

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Monday, October 4, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 127



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## Wraps of red, white, and blue



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

More than 800 bales sat on the Holtkamp property Friday afternoon wrapped in red, white, and blue themed netting. Cody Wenke, and his father in the background, ended up baling more than 1,100 before Friday at midnight.

### **PATRIOTIC BALES:** Wenkes wrap Holtkamp mowed cornstalks in red, white, and blue

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – Anyone heading west on the Charleston blacktop right off Hwy. 61 got a blast of patriotism on Thursday and Friday.

The farm of Ronnie and Deb Holtkamp, on about 200 acres across the highway from the Lee County Sheriff's office to the southwest, was dotted with about 800 bales of mowed corn stalks that were rolled in red, white, and blue wrapping.

The stalks are used as bedding for livestock according to Cody Wenke of Wenke Beef. Wenke and his father contract

with the Holtkamps to mow the harvested stalks. The bales will be sold and some will be used for the Wenkes' livestock operation.

But when most people use twine or wire in balers, the Wenkes started using the patriotic baling last year when they saw that \$5 from each wrap purchased was donated to veterans' groups in different parts of the country.

Wenke said he's not sure if that effort is still underway, but regardless, he likes the patriotic theme and is proud to show off America on Iowa's farm fields.

See **BALES**, page 8



## A lesson in Good Cop - Bad Cop

Walking into Shottenkirk Gymnasium Thursday night for the WACO v. No. 5 Holy Trinity Catholic volleyball match, I think I yawned a bit. The Crusaders are on a tear right now and I didn't expect any surprises.

As I walked into the gym, Assistant Coach Tom Gendron blew that up in about 30 seconds. "We got a new addition on the bench," he said.

"What?" I said, and looked over at the bench. I'm not really good with names until I've talked to you about six times. It's a short term thing... might be a Jameson thing. So I really don't know who's on the bench except the perennial Melissa Freesmeier and Gendron.

I must have given a blank look and shrugged my shoulders, because he looked at me quickly and said, "Mikaela!"

Oh! and a doubletake later I immediately recognized the 6'3" HTC, University of Nebraska, and Team USA standout Mikaela Foecke in a Crusader kit by the bench.

I could take up the rest of this column space listing the accomplishments of Foecke from being selected Gatorade National Player of the Year as a senior at HTC, to being named co-Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Tournament as a Husker, where she led Nebraska to national titles in 2015 and 2017. But she's back in the area and probably looking for a bit of down time, so we'll leave that at that.

But I heard a description of her Thursday night in the coach's office at HTC that I hadn't heard before.

Good cop.

It's a term I'm familiar with deeply. Not from re-runs of Starsky and Hutch on Amazon Prime, but in my own household.

I was usually the bad cop to my wife's good cop. On occasion I got to wear the white hat,

See **COPS**, page 8

### CITY NEWS

## Council to vote on firm to design two new buildings

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison City Council will be considering spending \$30,000 with a Cedar Rapids firm to develop a preliminary design, layout, and cost estimates to construct a new fire station and

public works facility in the city.

The council will vote on hiring Solum Lang Architects, LLC out of Cedar Rapids at Tuesday's regular meeting at City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Council directed staff at a meeting in August to seek quotes for the work.

In a report to the council, City Manager

David Varley said the city received nine responses to a request for quotes for the work.

A committee comprised of city staff and Councilman Rusty Andrews reviewed all the proposals and then narrowed the group to three to interview for the work.

See **COUNCIL**, page 2

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### WEATHER

MON 04 Oct ..... Clear Skies, 73° F / 57° F  
TUE 05 Oct ..... Broken Clouds, 74° F / 61° F  
WED 06 Oct ..... Cool with Light Rain, 69° F / 60° F  
**IOWA LOTTERY**  
LOTTO AMERICA 10/02..... 2 21 45 49 50, Star Ball: 7, All Star Bonus: 3  
LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/02..... 1 12 24 25 37, Lucky Ball: 2  
MEGA MILLIONS 10/01..... 21 25 36 62 63, Mega Ball: 6 Megaplier: 2  
PICK 3 09/30, 10/01, 10/02 MIDDAY..... 2 8 2, 21 0, 3 2 2  
PICK 3 09/30, 10/01, 10/02 EVENING..... 8 3 0, 5 6 2, 9 2 9  
PICK 4 09/30, 10/01, 10/02 MIDDAY..... 9 7 5 0, 9 6 9 2, 7 1 3 3  
PICK 4 09/30, 10/01, 10/02 EVENING..... 6 7 8 0, 1 2 9 3, 2 3 8 4  
POWERBALL 10/02..... 28 38 42 47 52, Powerball: 1, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/From the Front

