



Pen City Current

Monday, June 25, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 150

Area girl killed in Sunday ATV mishap

Morning ride along Pilot Grove Road ends in tragedy

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

PILOT GROVE - An ATV accident this morning in north Lee County has claimed the life of an area girl.

West Point Fire & Rescue, Lee County Sheriff's Department, and Lee County EMS were paged to the 1400 block of Pilot Grove Road at approximately 9:07 a.m. Sunday morning to an accident involving a side-by-side all-terrain vehicle carrying three juveniles.

According to the Iowa State Patrol, the 2018 Polaris Ranger was traveling northbound on Pilot Grove Road when the incident occurred.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the Iowa State Patrol is handling the investigation into the accident.

A spokesperson for the Iowa State Patrol confirmed the death Sunday afternoon, but said no additional information would be available until the accident scene investigation is finished.

No other injuries were listed on the accident report issued Sunday evening. The driver was listed as a juvenile.

Lee County EMS transferred the victim to Henry County Health Center in Mt. Pleasant where she was pronounced dead.

The Fort Madison Rotary Club held its annual Picnic in the Park on Sunday evening in Central Park. The annual event brings families out to showcase the park and raise funds for general maintenance and to support the City Band that plays on Sunday nights in the parks gazebo.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swam



Summer reads bring different styles, themes

I'm going to recommend a slew of books for this summer's reading, starting with "Varina," by Charles Frazier; "The Nix," by Nathan Hill; and "Mrs. Fletcher," by Tom Perrotta. All three of these books were reviewed on NPR, and all three employ a suspect writing technique that I find questionable—shifting point-of-views back and forth between first person ("I"), to third person ("he" or "she"), and even to second person ("you").

It seems to be a fad that I find confusing, but contemporary writers call "creative" and a convenient segue to flashbacks or flash-forwards. Humpf. Where I come from, changing point-of-view was a sure-fire slap on the typewriter fingers. Can't a writer just tell a story anymore without jumping around like a Mexican jumping bean? But such is the state of literature today. Like all fads (ax throwing, for example), maybe it will burn out over time. Or get worse.

Charles Frazier, author of "Cold Mountain" has a new book, "Varina." Not only does Charles Frazier shift narration in "Varina," but he doesn't use quotation marks around dialogue. "Heavens to Murgatroyd!" as Snagglepuss would say. What purpose this serves, I have no idea, except that it may lend a feeling of surrealism to the story. Just a guess. If Frazier hadn't written "Cold Mountain," I probably wouldn't have tolerated such a prose infraction. But "Varina" is quite an intriguing, intricate story set in post Civil War America. Told from the view point of an

Shirai takes a little America back to Japan

BY ANIAH ROSS
PCC FMHS INTERN

FORT MADISON - Macaroni and cheese, tennis and a little drama, highlighted the past school year at Fort Madison High School for a Japanese foreign exchange student.

As a sophomore here in the United States, Miho Shirai, spent the year learning about American culture including music, sports, theater, family, and even snackables, before having to return to her home country earlier this month.

Shirai said she wanted to come to America because her mother spent her teenage years here and she wanted to share in that experience.



SHIRAI

"The biggest reason is my mother spent her teenage years in America, and I wanted to be like her who is always positive and happy person," Shirai said. "On the other hand, I was interested in living in other country without staying with my parents. Also I wanted to learn English and make friends in America."

While in Fort Madison, Shirai stayed with Rob and Katherine Nall. The Nalls have put their own children through FMHS and one of the children, Lia, is in the same grade as Shirai.

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Obituaries/Health News

OBITUARIES

MARTIN "MARTY" JOSEPH HELENTHAL

Martin "Marty" Joseph Helenthal, 48, of Keokuk, IA, died Thursday, June 21, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA, surrounded by his life partner and close family.



HELENTHAL

He was born on February 9, 1970 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Joseph Martin and Glenda Hale Helenthal.

He had been employed at Creative Hardware Manufacturing, Inc. in Keokuk for over 20 years.

Marty loved the outdoors and spending time in nature and on the river. He was an avid NASCAR fan and loved rock music and parodies. Marty was the best dad and grandpa that anyone could ask for. His daughters and granddaughter were his pride and joy.

He is survived by his life partner of thirty years, Denise Steenberg of Keokuk, two daughters, Destinee Steenberg (Todd Murphy) of Burlington, IA and Jocee Helenthal of Keokuk, one granddaughter, Kinzley Murphy of Burlington, his mother, Glenda Dochterman of Keokuk, one sister, Sherry Hall (Randy) of Hamilton, IL, a niece and nephew, Dana Clatt of Cedar Rapids and Dustin Clatt (Sarah Cooper) of Keokuk, his in-laws, Sonja and Bill Stottlemeyer of Keokuk and several aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joseph Helenthal, his stepfather, John Dochterman, his grandparents, Glenn and Alletia Hale and Mildred and John Helenthal.

