



# Pen City Current

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018 | 10 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 253



## Early voting dooms GOP in local races

### Harlow, Kurtz lose at polls, but win with absentee margins

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County election volunteers work through absentee ballots Tuesday afternoon at the North Lee County office building. Absentees played a critical role in local Democrat wins.

FORT MADISON - Early voting was critical to the success of several local Democrats in local elections Tuesday night.

Rich Harlow won the District 3 Lee County Supervisors race with 1,481 votes to 1,277 or 54.6% of the votes cast in the five precincts. Harlow won 59.2% of the absentee and early voting. However, Harlow won by 204 votes, but had a 260 vote lead in absentee and early voting numbers.

"I'm glad it's over," Harlow said. "That was a lot of hard work and knocking on doors and parades."

He said he's anxious to get working for the people of Lee County and the board of supervisors.

"I look forward to working with them," he said. "I've been to a lot of the meetings and they're all hard working people. Looking forward to working with them and the staff as well."

Harlow said this cam-

paign was more arduous than previous runs for city council.

"Absolutely. A lot more of a grind than I thought it would be. It's been since February," he said. "When I ran for city council I beat seven other people and it was no way a grind like this has been a grind."

He said he thinks the election was a referendum of the people not just locally, but on a state and national level, that they are

very frustrated.

"By in large I think with the people of not just Lee County, but the people of United States, there is a lot of unrest and 'politicians' is a dirty word. We've got a great country and that's how things happen. Right now there's a lot of division and I was out talking to people, and I found that a lot of people are just plain fed up," Harlow said.

Phone calls to Steffen went unreturned.

In the District 83 Iowa House race, Fort Madison's Jeff Kurtz knocked off Keokuk Republican Jeff Reichman 5,518 to 4,587 for 54.6% of the votes cast. Kurtz brought in 60.6% of the early and absentee voting.

"I think it was a good night for us and a good night state-wide for all our candidates. We certainly made gains from 2016," Kurtz said.

See **POLLS**, page 3

## Area cops bust family burglary ring

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - What started out with a couple of tips of a suspicious vehicle in the county, turned into one of the single biggest theft ring busts in recent Lee County history.

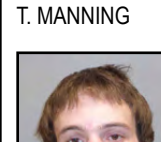
The Lee County Sheriff's department now has more than \$10,000 in stolen goods in their possession after West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts got a whiff of something bigger than just a suspicious vehicle moving through Donnellson and West Point in early October.



G. MANNING

Roberts said a tip from a resident who got a license plate off a vehicle that was parked in an alley got the ball rolling and began a four-week investigation.

Arrested in connection with the burglaries were: Teresa Manning, 43, charged with possession of stolen property, possession of burglar's tools, burglary 3rd degree, and ongoing criminal conduct. Joseph Manning, 18, charged with a warrant for failure to appear, and theft in the 5th degree, possession of burglar's tools, possession of stolen property, and ongoing criminal conduct.



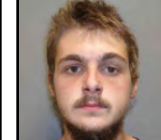
T. MANNING

Brandon Manning, 20, charged with burglary 3rd degree, possession of burglar's tools, possession of stolen property, and ongoing criminal conduct.



B. MANNING

Gary Manning, age 52, who was already in custody at the Lee County Jail, was charged with burglary 3rd degree, possession of stolen property, possession of burglar's tools, and ongoing criminal conduct.



J. MANNING

Gary and Theresa are the parents of the two other adult children.

The possession of stolen property and 3rd degree burglary are both class D felonies, which carry a maximum five year prison sentence and up to \$7,500 fine. Ongoing criminal conduct is a class B felony, which carries a maximum of 25 years in prison according to Iowa law. The possession of burglar's tools and fifth degree theft are misdemeanors.

See **THEFTS**, page 10

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# Obituaries/For the Record

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

11/5/18 - 8:17 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3400 block of Avenue N.  
 11/5/18 - 10:57 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue L.  
 11/5/18 - 2:54 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of 27th Street.  
 11/5/18 - 4:59 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of 9th Street.  
 11/5/18 - 5:02 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to

a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 6th Street and Avenue G.

11/5/18 - 8:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Ashley Renee Etka, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.

