



# Pen City Current

Monday, April 30, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 115

## City's neighborhood watch groups looking to add people



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

More than 20 people gathered Sunday as part of a citywide neighborhood watch update. Three current groups, including the 34th Place Neighborhood Watch, the Dry Creek Neighborhood Watch, and the Lincoln Neighborhood Watch attended to hear an update and listen to plans.

### *Signs, fundraising, and RiverFest were on the agenda Sunday*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After nearly four years of activity, three neighborhood watch groups in Fort Madison met Sunday to talk about the progress of the effort to help curb crime in their neighborhoods.

In November 2014, Steve Howard and Lorie Seager were instrumental in putting together the 34th Place Neighborhood Watch Group, one of the first watch groups the city

has had in decades after residents tired of petty crimes in their areas.

Soon after, the Dry Creek Neighborhood Watch Group and the Lincoln Neighborhood Watch groups formed to keep an eye on the riff-raff going in and out of their neighborhoods.

Jeff Smith of the Dry Creek group led the discussion on what issues are facing the group and one of the first things mentioned was getting signage posted in the neighborhoods to let residents - and criminals - know the

groups are up, running, and active.

Smith said because the signs are typically posted on city property, the city has to install the signs, Seager said when 34th Place purchased their neighborhood watch signs the city had them in place very quickly.

Smith said several members of those groups had spoken with city officials about the signs, which have been purchased and are ready for installation. He said city officials have indicated that right now potholes

and street maintenance are a high priority and the signs may have to take a back seat. Several members of the group agreed to keep trying to reach out to the city at different levels to try and get the posts and signs installed.

Two of the signs will be posted on Lincoln Elementary fencing to show the children, parents, neighbors, and criminals that they are being watched.

The group also talked about fundraising efforts,

See **WATCH**, page 8

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



### *Three is no charm for life on the farm*

Ginnie's been having a rough go lately. The other night she was delivering a dozen eggs to my son and his family. She had a nice chat with my son and his wife at their front door (they were all happy about the farm-fresh eggs), and then she left. Ginnie drives a new Nissan Rogue that she dearly loves. It's the first car she's owned with a rear camera. As she was backing out of my son's driveway, she heard a crunch. A sinking feeling started in her chest and swept through to her toes. She got out of the car and went around to take a look. Sure 'nuff, she had crunched a rear fender against a tree. "How could I have done this?" she screamed internally to herself! "The first car I've ever owned with a rear camera, and look what I've done!"

Our body man was understanding--\$3,700, thank you, ma'am!

The next morning, still upset about wrecking her new car, Ginnie was having a hot flash. She turned on the ceiling fan in the kitchen and stripped off some clothing. Wouldn't you know it, I saw a flashing movement go by the kitchen window. I hollered at Ginnie to cover herself. Too late. The UPS man was at the open kitchen door, knocking. There's nothing like being caught with half your clothes off!

But it wasn't over. Trouble come in three's. That evening we had a scant supper because Ginnie had bell-choir practice at church. She was scurrying around trying not to be late. She wanted to wash her car and get gas on the way, so that she would be ready for her commute to work the next morning. She also wanted to stop at the supermarket and pick up goodies. It was her turn for treats at work. Rush, rush, rush. I was looking forward to a little quiet time for some reading, and maybe a nap in my recliner. I had just settled in when I received a text from Ginnie. It was the wrong night. She was a day off. Bell-choir practice was on Wednesday, this was Tuesday. I felt bad for her threesome of bad luck and was gloating that nothing like this had happened to me in quite some time.

See **SWARM**, page 2

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# Obituaries/Opinion

## OBITUARIES

### SHIRLEY THORNTON

FORT MADISON - Shirley Thornton, 94 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 7:28 pm Saturday, April 28, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison. She was born August 12, 1923 in rural Lee County, Iowa a daughter of Roy and Olga Lucille (Jensen) Moore.

On January 21, 1949, she married William "Bill" I. Thornton in Burlington, Iowa. He preceded her in death January 24, 2002.