A Gathering of Remembrance for family and friends will be held on Tuesday from 5 pm - 7 pm at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk.

Memorials may be made to his family or the American Heart Association.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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.

LCHD hospice workers making connections

Provided by Lee County Health Department - Hospice

LEE COUNTY - Being a hospice social worker can be difficult and rewarding profession all at the same time. The Social Worker meets with families to discuss what is ahead of them on the end-of-life journey, they connect families to needed community resources, and they help make those final wishes a reality. For Lee County Health Department-Hospice, Margaret Cook, BSW, has been part of hospice families journey for the past 10 years.

When a referral to hospice is made, Margaret, and one of the hospice nurses, go to meet with the patient and the family to begin the discussion of what is to come. "That first meeting there are always a lot of questions because families want to know what and when things are going to happen," states Cook. "And that is the most difficult part about the job because we don't have those answers." Instead she moves the focus to what she can do make their remaining days together memorable.

The main goal for the Hospice Social Worker is to focus on those final wishes of the patient. For example, making sure the patient is where they want to be when they die. "We've had patients who are in a nursing facility, and they want to go home one final time," says



Margaret Cook, LCHD Social Worker, meets with a family member to review LCHD-Hospice services.

Cook. "So we will work the family, our staff and volunteers, and resources to make that happen." Cook adds that depending when a patient is enrolled she will work on completing the "Five Wishes" with them. The Five Wishes can assist families to know exactly what sort of care their loved one wants, and help guide them through the tough decisions that have to be made.

"I always hope to get a patient in time to go over the Five Wishes," adds Cook. "I have witnessed many families feeling like they don't know what to do, and I have witnessed families with the

See HOSPICE, page 4

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12-14	200yd	4.9mi	1mi

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Founded in 2016



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Health News/Opinion

Knudson joins surgical team

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The General Surgery Clinic at Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome General Surgeon, Dr. Rachel Knudson. Dr.



KNUDSON

Knudson will join Dr. Riggs Bagan in the clinic. Dr. Knudson is a Board Certified General Surgeon and has been part of the medical staff at Skiff Medical Center in Newton, Iowa for the past four years. She received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Kansas City, Missouri and completed her General Surgery Residency at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. She also holds an Adjunct Clinical Faculty position at Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

“Being a general surgeon allows me the opportunity to be a vital part of my patient’s health care team – from prevention, to discussing treatment

options to post-operative care. Spreading awareness to increase the number of people who undergo their screening colonoscopies is very important to me. It is rewarding to remove large polyps that otherwise may lead to colon cancer if not removed; preventing someone from having to go through surgery and cancer treatment is an incredible privilege,” expressed Dr. Knudson. “Working with breast cancer patients is also very rewarding for me. I try to see them as soon as possible after diagnosis and spend as much time as needed discussing their treatment options and finding the one that is best for them. I enjoy collaborating with the other providers involved in their care as well. Developing long term relationships with these patients is very satisfying.”

Dr. Knudson became interested in pursuing a career in healthcare after taking a certified nurse’s aide course in high school and working at the Iowa Veteran’s Home. “I really enjoyed the relationships I developed with the residents and decided I

wanted to be a physician during that time in high school.” The relationships she develops with her patients continues to drive her success, “I know I am providing excellent surgical services when patients refer their family members and friends to see me for their care - this is the ultimate compliment, proving they trust their loved ones health care to me.”

Dr. Knudson and her family are looking forward to making Fort Madison their home.

“I grew up in a small town, and I chose a rural community for my first job. I enjoy the close relationships that develop when working in a small hospital and living in a more rural community. Farmers are my favorite patients. My grandparents farmed in West Burlington, and now my Uncle lives on their homestead,” commented Dr. Knudson.

Dr. Knudson will start seeing patients the first week in July. Appointments can be made by calling 319-376-2134, phones are answered starting at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Flow styles tough to swallow for aged writers

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

ex-child slave attached to Jefferson Davis’ household, Varina is the teenage bride of Jefferson Davis, who, as you know, was the President of the Confederate States. Following the war, Jefferson Davis flees in one direction, chased by the U.S. Army, and Varina in another, hounded by bloodthirsty mobs looking for Confederate gold. Jefferson Davis winds up captured and ready to defend the Confederate States’ constitutional right, as he sees it, to secede—a challenge the U.S. Government doesn’t particularly want to face. Varina lives to tell her story—a titillating work of historical fiction. Question: Why were Confederate soldiers, such as Lee, not prosecuted for treason, but Davis was?