## OBITUARIES

### SANDRA K. BUEKER

Sandra Kay (Besser) Bueker, 63, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:18 p.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021 at her home surrounded by her husband and her family. She was born on September 4, 1958 in Fort Madison, IA to Grant & Marilyn (Peel) Besser, Jr. She was an elementary teachers aid for many years in Kissimmee, FL. She married William Bruce Bueker on July 4, 2020 in Fort Madison, IA. She loved to watch the DIY Network and Nascar and enjoyed going on drives and antiquing. She was an artist and loved to visit with friends and family.



BUEKER

Sandra is survived by: her husband: Bruce Bueker of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Jessica Tomlinson (Christian) Parodi of Kissimmee, FL; 2-step sons: Chris Bueker of Colchester, IL & Cory Bueker of Burlington, IA; 1-granddaughter: Madison Parodi of Kissimmee, FL; 2-brothers: Mark (Susan) Besser of St. Cloud, FL & Michael (Karin) Besser of Greeneville, TN; 2-sisters: Sharon (Wilmer) Groene of Fort Madison, IA & Debbie (Wayne) Burritt of Jonesborough, TN. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to Sandra'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

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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## OBITUARIES

### ETHEL M. FRASER

Ethel M. Fraser, 79, of Fort Madison passed away on Friday, October 1, 2021. She was born on January 7, 1942 in Cumberland City, TN to John T. and Ruby E. Harris Land. Ethel was a bartender at several locations and lastly at Vinnie's. She enjoyed bowling, shooting pool and fishing. Ethel was an avid sports fan and especially loved the Chicago Bulls and watching little league baseball. One of her favorite things to do was going to cookouts with family and friends and eating catfish.



FRASER

Survivors include her children, Robert Fink III of Galesburg, IL, Brenda Daniels of Ft. Madison, Linda Patchett of Ft. Madison, Micheal Fink of Augusta, and Paul Fink of Ft. Madison and an adopted daughter, Robin Sturch; her companion Terry M. McVey of Ft. Madison; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and one brother.

Per her wishes cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

### FRANCES A. DAWSON

Frances "Fran" A. Dawson, 92, of Keokuk, Iowa, formerly of Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at River Hills Village in Keokuk, Iowa.

Frances was born on May 30, 1929, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the daughter of Papa Rose and Emma Wright. She was united in marriage to James Warren and later to James Dawson. Both preceded her in death.



DAWSON

Frances worked as an LPN and then Honeywell in Minneapolis, retiring after thirty years with the company. After she moved to Keokuk, she became the clerk for Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, where she served until her passing. She enjoyed going to Vegas on vacation and playing Bingo. Family was always important to Frances, and she greatly cherished her grandchildren.

Frances is survived by her son James Warren of North St. Paul, Minnesota, nine grandchildren: Tina Combs, Damon Richmond, Shawn Warren, Kereen Baldwin, Samantha Warren, Tayllor Warren, Sebesty'en, Marcel Combs and Kyle Combs; three great-grandchildren: Damon Richmond, Jr., Khemeia Bethea and Charlotte Warren; and a great-great-granddaughter Takayla Nunn.

Frances is preceded in death by her parents, her husbands James Warren and James Dawson, her daughter Carolyn Warren, her son Sylvester Curtis Warren, her brother Willis Wright, her grandson Adressen Combs and her great-grandson Orlando Nunn.

Keokuk Services: Funeral services will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church 1328 Exchange Street, Keokuk, Iowa. The service will be livestreamed at the church's Facebook page and [www.dejongsfuneralhome.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhome.com). Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 1 to 2 pm directly before the service.

