



# Pen City Current

Monday, May 8, 2017 | 7 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 117

## Thousands show for look at old ISP

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Throngs of people from all over the region trekked to Fort Madison Sunday to tour the now-shuttered, but oldest standing prison west of the Mississippi.

The Iowa State Penitentiary staff, former correctional officers and other volunteers led thousands of people through the prison on Sunday as part of a tour in conjunction with the Department of Corrections.

ISP Warden Patty Wachtendorf played traffic cop on the yards as tours crossed each other on ways to blocks 319, the mess, the gymnasium, and other areas of the prison that was originally built in 1839, even before Iowa became a state in 1846.

Wachtendorf was clearly in her element working the crowds and even working her way down the stretch of attendees, that at one point went down the east side of the property, through the south parking lot, around the south portion of the property near the river, and then fully back up the west wall of the prison.

The tours worked through the visiting area and then by the infirmary. No portions of the facility are in use now, but tables with checker boards and game boards and visiting areas seem to be currently viable even though the building stands eerily empty of offenders. In 2017, under heavy budget cuts, the John Bennett



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

ISP Warden Patty Wachtendorf was at the front of the line greeting tourists of the historic Iowa State Penitentiary on Sunday morning in Fort Madison. Wachtendorf and Rebecca Bowker, an executive officer with the prison, get ready to bring another group in a long line of tourists into the prison.

“  
One time we drove down, it was like midnight. We were just teenagers. We drove down in front of it and we're looking up at it. And boy the cops were around us...”

-Jackie Crable  
visitor from Burlington

Center was also closed and there's been no word on the future of that section of the facility.

The tour then went through the higher risk areas with single 6x7 cells where some of the worst offenders in the country



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A group of about 30 tourists look into cells that once housed offenders at the Iowa State Penitentiary. Visitors were taken on 45-50 minute tours of the grounds and buildings of what was once the home of some of the most hardened criminals in the state and country.

were held. Tour guides talked briefly about the one-day riot of 1981 where an inmate was murdered and fires and destruction damaged part of the prison. Attendees were also taken through cells that held offenders

who had earned privileged status and were able to have cellmates, televisions, buy food, and decorate their cells.

Some of the cells still had stickers and paintings on them including Iowa Hawkeyes and Indianap-

olis Colts emblems on the walls. The offenders were able to purchase the privileges due to good behavior that resulted in better jobs and more money in their accounts.

See TOURS, page 2

## Boddicker to be sworn in Tuesday

BY CHUCK  
VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - After a large victory in the Tuesday special election last week, the Lee County Board of Supervisors will swear in Clinton Boddicker as the newest Lee County Attorney at Tuesday's regular meeting.

Boddicker beat current County Attorney Ross Braden 2,462 to 1,642 in a special election that was required after former County Attorney Mike Short resigned. Iowa statutes dictate an election was to be held at the first general election, which just happened to be the special election set for the Lee County Health Department referendum. The supervisors will first have to sign off on the election canvass.

Braden was appointed by a 3-2 vote of the supervisors on Feb. 9 and served just 82 days in office before being defeated by Boddicker.

The agenda also shows the appointment of a first assistant in the office. Braden and Boddicker had both indicated that Braden may join the County Attorney's staff after the election results came in.

In other action,

- the supervisors will also vote to fill a correctional officer vacancy created in the jail.

- review the 2018 fiscal year rate from the Regional Utility Service Systems (RUSS) of \$56.95.

- vote on entering an agreement with Lynch Dallas of Cedar Rapids for Human Resources.

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## Sports

# Hounds, HTC go 6th,7th at Central Lee

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELSON - Fort Madison took 6th place and Holy Trinity 7th at the Central Lee Invitational in boys high school golf action Saturday.

Central Lee won the tourney held at Green Acres Country Club in Donnellson, a par-36 nine-hole course. All teams played 18 holes. The Hawks shot a 309 followed by Keokuk's 320.

Brett Wrieden of Keokuk was medalist with a 72. Matt Briggs of West Burlington/Notre Dame was runner up with a 75

The Bloodhounds were led by Brandon Keesters' 89. Tristan Reida carded a 93 and Tyler Otool and Tommy Wade both shot a 94. Bill Young had a 96



Collin Thornton putts earlier this season at Sheaffer's in Fort Madison. Thornton shot an 89 at the Central Lee Invite on Saturday.

and CJ Richardson had an even 100.