Shirley was a 1940 graduate of Fairfield High School. She moved to Fort Madison in 1958. For twelve years, she worked for Sheaffer Pen in production and assembly, retiring in 1987. She was a member of the Fort Madison United Methodist Church. She enjoyed her flower gardens, bird watching, her dogs, cooking, NBA basketball, and the Iowa Hawkeyes. She especially loved spending time with her family.

Shirley is survived by three sons: Michael (Paula) Thornton of Springfield, Missouri; Randall Thornton of Fort Madison; and Patrick Thornton of Lakewood, Colorado; three daughters:

Jill (Tim) Bruhl of Fort Madison; Melody (Mike) Brixius of Fort Madison; Lori (Joe) Saluri of Hudson, Wisconsin; nineteen grandchildren: Chad, Jason, Justin, Christy, Matt, Megan, Morgan, Jesse, Justine, Ross, Sarah, Lauren, Willie, Amy, Angela, Carter, Noah, Hope, and Britian; eighteen great grandchildren, one great great granddaughter; special nieces and nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, four brothers (Kenneth, Mearl, William, and Robert) and three sisters (Pearl McCoy, Edna Ruggles, and Mildred Burkhart).

Visitation will be held from 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Funeral services will follow and begin at 11:00 am at the funeral home, with Reverend Lanette Van officiating. Private family burial will be at Soldiers Circle, Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for PAWS, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Thornton Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, [www.barrmemorial-chapel.com](http://www.barrmemorial-chapel.com).



THORNTON

## Swarm to host book signing on May 10th in Oskaloosa

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

(By the way, the next Wednesday night, Ginnie forgot about bell-choir practice all together.)

I got up out of the recliner. My hip went pop and I nearly fell over. I had been using a lower-back massage stretcher that I had seen advertised on t.v. and ordered on-line. It was supposed to relieve lower back pain. Well, it did do that. In fact, my lower back felt so good, that I doubled the recommended exercise time, ignoring the warning to consult a doctor before using. I had actually dislocated my hip using the blasted contraption. My chiropractor just shook his head. Forty bucks, ka-ching! He'd see me twice a week for six weeks.

A strange car pulled in the driveway. A lady came to the door. She wanted to know if I knew anyone who did woodworking. She had an old tabletop that she needed remade. I asked her why she stopped at our house. She said the people at the farm-supply store told her to ask me. Tsk, tsk. I took a look at her old tabletop. I told her that I reckoned I could do the job. After she left I asked myself why I had taken on another project when I had more than I would ever get done anyway. I would need a band saw to do the job right. Hmm, this would give me an excuse to buy a new band saw. Which I did.

After I got the tabletop rough cut, I was looking for my router. I ran across the old band saw that I forgot I had.

Ginnie just looked at me and said, "Hip, band saw. That's two."

Note: Curt Swarm will be conducting a book signing for his new book, "Protected" at the Book Vault, 105 S. Market St., in Oskaloosa, on Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.



### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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



4/29 MID-DAY  
3 3 3  
4/29 EVENING  
0 0 3



4/29 MID-DAY  
1 1 8 3  
4/29 EVENING  
3 3 8 0

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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## Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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## Business News/Area News

# Reynolds orders review of Iowa Finance office

(DES MOINES) – Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered an independent review of the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) on Friday of the reports of sexual harassment by former IFA Executive Director David Jamison.

Des Moines attorney Mark Weinhardt will head the investigation and will submit a report to the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office. Weinhardt was selected by the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office to investigate the conduct that led to Jamison's firing and any similar incidents or conduct during his tenure

as executive director. Weinhardt has also been tasked with investigating what was known at IFA about these matters and the appropriateness of the response to them.

"Since the victims reported these horrible allegations, their safety and privacy have been my top priority," Gov. Reynolds said. "Now that one of the victims has made the decision to release the specific details of the harassment, I am ordering an independent review of David Jamison's conduct and what was known about it."

# HTC spikers want you to run in your jammies

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT - The 2018 Holy Trinity Catholic Volleyball team will be hosting its first annual Pajama Run on June 2.

All proceeds from the 5K run run/walk event will benefit the volleyball team.

