



# Pen City Current

Thursday, March 30, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 86

## Time is now to prepare for spring weather threats

*New apps for cell phones alert to threatening weather*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -In Iowa, the last full week of March is earmarked for severe weather preparedness and local severe weather guru Steve Cirinna is challenging people to be ready for whatever the spring brings in the form of storms and flooding.

As part of the week-long program, Monday focused on thinking about getting prepared and going from the mindset of winter weather to thinking about what the spring might bring. Tuesday's topics were looking at how you get your severe weather warnings. Cirinna said people need to remember the outdoor sirens are to indicate to people outside that they need to take shelter immediately.

"The sirens are for outdoors. They were never designed to be indoor

**“**  
*People need to look at being prepared. Are you ready to go if something like this happens?... Now's the time to start thinking about it again.”*

-Steve Cirinna,  
LCEMA Coordinator

warning systems,” Cirinna said.

Wednesday was a day for local and state tornado drills and making sure systems are in place and people are familiar with the warnings. Due to the inclement weather on Wednesday however, Cirinna said locally they did not sound the outdoor alert system.

“People need to look at



### Time to prepare

The last full week of March is Severe Storm Preparedness Week in Iowa. Lee County Emergency Management Agency coordinator Steve Cirinna said now is the time to make a plan in case of threatening weather and events.

being prepared.” Cirinna said. “Are you ready to go if something like this happens?...now's the time to start thinking about it again.”

He said one of the best things on the market for weather alerts is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA radios.

“Those are great for home and portable. They are programmable to

specific counties, too. You used to just have the cube that sat on your desk and gave you weather and they didn't have weather alerts or alarms on them. Now we also have apps on cellphones that have all sorts of good things like radars and alerts for tornadoes. The key to those, however, is that you have to pay attention to them,” he said.

There is also a program

in Iowa called ‘Alert Iowa.’ That's where you would get a text or a phone call on your cell but you have to register in the system to get the alerts. The system debuted in 2014 in 33 counties and has since grown. The system not only alerts for severe weather but also for chemical spills or hazardous material incidents. To

See **WEATHER**, page 8

## Burglars seeking unlocked property

*Weekend spree hits six properties*

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - A rash of localized burglaries has prompted Fort Madison Chief of Police Tim Sittig to issue a warning to residents to be aware of their property's security and make sure things are locked and secure.

“Recently there has been a spike in vehicle and garage burglaries within the community,” Sittig wrote. “The



SITTIG

most recent events occurred over the weekend of March 25-26. During this time there were approximately six break-ins on the west side of the city.”

Sittig indicated vehicles had been ransacked as well as garages. In many of the cases the vehicles and buildings were unlocked and access was easy.

Sittig is asking all residents to double check their vehicles, homes, and entrances to be sure they are locked. And to make sure all valuables are removed from cars, and all overhead doors are pulled down and locked.

## SCC hosts annual Great Tastes fundraiser April 7

*Event helps fund SCC Foundation efforts*

PCC STAFF

WEST BURLINGTON - The 11th annual Southeastern Community College (SCC) Foundation Great Tastes event is scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2017 at the Catfish Bend/Pzazz! Event Center in Burlington, Iowa. The benefit begins at 6 p.m. with a two-hour wine, beer and spirits tasting, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a photo booth and a silent auction. The live auction and dessert begin at 8 p.m.

Throughout the night, guests will enjoy wines, beers, ales, spirits and coffees from 14 different beverage purveyors. Tasting notes will be provided. Pzazz! chefs will feature a wide array of delicious hot and cold appetizers and desserts throughout the evening, featuring several Lenten specials.

“Our goal is to exceed last year's net of \$35,000. Net proceeds will support SCC Foundation Board Scholarships, Foundation expenses, instructional program mini-grants, and facilities improvements,” says SCC Foundation Board Chair, Frank Delaney.

Charity auctioneers from Fraise Auction

& Realty Company, will auction off items donated by employees, students, alumni, and friends of SCC. Auction items include gourmet dinners, vacation homes, trips to fun places, event tickets, boat rides, original artworks, indoor/outdoor seating, hand-made jewelry and how-to dinner parties, baked goods, home improvement services, baseball games/trips, event and athletic tickets, brewery tour with limo rides, and many other specialty items. Fraise will receive auctioneering assistance from SCC student and licensed

See **SCC**, page 8

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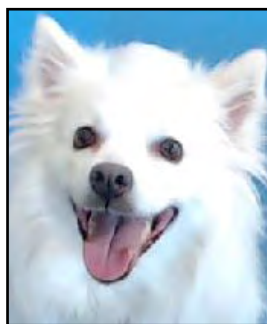
## Local News/For the Record

# ISP adopts two PAW dogs for prison assisted-living unit

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Iowa State Penitentiary recently adopted two dogs from PAWS – the no-kill animal shelter in Fort Madison.

