



Pen City Current

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019 | 14 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 238

Freesmeier to receive IGHSAU distinction

HTC coach to be honored Friday in Cedar Rapids

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic volleyball coach Melissa Freesmeier is the 2019 volleyball recipient of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union's Golden Plaque of Distinction. Freesmeier will be honored before the start of the Class 1A championship match on Friday, Nov. 15.

The Golden Plaque of Distinction Award honors the

Iowa coach who has demonstrated a successful career while making notable contributions toward school, community and the coaching profession.

Freesmeier is in her 28th season of coaching volleyball and has taken 18 teams to the state tournament. In that span, she has won two state championships with four state runner-up finishes. She won her first crown in 1996 at West Point Marquette High School and won the 2014 Class 1A state championship at Holy Trinity Catholic.

Freesmeier has won over 900 matches in her career. She has been named the Iowa Girls Coaches Associ-



FREESMEIER

ation Coach of the Year twice and the NFHS Iowa Volleyball Coach of the Year for the 2017-18 school year. She has been named regional coach of the year 11 times and conference coach of the year 16 times.

Freesmeier also serves as the girls golf coach at Holy Trinity Catholic and teaches physical education, outdoor education and health at HTC Junior-Senior High. Melissa has three daughters; Jessica, Jenna and Jordan and two grandchildren.



Veterans were honored Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School with a lunch and honorary assembly. Above, a group of veterans listen as students dressed in red, white and blue, salute. At left, veterans with the American Legion Post stand at attention during the playing of taps.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Supervisors want BNSF to shore up several crossings

Regular meeting will be held Wednesday this week

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A resolution is in front of Lee County Supervisors about the conditions of railroad crossings on 255th Street and J50 west of the sheriff's office.

The resolution, which is part of Wednesday's regular board meeting, is a message to Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad officials asking them to make repairs to the crossings before someone gets hurt. The meeting was moved to Wednesday to accommodate the canvassing of the Nov. 5 election results.

The condition of the crossings was brought up several weeks ago during public comment when a Lee County resident asked the county to look into the issue.

The resolution indicates the crossings owned and maintained by BNSU are "are a public hazard for residents of Lee County in that they have deteriorated to the point the crossings are deficient and unsafe..."

The verbage also asks the rail line to alleviate the safety concerns and limit the county residents' exposure to liability by installing proper crossings that are safe for vehicular travel.

In other action, the council will also be considering

See BRIDGE, page 8

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For the Record/Scene Around the Area

Shells fly as seven American Legion veterans fire three volleys as a 21-gun salute outside the Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School on a cold Monday morning. Taps was then played as the school system honored area veterans with an assembly and lunch.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

No report due to federal holiday

Lee County Sheriff's Report

No report due to federal holiday

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

11/04/19 – James A Son, age 34, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Damage to Property, and Reckless driving. Son was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/04/19 – Bailey A Dameron, age 23, of Blandinsville, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Dameron was also arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Dameron was released to McDonough County Authorities.
 11/04/19 – Janet M Schmitz, age 61, of Keokuk, IA was arrested

on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on Possession of Methamphetamine, Driving Under the Influence, and Driving While License Revoked. Schmitz remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 11/04/19 – Sherri E Adams, age 60, of Stronghurst, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Cannabis. Adams was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date.
 11/06/19 – Regan N Cheatham, age 25, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of Bail Bond. Cheatham was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/07/19 – Joel C Gharst, age 41, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Gharst was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/07/19 – Kenneth L Soper, age 40, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine.

Soper was also arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Retail Theft. Soper remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 11/08/19 – Joshua N Kinman, age 33, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Kinman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 11/10/19 – Erin C Lopez, age 52, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Lopez remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her initial court appearance.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/09/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call and one CO2 alarm check.
 11/10/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call.

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

RAFAEL MIRELEZ VELA

Rafael Mirelez Vela, 88 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 4:15 pm Sunday, November 10, 2019 at the home of his daughter. He was born December 25, 1930 at Progreso, Texas, the son of Jose and Marcela Mirelez Vela. On December 21, 1979, he married Amparo Prado at Fort Madison, Iowa. She preceded him in death January 21, 2012.



VELA

Rafael left school at an early age to help support his family working in the fields. His strong work ethics helped move his way to Iowa, where he picked apples at Faeth's Orchard and worked in the vineyards at Baxter's Vineyard and Winery. That is where he met a special lady named Amparo, who he later married.

Rafael was a United States Army Veteran, serving in the Korean War. He worked at Fruehauf for more than 20 years, retiring in 1996.

He was a member of the VFW, Luluc Club and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Holy Family Parish. He enjoyed bowling, loved Mexican music and Texas sports, especially the Dallas Cowboys and was detail oriented with keeping his yard perfect and cars spotless.

