



# Pen City Current

Thursday, April 11, 2019 | 7 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 91

## FMHS touts special needs transition programs

*Specialists join staff to showcase area offerings*



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A family speaks with Brock Anderson and Eva Castillo of Hope Haven Corp. of Burlington about services the group provides during Transition Services Night Wednesday at Fort Madison High School.

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – In an effort to help prepare students with special needs for high school and beyond, the Fort Madison High School brought six groups in Wednesday to speak with parents and students about accessible services.

Parents, staff, and representatives from Van Buren Job Opportunities, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation, Hope Haven Corporation, and Job Corps were on hand to speak with parents in the High School Media Center.

Malissa Nelson, a special education teacher at the high school said staff changed the format of the event this year.

“We do this at least every fall and spring and it used to be a presentation to parents in a group structure,” she said. “But this year we went to this structure so parents and students could get one-on-one time with staff and some of the groups.”

Nelson said the format also gives families a little sense of privacy in discussing specific issues.

“A lot of times when you have a big group session, parents and students with IEPs (Individualized Educational Plans) or 504s don’t want to discuss their situations openly and don’t want people knowing their circumstances,” she said. “This format gives them some privacy.”

Van Buren Job Opportunities was at the transition night for the first time. Nelson said Van Buren places students and adults with special needs in the work place environment.

“This program allows the students to taste that success. That can be in the form of many opportunities through coaching or independent work. The hours vary so they are very flexible,” Nelson said.

Julie Garcia, an employment specialist with Van Buren, said she was happy the school called and asked

See **TRANSITION**, page 4



## RAGBRAI vendors may need permit

Submitted article

LEE COUNTY - If your non-profit organization or for-profit business is considering having a food or beverage stand at one of the stops on the RAGBRAI route, you will need to make sure you know all the requirements and have the correct license. Lee County Health Department (LCHD) Environmental staff will assist you with your questions. However, before you call, please check out our website at [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org).

“We are asking everyone to please go to our website first. There you will find all the information on license types, and all the needs for stations, etc. There is also full document that you can download,” states Rose Haukedahl, LCHD Environmental Program Director. “Our staff is limited, and our calls/demands will increase with RAGBRAI, so please be patient with us while we get back to you.”

LCHD oversees the food inspections for Lee, Des Moines, Henry, and Van Buren Counties. RAGBRAI will be riding through all four counties July 26th and 27th. “It is going to be a very busy couple of days for us so we highly encourage everyone to have their information in on time,” adds Haukedahl. All license applications must be submitted 60 days prior to the RAGBRAI event.

## Sheriff's office to hold Rx take-back

PCC STAFF

MONTROSE – On Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will give the public its 17th opportunity in nine years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes

See **PRESCRIPTIONS**, page 3

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## Obituaries/Ag News

### OBITUARIES

## DANNY L. DENSON

Danny L. Denson, 64, of Argyle, Iowa, passed away at 11:20 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.



DENSON

Born on December 2, 1954 in Lovelock, Nevada, the son of Dalton Lee and Dorothy E. (Fletcher) Denson. On August 4, 1992, he married Monique Rothe in Stuart, Florida.



Survivors include his wife: Monique of Argyle, Iowa; six children: Suzan (Eric), Danny Jr. (Linda), Joshua, Robert, Dana and Miki; twelve grandchildren; his father: Dalton Denson of Wright City Missouri; one brother; Guy Denson of Wright City, Missouri and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother: Dorothy and one sister: Candy.

Danny was a United States Army Veteran having served during the Vietnam Era. He worked as a Union carpenter. He enjoyed collecting John Deere tractors and Dexter cows. Danny also enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time with his friends.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation, no burial is being planned.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be made at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

## TAMMY ELIZABETH HART

Tammy Elizabeth Hart, 42, of Montrose, IA, passed away at 2:19 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at the Montrose Health Center. She was born on March 31, 1977 in Fort Madison, IA to Robert & Patricia Schiedel Collins.



HART

She was always happy & enjoyed doing projects at the care center & listening to country music.