11/5/18 - 8:35 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Matthew Joseph Fink, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue L on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

11/5/18 - 9:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joseph Patrick Franks, 41, of Montrose, in the 4500 block of Avenue

O, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

11/6/18 - 8:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 28th Street.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/5/18 - 1:12 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Edward Capps Guzman, 19, of Fort Madison at milemarker 27 on Hwy. 61, on a charge of escape from custody. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

11/5/18 - 2:01 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to

a two-vehicle accident on state Hwy 2 near West Point Road. According to the sheriff report, a semi-trailer driven by Michael McCoy, 58, of Grand Prairie, Texas, traveling east on Hwy 2 hauling a wind blade, had the back end of the blade strike the top left of another passing semi trailer driven by Tony Lee Abbas, 44, of Osceola. Minor damage was done to the blade and Abbas' semi. No injuries were reported and no citations were issued.

### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/5/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls and one burn complaint.

## OBITUARIES

# PHYLLIS ROSAMOND MILLER

Phyllis Rosamond Miller, 94 of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, November 4, 2018 at her home in Keokuk.



MILLER

She was born July 30, 1924 in Walla Walla, WA the daughter of Casey Howard and Clara Bell Fry Ferris. Phyllis was first united in marriage to Jack Cullens on March 23, 1943 in Oregon. He was killed-in- action on June 6, 1944. She then married Harry Breakbill on September 1, 1945. He preceded her in death on December 24, 1968. Phyllis was later was united marriage to Harold K. Miller on February 2, 1971. He preceded her in death on March 23, 1997.

Phyllis was a veteran of the United States Women's Army Corp (WAC) and proudly served her country during World War II as a surgical nurse.

Phyllis received her GED and then completed the Dale Carnegie Course and the master gardener program.

She had been employed by Dreydens/Shellor Globe in Keokuk for thirty-five years until her retirement in 1986.

She is a member of the American Legion Post #41 and served in the honor guard also carried flags in various patriotic ceremonies. She was also a member and past president of the Southside Boat Club in Keokuk, the Keokuk Business and Professional Women Association and had served on the Keokuk Park Board. She volunteered her green thumb and gardening knowledge with the Keokuk Garden Club for several years as a master gardener in both Iowa and Illinois.



Phyllis enjoyed traveling and had been to all 50 states and several foreign countries.

She is survived by two daughters, Camellia LeMaster (John) of Keokuk and Gloria Naqvi of Keokuk, five grandchildren, Robert Myers, David Myers, Chris LeMaster (Sundae), Neil LeMaster (Stephanie) and Melina Atterberg (Bill), eight great-grandchildren, Shasta, T.J., Amber, Daniel, Alisha, Trenton, Angelica-Christian and two great-great-grandchildren, Tyler Myers and Andrew Sturms.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Hilda Guieca and Irene Adams.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA with Father Robert Lathrop officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the City of Keokuk for the care of the Rand Park flower gardens.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

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## From the Front/Weather

# Late voter results push Reynold's back into Governor's chair

### POLLS - Continued from Page 1

A very telling statistic in that race was that Reichman had more votes on election day than Kurtz had. Jeff Kurtz took 2,908 absentee and early votes compared to Reichman's 1886 for a difference of 1,022, but Reichman lost the election by only 931 votes. So Reichman actually had 91 more votes on election day.

"I think the absentee ballots helped, those are votes in the bank," Kurtz said. "We engaged in absolutely no dirty campaigning. I congratulate Jeff. He's probably the strongest candidate that they could have run. There were some factors there that didn't play well. I think it was matter of timing."

Kurtz said he thinks Democrats gained some ground because of emotional issues such as collective bargaining, IPERS, and underfunded education as well as the privatized Medicaid debacle.

Reichman said he was told the election would be decided by Oct. 9 and the

absentee ballots proved that projection correct.

"Unfortunately, you can't take those out of the equation," Reichman panned after the results were in.

"It was a good experience overall and my first venture into politics. As we say in life and the military, you'll learn more from your defeats than through your victories."

He said that wasn't a precursor to a future run, but he didn't rule it out either.

"It's too early to tell. We'll regroup and re-evaluate," he said.

He said the Democrats just outspent his campaign and that was the main reason for the loss.