He was survived by two sons: Johnny Vela, of Phoenix, Arizona, Guadalupe Vela, of Pharr, Texas; one daughter, Francine Gomez-Lee (Mark Lee), of Fort Madison, Iowa; seven grandkids: Mandy Vela, Steven George, Caterina Vela, Juanita Vela, Marcela Vela, Adrian Gomez, Javier Gomez-Lee; two great grandchildren: Julian and Kiara; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and a "son", Jeff Warner, Fort Madison, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, one infant daughter, two sisters: Benita Latigo and Margarita Cantu and daughter in law, Leimomi Vela.



A rosary will be recited at 3:30pm Friday, November 15, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison with visitation from 4:00 - 6:00 pm Friday evening. Mass of Christian Burial will be begin at 10:30 am Saturday, November 16, 2019 at the Sacred Heart Church, Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison with Reverend Joseph Phung Celebrant. Burial will be at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the church or the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Vela family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

JAMES L. HARTLEY

James L. "Jim" Hartley, 92 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa, died at 3:02 pm Sunday, November 10, 2019 at SunnyBrook in Fort Madison. He was born January 27, 1927 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Robert Lee and Martha Eva (Soper) Hartley. He first married Helen Tollman, they had two children, Gary and Patty. They later divorced. On March 3, 1951, he married Letha R. Holland in Kahoka, Missouri. They had five children, Donald, Beverly, James Ross, Danny and David. She preceded him in death January 19, 2007.



HARTLEY

Jim was a 1944 graduate of the Fort Madison High School. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran, serving in World War II. Jim started as an officer with the Fort Madison Police Department and then later became Chief of Police. During his time with the police department, he took classes at St. Ambrose University. He was an avid golfer and bowler.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling with Letha, and woodworking after retirement.

He is survived by four sons: Gary (Dee) Hartley of Milford, Pennsylvania; Donald Hartley of Fort Madison, Iowa; Danny (Robin) Hartley of Dallas City, Illinois; David Hartley of Waite Park, Minnesota; one daughter, Patricia (Dann) Bogart of Joshua, Texas; one sister: Linda (Robert) Hanson, of Farmington, Iowa; 14 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 12 great great grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, three brothers: George, Bill and Tom Hartley, two sisters: Louise Cowles and Betty O'Donnell, one son James Ross Hartley, one daughter Beverly Ertzinger and two grandsons, Joseph Hartley and Michael Hartley.



Family will greet friends 6:00 to 7:30 pm Thursday, November 14, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am Friday, November 15, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, with Pastor Dean Graber officiating. Burial with full Military Rites will be at the Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the Great River Hospice, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Hartley Family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

AUSTIN R. SANDROCK

Austin R. Sandrock M.D., 84 years of Fountain Hills, Arizona passed away peacefully into God's loving hands on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. He served as senior class president and year book editor and was a 1953 graduate of Fort Madison High School.

He was born May 2, 1935 in Fort Madison to John and Ruth (Gibbs) Sandrock. Austin attended the University of Iowa and earned degrees as bachelor science in commerce (1957), doctor of medicine (1961), and Education Specialist in Higher Education (1975). During his senior year he served as president of his Sigma Chi fraternity chapter, business manager of the University's Hawkeye yearbook while completing the prerequisites for medical school admission.

He was honored to be selected as University of Iowa Son for 1957 and received the Sigma Chi Balfour award for the Northeast Conference. He returned to teach in the Department of Radiology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine 1968-1975.

His credentials and professional organizations were numerous. During the Vietnam War Austin served as a major in the U.S. Army hospital at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas where he developed a very deep respect for the American soldier.

On February 8, 1975 he married Carole Wallis and a few months later they moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he assumed his duties as Chairman of the Radiology Department of Maricopa County Hospital. They then moved to Metairie, Louisiana where he assumed similar duties as Chairman of the Radiology Department of East Jefferson Hospital from 1981 - 1984. Lured by the climate of Arizona he returned to the private practice of radiology and fun in the sun especially golf and travel.

He is survived by his wife and life partner, Carole; son Todd (Sandy); five grandchildren: Nathan(Kate), Jennifer (Dan), David, Eric, and Jacob; two great grandchildren, Liam and Elsie.

His favorite pastimes were golf and travel. His favorite passions were improving the quality of medicine and teaching. He enjoyed his membership in various medical and social groups and his church. Austin was always happiest when surrounded by family and friends.

His family will greet friends from 4:00 - 5:00 pm Monday, November 11, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, Iowa. Funeral services will be begin at 1:00 pm Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, with Reverend Lane Van officiating. Burial will be at Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Sandrock family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



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Local News

Goeckner's colors take over FMAAA in November

BY BRIAN RIGGS

FORT MADISON AREA ARTS ASSOCIATION

FORT MADISON – FMAAA is always humming with activity in November on historic Avenue G. This year is no exception. Fritz Goeckner, equal parts scientist and artist, provides an inviting photographic landscape to the many programs occurring at the art center this month.