If you like sentence length that lasts for a page-and-a-half, then “The Nix,” by Nathan Hill is for you. It’s a madcap story with a sixties backdrop of a boy who becomes a man in search

of his hippie, war-protester mother, a coming-of-age novel with a lot of internet gaming and fast turns and twists. Take shelter from the summer heat with this native Iowan’s debut tragicomic, unputdownable tall tale.

“Mrs. Fletcher,” by Tom Perrotta is not so much about the woman (third person narration) as it is about the son (first person narration). So why isn’t the son’s name used for the title? I haven’t the foggiest idea. No matter. “Mrs. Fletcher” is about the choices we make, who we are, and where we belong. I even learned a new acronym—MILE. “50 Shades of Gray Lite” might be another title for “Mrs. Fletcher.” Fasten your seat belts.


Any book by Jim Harrison, and there are a bunch of them, are worth reading. Harrison is best known for “Legends of the Fall.” Any book by John Gierach is also a lot of fun. Gierach writes about trout fishing,

which is really about life. Richard Russo (“Nobody’s Fool”) and Michael Chabon (Pulitzer Prize Winner in 2001) have new book titles out.

Andrew Sean Greer, winner of the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for his book, “Less.” Speaking of the Pulitzer Prize, the winner in fiction for 2018 is Andrew Sean Greer for his book, “Less.” I just started reading it and can’t put it down.


BTW, many of the new books nowadays deal with LGBTQ issues. These very talented writers are coming out of the closet in droves and writing with passion and sensitivity. It’s the dawning of a new era in literature. Stay cool this summer.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 39-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt’s stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.





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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



6/23
2 17 22 30 37
Star Ball: 8
All Star Bonus: 5

 <p>6/23 16 29 43 45 56 Powerball: 25 Power Play: 2</p>	 <p>6/23 MID-DAY 0 8 4 6/23 EVENING 8 2 8</p>	 <p>6/23 MID-DAY 5 6 8 6 6/23 EVENING 7 4 0 9</p>
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Health News

Hospice workers help bring closure for families

HOSPICE - Continued from Page 2

Five Wishes be more at ease with the decisions they have made.”

The final wishes can also make memories happen. “We had a patient that loved Santa Claus, so we made that one final visit with Santa happen. Seeing the patient’s face light up is something I will always remember.”

Hospice is the preparation for the end-of-life for a loved one. Lee County Health Department-Hospice offers bereavement services for families after their loved one’s journey has ended. A few weeks after a patient passes Margaret will contact the family to see how they are coping, and to offer bereavement resources. LCHD-Hospice offers home visits with Marga-

ret or a trained volunteer, newsletters, or connects them with an area support group. “We know what it is like to lose a loved one that is why it is so important to us to stay connected with the families,” adds Cook.

Throughout her Social Worker career Margaret has worked with all ages from toddlers and teens to now the dying, but she says they all have one thing in common, “they are all just trying to figure out the life they were given.”

Lee County Health Department – Hospice began offering hospice services in 1989; making them the first hospice in Southeast Iowa. They serve Lee, Des Moines, Henry, Van Buren coun-

ties in Iowa, and Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois. For more information on the Lee County Health Department-Hospice services call (319)372-5225 or visit www.leecountyhd.org.

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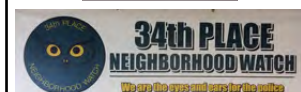
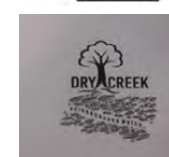


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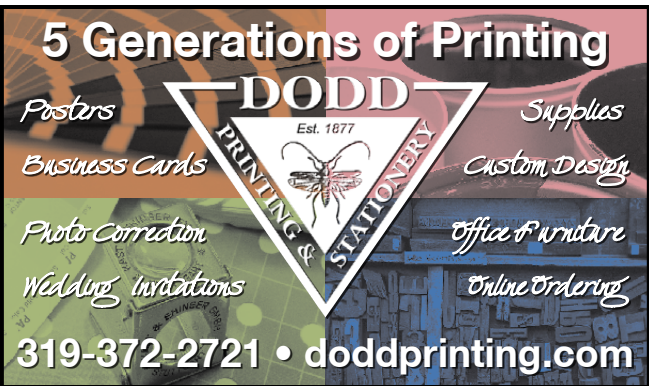
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
June 26, 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, June 19, 2018 Board Minutes
 Consider Approval of Resolution Amending Appropriations for FY 18
 Consider Approval of Claims
 Public Input
 Consider Approval of Contracts with Iowa Bridge and Culvert for Culvert Replacement on 130th Street and 310th Street
 Review and Consider Awarding Bid for Fuel for Secondary Roads, Conservation and Sheriff Consider Approval of Increase in Fees for Lee County EMS