"We were just getting outspent. I said from the beginning, my measure of our success is what they had to counter. If we did something, they had to counter it and outspend us and they did that 13 to 1," Reichman said. "We had a good message. For the price they spent, they

could have taken everyone out to lunch. I spent enough to return two pop cans. It's hard to compete with that, but at the end of the day they got more votes."

Reichman congratulated Kurtz on the win and said the two are really very similar except on taxes.

"Congratulations to him. We shook hands a few times and said we're going to have a beer after this and I'm going to hold him to that. We were close on everything except the tax and spend."

In the other races at the county level, U.S Rep. Dave Loebsack of Iowa's 2nd District beat Dr. Christopher Peters 6,482 to 5,558 and went on to win the seat. Businessman Fred Hubbell led Gov. Kim Reynolds through the night's reporting and took Lee County 6,353 to 5,949. Again the margin of defeat was in early voting with Hubbell holding an 809



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Republicans watch voting results at the Republican Headquarters in Fort Madison Tuesday night. Early voting was soft, but late returns turned some of the elections back to state Republicans.

vote advantage, but only carried the county by 404.

Secretary of State Paul Pate carried Lee County with 6,184 to 5,924 for Deidre DeJear. DeJear held a 642 vote lead in early voting. County Democrats carried Democrat

Rob Sand 6,180 to Mary Mosiman's 5,861. Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald (D) carried the county 6,487 to 5,609, while Secretary of Agriculture Tim Gannon (D) carried the county 6,021 to 5,879 in a very close county vote.

Democrat Tom Miller carried Lee County in a landslide with 8,063 votes to Libertarian Marco Battaglia's 2,694. Local democrats Ross Braden, Nancy Booten, Chris Spann, and Rick Larkin all were re-elected unopposed.

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 07 Nov

Partly Cloudy  
High - 40.1° F | Low - 24.3° F

THU 08 Nov

Light Snow  
High - 31.4° F | Low - 22.1° F

FRI 09 Nov

Light Snow  
High - 30.2° F | Low - 10.0° F

SAT 10 Nov

Clear Skies  
High - 34.6° F | Low - 37.1° F

SUN 11 Nov

Clear Skies  
High - 44.6° F | Low - 31.9° F

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Sports

# HTC to try and keep state foes off balance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Been there - done that.

Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier, if you've been living under a rock and don't know yet, is taking the Holy Trinity Crusaders to the Class 1A state volleyball tournament again - for the ninth straight year.

The action kicks off

Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids where the 3rd-seed Crusaders will face off against 6th-seeded Montezuma.

The Lady Braves were ranked 7th in the state in 1A at the end of the regular season sporting a 30-6 record through regional play and haven't dropped a set since Sept. 27. They disposed of 10th-ranked New London in three sets 25-13, 25-22 and 25-20, right after HTC got their ticket to state punched with a 25-10, 25-11, 25-5 8th district regional championship win over East Union.

Freesmeier said Montezuma will present unique challenges, but the Crusaders have been gaining confidence and peaking at the right time.

"They run their offense out of the middle and they have two very versatile girls in the middle and on the left in (senior Riley) Gatton and (junior Waverly) Roorda) who were all district last year," Freesmeier said. "They are both great athletes. Our responsibility will be to slow them down and get some touches

against them. Our defense will have to pick up some balls, but we know we need to control and try to make it tough for them to get the ball to the middle with some aggressive serving."

Gatton was honorable mention all-state last year in Class 1A as a junior. She's currently 9th in the state in kills with 328. Shateah Wetering is a junior this year and is in the top 25 in kills with 281. Roorda is currently 4th in the state in assists with 715.

The Crusaders are coming off of two of their most complete matches of the season in their wins over East Union and Seymour holding the opponents under 10 points in four of the six sets.

Holy Trinity will be relying on the heavy hitting of seniors Emily Box and Eryn Anderson to compliment some very nifty serving of late and some solid defense from seniors Mya Lawlor, Elyse Pothitakis, and Taylor Boeding.

Box, a first team All-State selection in 2017, is 4th in the state in Class 1A in hitting with 400 kills with a 41% kill efficiency. Anderson has come on strong in the regionals and is solid hitting with Box out of the rotation. Boeding plays all over the floor, literally, and can hit from the outside, while keeping the balls in play and serves at 96% efficiency with 60 aces on the year.

