about eight days worth of reports so the name was never listed on a published report. ISP officials said this morning the name had been on the report for some time, but doesn't get updated on the website.

Pen City Current only inquired today about the second name at which time ISP officials in Mt. Pleasant indicated the name had been released.

The collision occurred on Highway 2 about three miles east of Fort Madison near Appleberry Orchard and 248th Avenue at 11:53 a.m.

*This breaking news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 10,772 times and was engaged with 4,984 times.*

## Sheriff issues warning about roadway hazards

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber issued a warning Thursday afternoon to motorists regarding large rocks being left in the middle of Hwy 61.

Weber said he wasn't sure if the recurring problem is an issue of vandals trying to damage cars or if trucks are dropping the rocks in transit to and from construction locations.

"I really don't know how it's happening but we're seeing more and more occurrences and motorists need to exercise caution, especially at night," Weber said. "At 65 mph you can still see, but when you're going over that speed limit on the highways you can outrun your headlights and can hit these things and there doing some damage to cars."

The Lee County Sheriff's Department's Facebook page had the following warning posted late this after-

noon.

"We want to make sure the public is aware of something. Over the past two years, We have investigated numerous complaints of large rocks left on Highway 61 from as far north as the old Highway 61 turn off to as far south as Airport Road. These items left in the roadway, especially at night, have caused multiple accidents and luckily, no one has been injured. We ask the public to be aware of this and if you know of anyone who might have information as to whom is responsible, we urge you to report it to us."

The warning also indicated that information could be turned over to Lee County Crimestoppers where rewards up to \$1,000 could be available for criminal information that leads to an arrest. Crime Stopper information can be left at 1-800-382-8900.

*This news story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 9,942 times and was engaged with 2,227 times.*



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Matt Hellige (1053) comes down the final chute in the 2017 State Cross-Country meet on Oct. 28 last year. Hellige will return to try and improve on his 90th place finish this Saturday in Fort Dodge. Below left, Hellige does stretching drills after a mile run as part of Wednesday's workout.



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2018 - A Year in Review: September & October

# Bloodhounds end season with road win

*Crazy start involves onside, fumble, interception in first four plays of game*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds survived what can only be described as the goofiest first two minutes of football most of the spectators had ever seen, to wrap up the 2018 season on a winning note.

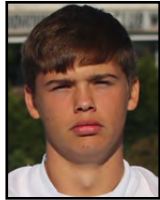
The Hounds disposed of a spunky Keokuk Chiefs team 35-14 to wrap up Class 3A District 6 football action for both the teams. The Bloodhounds finish the season 3-6, a game off the 4-5 inaugural season for Head Coach Tony Shiffman. The Chiefs finish the season at 1-8.

The Hounds were preparing for the Chiefs to throw everything at them in both teams' final game, but botched an opening game onside kick. The Chiefs recovered at the Hound 49-yard line and, after an Eddie Lee 2-yard loss on the first carry, quarterback Cory Skinner mishandled the snap on 2nd and 12 and the Bloodhounds' senior Sam Avery recovered at the Hounds' 39.

Lennon Barker then took a shotgun snap on the Hounds first possession, rolled right, and threw an interception at the the Chiefs' 31.

The Chiefs' Braylon Martinez took the first snap after the pick and bounced to the right sideline and shot 54 yards to the Hounds' 15. Two plays later Skinner hit Martinez for a 14-yard touchdown to put Keokuk up 6-0 at the 10:15 mark. The two-point conversion failed.

The Chiefs tried another onside kick, but Harley Pennamon covered the ball at the 50. Barker found Parker Denning for a 6-yard gain on 1st and 10 and then hooked up with senior Trey Kuntz, but the Chiefs sniffed out the play and brought Kuntz down for a 3-yard loss to the Hounds' 47. With Fort Madison



BARKER

then got nothing on 2nd and 5. Junior Diego Lozano got a hold of a very quick Martinez in the backfield for a 1-yard loss forcing a Keokuk timeout.

