The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of two Fort Madison, Iowa residents on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Tachelle Nicole Dowell, 33, and Wayne Andrew Hayes, 34, both of 1920 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa were arrested on March 16th, 2017 at their residence on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Dowell is charged with Possession With Intent To Deliver Methamphetamine In Excess Of Five Grams, a class B felony, Possession With Intent To Deliver Psilocybin Mushrooms, a class C felony, Possession With Intent To Deliver Marijuana, a class D felony, two counts of Drug Tax Stamp Violation, a class D felony, Child Endangerment, an aggravated misdemeanor, three counts of Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Psilocybin Mushrooms), a serious misdemeanor, Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Dowell faces up to 52 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

Hayes is charged with Possession With Intent To Deliver Methamphetamine In Excess Of Five Grams Second Or Subsequent Offense, a class B felony with an enhancement, Possession With Intent To Deliver Psilocybin Mushrooms Second Or Subsequent Offense, a class C felony with an enhancement, Possession With Intent To Deliver Marijuana Second Or Subsequent Offense, a class D felony with an enhancement, Possession With Intent To Deliver Methamphetamine, a class D felony, Child Endangerment, an aggravated misdemeanor, two counts of Drug Tax Stamp Violation, a class D felony, Child Endangerment, an aggravated misdemeanor, three counts of Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Psilocybin Mushrooms), a serious misdemeanor, Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Hayes faces up to 137 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Dowell and Hayes stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. A search warrant was served in connection with this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

2017 - A Year in Review

This two-vehicle accident happened at about 3:30 p.m. Monday near the intersection of U.S. Hwy 61 and Hwy 16. No injuries were reported at the scene.

Looking back on 2017

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

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

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

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

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

We thank you for your patronage and wish you a peaceful new year.
Two more from Keokuk nabbed by task force

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man and woman on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

On March 8, 2017, during a traffic stop in Lee County, Kenneth Michael Howell, 23, and Jessica Charleen Blaise, 28, both of Keokuk, Iowa were arrested on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Howell is charged with possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine in excess of five grams, a class B felony, drug tax stamp violation, a class D felony, maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor, four counts of possession of a controlled substance (temazepam, diazepam, vyvanse, dextroamphetamine, and amphetamine), serious misdemeanors, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Howell faces up to 36 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

Blaise is charged with maintaining a drug house, an aggravated misdemeanor. If convicted, Blaise faces up to 2 years in a state correctional facility.

The arrests of Howell and Blaise stem from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that they were involved in the use and/or distribution of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. A search warrant was served in connection to this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Iowa State Patrol, Iowa State Penitentiary K9 Unit, Keokuk Police Department and the Department of Human Services assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Boy charged in Denmark shooting

DENMARK - Lee County Sheriff's Department is investigating a shooting that occurred on the north side of Denmark this morning.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber confirmed that an individual had been shot in Denmark and that a juvenile was in custody in connection with the shooting. He also indicated that there was no danger to the public.

Sheriff's deputies, Lee County EMS, Denmark fire and rescue personnel and AirEvac and Lee County Attorney Ross Braden were on the scene at a residence at the north end of 7th Street in Denmark at around noon. Weber said the victim was being airlifted to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, allegedly a boy at the residence had shot his father.

Saturday shooting

Rescue personnel from Denmark Fire and Rescue, Lee County EMS and AirEvac ready to transport a victim of a gun shot wound to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. According to Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber, allegedly a boy at the residence had shot his father.

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Suspect in county juvenile lockup

SHOOTING - Continued from Page 2

investigation unfolds. No motive for the shooting or additional information on the type of gun used has been released.

The following press release was issued today at 3:10 p.m.: Today at 11:52 AM, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office was summoned to 79 7th Street in Denmark, Iowa.

The nature of the incident was for a man who was possibly shot.

This information was gathered by a deputy during a traffic stop on a family member who was driving to the aforementioned address in Denmark at a high rate of speed. The Deputy ascertained from the family member that a father was shot by his son.

The deputy sent the Denmark Rescue and additional deputies to the house. Upon arrival, they located an adult male subject suffering from two gunshot wounds.

The suspect was taken into custody, in the city limits of Fort Madison, Iowa by officers of the Fort Madison Police Department and transported to the Juvenile Detention Center next to our office, here in Montrose. Charges on the juvenile will be willful injury and additional charges may be filed at a later time.

The Denmark Fire and Rescue, Lee County EMS, Air Evac and the Lee County Attorney Ross Braden assisted at the scene.

The Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigations Division will conduct this investigation under the supervision of Chief Deputy Will Conlee and it is considered ongoing at this time.

Further information will be provided when it is available.

Crime scene

Lee County Sheriff’s deputies along with rescue personnel work the scene of a shooting Saturday at around 12:30 p.m. Deputies were alerted after pulling over a speeding vehicle enroute to Denmark who indicated a family member had been shot.
FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa man on misdemeanor drug charges.

Richard Phillip Donaldson, 53, of 2703 Avenue M, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on February 28, 2017 at the Fort Madison Police Department on misdemeanor drug charges. Donaldson is charged with Maintaining a Drug House, an aggravated misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Donaldson faces up to 2 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Donaldson stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the use of illegal narcotics in the Lee County area. A search warrant served in connection with this investigation and items that support the charges were discovered.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office, Fort Madison Police Department, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, 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.
Top March Facebook Posts

#1 Originally published March 11, 2017
Reached 32,040 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/174206270927719580

#2 Originally published March 29, 2017
Reached 26,679 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1752213963437224

#3 Originally published March 28, 2017
Reached 17,288 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1751583448486550

#4 Originally published March 23, 2017
Reached 11,004 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1748675412110687

#5 Originally published March 3, 2017
Reached 10,842 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1737907656520796

#6 Originally published March 13, 2017
Reached 9,844 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1743147699330125

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Pen City Current - Wednesday, December 27, 2017 - 5
School officials warn of harmful games among students

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison school officials are warning parents about possible harmful games being played by students in the district including knocking out and choke out.

Patrick Lamb, Fort Madison Community School District Security Officer, made a district-wide announcement this evening via the school’s voice and text messaging systems.

Lamb’s message said, “It has been brought to the attention of the district that students are discussing, attempting, or playing a game involving choking other students. It is not clear when and where students are playing these games. The games, sometimes referred to as “knockout,” “choke out,” or “rocket rides,” involve children choking each other until a student passes out. There is also a game in which a student attempts to force themselves to pass out by making oneself light-headed until faintness occurs. These are obviously dangerous games and we wanted to take the opportunity to inform you so you can talk with your child if he or she is hearing about these games, and of the dangers involved.

If you are concerned that your child is playing one of these games and would like assistance, please call your school’s main office and ask to speak to a counselor or nurse.”

To contact the high school, call (319)372.1862; the middle school, call (319)372.4687; Lincoln Elementary, call (319)372.2896; and Richardson Elementary, call (319)372.2765. The district office number is (319)372.7252.

Juvenile leads Keokuk police on auto chase

PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – On 4/10/17 at approximately 10:15 pm, an officer with the Keokuk Police Department attempted to stop the driver of a Honda 2008 SUV for a traffic offense in the area of 14th and Main. The driver of the vehicle took off at a high rate of speed and headed south on South 14th. After a short pursuit, the driver

See CHASE, page 8

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**FM police may have break in rash of burglaries**

**Top April Stories #6-10**

**#6** Plans taking shape for Hesse Marketplace  
Originally published April 3, 2017  

**#7** Task force nabs FM woman on drug charges  
Originally published April 18, 2017  

**#8** Lee County Task Force nabs two  
Originally published April 11, 2017  

**#9** Four juveniles arrested in vehicle thefts  
Originally published April 7, 2017  
Read the article here: [http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/04/06/four-juveniles-arrested-vehicle-thefts/](http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/04/06/four-juveniles-arrested-vehicle-thefts/)

**#10** FMHS announces 2017 Prom Court  
Originally published April 26, 2017  

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**Task force makes felony drug bust**

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Zachary Charles Michael Bennett, 22, of 705 South 3rd Street, Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on April 6th, 2017 at 950 Johnson Street Road on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Bennett is charged with Possession Of Methamphetamine Less Than Five Grams With The Intent To Deliver, a class C felony, Possession Of Marijuana With Intent To Deliver, a class D felony, three counts of Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Hydrocodone, Methamphetamine, and Marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Bennett faces up to 18 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Bennett stems from an investigation by the Keokuk Police Department into a report of suspicious people in the parking lot of the Westport Terrace apartments, 950 Johnson Street Road in Keokuk. Upon arrival, Keokuk Police officers discovered Bennett and learned that he was in possession of illegal drugs and associated items. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force was called to assist the investigation.

The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.