Pre-registrations can be sent to Michele Dyer, 1293 240th Avenue, West Point, IA 52636 with checks made payable to HTC Volleyball. Pre-registrations are \$25 and included donuts and a t-shirt. Registration can be done on the day of the race in front of city hall, but t-shirts are not guaranteed.

For more information, contact Melissa Freesmeier at [mhs\\_vb\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:mhs_vb_1@hotmail.com) or 319-470-2796.

# Griffin's gets Female Friendly certified

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

FORT MADISON - Griffin Muffler & Brake Center of Fort Madison, IA is proud to announce that in addition to great experience they already provide their customers, they have taken an additional step to address the needs of women consumers, as part of the growing network of [AskPatty.com](http://AskPatty.com) Certified Female Friendly locations in North America. Team members at Griffin's have completed a training and certification process to provide a Certified Female Friendly experience that exceeds women's expectations, becoming the only Certified Female Friendly shop in the Tri State area.

In conjunction with [AskPatty.com](http://AskPatty.com), World Class Auto Repair has launched a female-focused microsite that provides the tools and resources most requested by women. The microsite gives women the ability to

schedule service appointments, access coupons and discounts, and learn more about car care online from the comfort of their home or office. The microsite is easily accessed by searching on [AskPatty.com](http://AskPatty.com), or by going directly to their site.

Visit the World Class Auto Repair [AskPatty.com](http://AskPatty.com) profile page at <https://www.askpatty.com/listings/fort-madison-ia-griffin-muffler-brake-center-llc/> or at their website: [www.griffinmuffler.com](http://www.griffinmuffler.com).

To become [AskPatty.com](http://AskPatty.com) Certified Female Friendly, Griffin Muffler & Brake Center personnel completed an extensive training program on how to best serve women. Griffin's will also benefit from a unique marketing support program designed to reach out and build last-

See FEMALES, page 8

## Griffins' Go Green Event

IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY GRIFFINS IS GOING GREEN!

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## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 30 Apr



Scattered Clouds  
High – 70.3° F | Low – 68.7° F

TUE 01 May



Partly Cloudy  
High – 79.1° F | Low – 75.7° F

WED 02 May



Moderate Rain  
High – 85.3° F | Low – 79.4° F

THU 03 May



Light Rain  
High – 79.2° F | Low – 66.7° F

FRI 04 May



Moderate Rain  
High – 89.6° F | Low – 63.2° F

[OpenWeatherMap](http://OpenWeatherMap)



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**Sports**

# Johnston, Larson/Shirai take titles in Burlington

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON - Kearstyn Johnson continued her hot tennis for the Fort Madison Bloodhounds as she won the title at No. 3 singles at the Burlington Invitational on Saturday at Dankwardt Park.

But the biggest story of the day may have been a win for FMHS at No. 1 doubles when the Hounds' Katie Larson and Miho Shirai knocked off Fairfield's Annatta Charoenkul and Hermela Gabremariam 9-7 in the first to 8 win-by-two format.

The FMHS duo had a bye in the first round and then dumped Notre Dame's Lydia Becker and Claire Hackenmiller 8-5 to advance to the title match against Charoenkul and Gabremariam.

Johnson, who was ranked No. 1 in the state at the No. 3 spot going into the tourney, downed Alyssa Duran of Dav-

enport North 8-2 in the semis after a first-round bye and then scored an 8-5 win over Fairfield's Cami Schaeffer for the title.

At No 2 singles, Shirai had a bye in round one and then beat Hackenmiller 8-3 to advance to a title shot against Fairfield's Yana Gaskell who repeated an 8-1 win over Shirai from a week ago, to win the title and give Shirai a second place finish.

Larissa Ferrill had a bye in round one at No. 4 singles and then dropped Burlington's Abby Witkamp in short order 8-0 to advance to the finals against Kennedy Rheinschmidt. She lost 3-8 in the finals, to take second place.

At No 5. singles, Mercedes Doty received a bye in the first round and then was dispatched by Davenport North's Sabrina Duran 8-9 (3-7 tiebreaker).