On 4th and 6, Skinner took a shotgun snap and, with a little time, found sophomore Anthony Potratz in the back of the endzone. The two hooked up again on the 2 point conversion on a Potratz sliding catch, to put the Chiefs up 14-7.

Keokuk opted for a regular kick off and the Hounds' Mike Mosena returned the ball to the 34. The Hounds then marched 66 yards on 12 plays highlighted by a Barker-to-Dom Frantz 25-yard gain on 3rd and 7 to the Chiefs' 41.

After junior Kali Maestro got nothing on 1st and 10, Barker was sacked for a 10-yard loss, but then found Kuntz again for a 34-yard gain on 3rd and 20. Fort Madison didn't get much on the next two plays, but Barker found Denning streaking across from left to right and hit him in stride before stepping out at the three for a first down. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty pushed the Hounds to 1st and goal from the 18. Two Barker incompletions had the Hounds at 3rd and goal from the 18. After Shiffman called a time out, the Hounds set up a play where Parker again was streaking from left to right, but this time in the back of the endzone and Barker found him for the score. Nolting's PAT was blocked and the Chiefs held a 14-13 advantage with 2:48 left in the 1st quarter.



DENNING

The Chiefs took the next possession and ran 13 plays and moved the ball to the Hounds' 35. On a 1st and 15 from the Chiefs' 36, Skinner rolled back and found Martinez streaking behind the secondary and lofted a pass over the

defense that bounced off Martinez's helmet as he tried to adjust to the arching throw. Skinner then kept the ball and right read and gained a yard. On the next play, Skinner threw to the right sideline, but the Hounds' Sheymouhr Redd-Donald jumped the route and made a diving catch sliding out of bounds at what appeared to be the 1-yard line, but officials ruled he had landed on the goal line and the Hounds had it 1st and 10 at the 20.

The Bloodhounds ran into their first punting situation on the next possession after Barker was sacked for an 8-yard loss on 3rd and 11. The Chiefs couldn't make any hay with the stop and were forced into a three and out punt to the Hounds' 50. Fort Madison ran five plays and then returned the ball with a punt to the Chiefs' 31.

Keokuk ran three plays and got a first down when Skinner and Potratz connected for an 8-yard pass play. Skinner went to the air again to the right sideline but Redd-Donald got in the way again and pulled the ball away before landing out of bounds in front of the Keokuk bench for his second pick of the game. Barker found Mike



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Trey Kuntz scores on the Hounds' second possession of the night in Friday's win. Kuntz finished with seven catches for 102 yards and the touchdown.

Mosena on a bubble screen to the left on 1st and 10, but turned the ball over on the next play when Mueller stepped in front of a Barker pass and picked it off at the Chiefs' 35-yard line.

After a 5-yard holding penalty on Keokuk had the Chiefs at 1st and 15, Skinner let one fly to Mueller who had gotten free down the middle of the field. Redd-Donald knocked Mueller off the route, but was called for pass interference on the play that could have resulted in a touchdown. The Chiefs took the ball at the 25 1st and 10, but the Hounds defense would hold

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Diego Lozano (7) and Quentin Schneider (3) pulled down Keokuk's Braylon Martinez in the second quarter Friday night in Keokuk.

facing a 3rd and 7, Barker looked to Kuntz again in the right flat and Kuntz kept his feet slipping between two defenders and then raced down the right sideline for the touchdown with 9:19 still remaining in the first quarter. Senior AJ Nolting added the extra point and the Hounds were up 7-6.

Fort Madison kicked to the Chiefs' 31 and sophomore Skinner went to work on the Hounds' defense, hooking up with senior Dalton Boudewyn on a 27-yard pass play on 1st and 10. Skinner then took the next two carries for six yards to the Hounds' 36. On 3rd and 4, Skinner found Tyjai Mueller on a short gain, but a roughing the passer penalty gave the Chiefs a 1st and 10 at the 11. Skinner carried for five yards and

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# Denning prowls secondary for 127 yards, 2 TDs

**WIN** - Continued from Page 5

when senior Nick Carter picked off a Skinner pass in the endzone with about 58 seconds left in the half.