Tammy is survived by: her mother: Patricia Brockman of West Point, IA; 2-sisters: Melissa (Jeff) Smith of Lexington, VA & Melinda Sutton of Niota, IL; 6-nieces & 2-nephews. She was preceded in death by her father & grandparents.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and burial will take place at a later date at Franklin Cemetery in Franklin, IA. Online condolences to Tammy's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time 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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# USDA approves emergency grazing

DES MOINES— USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Amanda De Jong today announced that effective immediately, emergency grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres is approved in Iowa through May 14, 2019. The authorization was granted to address the impacts of the recent extreme weather, including flooding. Participation is limited to livestock producers who lost pasture or fences due to the flooding.

“By allowing emergency grazing, we expand the available resources to help Iowa producers respond to recent weather events,” De Jong said.

Producers who are interested in the use of emergency grazing of CRP acres must request FSA county office approval before moving livestock onto the acres. Producers whose livestock grazing land was adversely impacted by the flood, must file a CCC-576 Notice of Loss or provide written certification of that loss. The request must include a modified conservation plan, with grazing provisions, from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

CRP participants can allow others to use their CRP acres under this emergency grazing authorization; however, the livestock owners will also need to complete FSA paperwork indicating their grazing land was adversely impacted by severe weather. There will be no reduction in CRP rental payments to CRP contract holders who use the emergency grazing authorization. CRP contract holders are not permitted to charge livestock producers for the emergency grazing option.

For more information on eligible practices or to request approval for emergency grazing use of CRP acres, contact your local FSA office or visit [www.farmers.gov/service-locator](http://www.farmers.gov/service-locator).



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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	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



4/9  
11 22 34 44 58  
Mega Ball: 9  
Megaplier: 2



4/9 MID-DAY  
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4/9 EVENING  
2 0 1



4/9 MID-DAY  
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4/9 EVENING  
6 3 8 6

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**Pen City Current**

Founded in 2016



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## For the Record/Local News

# Flushing drugs has health, safety issues

**PRESCRIPTIONS**- Cont'd from Page 1

of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring your pills for disposal to the Lee County Sheriff's Office at 2530 255th St, Montrose, Iowa. Sites cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps – only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last fall, Americans turned in nearly 460 tons (more than 900,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,800 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 16 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in almost 11 million pounds- nearly 5,500 tons-of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines – flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash – both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the April 27 Take Back Day event, go to [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com).

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

04/08/19 – 12:21 p.m.  
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1800 block of Avenue J.  
04/09/19 – 3:19 a.m.  
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of 30th Street.  
04/09/19 – 8:11 p.m.  
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2100 block of Avenue D.

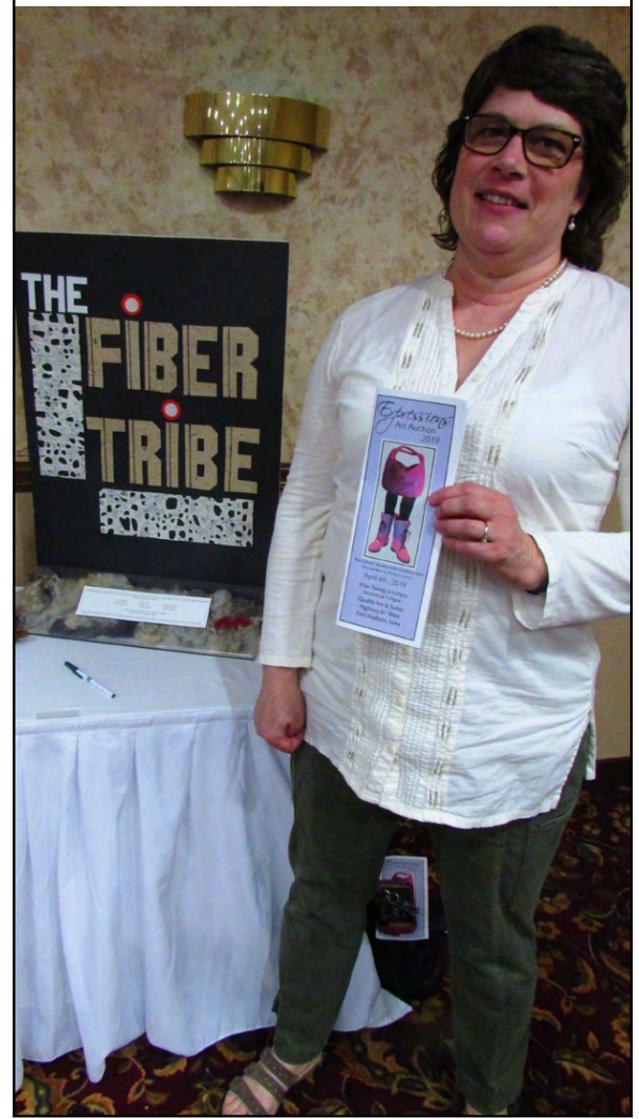
#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/08/19 – 5:52 a.m.  
– Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 61. A vehicle driven by Jonathan Michael Grow, 23, of Nauvoo, Ill., was traveling southbound in the 2400 block when the the drive lost control due to weather conditions. Grow's vehicle crossed both lanes of traffic and entered the