The feature gallery is bathed in color that will grab you like the fall colors of the trees. In fact, Fritz has developed a unique style that places his photos in a category like none other. There is no black, no white, nor shades of grey in the city scenes that he journalizes. Lee County Abstract Company is the sponsor for the exhibit this month. Reception occurs November 15th from 5-7pm. Wine tasting from Baxter's Vineyard and Winery will be featured at the program.

Fritz explains, "When photography was invented, color was impossible. Only light and dark could be recorded. More realistic full color photography is now cheaper and easier than black and white. But black and white hasn't been abandoned; it's still widely practiced and well respected. Why is it accept-

able to withhold the color—half the information of the image? It's not just because it's been done before.

The abstract nature of black and white photography allows a rare and useful combination: a perfect "straight" record of the image produced by the lens, and simultaneously an escape from literal realism. Properly used, it is an expressive and even eloquent form. Let's think instead about making the photograph itself in a new way. We can omit light and dark. We can make photographs using only the pure color that's left out of black and white.

An imaginative person might suspect that recording only color is as valid as recording only not-color. Are there good reasons for making such photos? They would provide the same combination as black and white: a perfect, yet non-literal image. And they can express what black and white never can, color and all those things that come from color. What would such pictures look like? Might they be rewarding to make and view? Some of these questions can only be answered by trying." (Editors note: Indeed very rewarding to view!)

With the advent of digital photography everyone with a smart phone can



Courtesy photo

A reception for Fritz Goeckner, the artist of the rendering will be held Nov. 15 at the FMAAA at 825 Avenue G.

hit the trail and be a photographer. With so many entrants to the medium, you really need something to differentiate yourself from the rest. Fritz developed his method and style prior to the advent of digital photography! A really cool tandem is to view the black and white display at the FMAAA's

Member Artist Gallery near the piano after viewing Fritz's all color photos. By-the-by piano lessons are locked up for the time being. However a few slots are available on Guitar Tuesdays at FMAAA from 4-7pm. Call us if your

See FMAAA, page 8



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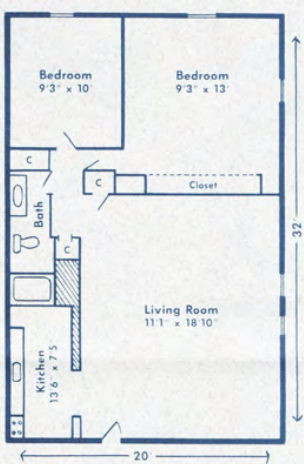
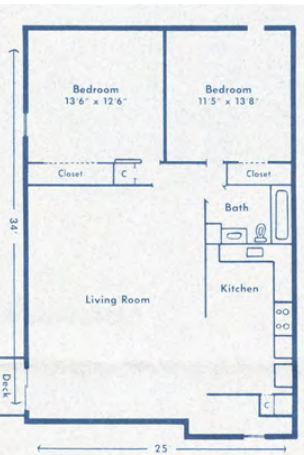
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Pen City current

From the Front/Weather

Reception is Nov. 15 at 5 p.m.

FMAAA - Continued from Page 4

ready to use that guitar sitting in the other room!

Reception for Fritz Goeckner occurs November 15th from 5-7pm.

Receptions are always free and open to the public. The very next week will close out another fantastic year of our Lunch-ala-Art programs. Fritz will speak about the show after lunch with Fort Colony as the food vendor. Call 372-3996 to grab a slot, finalizing another great luncheon year.

Later that night FMAAA rings in the cheer with perennial anchor HyVee at

the annual Wine Walk. Then the very next week FMAAA will be open for Parade of Lights. Followed by Mistletoe on Main Street on Small Business Saturday.

FMAAA will have popcorn and hot cocoa on site, as well as cranking our X-mas ornaments in two mediums for the wee ones.

FMAAA is Always Moving and well worth a look for your Christmas shopping list. Shop smart, shop local and take a look at us at 825 Avenue G this holiday season.



The Christ Mission of Lima, Ohio, is in full color as part of Fritz Goeckner's November exhibit at FMAAA. A reception for Fritz Goeckner, the artist of the rendering will be held Nov. 15 at the FMAAA at 825 Avenue G.

County to sell FM property

BRIDGE - Continued from Page 1

a proposal from Geotechnics Soil and Material testing to do an investigation of the bridge over Mud Creek on 190th Street.

The cost of the work is estimated at \$8,900 and would include borings and samplings of the foundation of the existing bridge. A replacement bridge is being considered for the location.

The board is also scheduled to set a public hearing for the solicitation of sealed bids for property at 2410 Avenue M in Fort Madison.