Lawlor's serving kept both Seymour and East Union off balance placing the ball in a variety of zones with good efficiency and kept opposing defenses off balance.

"It's huge for us to be able to serve aggressively," Freesmeier said. "We're

“*The seniors have been here and done this. You want them to take it to that next level - this is your last shot*”

-Melissa Freesmeier, HTC Head Coach

smaller than most and we have to do more of the little things than others. We've picked up our serving in the post season. We've been good all year, but just have been great during that stretch. Taylor, Mya, Emily, Eryn, they all have a little different touch on the ball. It's going to be a big factor in keeping teams out of their systems."

A couple underclassman including freshman Kassie Randolph and sophomores Bailey Hellweg, Katie Denning, and Claire Pothitakis are coming into their first or second state tournament. Randolph's sister Ali played on the state championship team of 2014 so she's been exposed to the emotion of the tournament.

Freesmeier said the kids did a lot of drills against upperclassmen this week and she said the level of competitiveness is very high.

"We did a lot of underclassmen against upperclassmen drills and the competition is escalating. I think they're competitively ready and they have to go out there and play. There's nothing to be scared of."

She said the seniors are

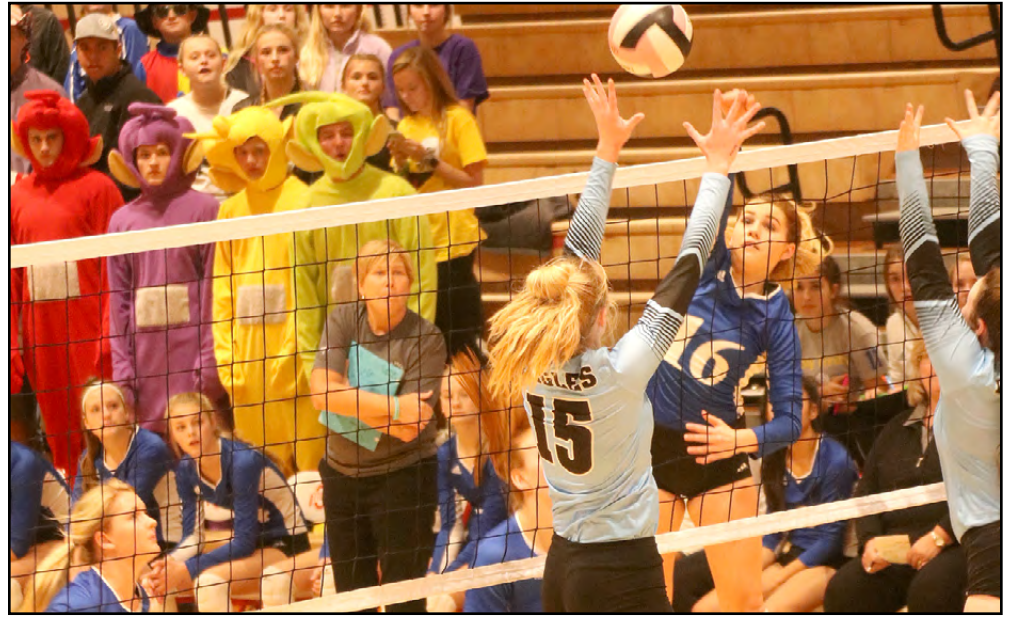


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Holy Trinity Crusaders will open state volleyball action Wednesday at 8 p.m. against 6th-seeded Montezuma at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids.



POTHITAKIS

looking to take it to the next level.

"Experience will help up there. The seniors have been here and done this," Freesmeier said. "You want them to take it to that next level - this is your last shot."

The winner of Holy Trinity/Montezuma will face the winner of LeMar Gehlen Catholic/East Mills on Thursday for the right to play for the title on Friday night, all on Court 2.

In the top half, reigning champion and top-seed Janesville (43-5) takes on 28-9 8th-seeded Gladbrook-Reinbeck at 6 p.m. followed by 4th seed Starmont 29-6 against 23-15 Tripoli at 8 p.m, both matches on Court 1.

Freesmeier said the big hitters at the state tour-



ANDERSON



LAWLOR

ament will require the Crusaders to be defensively sound and active at the net.

"Height is always a problem. What we do is use a block and find other ways to get kills. We also have to pass better than the other team. It will be tough because the caliber of teams up there is pretty impressive."