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**Police, sheriff curious about injured man**

**Originally published April 7, 2017**

**CHUCK VANDENBERG**

**FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Police Department and the Lee County Sheriff’s office are investigating an injury to a 19-year-old man on Wednesday afternoon. Upon arrival in the 800 block of Avenue D at about 1:10 p.m., police discovered a black male with an undetermined wound to his head. The man was stabilized by rescue personnel at the scene, including Fort Madison Fire and Rescue and Lee County EMS. The man was then transferred to Fort Madison Community Hospital and then transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for further treatment for his wounds.**

Police Chief Tim Sittig wrote in a statement that it is unknown what type of wound the victim has and there are still some unknown factors in the case such as how and why the person was injured. **See INCIDENT, page 8**

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**FM police may have break in rash of burglaries**

**Originally published April 7, 2017**

**SITTIG**

**Deputy Police Chief Tim Sittig of Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue D on several charges which may be connected to the rash of burglaries that has been plaguing Fort Madison in the past 8 weeks. Arrested were Takota Levi Henderson, 18, of Fort Madison, who was arrested on 3 counts of 3rd degree burglary, 2 counts of 5th degree theft, 1 charge of possession of stolen property, 1 charge of possession of drug paraphernalia, and 1 charge of possession of offensive weapons; and Kistofer Charles Johnson, 18, of Fort Madison, who was arrested on 3 counts of 3rd degree burglary, 2 counts of 5th degree theft, and 1 count of possession of stolen property. Both men were taken to the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. Police Chief Tim Sittig told the city council at Tuesday’s regular meeting that a search warrant had been executed in connection with the burglaries that had been taking place.**

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**Lee County Task Force nabs two**

**Originally published April 11, 2017**

**SITTIG**

**Lee County Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Bennett is charged with Possession Of Methamphetamine Less Than Five Grams With The Intent To Deliver, a class C felony, Possession Of Marijuana With Intent To Deliver, a class D felony, three counts of Possession Of A Controlled Substance (Hydrocodone, Methamphetamine, and Marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession Of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Bennett faces up to 18 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility. The arrest of Bennett stems from an investigation by the Keokuk Police Department into a report of suspicious people in the parking lot of the Westport Terrace apartments, 950 Johnson Street Road in Keokuk. Upon arrival, Keokuk Police officers discovered Bennett and learned that he was in possession of illegal drugs and associated items. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force was called to assist the investigation. The Lee County Attorney’s Office and the Keokuk Police Department assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy.**

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**Vehicle stolen from Missouri**

of the Honda left the roadway at the intersection of Hilton Road and Valley Road. The driver fled on foot and was found in the area a few hours later. The 2008 Honda SUV was reported stolen from Moberly, Missouri. The driver of the Honda is a 17-year-old juvenile; and is charged with possession of a stolen vehicle, leaving the scene of a traffic accident, failure to maintain control, eluding, and numerous other traffic violations.

An occupant of the vehicle, William Glenn Vahle age 22 of Canton, Missouri also attempted to flee but, was taken into custody. Vahle had an arrest warrant from the State of Missouri for Felony Possession of Controlled Substance, and an arrest warrant from the State of Illinois for failure to appear, aggravated DUI.

William Glenn Vahle was transported to the Lee County Correctional Center and the juvenile is being held at the Juvenile Detention Center in Montrose. The Keokuk Police Department was assisted by the Lee County Sheriff’s Department, Lee County Ambulance Service and, the Jackson Township Fire Department. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

**Police asking public for help with incident**

**INCIDENT** - Continued from Page 7

Fort Madison Police and the Sheriff’s department are currently conducting a joint investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact the Fort Madison Police Department at 319-372-2525.

Injured.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber was at the scene and said the victim was disoriented and couldn’t provide information at that time to the cause of his wounds.

**Looking for clues**

A Fort Madison police officer looks for evidence at the end of the 800 block of Avenue D, where a man was found Wednesday afternoon with a wound to his head, but had no information as to how he got the wound. The man was taken to FMCH and then transported to University of Iowa for further treatment.

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2017 – A Year in Review: March & April

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#1
Originally published April 25, 2017
Reached 26,134 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1768203853491176

#2
Originally published April 3, 2017
Reached 21,767 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1754592958185599

#3
Originally published April 6, 2017
Reached 16,347 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1756891644622397

School officials warn of harmful games among students

Rusty Nailz
Friday, December 29th 7:30pm
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#4 Originally published April 1, 2017
Reached 12,624 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/penicitycurrent/posts/1753717221606506/

#5 Originally published April 29, 2017
Reached 12,334 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/penicitycurrent/posts/1770196159958612/

#6 Originally published April 19, 2017
Reached 10,886 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/penicitycurrent/posts/176438027201092

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