west ditch. No injuries or citations were reported.  
04/08/19 – no report  
04/09/19 – 11:00 a.m.  
– Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jodie Diane Johnson, 41, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
04/09/19 – 2:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Theodore Bradley Moyes, 51, of Carthage, Ill., at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation.. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

04/08/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls  
04/09/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls.



Courtesy photo

### FMAAA winner

Barb Altgilbers, with Lee County Abstract Company, was the winner of the Pick Your Own Vacation raffle donated by the Marshal Family at The Fort Madison Arts Associations' Expressions Art Auction this Saturday. She will pick from 2,900 resorts for her expedition. FMAAA thanks everyone for their support at their main fundraiser of the year.

**Got a news tip?  
Call Chuck (319)371.1670**

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### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 11 Apr

Moderate Rain  
High– 70.0° F | Low – 49.9° F

FRI 12 Apr

Scattered Clouds  
High– 47.0° F | Low – 39.8° F

SAT 13 Apr

Clear  
High– 51.6° F | Low – 43.3° F

SUN 14 Apr

Moderate Rain  
High– 40.5° F | Low – 29.7° F

MON 15 Apr

Clear  
High– 51.6° F | Low – 45.6° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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**Local News/Classifieds**

# Area groups offer hand up to special needs students

**TRANSITION** - Continued from Page 1

them to be represented.

"I've worked with other schools in our six-county service area and this is the first time we've been asked to come. It's nice because we can help with job identification and training even after high school ends," she said.

Van Buren finds jobs within the communities of the schools. In addition, they do job coaching, assessments, and training.

"A lot of times we're job coaching with a student close to 100% of the time when they first start a job, but then it's our hope that once they get settled in, we take more of an assessment role and check on them periodically so they have that independence," Garcia said.

Garcia said the turnout was the highest she's seen at a transition night.

Nelson said Hope Haven has a variety of programs including work-based programs. She said Job Corps is a federally-funded program that is designed to get special needs students workforce ready.

"It's a government-funded program and they can get a free education, but there are some stipulations and standards they have to meet. It's a great opportunity for students who aren't necessarily college bound, but need to learn a trade to be successful out of high school," Nelson said.

Hope Haven is a non-profit organization that provides vocational, residential and community employment as well as living services for mentally and physically challenged persons in southeast Iowa.

Nelson said in the future, the school would like to invite employers who might be willing to work with the students to attend the session.

# Loebsack staffer to hold local hours

FORT MADISON – Congressman Dave Loebsack will have a member of his staff in Southeastern Iowa for open office hours. Jared Hershberger, Loebsack's District Representative, will be at the following locations. Hershberger will be on hand to work with individuals who are having difficulty with a government agency, have suggestions for Dave, or would just like to share their concerns. Members of the public are invited to attend. Hershberger holds regular office hours throughout Iowa.

If residents are unable to attend but have a concern to share with the Congressman, please call our district office toll-free at 1-866-914-IOWA (4692).

Hershberger's will be in Fort Madison and Keokuk on Thursday, April 11 at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E from 10:00 a.m – noon, and Keokuk Public Library, 210 North 5th Street from 1 to 2 p.m.

# the classifieds

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**Classifieds/Public Notices**

# the classifieds

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
GREAT PRAIRIE  
AREA EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
MARCH 25, 2019**

The special meeting of the Board of Directors of Great Prairie Area Education Agency was held on March 25, 2019, via Zoom.