There are other prisons in Iowa that have dog programs, each allows for pet-friendly interactions with offenders. Although, each prison has slightly different anticipated outcomes from the programs, all agree the contact has a positive effect on the population.



THELMA

ent anticipated outcomes from the programs, all agree the contact has a positive effect on the population.

The two dogs, that are now calling ISP home, are aptly

named Thelma and Louise. Thelma, a 6 year old America Eskimo, and Louise, an 8 year old Jack Russell, both reside in Housing Unit 4. Housing Unit 4 is a medical/assisted living unit that houses

21 offenders who require some level of day-to-day care or assistance.

The offenders have taken an immediate interest in Thelma and Louise. You can find the dogs sitting contently with the offenders while watching TV or during a game of cards.

Designated offenders are responsible for walking the dogs outside and ensuring there is proper food and water for the duo. Funds generated by the offenders themselves are being used to pay for food and other pet related expenses, no state funds are used.

“We are really excited that shelter dogs were chosen to be companions for the offenders,” said Sandy Brown, PAWS Director.



LOUISE

## For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report  
 03/27/17 - 8:22 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2500 block of Avenue L.  
 03/27/17 - 3:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G.  
 03/27/17 - 4:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 500 block of 10th Street.  
 03/27/17 - 5:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 300 block of Avenue E.  
 03/27/17 - 7:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of Avenue H.  
 03/27/17 - 8:06 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue G.

03/28/17 - 4:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O.

Lee County Sheriff's Report  
 03/27/17 - no time given - Lee County Sheriff department issued warrants for Jaclyn Nicole Parmeter, 30, of Keokuk on for two counts of failure to appear.  
 03/27/17 - 2:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kristen Michelle Gollither, 31, of Keokuk, at the Saint Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids on a charge of failure to appear.  
 03/27/17 - 6:31 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jakob Eugene Judd, 19, homeless, at the Lee County Jail on charges of assaulting a police officer and 5th degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee

County Jail and held. 03/28/2017 - 3:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Marlo Michelle Pilkington, 31, at the Lee County Sheriff's Department on a warrant for a probation/pretrial violation. She was taken the Lee County Jail and held. 03/28/17 - 6:12 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jakob Eugene Judo, 19, at the Lee County Jail on a charge of assaulting a police officer. He was held at that jail.

Fort Madison Fire Report  
 03/27/17 - Fort Madison Fire department responded to four medical calls  
 03/28/17 - Fort Madison Fire department responded to four medical calls, 1 carbon monoxide check and one burn complaint. *All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Pen City Current will not publish its digital e-Edition on Easter Sunday, April 16 & Monday, April 17 in order to enjoy the holiday with our families.

However, any breaking news will continue to be posted to our website at [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com).

**We wish you & yours a wonderful Easter.**

**VOTE**

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**Sports/Classifieds**

# MP holds off FMHS in girls tennis debut

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A good start in singles matches couldn't carry into doubles action as the FMHS girls tennis team dropped their first dual meet of the year to Mount Pleasant at home Tuesday night.

2016 state doubles qualifiers Katie Larson and Hope Gray struggled with the Mount Pleasant net game in dropping the No. 1 seed doubles to the Panthers' Meagan Sutherland and Kylie Sourwine, 3-8. The Panthers were able

to finish a lot of points at the net. Larson and Gray started to react to the tight net play by moving the Panthers around, but just couldn't get back into the match.

The 'Hounds split with Mt. Pleasant in singles action with one of the more exciting matches of the day coming at No. 2 singles featuring Hounds junior Kearstyn Johnson. Johnson lost 8-9 in a 1-7 tiebreak to Thuan Tran in a match that lasted from the start of the event most of the way through doubles action.

"Kearstyn put up a heck of a fight," said

FMHS Head Coach Amy Doherty. "I'm very impressed with how much she has improved."

Doherty said her team, which only has one senior in Gray, has some work to do but looked pretty good for the first match of the season.

"Pretty rough start," she said. "Our top four looked great in singles but fell apart when it came to doubles. We need to iron out the kinks."

At No. 1 singles, Larson shut out Sutherland 8-0, Gray won over Mt. Pleasant's Quin Whaley, 8-3 at No. 3 singles, and sophomore Larissa Ferrill got

See **TENNIS**, page 7



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## In the tiebreak

FMHS junior Kearstyn Johnson returns a shot from Mt. Pleasant's Thuan Tran on Tuesday at FMHS. Johnson lost the match in a tiebreak 8-9 (1-7) and the Hounds fell 3 to 6.

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**Pen City current**

Pen City Current  
P.O. Box 366  
Fort Madison, IA

The Pen City Current and [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com) website are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. The Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

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# Sports



## At the net

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMHS No. 1 seed Katie Larson, a junior gets quick with a ball in doubles play Tuesday against Mt. Pleasant. Larson won her singles match 8-0 but dropped the doubles match with senior Hope Gray, 3-8, who returns a volley in the photo below.