Cameron Bahl led Holy Trinity with an 82 followed by Collin Thornton's 89. Alex Bentler and Josh Barr each carded

a 100. Kyle Bredemeyer shot a 109 and Nathan Bredemeyer came in with a 112 for HTC's team score of 371, just missing the Hounds 370.

The Hounds play Tues-

day in the Southeast Conference meet at Mount Pleasant Country Club. Holy Trinity is off until Friday when they play in sectionals with time and location to be determined.

# ND downs HTC girls in 2nd OT

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT - It took two overtimes to do it, but Burlington Notre Dame handed the Holy Trinity girls team it's third loss of the year, 2-3.

Senior Ali Randolph and sophomore Elyse Pothitakis each scored for the Crusaders. Freshman Samantha Pothitakis had eleven saves against the three goals in 93 minutes of action in Saturday's contest in West Point. Maya Rashid had an assist on each goal for HTC.

Randolph led HTC with three shots on goal, Rashid had two. Emily Box and Pothitakis each had one shot on goal.

# Assumption blanks Hounds

PCC STAFF

DAVENPORT - Javier Trejo had 12 saves, but the Fort Madison Bloodhounds went down 0-10 at Davenport Assumption in boys high school soccer action Saturday.

The Hounds were blanked by the Knights in all other statistics.

The Hounds fall to 3-9 overall and 0-7 in the Southeast conference and travel to Washington Monday for the season's final conference game.



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## Barley Hops Pre-Sale Event

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FM Partners, Atlas or Day of Event.





Fort Madison Barley Hops  
Friday, May 19th 5:00-8:00 pm  
Riverview Park.



**From the Front/Local News**

# Prison still has many stories to tell

**TOURS** - Continued from Page 1

Jackie Crable of Burlington, who was visiting with her husband Jerry, said they had been waiting for about 90 minutes and were still about 100 yards from the check-in for the tours at about 10:30. Crable said she had an ironic minor connection to the prison from her younger years and wanted to see what it was like inside.

“We wondered about this place. One time we drove down it was like midnight, we were just teenagers. We drove down in front of it and we were just looking up at it,” she said. “And boy the cops were around us, and they escorted us out of Fort Madison. We were just kind of curious.”

John Critser of Burlington brought his son to the tour to show him what life was like for those that didn't play by the rules.

“I think it's interesting,” he said. “When the guide said there was usually one inmate in a cell and it was small and now in the new facility they are sharing that same space between two offenders. That's was pretty eye-opening.”

The tour took people through the yard and showed an old baseball field. The grass had overtaken most of the field, but images of prisoners running around the bases and sitting in the fenced dugouts on summer days were on most people's minds. Several pieces of cloth and gloves still hung on razor wire surrounding the field.

The story was told of the 2015 escape of Martin Moon and Robert Legendre who used a homemade grappling hook and mesh from the furniture in the prison industries program. Moon was returned to ISP after being located sleeping in a car outside of Menard State Prison in Illinois. Legendre was apprehended in Missouri and is in custody there.

The mess hall was also on the tour and a story was told of an inmate who was attacked under a serving line table and was stabbed 63 times before ordered was restored. After the mess hall, the tour went back outside and those in attendance were told of a theater that was still in existence on the third floor above the mess hall where inmates used to put on shows and watch movies. The theater was shut down after the 1981 riot when it suffered damage and the governor closed it down.

Ron Briscoe, of Dallas City, was one of the the people who got a chance to speak with Wachtendorf before and during the tour. He said he came because he's always been interested in the prison and had toured the inside before.

“It's very interesting. I just wanted to know,” he said. “I was here years ago when they had the plays, but they shut that down after the riot. It's very interesting and people should get out and see this place,” Briscoe said.

The Fort Madison Food Pantry was on hand accepting non-perishable items and most in the line throughout the day were carrying plastic sacks with food items in them. P.A.W. animal shelter was also on hand selling bottled water for \$1.