Minneapolis Services: Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am on Friday, October 8, at Liberty Community Church, 3700 N Bryant Ave, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Visitation will be held at the church from 9:30 to 10:30 am directly before the service. Burial will follow at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Memorials may be directed to Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church in Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at [www.dejongsfuneralhomes.com](http://www.dejongsfuneralhomes.com).

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, Iowa, is in charge of arrangements.

## City to vote on 4-way stop at 15th and E

### COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

The city also conducted background checks on each of the three finalists and following the interviews recommended the Cedar Rapids firm for the work.

The contract includes \$15,000 for each building for a total of \$30,000. The funds for the work will be divided among the various departments that will be housed in the buildings, including streets, water, solid waste, and the general fund.

In an unrelated agenda item, the council will consider the second reading of an ordinance removing four stop signs on 15th Street north and southbound at Avenues G and F, and adding no parking zones on the

east side of 15th Street from Avenue E, north to the city limits.

Council members discussed the issue at previous meetings with Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker opposing the idea citing safety of children going to and from Lincoln school in the neighborhood.

As part of removing the stop signs, the council will consider another ordinance making the intersection at 15th Street and Avenue E a permanent 4-way stop. Both ordinances require three readings unless the council votes to forego the final reading, which it can do with at least four votes of the council.

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# Sports

# McGowan goes for 196 as Hounds roll to 6-0

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It's the worst kept secret in Fort Madison, that the Bloodhound football coaching staff wanted running back Jakob McGowan to start running north and south.

On Friday, McGowan ran north and south, east and west, and up and down, as Fort Madison took out Clinton on Homecoming 58-14 to improve to 6-0 on the year and 2-0 in District 4A-3 play.

McGowan broke off an 84-yard, third quarter run on 2nd and 10 from the Hound 5. He got the ball on a read from quarterback Landes Williams and raced to the River Kings sideline where he got a nice seal block from Tate Johnson turning the corner. McGowan then cut inside the block and then back to the sideline where he raced to the Clinton 12 before getting

caught from behind.

The run set up a 5-yard touchdown pass to Johnson to give Fort Madison a comfortable 44-17 lead.

"We talked that we had some cut back lanes and if he'd hit 'em he'd still be running and he knows it. I think he's getting better and better each week, and understands more. He's very dangerous," Doherty said.

McGowan finished with 196 yards and a score on the night, by far and away his best night of this high school career. He said it was break out night for him.

"I feel like it was on offense. I was seeing our pulling guard and he was doing a good job of making a hole and allowing me to get good yards. On that big play, I ran out around the end where Tate had a great block and I was able to cut in and then get down the sideline," the senior said.

Williams, Kane Williams and Johnson were



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

At top, the Bloodhounds' Jakob McGowan (22) jumps over Clinton's Tavian Bailey Friday night on his way to a big gain for the Hounds. McGowan finished with 196 yards on 18 carries for Fort Madison in the win. Below, Gavin Wiseman outraces a couple River Kings down the sideline on a long gain in the third period of the No. 5 Hounds' 58-14 win.

the other big offense factors in the game. Landes Williams threw for 273 yards and four touchdowns, and ran for

See WIN, page 5



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Tuesday, October 12  
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Thursday, October 7  
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Thursday, October 14  
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Tuesday, October 19  
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## Sports

# Hounds race by River Kings Friday

**WIN** - Continued from Page 5

another giving him 25 on the year.

Kane Williams and Johnson each scored two touchdowns through the air. Williams scored on a seam route up the middle for a 62-yard strike to open the scoring on the Hounds' third play from scrimmage.

Clinton would tie the score on a nice 14 play, 80 yard drive capped by Jai Jensen's two yard plunge to tie things up and quiet the packed south side of Richmond Stadium

Fort Madison would get a couple first downs on the next series, but would settle for a 28-yard field goal from Xander Wellman.



MCGOWAN

Clinton would respond when Jensen hooked up with Addison Bennie would had gotten behind safety Tate Johnson for 57 yards, but the speedy Johnson caught Bennie from behind and stripped the ball as the two fell out of bounds. Fort Madison was given the fumble recovery and took over at their own 8-yard line.