She said Box has improved through the year and is better now at getting touches on kills by bigger hitters. And underclassmen Avery Hopper, Claire Pothitakis, and Katie Denning have been playing bigger at the net.

"Our defenders can dig up a lot and we need to touch the ball. Box has become better at that," she said. "Right side is bigger this year and they've been



BOEDING



BOX

getting a lot of touches - Claire, Avery, all three of them. We have to read where they're

going and try to slow them down. Those big hitters will get their kills and we can't get wrapped up in that. You just have to go out play with confidence."

Freesmeier said North Tama getting beaten in regionals was a surprise. North Tama, ranked 5th in the final Class 1A rankings, was knocked off in the semifinals by No. 11 Gladbrook-Reinbeck in three straight. But she said in the state tournament brackets any team can step up and surprise you.

"North Tama getting beat was a surprise, they were No. 5. But in the regionals it's anybody's game. There are a lot of the same teams at state from year to year. They are very solid programs and it's anybody's to win."

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# GOOD LUCK AT STATE



Senior Eryn Anderson



Pen City Current and these businesses congratulate the Holy Trinity Catholic Crusaders girls volleyball team and wish them the best of luck in this week's Iowa State Volleyball Tournament. From left to right front is Mya Lawlor, Maille Sheerin, Elyse Pothitakis, Katie Scoville, and Bailey Hellweg. Back row left to right are Taylor Boeding, Jori Whitaker, Katie Denning, Emily Box, Claire Pothitakis, Eryn Anderson, and Kassi Randolph.



Senior Mya Lawlor



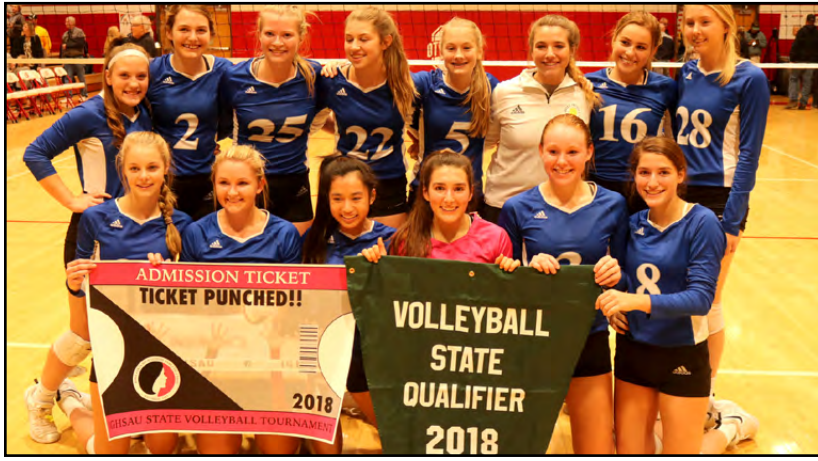
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Senior Elyse Pothitakis



Senior Emily Box



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# LADY CRUSADERS

Janesville

B1 - Wed 11/7 6:00PM  
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Bracket Winner B1

Gladbrook-Reinbeck

B5 - Thu 11/8 6:00PM  
U.S. Cellular Center - Court 1

Bracket Winner B5

Starmont

B2 - Wed 11/7 8:00PM  
U.S. Cellular Center - Court 1

Bracket Winner B2

Tripoli

B7 - Fri 11/9 7:00PM  
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Bracket Winner B7

Class 1A State Champion

Gehlen Catholic

B3 - Wed 11/7 6:00PM  
U.S. Cellular Center - Court 2

Bracket Winner B3

East Mills

B6 - Thu 11/8 6:00PM  
U.S. Cellular Center - Court 2

Bracket Winner B6

Holy Trinity

B4 - Wed 11/7 8:00PM  
U.S. Cellular Center - Court 2

Bracket Winner B4

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# Current-Lee/Classifieds

## CURRENT-LEE

### Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

### Veteran's Breakfast at Sunnybrook

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veterans' Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

### Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

# the classifieds

## HELP WANTED

### Dental Assistant or Hygienist

Lee County Health Department is seeking a part time contracted dental assistant or dental hygienist to work within our school-based sealant program. Applicant must be a licensed assistant or hygienist with at least one year of clinical experience. Please send resume to Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Oral Health Program Coordinator at [rprahn@leecountyhd.org](mailto:rprahn@leecountyhd.org). LCHD is an equal opportunity employer.