Jean Peiton, the Tourism Director for the City of Fort Madison had those taking the tour sign in and handed out literature. Peiton was asking those who took the tour to use #ThisIsIowa in their posts to trigger counts from the Iowa Economic Development Authority and #HISP which is the Historical Iowa State Penitentiary hashtag.

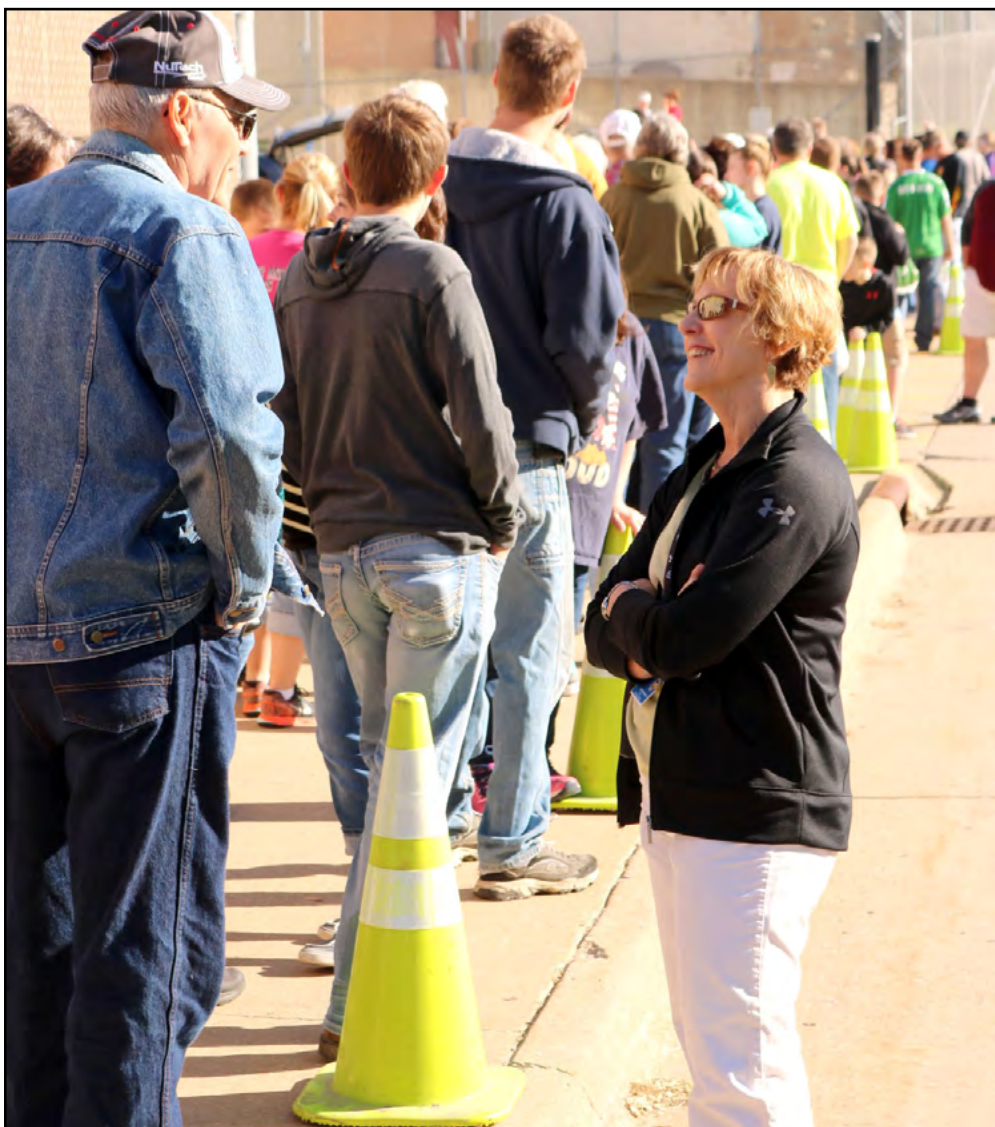


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Warden Patty Wachtendorf chats with Rob Briscoe of Dallas City prior to his turn to tour the historic prison on Sunday.

## Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you to use the 3 R's!



REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE

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### Here are some helpful tips:

## REDUCE

**\*Reduce the amount of waste produced in society**

*The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. This can be done by shopping carefully and being aware of a few guidelines.*

- Buy durable goods & products in bulk
- Avoid over-packaged & disposable goods
- Use cloth napkins/towels instead of paper napkins/towels
- Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
- Maintain central files for multiple individuals
- Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

## REUSE

**\* Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose**

*It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.*

- Sell or Donate old clothes, appliances, toys & furniture
- Use resealable containers rather than plastic wrap
- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store

## RECYCLE

**\* Recycle/convert common waste into reusable material**

*Recycling is a series of steps that takes a used material and processes, re-manufactures and sells it as a new product. Begin recycling at home and work.*

- Recycle all acceptable products at our recycling bins, stations & trailers  
(see [www.grrwa.com](http://www.grrwa.com) for a complete list of locations)
- Check for curbside recycling acceptable items & schedules on your local city websites
- Purchase and use recycled materials for the home & office
- Implement a composting process for your lawn & garden

### Household Hazardous Waste

We accept household hazardous waste and electronic waste at the Fort Madison location. Appointments are encouraged to ensure a proper procedures are in place for disposal. Please call 319-372-6140 to schedule your appointment. For a full list of acceptable items please call or visit us online.

### Electronic Waste

Please place all electronic waste in their appropriate bins, some electronic items are free to dispose. Please call for fees on TV's, Monitors, Laptops & Tablets.

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# Public Notices/Classifieds

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: TUESDAY,**  
**May 9, 2017**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**LOCATION:**  
**Correctional Center, 2530**  
**255th St.,**  
**Montrose, IA 52639**  
**AGENDA**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Approve Tuesday, May 2, 2017 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Public Input
- Canvass the May 2, 2017 Special Election
- Oath of Office for Newly Elected County Attorney and Appointment of First Assistant
- Consider Approval to Hire Full-time Correctional Officer due to Vacancy
- Consider Approval to Accept Voluntary Separation Agreement with Sheriffs Office Employee Consider Approval of Quote and Contract with Cessford Construction for FYI 8 Stockpile Rock Consider Approval of Contract with Lynch Dallas for HR Services
- Receive and File FYI 8 Rate for Argyle RUSS Customers
- Receive and Consider Approval of Bid for Auctioneering Service for County Tax Auction
- Reports:
  - A. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected
- Commission or Committee Reports
- Adjourn
- PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME**
  
- Workshop to follow
  
- Vision and hearing assistance available upon request
  
- Contact Title VI Administrator 319-372-3705

County Website:  
[www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Meeting Notice  
**CITY OF**  
**FORT MADISON**  
 Planning and Zoning Commission Organization  
**WILL MEET ON**  
 Tuesday, May 9, 2017  
 6:00 PM  
**AT THE Council Chambers, City Hall- 811 Ave E**  
**TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**  
**AGENDA**  
 1. Roll Call  
 2. Approval of minutes 4/11/16 meeting  
 3. Non-agenda item comments  
 4. Review of Final Plat for a subdivision within 2 miles of city limits for Jason Scheetz.  
 5. Review of Final Plat for a subdivision within 2 miles of city limits for Brian and Barb Meierotto.  
 6. Old Business: None.  
 7. Other/New Business  
 8. Adjournment

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Fort Madison City Council will hold a public hearing concerning PIP 2016-06, 27th Street and Avenue L Improvements on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison. The purpose of the hearing will consist of approving plans, specifications, contract documents and awarding construction contract for the project.  
 You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on May 16, 2017 or delivered before the hearing is closed.

Melinda L. Blind  
 City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Meeting Notice**  
**CITY OF**  
**FORT MADISON**  
 Board of Adjustment Organization  
**WILL MEET ON**  
 Wednesday,  
 May 10, 2017  
 6:00 PM  
**AT THE Council Chambers at City Hall**  
**811 Ave. E**  
**TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**  
**AGENDA**  
 1. Roll Call  
 2. Approval of minutes 4/12/16 meeting  
 3. Non-agenda item comments, (if any)  
 4. Case #17-03: Special Use Permit request to allow on-premises sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in a B-1 District.  
 5. Case #17-04: Variance to hold reduced side yard setbacks at 1414 37th St.  
 6. Adjournment