Review Bids and Consider Awarding Bid for Generators for Administration Building and South Court-house
 Receive and File the Publication of Salaries for FYI 9
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Transfer from Auditor's Office to Community Services
 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

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
June 25, 2018
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
 II. Recognition of guests
 III. Approve the agenda
 IV. Approval of property/casualty and workers compensation insurance program Property/Casual/Workers Comp proposals
 V. Consider approval of Tiffany Wibbell as third grade teacher at Lincoln
 VI. Consider approval of salary lists
 a. FMEA Salary and Teacher Salary Supplement List
 b. Teacher Leadership Compensation Stipend
 c. Teamsters Unit 2 Custodians/Maintenance/Mechanics
 d. 12 Month Secretaries
 e. Food Service Staff
 f. Administrators/Directors/Support Staff
 Administrators/Directors/Support Staff
 VII. Pre-School 28E Agreements

a. YMCA
 b. Carousel
 VIII. Consider approval of the 2018-2019 Meal Prices
 IX. Adjourn

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From the Front/Weather

Exchange student developed close ties with FMHS students

CULTURE - Continued from Page 1

“We were like real sisters,” Nall said. “Sometimes we would pick on each other and I’m sure there were times when we got a little irritated with each other, but that’s just how sisters are.”

Shirai said she made a lot of friends during her time in Fort Madison. Through basketball, band, tennis, and other school and extracurricular activities she said she found a friend from every corner of the school and a culture she appreciated.

“I can do the things that I want. Like being part of many clubs and being free to wear whatever I want,” she said.

Shirai said the food in America was something she specifically enjoyed.

“I like mac and cheese, and I have never had it before I got here. Also I really like Mexican food which is not really big thing in Japan rather than in America. I love the restaurant Pancheros,” she said.

Shirai said she wanted to get involved in many activities at the high school.

“Throughout this year, for sports, I got involved in cross country, basketball, and tennis, and for the other activities, I got involved in marching band, jazz band, show band, drama club, and DECA. I was involved in marching band and cross country right after I got here. All the friends I made in those activities were so nice, and I was helped by them a lot,” she said.

She said marching band was not common in Japan and

“

I like mac and cheese and I have never had it before I got here. Also, I really like Mexican food which is not really a big thing in Japan rather than in America.”

-Miho Shirai,

2017-18 FMHS foreign exchange student

being a part of that group and getting to wear a uniform and march with hundreds of other students was something special to her. Music and other theater arts like drama are not activities she can participate in in school back in her country.

“After drama ended, I got involved in jazz band and show band and started practices. I was playing the piano in both bands. In my school in Japan, I cannot do either of (those) activities, it was cool and I had a great time and great experiences.”

During that time she also got involved with basketball, a sport she had never played before. But she said those sports helped her stay in shape during “Gaining Season”, which is the holiday season in America.

“I got involved in basketball. It was the biggest challenge for me, because I have never played basketball before,” she said. “But playing sports during gaining season (Thanksgiving and Christmas) helped me a lot to keep myself in shape, and I got many good friends.

“At the same time, I got in DECA, and by learning about businesses, my vision about my future changed a lot. I also got great friends.”

The last sport she played before leaving for Japan was on the Bloodhound tennis team where she excelled having had training in Japan. Shirai and doubles partner Katie Larson took 8th place at the state tennis meet in May.

“Last but not least, I am involved in tennis, and I am having amazing time with my team members and coach,” she said during the season. Having team dinner with them after meets, making friends in other schools, and singing in the van are really fun. I am definitely going to miss them after I go back to Japan.”

Many times Shirai had been asked if she could stay any longer, but, like most foreign exchange students, she must return to her home country.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 25 Jun



Very Heavy Rain

High- 72.4° F | Low - 71.6° F

TUE 26 Jun



Heavy Intensity Rain

High- 82.5° F | Low - 68.1° F

WED 27 Jun



Light Rain

High- 83.6° F | Low - 79.3° F

THU 28 Jun



Light Rain

High- 88.9° F | Low - 80.0° F

FRI 29 Jun



Light Rain

High- 87.7° F | Low - 79.7° F

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