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# Classifieds

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**Celebrations/From the Front**

# Fort Madison family nabbed in burglary case

**THEFTS** - Continued from Page 1

"It started in Donnellson when someone had observed a vehicle behind a garage in an alleyway and a resident confronted them. They took off and he got a license plate and that's what kicked it off. From that point we had several observations of that same vehicle and began investigating," Roberts said.

He said authorities continued to receive reports of the same vehicle combing the alleyways and streets in the county.

Roberts said the investigation involved the collaboration of multiple agencies and many man hours.

"This was a result of some strong collaboration between agencies and a lot of manpower. We couldn't have made this case without the efforts of my entire staff and the assistance of the sheriff's department. These guys put in a lot of hours and most of these guys have other full time jobs," Roberts said.

Lee County Sheriff's Department Detective Chad Donaldson was also part of the investigation. He said Roberts started the investigation.

"Roberts is the one who started putting the pieces together there as numerous storage shed break-ins and reports of suspicious vehicles in the area. From there we developed the list of suspects and started the investigation as a result," Donaldson said.

He said he expects additional charges relating to the string of burglaries to be filed as the investigation reveals additional details. Donaldson said a lot of law enforce-

ment resources were used on the investigation, including manpower and technology to build the case.

"We deployed certain tools at our disposal to assist with the investigation and to make sure we were aware of their locations and things of that nature," Donaldson said. "We're still trying to determine what items were actually stolen. But, for example, there was a tackle box stolen from a storage department that had more than \$1,000 in fishing tackle in it, which has been identified and returned."

He said the suspects are currently in custody.

"There are still multiple burglaries under investigation in regard to this particular crew, and I believe there will be additional counts of burglaries filed on these four."

Donaldson said three of the four are sitting on \$50,000 cash-only bonds.

Other items in the burglaries include snow blowers, several generators, fishing equipment, gas cans, about a dozen big screen televisions, tools and other memorabilia and paraphernalia.

Lee County sheriff Stacy Weber said anyone who thinks they may have been victimized by any of the burglaries in the county should contact the sheriff's department to view the items.

"Due to the large quantity of possible stolen items, we are asking for the public to help identify property they are missing. Detectives Donaldson and (Clint) Wray can be reached at 372-1152 ext. 3332 and ext. 3313 to arrange for viewing of the property on Thursday Nov. 8th from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the sheriff's office located at 2530 255th Street, Montrose, Iowa."

West Point/Donnellson Police Department, the Fort

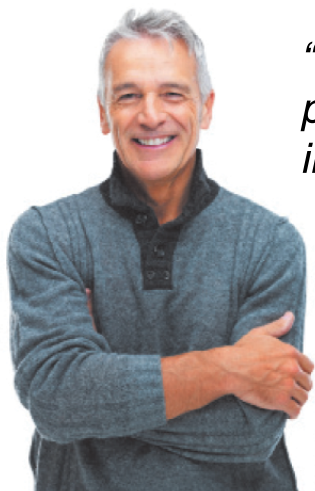


Lee County Sheriff's Dept. detectives Clint Wray, left, and Chad Donaldson, right, stand with West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts with a portion of the items recovered from a theft ring this week.

Madison Police Department, and Lee County detectives and reserves were part of the 4-month long investigation.

"The Sheriff's Office wishes to thank the public for their assistance in this matter and the West Point/Donnellson Police Chief Brad Roberts and his staff and the Lee County Reserves for the extensive efforts and time put forth to bring this investigation to a close," Weber said.

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Celebrations

## RENESMEE RAYE TERFORD

FORT MADISON - Jessica Kissell and Tim Terford, of Keokuk, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter ReneSmee Raye Terford on Oct. 22, 2108 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison.

She joins sister Alexis Lantz, and brother Aiden Terford at home.

Grandparents are Martha Gray of Keokuk; Jackie Booth and Joe Booth of Wayland, Mo.; and Harold Kissell of Memphis, Mo.

Great-grandparent is Carol Kissell of Keokuk.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.



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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
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11/5  
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Lucky Ball: 9



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11/5 EVENING  
0 6 0



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