The Bloodhounds would then put together arguably their best drive of the year going 91 yards in 18 plays. They ground the ball with sophomore Teague Smith, McGowan and Landes Williams taking turns pounding the left side of the River Kings 3-man defensive front.

Williams would churn out 24 yards on the ground in the series, while Smith added 34 on seven carries including the TD from one yard out. McGowan added 22 yards on just two carries, one on a bobbled shotgun snap that Williams reigned in and slipped to McGowan on a misdirection. Wellman would add the PAT after Smith's score for 17-7 Hound lead.

Clinton again would show they weren't caving to the Hounds undefeated record and lofty state ranking. The River Kings put together and 12 play, 77 yard drive with most of the offense coming from Jensen. The senior completed five of eight passes in the series for 68 yard and then slipped in around the end to make it 17-14 with just under :30 left in the half.

But Fort Madison would take full advantage of the :30 and send a message going into the locker room.

With the kick being returned by Kane Williams to the 39, Landes Williams would throw incomplete on 1st and 10. Then with 18 seconds left, Tate Johnson blew past the secondary and Williams found him deep for a 48-yard strike to the Clinton 13. On the next play, Williams would reward Johnson for the catch with a 13-yard TD pass in the right corner of the endzone for a 23-14 lead. The PAT was blocked.

Doherty said the Hounds had to make some adjustments at the half, but he was proud of the way

they came out.

"Clinton is a big, physical football team and they did some nice things. But I'm very proud of our kids for making those adjustments. We got caught on some things tonight, and our kids fought through that."

Hounds offensive coordinator Justin Menke said a halftime conversation pointed out that the Bloodhounds were controlling the game offensively.

"Really, we got into halftime and said is anything we're doing not working, and everybody to a man just kind of shook their head and it was like OK, we're going to keep doing the same thing and keep leaning. I think in the third quarter that's exactly what we saw," Menke said.

But defensive coordinator Jason Crooks said there were adjustments made to the defensive front and some schemes.

"We just made some mistakes in the first half, but when Tate gave up that pass and then chased the play down, that was huge I think. Just that hustle," Crooks said.

"Then at halftime we did a few schematic things, but reminded them that we've run these coverages for two years and we should be the best at it because it's what we do."

Fort Madison would score on five of its next six possessions to start the running clock, while the defense clamped down and would allow Clinton just one mid-series first down the rest of the game.

The Hounds would get touchdowns from McGowan on a six-yard sweep, Williams on a 1-yard dive, Johnson on another 5-yard touchdown in the back of the endzone, Kane Williams on a 12-yard screen where he shook off three tackles and dove across the line. The final score was a bubble screen from back up QB Aiden Boyer to senior Miles Dear. It was Dear's first varsity touchdown and he ran 56 yards for it after making the first River King miss and then outrunning everyone to the corner pylon.

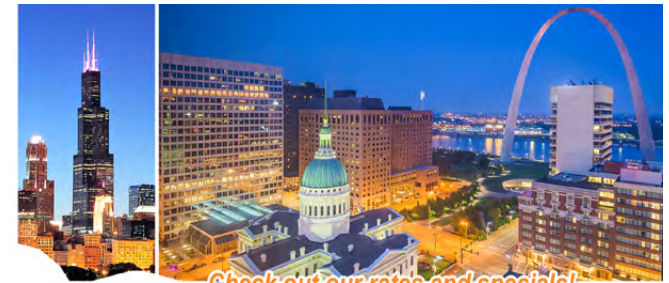
Senior Gavin Wiseman led the Hounds in receiving yardage with 77 on four catches. Wellman had 26 yards on three catches and just missed snaring an interception in the first half. Smith finished with 38 yards on the ground for the Hounds.

Austin Ensminger led Fort Madison with six tackles. Mikey DiPrima and Smith each finished with five tackles. Tanner Settles had 4.5 tackles, but that included two for losses and a sack. McGowan and Ike Thacher also recorded one sack each.