With a 1st and 10 at the 20, the Hounds went to work through the air trying to salvage some points before halftime. Barker threw incomplete to the right and then an illegal substitution on Keokuk gave the Hounds a 1st and 10 at the 35. Barker skipped a low pass to Denning that went incomplete, but Maestro took a carry 12 yards on the next play. Shiffman called a timeout with 24.8 seconds left in the half. Barker again threw incomplete on 1st and 10, Maestro carried for a yard to make it 3rd and 9. Barker found Redd-Donald to the right for a seven yard gain to the Hounds' 42.

The Hounds lined up in their usual spread formation and Barker took the snap and rolled just slightly to his right and lofted a pass to the back endzone pylon where Parker Denning raced under it making a catch over his shoulder for a touchdown with no time left to give Fort Madison a 19-14 lead. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

Shiffman said the Hail Mary at the end of the first half was the turning point of the game.

"It was a pretty even and crazy game up until that point, but I think it took the air out of 'em," he said.

Keokuk had a good drive to start the second half including a 14-yard run by Martinez, who finished with 90 yards on the ground in the game. But on 3rd and 6 from the 35 Skinner was looking for Mueller who slipped in his pattern and Will Larson had an easy interception that he returned to the Hounds' 44. The Hounds then put their longest drive of the game together taking almost six minutes off the clock, culminating with a 1-yard touchdown plunge by Barker into the north endzone. Again the point after was no good and the Hounds were up 25-14.

Fort Madison, looking to take advantage of the momentum tried their own onside kick that bounded around a couple of Chiefs before Keaton Poe slid under and recovered the ball. Barker went right to work through the air with a quick 9-yard strike to Kuntz and then went off tackle for six more yards. But three of the

next four throws were incomplete and the Hounds turned the ball over on downs at their 25.

The next four series resulted in punts for both teams. The Hounds turned the fifth series over on downs and Keokuk tried a fake punt on the sixth series of the second half, but Lozano sniffed it out and brought Skinner down for a loss. Fort Madison wouldn't get anything going with a quick three and out and then the Chiefs turned the ball over on downs. Fort Madison took the ball and went seven plays before Barker slid in from the 3-yard line for the Hounds' last touchdown.

AJ Nolting would add a field goal in the final seconds to set the final score.

Denning finished with 113 yards and two touchdowns on seven receptions to lead Fort Madison in receiving.

"I just wanted to do everything I could to help the seniors win the game. That's what this was all about," he said. "We worked on some different routes this week in practice and their corners were a bit softer than we were used to this year. But I just wanted to do everything I could for the seniors tonight."

Barker said the passing game came easier tonight, despite being flushed out of the pocket on a regular basis.

"We were able to get a lot of stuff short...short...short and then we were able to get the long passes in, so the passing game came along tonight."

He said the season wasn't what he anticipated for the Hounds, but he said winning the final game of the season and keeping the County Seat trophy at Fort Madison felt pretty good.

Shiffman said the game was crazy at the beginning



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

but the Hounds were able to settle in.

"Yeah, one of the assistants came up to me and said that was probably the craziest first couple of minutes of football they'd ever seen, but then we settled in and really did some good things tonight," Shiffman said.

"Parker had a really good night tonight, they had two interceptions, they had over a hundred yards and touchdown and Diego Lozano had 12.5 tackles and eight of those were for losses. That's just phenomenal. We got some things done tonight for these seniors and I'm happy for them."

Redd-Donald said he was disappointed in the season as a whole, but wanted to have a clean game tonight.

"This isn't what I had in mind for my senior year," Redd-Donald said after the game, "But I came tonight to give it my all and help the team finish with a win and for the other seniors."

Barker finished with 20-44 passing for 271 yards and three touchdowns with two interceptions. Lozano led the team on defense. Maestro led the Hounds on the ground with 24 yards on 11 carries.

*This sports story was read on [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and social media 10,111 times and was engaged with 2,001 times.*



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