## TENNIS - Continued from Page 5

an 8-3 win at No. 4 over Sourwine, 8-3 for all the Hounds' wins on the day.

At No. 5, Chloe Blind lost 3-8 to Erin Zihlman and Mercedee Doty lost in a close match at No. 6 singles 6-8 to Sheyanne Walter.

"I'm very proud of the victories by Katie, Hope and Larissa," Doherty said. "I could make up excuses about not getting enough time to practice outside because of the weather, but the other team has battled the same thing, so I think we just went into doubles overconfident and it hopefully was a signal that we need to focus and put our

energy into not letting it happen again."

The No. 2 doubles team of Johnson and Ferrill lost 2-8 to Tran and Whaley, while Blind and Doty fell 6-8 to Zihlman and

Walter.

The girls host Burlington on Thursday beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The boys tennis team defeated MP 5-4 on the road.

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## From the Front

# Alert Iowa gives residents heads up on threatening weather

**WEATHER** - Continued from Page 1

register for the alerts, visit this link: [https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lee\\_ia/wens.cfm](https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lee_ia/wens.cfm).

Family preparedness is on the agenda for Thursday. Cirinna recommended families again to think about what they would do in the event of an emergency.

"Do you have a plan, a kit if something were to happen," he said. "Depending on the type of damage, it could take a while for you to get any assistance. Those associated with larger events like the tornadoes in Joplin or Parkersburg, it could take a while for someone to get assistance in. In some instance streets aren't even clear. Some people don't even recognize where they are because all the landmarks are gone and people are confused."

Cell phone companies are getting better at having backups in place for when service is disrupted on towers with backup and generators, but Cirinna said a lot of

times in larger emergency situations the traffic is so heavy you can't get a call through. He said in those situations when you can't get through, sending a text may work because it's a microsecond of demand where calls are longer.

Families should also have plans of where to meet up or organize in the event of a disaster. Many families have people in multiple locations at different times during the day and a plan should be in place for everyone to connect. He also said he's in regular contact with cities, counties, schools and day care centers. And if an emergency situation should arise during school hours, the officials and people in charge at those locations have preset plans to handle those events.

"Having all the parents rush to the scene could actually delay in getting help to those who may need it," he said. But Cirinna admits that's a tough sell, although it's the right

thing to do.

Yeah, it'd be tough for me not to be on my cell-phone trying to get there," he said.

"But the time to deal with these things is before things happen. Get with your schools or day cares and I find out what's going on. In the fall, we sat down with the day care centers throughout the state and were able to go over a planning process and get them thinking what they would do if something like this happened."

Friday is flooding preparedness discussion.

Cirinna said the spring models don't show any real danger of flooding, but he said he doesn't know what the summer will bring. And he said it's not the major rivers that cause the most fatalities.

"Flash flooding kills more people than any other type of weather event," he said. "Lightning is second on that list. Do you have a plan? What about sand bagging? I

**"Flash-flooding kills more people than any other type of weather event."**

-Steve Cirinna  
LCEMA coordinator

can't hand those out as I have to focus on government facilities, chemical industries where deeper issues happen because of the flooding.

"It would basically behoove everyone to have something to help keep

the water out. Sandbags are relatively inexpensive. You can spend \$50 and get 100 bags and that's pretty good shape for most houses. Lots of the local quarries would have the sand but you if you're in flooding areas you should get with them and make sure you have a plan."

He said he hears that people are still confused by watches and warnings. Watches mean conditions are favorable for the development for flooding, severe storms or tornadoes. A warning means it is happening now and the national weather service is actually getting reports of

the weather.

"The whole idea is to get people to become more aware of what's going on.

Cirinna said people can visit him on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and he typically has updates available there for most circumstances.

Visit Lee County EMA on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/leecoema](http://www.facebook.com/leecoema) and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LeeCountyIaEMA>.

He also said first and foremost if you ever come upon or are hit by any emergency situation your first call should be to 911.

"Make sure someone is aware and trying to get to you."

## Fraise, Hoenig to call auction at event

**SCC** - Continued from Page 1

auctioneer, Olivia Hoenig. Hoenig has appeared as an auctioneer on the television show Texas Flip N Move. Currently she is an auctioneer for DIY network's Louisiana Flip N Move.

Individual tickets are \$50 each in advance or \$60 at the door. Sponsor tables for eight people are \$500 and include reserved seating, close proximity to the auction stage, party favors, hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and the opportunity to promote the sponsor's business with their own table decorations. Raffle tickets for specialty items are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

To order tickets or reserve sponsor seats, contact Julie Glasgow at the SCC Foundation Office 319-208-5062 or [jglasgow@scciova.edu](mailto:jglasgow@scciova.edu). Checks are to be made payable to Huckleberry Entertainment.

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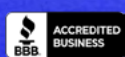
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