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
 Notice is hereby given that the Fort Madison City Council will hold a public hearing concerning the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget Amendments on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison.  
 You may appear at the hearing to express your views concerning the above. Written statements may be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on May 16, 2017 or delivered before the hearing is closed.  
 Melinda L. Blind  
 City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
 Council Chambers  
 4/11/17, 6:00 P.M.  
 Present: Ron Welder, Ed Delaney, Lyle Brown, Joel Amandus, Larry Wright, Neal Boeding,

Absent: Council Liaison Kevin Rink  
 Staff: Doug Krogmeier, Emily Britton  
 Visitors: Mike Mohrfeld, Jill Mohrfeld, Bill Knowles, Jessica Knowles  
 Ron Welder called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with six members present.  
**ACTION ON MINUTES**  
 The minutes from December 27, 2016 were approved as written on a motion by Amandus, seconded by Delaney.  
**NON AGENDA ITEMS**  
 None  
**Commission elections:**  
**Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**  
 Wright moved, seconded by Delaney, to re-elect Ron Welder as Planning and Zoning Commission Chairperson.  
 Motion Passed. 6-yes, 0-no  
 Brown moved, seconded by Boeding, to re-elect Larry Wright as Planning and Zoning Commission Vice Chairperson .  
 Motion Passed. 6-yes, 0-no  
 Public Hearing: Waive Subdivision requirements for John and Jessica Thompson at 2774 210th Street.  
 Staff reviewed report.  
 Krogmeier pointed out that if the commission recommends approval there should be a condition that the easement be recorded on both property deeds.  
 Welder opened the public hearing at 6:04P.M.  
 Bill Knowles spoke in favor. He explained that he and his wife plan to buy a section of property from their daughter and son-in-law with the intention of building a house. Brown asked who owns the surrounding parcel, Knowles reiterated that his daughter owns the current 20 acre parcel as well as a neighboring parcel of 40 acres and they plan to buy this new section to build just off the existing driveway. Delaney asked if the easement would be an issue and Knowles assured the commission the easement would not be an issue as his daughter also owns the strip of property the current driveway is on so they could easily come to an easement agreement. Wright asked how an easement would remain permanent for future potential prop-

erty owners. Krogmeier explained that the easement would be attached to the parcels, not the owners, so it would remain intact unless at some point both property owners decided to remove it. However, the property owners of the new parcel would not likely agree to that as it would eliminate the only access to that property  
 Welder closed the public hearing at 6:08P.M.  
 Wright moved, seconded by Delaney, to recommend to City Council to waive subdivision requirements for John and Jessica Thompson at 2774 210th St.  
 Motion passed. 6-yes 0-no  
 Public Hearing: Special Use Permit Request – Planned Development (Condos) for Michael and Jillian Mohrfeld in 3300-3800 blocks north of Bluff Road.  
 Staff reviewed report.  
 Welder opened the public hearing at 6:12P.M.  
 Mike Mohrfeld spoke in favor. He presented a slide show and explained the plans for the development. As the Green Oak Court development has been successful so far with 27 homes built/started he was proud to state there has been about \$6 million valuation added to the city already. He explained that there has been a lot of tree removal, dirt work and road construction already happening in preparation for construction. This new development has plans for high end condos and high end home lots. The condos are to be tri-plex, single story, structures with full, walkout, basements and three car attached garages. Each structure is about 155ft wide with about 60ft between structures and the normal 25ft front yard setback from the proposed roadway. The high end home lots will be planned and platted later to meet market demands. He explained they have tossed around several ideas on platting those out but are waiting to see what people want before dividing them. The condos, however, will all be on a single parcel and will eventually be owned by the condo association. Wright asked about the lack of sidewalks and Mohrfeld said they did not plan sidewalks to avoid maintenance/liability issues and his subdivision in West point does not