I. Meeting was called to order by President Stephenson at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Marge Wilhelm, Janet Smith, Victoria Stephenson, Joyce Wauters, Patricia Miletich, and Himar Hernandez

Also Present: Dr. Cindy Yelick, Greg Manske, and Jennifer Woodley

II. Acknowledgment of special meeting to ratify the classified contract.

III. Motion was made by Wauters and seconded

by Wilhelm to approve the Agenda as posted.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

IV. Motion was made by Hernandez and seconded by Miletich to ratify the 2019-22 contract with classified staff as presented.

Roll call vote:

Hernandez

Miletich

Smith

Stephenson

Wauters

Wilhelm

Motion Carried Unanimously.

V. No other business was presented.

VI. There being no further business President Stephenson adjourned the meeting.

Motion

Carried Unanimously.

Time: 11:06 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President

**HELP WANTED**

**COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED**

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator

Do you like to garden and work outdoors?  
Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 10 lbs. or less...Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call – Tammy at 319-372-8043.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs addressing needs in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.



United Way of the Great River Region

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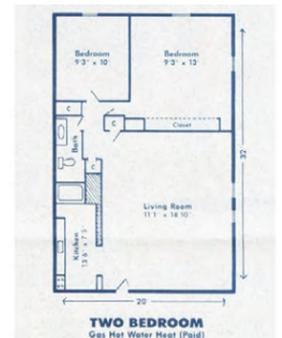
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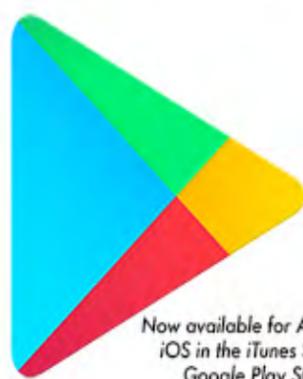
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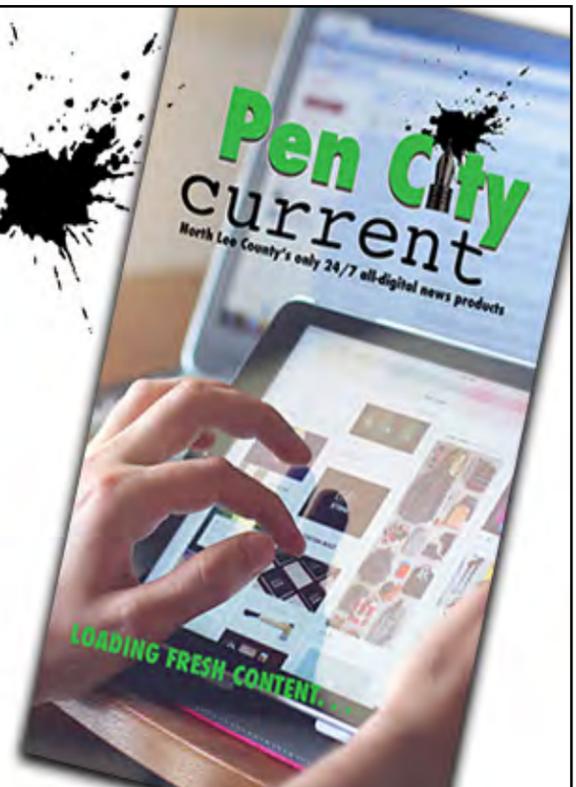


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## Education News/Local News

## SCC to feature author Reese April 20th

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeastern Community College will celebrate April as National Poetry Month by hosting a Visiting Writers Series event on Saturday, April 20, at 8:00 p.m. Rita Mae Reese, a nationally acclaimed and award-winning author, is scheduled to read. SCC's Culture on Campus Committee and Di Dante Literature & Writing Club will co-host the event.

SCC English & Creative Writing Professor and Di Dante Advisor Charles Burm notes, "Members of SCC's Culture on Campus Committee feel it is important to provide our students and the greater community with cultural opportunities that otherwise may be difficult to access. It is our honor and pleasure to bring this distinguished writer to our campus."

