Early voting dooms GOP in local races

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

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

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 campaign 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 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 in 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 unrepeated.

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.

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.

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 are Theresa Manning, 45, 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.

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

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.

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. On-going 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.

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

She was born July 30, 1924 in Walla Walla, WA the daughter of Casey How ard 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 united in 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 Glove 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 Lemas, 58 of Keokuk and Gloria Naqvi of Keokuk, five grandchildren, Robert Myers, David Myers, Chris LeMaster (Sunda), Nei LeMaster (Stephanie) and Me lina Atterberg (Billy), eight great grandchildren, Shasta, T.J., Amber, Daniel, Alisha, Trenton, Angelica-Chris tian and two great-great grandchildren, Tyler Myers and Andrew Sturms.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Hilda Guevara 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.vigememorialhome.com.
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 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 had. There were some factors there that didn’t play well. I think it didn’t 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 everything 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 won 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 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 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 6,031 to 5,879 in a very close county vote.

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.

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

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**WED 07 Nov**
- Partly Cloudy
  - High – 40.1º F | Low – 24.3º F

**THU 08 Nov**
- Light Snow
  - High – 31.4º F | Low – 22.1º F

**FRI 09 Nov**
- Light Snow
  - High – 30.2º F | Low – 10.0º F

**SAT 10 Nov**
- Clear Skies
  - High – 34.6º F | Low – 37.1º F

**SUN 11 Nov**
- Clear Skies
  - High – 44.6º F | Low – 31.9º F

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**POLLS - Continued from Page 1**

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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 at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids where the 3-seed Crusaders will face off against 8th-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 Monte- zuma will present unique challenges, but the Crusaders have been gaining confidence and peaking at the right time.

“They run their offense off the middle and they have two very versatile girls in the middle and on the right time.

“They’ve been here and done this, “ she said. “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.”

The seniors have been here and done this. You got 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, Eryon, they all have a little different touch on the ball. It’s going to be a big factor in keeping teams out of their sys- tem.

A couple underclassmen including freshman Kassi Randolph and sopho- morees Bailey Hallweg, 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 getting a lot of touches – Claire, Av- eley, 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.

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In the top half, reigning champion and top-seed Jonesville (43-5) takes on 28-9 8th-seeded Glad- book-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-

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

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GOOD LUCK AT STATE

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.

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Senior Jori Whitaker
Senior Elyse Pothitakis
Senior Taylor Boeding
Senior Emily Box
Senior Katie Scoville

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Tripoli

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East Mills
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Montezuma

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

B7 - Fri 11/9 7:00PM
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Veteran’s Breakfast at Sunnybrook
Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran’s 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.
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THOMAS KLANN, LIC. #1289039
NMLS #139716, NMLS MLO #1359992
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 alleys 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.

"This was 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 enforcement 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.

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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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IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cut-off Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Lucky for Life®</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>9:36 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powerball®</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>9:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto America™</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
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<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.