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

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

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

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

Close call

Responding to an injury accident Wednesday evening on 35th Street south of the railroad bridge, a Fort Madison fire truck tipped on its side into the slough in about 2-3 feet of water. All firefighters in the truck were able to get out. No injuries were reported at the scene.

#1

Originally published May 11, 2017

Tyrone J. Lozano, 45, of Ft. Madison passed away at 1:29 AM on Friday, May 19, 2017 at the West Point Care Center.

He was born on September 15, 1971 in Ft. Madison to Rito and Paula Porrez Lozano. Ty was a 1989 graduate of Ft. Madison High School. On September 20, 1997 he married Shanon Brown and they later divorced. Ty was a correctional officer at Iowa State Penitentiary for almost 26 years. He was an avid Cubs, Cowboys and Hawkeye fan. Ty enjoyed fishing, playing shooting barbeque enjoyed time with his family and friends.

Survivors include a son, Quinlan Lozano of Ft. Madison; his parents, Rito and Paula Lozano of Ft. Madison; three brothers including his twin Travis Lozano, Sam (Laura) Lozano and G.J. (Lisa) Lozano all of Ft. Madison; six sisters, Rita (Joe) Cangas of Des Moines, ”Lali (Rick) Leach of Oklahoma, Sherri (Donnie) Dobbs of Cedar Rapids, Pam Lozano, Renay (Meno) Dominguez of Guerrero Chihuahua, Mexico and Betsi Lozano all of Ft. Madison; numerous nieces and nephews and his special friend, Angela Kruse of Peoria, AZ. He was preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family will meet with friends from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church. Following the visitation cremation will be entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Monday, May 22, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.
Task force arrests man on drug charges

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison, Iowa man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Jeremy Abraham Atwater, 27, of Avenue A, Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on May 23rd, 2017 in the 1100 block of Avenue I on felony and misdemeanor drug charges. Atwater is charged with Possession of Methamphetamine Less than Five Grams with the Intent to Deliver, a class C felony, four counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Oxycodone, Methamphetamine, Alprazolam, and Marijuana), a serious misdemeanor, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor. If convicted, Atwater faces up to 14 years and 30 days in a state correctional facility.

The arrest of Atwater 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. The Lee County Attorney’s Office, and the Fort Madison 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.

ISP to offer old prison tours May 7

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Warden Patti Wachtendorf is pleased to announce that there will be a public tour of the Historic Iowa State Penitentiary that has been closed since August, 1st 2015. This public event will take place on Sunday, May 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Parking is restricted to the South Lot.

Anyone touring is being asked to bring a nonperishable item to be donated to the local Food Pantry. Each tour will be guided by either a retired or current staff member who will be able to provide details regarding the operation of the 176-year-old facility.

There will not be an elevator available that day so participants should be able to use stairs and do a considerable amount of walking. The last tour will be offered beginning at 4:30 pm, so it is recommended to be early.
Top May Stories #6-10

#6 Thursday rollover injures one
Originally published May 5, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/04/thursday-evening-accident-sends-one-hospital/

#7 Fort Madison man killed in county mishap
Originally published May 29, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/29/fort-madison-man-killed-county-mishap/

#8 ISP tour primes charities, fosters ideas
Originally published May 8, 2017
Read the article http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/08/sunday-isp-tour-primes-charities-fosters-ideas/

#9 Area woman seeking answers in river rescue
Originally published May 26, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/25/montrose-woman-looking-answers-river-rescue/

#10 Hesse Marketplace set to open Thursday
Originally published May 31, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/30/hiess-seventh-street-marketplace-set-thursday-grand-opening/

County deputy shoots burglar

Two Iowa State Patrol officers go over the crime scene just west of Montrose early Monday morning after Lee County Sheriff Dakota Foley shot 29-year-old Joshua Welborn of Montrose after he allegedly was caught breaking into a trailer in the 2400 block of 270th Street around 12:30 a.m. In the background Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber interviews the homeowner about the incident.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A Lee County deputy shot a suspect in a home invasion early Monday morning near Montrose. Lee County Sheriff’s deputies were called to Lot #212 at around 12:30 a.m. Monday morning where Joshua V. Welborn, 29 had allegedly gained entrance to a home and was subsequently shot by Lee County Deputy Dakota Foley after failing to respond to commands.