Burm is quick to promote the talent of the guest poet and the cooperative efforts of multiple organizations to make SCC's Visiting Writers Series successful.

"Rita Mae Reese has

gathered much praise and has earned many awards for her writing. Her work has been widely published, and she is highly regarded in her field. We are fortunate to have her with us to celebrate National Poetry Month."

Burm continues, "Much credit should go to the Burlington Fine Arts League, the Society of Great River Poets, the SCC Foundation, and many area businesses and individuals for supporting SCC's Culture on Campus Committee, the Visiting Writers Series, and Di Dante Literature & Writing Club students and projects. Through cooperative institutional and community efforts, we are able to host a writer of this caliber."

Rita Mae Reese was born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and her Master of Arts in Creative Writing at Florida State University and then earned a Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Nationally-acclaimed poet and author Rita Mae Reese will speak at SCC on April 20.

Reese is the author of the poetry collections *The Book of Hulga*, which won the Felix Pollak Prize, and *The Alphabet Conspiracy*, which won the 2012 Drake Emerging Writers Award. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and her work is featured in Robert Olen Butler's *From Where You Dream: The Process of Writing Fiction and Poetry from Sojourner: A Feminist Anthology*. Her honors include a Rona

Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award, the Paumanok Poetry Award, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, and a Discovery/the Nation award.

In a 2011 *NewPages* review, Alissa Fleck observed, "Rita Mae Reese's *The Alphabet Conspiracy* is a book replete with anecdotes and snapshots of memory, ranging in subject matter from the religious to the informa-

tively historical to the contemporary, which thoroughly [explores] both the whimsy and restrictions of language."

Reese lives with her family in Madison, Wisconsin, where she serves as the co-director of literary arts programming at Arts + Literature Laboratory (ALL).

The reading will be held in the Little Theatre, Room 333, on SCC's West Burlington campus and will be followed by a brief question and answer session with the author.

All Visiting Writers Series events are free and open to the public, but space is limited. Therefore, guests are encouraged to arrive and be seated by 7:45 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided at the close of the presentation.

For more information, contact Charles Burm, [cburm@scciova.edu](mailto:cburm@scciova.edu), (319) 208-5230.

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit: <http://www.scciova.edu/rss/news/index.html>.

## FM woman arrested with meth

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison woman on Felony drug charges.



BEAMUS

Sherri Beames, 34, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on April 10th, 2019 at her

residence in Fort Madison. Beames is charged with delivery of more than five grams of methamphetamine, second or subsequent offense, class B felony with enhancements. Also possession with the intent to deliver less than 5 grams of methamphetamine, within 1000 feet of a public park, second or subsequent offense, a class C felony with enhancements.

The arrest of Beames stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.



## Clean Home. Clean Planet.

*Do your part during this year's Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you're choosing products safe for our planet.*

## Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

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**Sports**

# HTC girls blow out Chiefs in home opener

PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – Holy Trinity’s Claire Pothitakis continues to rack up goals in the fresh high school soccer season.

The sophomore has back-to-back three-goal performances for six on the season for the 2-0 Crusaders, including a 9-1 drubbing of Keokuk at South Park Monday night.

Pothitakis converted all three of her shots. The Crusaders were 9 of 9 on shots on goal in the match. Senior Taylor Boeding had two goals to go with one each from Katie Scoville, Elle Rashid, Elyse Pothitakis and Mya Lawlor all had a goal.

Elyse Pothitakis and Rashid each had assists in the game.

Junior Ashlynn Haas guarded the net all night for HTC allowing just the one goal on a penalty kick and had one save as the HTC defense and midfield play kept the ball on Holy Trinity’s side of the pitch for most of the game.

The Crusaders take on Wapello at South Park on Thursday night.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Holy Trinity Crusaders girls’ soccer team is 2-0 after a 9-1 win Monday at South Park in West Point. Above, the Crusaders’ Elle Rashid (11) pursues the ball near the goal with Keokuk’s Gracie Koeber (8) in first half action. At left, senior Taylor Boeding bangs into the Chiefs’ Sydney Ruhl on the attack.



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**2019 Course Improvement Tournament**

**Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 Shotgun start at NOON  
 4 person best shot

<b>\$75</b> Per person	<b>\$300</b> Per 4 person team
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