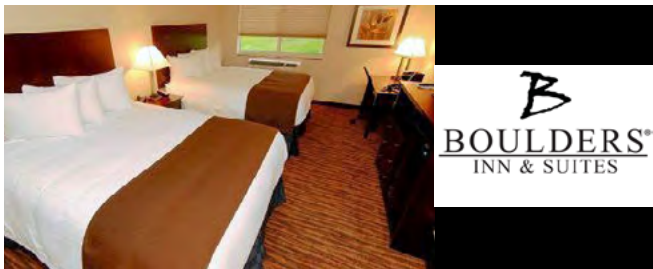
have them and so far it has worked out well. Amandus asked if the road goes to Chalk Ridge Road and Mohrfeld explained that at this time there is a connecting road but it is intended for use during construction as a service access and will be eliminated when the project is complete. Wright also asked about bi-laws and covenances, and Mohrfeld said they do plan to put something together and they have been researching those of similar developments to get ideas of what people will expect.  
 Welder closed public hearing at 6:32P.M.  
 Amandus asked how far city limits extends and Krogmeier said it pretty much goes to the edge of this parcel and Mohrfeld added that a portion of where the high end homes will be is outside city limits but they intend to annex in once there is a definite plan for that area.  
 Delaney moved, seconded by Brown to approve the Special Use Permit Request for the planned development (condos) for Michael and Jillian Mohrfeld in 3300-3800 blocks north of Bluff Road.

**Code Review.**  
 Staff reviewed a preliminary example of a code change regarding back yard setbacks for certain size lots. Brown pointed out there would be a change in height requirements for accessory structures and Krogmeier explained it is intended to give people more options. Mohrfeld asked if this applied to the primary structure and Krogmeier said it is not intended to but the way it was written could be interpreted that way so it would need some changes in the wording to avoid an issue like that coming up.  
 Old Business  
 None  
**OTHER/NEW BUSINESS**  
 None  
 Wright moved, seconded by Delaney, to adjourn.  
 Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 P.M.  
 Ron Welder, Chairman of Planning and Zoning Commission

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- Upgraded Kitchen with Upper Glass Cabinetry

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**Contact Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!**



**GREEN OAK DEVELOPMENT**

<http://www.greenoakdevelopment-ia.com/>

## NEW CONSTRUCTION IN WEST POINT



- New Construction completed in 2017
- 3 Year Tax Abatement = \$7,500 Savings!
- 3 Car Garage
- 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
- 3 Full Baths
- 9 ft. Finished Basement
- Spacious Yard
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
- Upgraded Kitchen includes Walnut Counter Tops & Upper Glass Cabinetry

All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

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**Place your ad online 24/7**

## NEW CONSTRUCTION



**26 Green Oak Court, Fort Madison Iowa**  
New Construction Built in 2017

- Spacious Lot and a Half Yard
- 3 Car Garage
- Fire Place
- Granite Counter Tops
- 4 Bedrooms w/ Master Suite
- 3 Full Baths
- 9 ft. Finished Basement
- Modern Open Floor Plan
- Covered Rear Porch
- New Family Friendly Neighborhood
- Great Central Location
- Upgraded Flooring
- Upgraded Kitchen with High End Cabinetry

All Green Oak Homes come with warranties and low utility bills!

**Contact Jill at 319-470-2540 to view!**



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# A time for new beginnings

**When that includes a new home  
for you, let Hope help!**



There are hundreds of great listings in the area and we can show all of them to you. Give us a call today or click here to search them!

**3684 Argyle Road, Keokuk**  
Listing #20164982 • \$191,500



**4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage**  
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres

Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.

**1703 Avenue L**  
Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



**3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage**  
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot

Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

**1712 Avenue E**  
Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



**4BR • 1.50BA**  
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

**3098 County Road 103**  
Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



**2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage**  
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

**4911 Bluff Road**  
Listing #20164861 • \$157,500



**3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage**  
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

**1708 Avenue G**  
Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



**3BR • 1BA**  
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot

This UPDATED, MOVE-IN READY, CHARMING 3 bedroom home will make an awesome family home!!! This gem has all new windows throughout, exterior doors, deck, plumbing, & NEW roof on house & garage. So come check it out! This is a MUST SEE!!!



5th annual

glo run

5k fun run/walk

Sat., June 3

Registration is 8-9pm

Race begins at dark &

Starts at 4th Street in West Point

*Proceeds benefit the 2017 HTC Volleyball Team*

**Pre-registration \$25 • Deadline May 15**

*(includes tie-dye, glow-in-the-dark t-shirt & glow necklace)*

Registration forms at [www.holytrinityschools.org](http://www.holytrinityschools.org)  
or click this ad