According to Sheriff Stacy Weber, the homeowner was home at the time of the incident and the suspect was taken to

See SHOOTING, page 10

Thursday rollover injures one

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Fort Madison man killed in county mishap

Originally published May 29, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/29/fort-madison-man-killed-county-mishap/

ISP tour primes charities, fosters ideas

Originally published May 8, 2017
Read the article http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/08/sunday-isp-tour-primes-charities-fosters-ideas/

Area woman seeking answers in river rescue

Originally published May 26, 2017
Read the article here: http://www.pencitycurrent.com/2017/05/25/montrose-woman-looking-answers-river-rescue/

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Great River Regional Waste Authority would like to remind you not to recycle Christmas Wrapping Paper as some of the materials used in the making of it are not recyclable. Please dispose of any wrapping materials in your regular trash cans. Any curbside bins containing these materials can potentially compromise an entire load.

Please properly dispose of all Electronics!

Recycle free of charge:
- Computer Towers & Modems
- Radios, Cell Phones
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- All TVs, Monitors
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Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175
2017 – A Year in Review: May & June

Top May Facebook Posts

#1 Originally published May 10, 2017
Reached 62,397 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1776258422683719

#2 Originally published May 22, 2017
Reached 23,717 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1782815738696654

#3 Originally published May 13, 2017
Reached 19,649 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1777849359193292

#4 Originally published May 30, 2017
Reached 17,780 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1787931721518389

Save for a rainy year.

State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL 1501580
Set aside money with a fixed rate of return. I’ll be there to show you rates and terms that can help you reach your goal.

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2017 – A Year in Review: May & June

Top May Facebook Posts

#5
Originally published May 8, 2017
Reached 14,203 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/17752580262119092

#6
Originally published May 20, 2017
Reached 11,012 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/17817061547443390

#7
Originally published May 19, 2017
Reached 10,478 people
See the post here: https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/178100880877347

Join us from the available departure location of your choice and head to Coral Ridge Mall where you’ll enjoy lunch, on your own, before heading to Iowa City to catch one of these amazing musicals for the matinee showing!

$130 PER PERSON FOR EITHER SHOW!

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SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2018
HANCER AUDITORIUM // IOWA CITY

The sound that inspired a generation. The music that moved the world. It began as one man’s story... became everyone’s music... and is now Broadway’s Musical. Motown is the true-American dream story of Motown founder Berry Gordy’s journey from featherweight boxer to the heavyweight music mogul who launched the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Smokey Robinson and many more. Motown shattered barriers, shaped our lives and made us all move to the same beat. Now, experience it live on stage in the record-breaking smash hit Motown the Musical!

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2018
HANCER AUDITORIUM // IOWA CITY

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

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ROBERT H. “BOB” KEMPKER

Robert H. "Bob" Kempker, 84, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 11:20 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on June 14, 1932 in St. Paul, IA to Henry & Ida Overberg Kempker. He married Barbara J. Hunsaker on August 1, 1953 in Fort Madison, IA. He and his wife Barb founded Kempker Hardware, which they owned and operated for 40 plus years. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a member of Holy Family Parish, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis and the Fort Madison Elks Lodge. He enjoyed working in his yard, but his greatest love was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Bob is survived by: his wife: Barb Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Chuck (Dawn) Kempker of Fort Madison, IA; 4-daughters: Sharon (Stevie) Thomas of Nevada, IA, Debra (James) Conway of Raleigh, NC, Sandra (Dave) Holtkamp of Fort Madison, IA & Peggy Garlow of Phoenix, AZ; 12-grandchildren; 18-great grandchildren; 3-sisters: Ann (Richard) Helling of New Hampton, IA, Bernice (Jerome) Sokolik of Davenport, IA & Dorothy (Mark) Polpeter of West Point, IA. He was preceded in death by: his parents, 1-granddaughter: Dallas Hnat & 1-brother: Dennis Kempker.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. with a wake service to be held at 5:30 p.m. all on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at St. Mary & Joseph Church in Fort Madison. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017 at St. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory. Online condolences to Bob’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.
Construction worker suffers fall at work site