The Hounds put their undefeated mark up against an Iowa City Liberty team that beat Mt. Pleasant 56-0 at home Friday night. Liberty gave up 21 points to top-ranked North Scott in the second quarter eight days ago, but held the Lancers scoreless the rest of the game in a 21-0 loss.



Above, Xander Wellman has a pick just go off his fingertips in the first half Friday night. Below, Ike Thacher gets up to block a Jai Jensen pass.



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: Monday,**  
**October 4, 2021**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.**  
**(CDT)**  
**LOCATION:**  
**933 Avenue H**  
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Fees Collected  
 Commission or Committee Reports  
 Adjourn  
 Workshop to Follow

**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**CITIZENS WELCOME**  
 Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator  
 319-372-3705  
 County Website:  
[www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org)

## HELP WANTED

*We're Not Southeast Iowa's Favorite Dental Office Without Our Great Team*

### APPLY TODAY TO JOIN US!

Pothitakis Dentistry currently needs a Full-Time Hygienist.

Complete an application at or mail your resume to  
 1223 S. Gear Avenue,  
 Eastman Plaza, Suite 302  
 West Burlington, IA 52655  
 or email [burldental@gmail.com](mailto:burldental@gmail.com)  
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**POTHITAKIS DENTISTRY**  
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### CIVIL SERVICE HIRING NOTICE Police Officer

The City of Fort Madison is seeking applicants to fill Police Officer positions. Starting- \$42,700. After 1 year - \$46,840. After 2 years - \$55,965. Benefits include, longevity pay scale; shift differential, paid training; Uniform allowance; paid vacations, holidays, personal & sick time; Education incentives & reimbursement, health, life, and supplemental insurance.

LE certified applicants are eligible for lateral entry and hiring bonus. DAQ.

Candidates must minimally be 20 years of age and have a high school diploma. Must also have an acceptable background history and valid driver's license. Will be required to successfully complete a POST exam and physical agility test in Fort Madison to enter the process. Testing standards can be found on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website at [leatraining.org](http://leatraining.org). Noncertified applicants must attend the four-month academy paid for by the department.

TO APPLY: Contact [jgray@fortmadisonpd.com](mailto:jgray@fortmadisonpd.com) or pick up an application packet at our lobby M-F 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Application deadline is October 22, 2021 at 4:30 PM.



### Church Choir Accompanist Wanted

This person will accompany the choir for the 9:00am traditional worship service. A strong candidate will have experience in accompanying and have knowledge of a wide variety of musical styles. Piano/keyboard proficiency required. Candidate must have good organizational skills and have music prepared for practice held each Wednesday evening (September-May). Candidate will collaborate with both the Choir director and support First Christian Church's music ministry.

Please send cover letter and resume to  
 First Christian Church  
 Attn: Personnel Committee  
 3476 Main Street  
 Keokuk, IA 52632

### NOW HIRING Lee County

Lee County is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of American Rescue Plan Act Funds Administrator/Grant Writer. Work involves oversight of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") funds, planning and coordinating County grant functions, including grant management and reporting for departments. Seek, identify, and research available grant resources. Work closely with County departments/offices to develop, write, and submit grant proposals.

Application form, background check documents and job description can be downloaded at [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org) or may be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705

Completed application and background check documents should be sent or delivered to Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or emailed to [dfraise@leecounty.org](mailto:dfraise@leecounty.org). IPERS and benefits available. All applications should be received by the Auditor's office by 4:30 PM on Friday, October 1, 2021.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Pledge of Allegiance  
 Approve Agenda  
 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing for FY22 Budget Amendment  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Approving Budget Amendment for FY22  
 Consider Approval of Amended Appropriations Resolution  
 Public Input  
 Consider Approval to Replace Open Part-time Position with Full-time in EMS  
 Update on Comment Period for Lee County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan  
 Consider Approval of Agreement with Hope Haven for Shredding Services  
 Consider Approval of Agreement with Hope Haven for Cleaning Services  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Abating Taxes on 501 Main Street Owned by City of Keokuk  
 Consider Approval of Monday, September 27, 2021 Board Minutes  
 Consider Approval of Claims  
 Personnel Actions:  
 A. New Hire-Sheriff's Office  
 Reports:  
 A. Recorder's Report of