Lanie Kuntz started



FMHS's Katie Larson, foreground, and Miho Shirai, at baseline, work for a point against Burlington Notre Dame on Saturday morning in Burlington. While below left, FMHS' Larissa Ferrill, foreground, and Kearstyn Johnson work in tandem in their first match on Saturday morning. Johnston ended up winning the title at No. 3 singles.

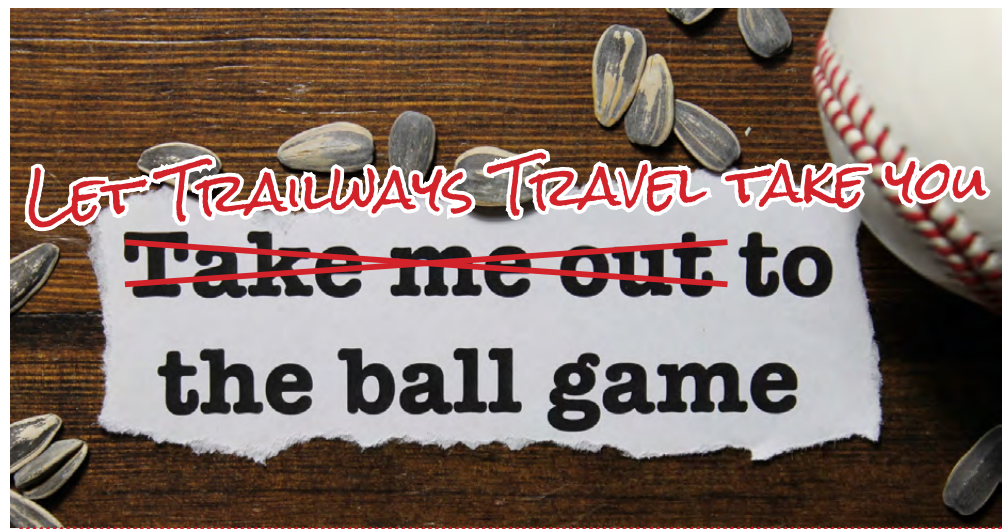
Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



with a bye at No. 6 singles and was downed by Isabella Tranquillo 8-4 in the semis.

At No. 2 doubles, Johnson and Larissa Ferrill rolled to an easy 8-0 win over Davis County's Allison Jones and Rebekah Settles before being shut out by Burlington Notre Dame's Riley Brueck and McKenzie Fry 0-8.

For the Hounds at No. 3 doubles, Mercedes Doty and Lani Kuntz couldn't get past Davis County's Avery Thompson and Isabella Tranquillo, 2-8 in the semifinals after getting a bye in the first round.



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC BID NOTICE FOR MOBILE DATA TERMINALS

Sealed proposals will be received in the Office of the Lee County Auditor, in the North Lee County Office Building at 933 Ave H, Fort Madison, Iowa until 12 Noon, May 15th, 2018. The sealed proposals will be opened by the Lee County Board of Supervisors or their designee at the next immediate Board of Supervisor's Meeting held at the Lee County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of 11 Mobile Data Terminals and the following items related to them:

- 11 Panasonic Toughbook CF54 laptops
- All cords and charging instruments
- 5 Havis Consoles (2 Dodge Charger, 3 Ford Interceptor SUV)
- 10 Havis Docking Stations with all Cords
- 10 Brother Pocketjet7 mobile printers and all cords and mounting brackets for use in a Law Enforcement Vehicle
- 10 LTRON imaging hand held driver's license scanners for Law Enforcement use with Tracs
- Lind power adapter
- All mounting hardware
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A more detailed list of needed equipment can be obtained by request of email to: Chief Deputy Will Conlee ([willconlee@leecounty.org](mailto:willconlee@leecounty.org))

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Lee County, Iowa  
Board of Supervisors  
Regular Meeting  
Agenda  
DATE: TUESDAY,  
May 1, 2018  
MEETING