Circumstances of fall and victim’s name not released yet

Fort Madison police talk with construction workers on the north side of the Boulders Inn and Suites expansion project Wednesday at about 3:50 p.m. A construction worker was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital after suffering a fall at the site.

Montrose woman claims $30,000 lottery prize

CLIVE, Iowa – A southeast Iowa woman said she didn’t know how to react last week after finding out she won a big lottery prize.

Juliene Spiker of Montrose claimed the 11th of 42 prizes of $30,000 available in the Iowa Lottery’s “Ultimate Riches” scratch game.

Spiker said she bought her ticket Thursday at Fort Madison Fast Break, 5002 Avenue O in Fort Madison and played it right away. She ended up winning 15 prizes of $2,000 each, for a total of $30,000.

“When I was scratching it off (I said), ‘That key doesn’t match; it can’t match, it’s $2,000,”’ Spiker told lottery employees Friday as she claimed her prize at the lottery’s regional office in Cedar Rapids. “And then I kept scratching and (14) others match. It’s like, ‘They really don’t match – yes, they do! They do match!’”

The 51-year-old said she was still inside the store when she scratched off her ticket and found out she’d won, but she didn’t say anything because she was in disbelief.

“I never yelled. I never screamed,” she said. “I knew they matched, but it was unreal. It was a dream; there was no way they could match.”

Spiker said she plans to use a majority of her winnings to remodel her house, pay bills, and save the rest.

Ultimate Riches is the Iowa Lottery’s first-ever $30 scratch game. More details about how to play this game, and number of prizes still up for grabs in it can be found on the Iowa Lottery’s website, www.iolottery.com.

DCI identifies suspect, officer in shooting

MONTROSE – The suspect in an early morning shooting just west of Montrose has been identified by the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation as Joshua V. Welborn, 29, of Montrose.

DCI also identified Lee County Deputy Dakota Foley as the officer who hit Welborn with a single-gunshot wound to the chest and Welborn remains at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics with what are believed to be non-life-threatening injuries.

Deputies of the Lee County (Iowa) Sheriff’s Office responded to the 2400 block of 270th Street in rural Montrose, Iowa for a call of a burglary in progress at approximately 12:30 a.m. Monday.

Deputy Foley has been a member of the Lee County Sheriff’s Office for the past 2 years.

The shooting is currently under investigation by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation and the Iowa Attorney General’s Office. No further information will be released at this time.
**2017 – A Year in Review: May & June**

**Top June Facebook Posts**

**#1**
Originally published June 11, 2017
Reached 18,425 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1794848010826760](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1794848010826760)

**#2**
Originally published June 28, 2017
Reached 15,186 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/180412239899337](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/180412239899337)

**#3**
Originally published June 30, 2017
Reached 14,491 people
See the post here: [https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1794848010826760](https://www.facebook.com/PenCityCurrent/posts/1794848010826760)

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**SHOOTING - Continued from Page 3**

Fort Madison Community Hospital and transferred by AirEvac to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where he is said to have non-life threatening injuries. "This was a burglary in progress and when our guys arrived the suspect confronted our officers on arrival and was shot," he said.

The homeowner had defensive wounds but declined medical treatment.

Lee County EMS, Fort Madison Police, Iowa State Patrol, Lee County Attorney's office, the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations and AirEvac were called for assistance.

The shooting of investigation is now being handled by the Iowa Attorney General's office and the Iowa DCI. Lee County is investigating the burglary and charges are pending.