## HELP WANTED

### HEARTLAND CO-OP

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 Positions Available

*Heartland Co-op is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE-AA) committed to advancing diversity in the workplace. Post offer ... pre-employment drug screen, job physical, & physical capacity profile required.*

FOR JOB INFO & TO APPLY VISIT:  
[heartlandcoop.com](http://heartlandcoop.com)  
 Career Opportunities, Wever

## Meat Counter Position Available Part-Time



Sonny's Super Market is looking for someone with an open personality that enjoys learning. Do you like to make others smile? Do you know someone who does? Have you always wanted to try something new, but didn't want to jump off a cliff?

Sonny's has a Part-Time Opening in our Meat Department. Maybe you, or someone you know, would enjoy working less than 20 hours a week. No need for knowledge of primal cuts of meat necessary; but the love of customer satisfaction is definitely required! Whether cutting bologna or weighing bacon; it's the customers' smile that makes this job worthwhile. Learning cuts of meat and how to trim fat comes naturally when you are enjoying the people you work with.

Apply in person at



327 5th Street, West Point, IA



# We Are HIRING Production Technicians

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- Starting pay \$19.32/hr
- Advance to \$21.01/hr within 12 months
- Advance to \$23.28/hr within 30 months
- Potential to earn \$25.71/hr and more with advancement
- 3% annual pay increases
- \$.45 2nd shift pay differential and \$.65 3rd shift pay differential
- \$175 Company Contribution to pension from date of hire
- 3% Company Match to 401(k); 100% immediately vested
- Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO starting at \$25.83 per weekly payroll deduction
- Plus Dental, Vision, Life, STD and more!



[conagrabrands.com/careers](http://conagrabrands.com/careers)

## From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Cody Wenke dumps a bale of mowed corn stalks wrapped in American Flag bale netting in the field of Ronnie and Alvin Holtkamp south of Fort Madison on 255th Street Friday afternoon.

## Workers put patriotism on full display near Montrose Friday

**BALES** - Continued from Page 1

Wenke said he buys the patriotic wrapping net in bulk from Bale Tuff Net Wrap from a supplier in Missouri. The baling netting comes in 7,000 foot rolls.

"It used to be, when we first bought it it was so much a roll in American flag wrap and they give \$5 a roll to veterans and that's how it all started," Wenke said.

"It looks good. It's the American flag, why wouldn't you want to do it? If I was to order green, or be able to order red, white, and blue, at basically the same price why wouldn't I?" Wenke said.

Ronnie and Alvin Holtkamp farm the land during the season, and the Wenkes bale it after mowing it and raking it.

Wenke said he and his father do about 2,000 bales after harvest.

Last year we did 1,300 down here and it's good stuff. It's easy and it's right there," Wenke said.

Ronnie Holtkamp said he loved that

they are using the red, white, and blue themed materials. The Holtkamps also have a large American flag painted on a section of fence that covers up the farm irrigation controls.

"Well, we're Republicans and we're very patriotic. We're just a little conservative out here," Ronnie Holtkamp said.

Deb Holtkamp said many people drive by and shoot pictures of the unique bails stacked up at the front of the property.

"There are so many people who told me they took pictures of this driving by and we just think it's so neat," Deb said.

The Holtkamps have lived on the property since 1997. They lived across the road in a smaller home Ronnie's parents built. The new highway bought out the property and then they built a home across the highway on the farmstead.

## Another chapter in storied HTC volleyball story being written

**COPS** - Continued from Page 1

but I have kind of a booming voice and had two girls. I just slipped into the role very well.

When I asked Freesmeier what Foecke's role would be with the team, I got "Good Cop, to my Bad Cop."

I've been watching Crusader volleyball for six years professionally. I also covered Melissa for the Democrat and as a stringer for the Hawk-Eye when she was at Marquette.

I've never seen Melissa be the bad cop. Well there was this one time at WACO, she had this clipboard, and some colored paper, and... never mind.