**CONVENING TIME:**  
9:00 A.M.  
**LOCATION:**  
Correctional Center  
2530 255th Street,  
Montrose, IA  
**AGENDA**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Consider Approval of Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Public Input
- Consider Approval of Fiscal Agent Agreement with Children First
- Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Green Bay Bar and Grill, Wever
- Consider Approval of Union Contract with Secondary Roads Unit
- Consider Approval of Union Contract with Administrative Unit
- Personnel Actions:
  - A. Step Increase- Health Department (3)
  - B. New Hire-Secondary Roads (Replacement)
  - C. Step Increase- Sheriff's Office
- Commission or Committee Reports
- Adjourn

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Applications available at the Fort Madison office or email [AmandaH@smclrr.com](mailto:AmandaH@smclrr.com) for more information.

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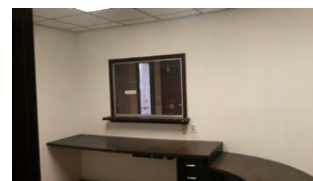
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Turning Hope into Reality



## From the Front

### AskPatty.com encourages women to service vehicles

**FEMALES** - Continued from Page 2

ing relationships with women customers.

“Women influence 85 percent of the buying decisions in North American household, effectively becoming the family’s chief purchasing officer” says Jody DeVere, CEO of [AskPatty.com](http://AskPatty.com), Inc.” AskPatty trains and certifies automotive businesses on how to communicate more effectively with women and ensure they feel safe, respected and empowered, which creates tremendous customer loyalty. Griffin’s commitment to women shows that management is serious about earning their business.”

Those wishing to seek more information on Griffin Muffler & Brake Center’s newly acquired certification may contact them online at [www.griffinmuffler.com](http://www.griffinmuffler.com) or by calling 319-372-2478.

Since 1997, Griffin Muffler & Brake Center has provided motorists in the Fort Madison, IA 52627 area with comprehensive auto repair services that include General Services, Undercar Services, Alignment, Brakes, Tires, Engine and Transmission Service, Heating and Cooling Service, Diagnostics and more. Our services include a 24 Month or 24,000 Mile Parts and Labor Warranty honored at over 9300 repair facilities nationwide.

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**First. Fresh. Local.**

### Fundraising, spreading word is top of mind with group

**WATCH** - Continued from Page 1

which help offset operational costs and equipment purchases.

Howard said the 34th Place watch group has been taking cans to a redemption center in Mt. Pleasant. With redemption centers in Fort Madison closed down, groceries are once again taking cans but on a limited basis. He said when his watch group takes cans to Mt. Pleasant it usually yields about \$120 for the group and they go once or twice a month.

The 34th Place group has done fundraisers to replace the flags at Solidier’s Circle in Oakland Cemetery, and announced Sunday that they will be awarding two \$800 scholarships to a student from Fort Madison High School and a student from Holy Trinity Catholic High School.

The group is also holding other grassroots fundraisers like garage sales to purchase things like radios, flashlights, and reflective vests.

Howard said the funds are important to keep things moving.

“When we first started this, we wanted nothing to do with the money - nothing. But then, a few of us kept throwing money into it and said, ‘We can’t keep doing this’ so we started looking at ways to raise funds,” Howard said.

He invited the other groups to travel with them to Mt. Pleasant to redeem the cans and share the costs of the trip.

The group also decided to look into the possibility of getting an information booth at Riverfest in August. The festival, which runs Aug. 3-6 is featuring 80s, 90s, and current rock this year, along with local favorites and a country act on Sunday. The watch groups want to set up an information booth to let people know what is happening with the group, and more importantly, how they can get a watch group going in their neighborhood. A committee was set up to look into getting the booth.

Howard said he’s had a couple people approach him about creating a watch group, but no plans have become concrete as of yet.

The three groups meet independently monthly and then get together on a quarterly basis for a potluck to look at the effects of the groups on crime.

Smith said one stat that stands out to him was that 66 vehicles were stolen in Fort Madison in the past year.

“That just boggled my mind,” Smith said. “But what’s crazy is that all 66 were stolen with the doors unlocked and the keys inside.”

The group agreed to meet again in August.

## Spring Cleaning

### Keep it green!

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more



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