Anyway, in that office on Thursday, I said, "I have a hard time believing you as the bad cop."

It stopped the room. This collegiate-style atmosphere with about six coaches all bustling about with different post match assignments looked at me like, "who are you, and we thought you were good at this."

Apparently there's a side that I haven't been privy to.

Obviously there's demand from a coach with two state titles and more than 1,000 wins. But I always assumed it was that nurturing, pampering demand that you get from your mom that comes with hugs and chocolate chip cookies.

Bad Cop?

Maybe that explains why

Dr. Pothitakis always sits in the upper deck at the state tournament.

Melissa's always been good to me because she knows that after six years of covering HTC, I still know more about jet propulsion than why a libero has to be 'tracked'. Even I know where she is, she's the one in gray or white and usually wears No. 1.

I guess I need to look closer to home to understand the power of "Bad Cop."

My mom raised four boys on her own, so she played Good Cop and Bad Cop. I remember the Bad Cop showing up because, let's face it, crimes had been committed. But as we got older and moved away and it was okay to go back and talk about those crimes, she became the Good Cop.

With her grandchildren she is the epitome of the Good Cop.

But the thing about the Bad Cop is they are usually right, have a great sense of humor, and have no tolerance for wasting time. They also demand results and resolutions to problems. Because they've been there before, and they know the way home.

I did experience Bad Cop Freesmeier one dark and stormy night in West Point. I didn't ask a stupid question - well, actually I did, but it had nothing to do with volleyball. Lee and I were enjoying a meal at Aggies in West Point. If you haven't eaten there, put it on your list.

I ordered a beer with my meal and it came in just a regular mug. I sent the wait-

ress back to tell the bartender that I'm sure they have a bigger mug somewhere. Melissa just happened to be there and hearing the comment, grabbed an empty pitcher, walked up to our table, and placed it not-so-gently next to my plate.

"They have a bigger mug, Chuck - it's called a pitcher." Yes ma'am.

My wife laughed, and with raised eyebrows and shoulders had that, 'You asked for it, look, which was accompanied by the inevitable "I like her" - look.

I sunk down at the high top in my chair. "I'm fine with this thank you."

Now I'm a 6'3" 228 lb. man and my weight may be distributed a little differently than when I was in high school. At least that's what Lee says, but I'm not intimidated by many or much.

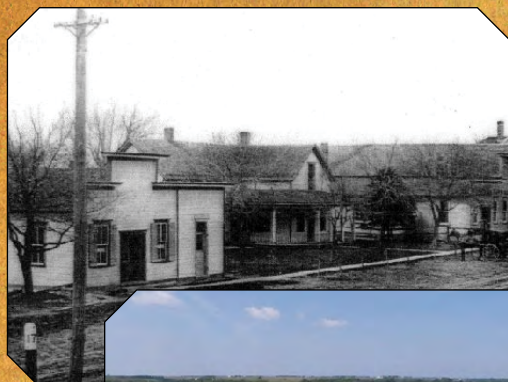
But Melissa, much like my mother, and my wife, does carry a certain - let's just call it 'authority'. Whether it's about a beer, or reporting on a volleyball game, cleaning my room, or moving furniture in my house...

I just do what I'm damn told.

I wasn't covering the Crusaders from 2010-2014 when Foecke played at Holy Trinity Catholic, but I'm fairly certain everyone is enjoying seeing her back in the fold. Just another exciting chapter in the storied franchise that is Crusader volleyball - but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is the editor/co-owner of the Pen City Current and can be reached at charles.v@pencitycurrent.com.

## Past. Present. Future.



Pilot Grove Savings Bank was established on May 12, 1911 when 23 investors pooled \$10,000 to meet the banking needs of the local community. Since that day, the Bank has continued to grow and prosper, serving customers in Southeast Iowa and the tri-state area as well as many other locations across the country. With customer loyalty on its side, Pilot Grove Savings Bank has prospered throughout the years. Now, with 14 offices, more than 100 employees, over \$760 million in assets and some of the most technologically advanced banking systems available, Pilot Grove Savings Bank's main goal remains as it was in 1911 - to serve the customer well.

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