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1-319-524-6175

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 12 Nov Clear
High- 18.0° F | Low - 12.7° F

WED 13 Nov Light Snow
High- 28.5° F | Low - 28.3° F

THU 14 Nov Clear
High- 32.9° F | Low - 22.6° F

FRI 15 Nov Clear
High- 38.8° F | Low - 27.1° F

SAT 16 Nov Overcast
High- 39.0° F | Low - 35.4° F

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HTC at State

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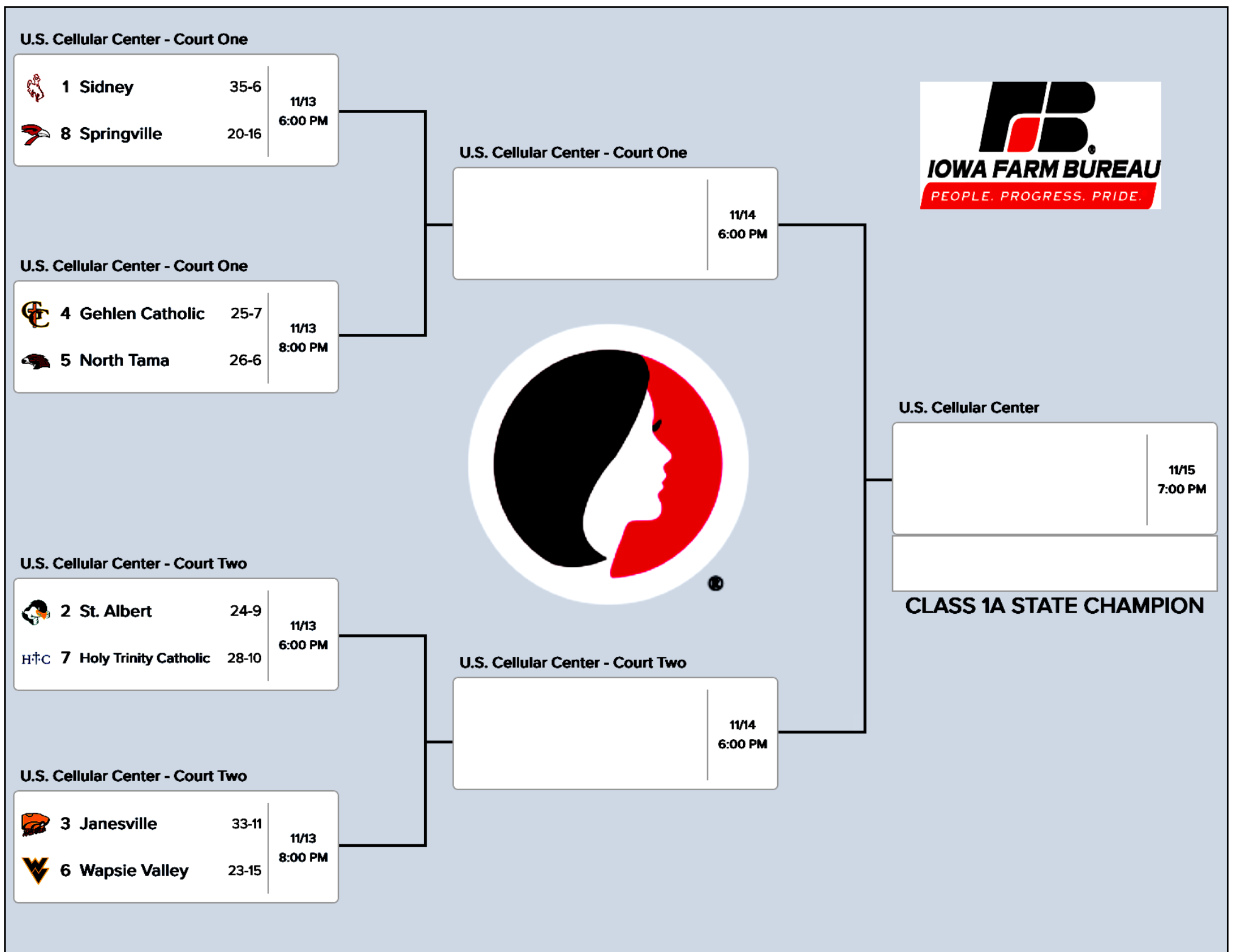
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**10-in-a-row...
The numbers add up.**

**You're off to STATE!
Good luck HTC!**

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Good Luck at State, Crusaders



Maria Rauenbuehler - Jr.

415 digs (4.77 per set)
232/248 serving 94% eff
25 aces



Maille Sheerin - Sr.

352/365 serving - 96% eff
60 aces-team high
188 digs (2.32 per set)



Claire Pothitakis - Jr.

356 kills - team high
245/261 serving 94%
22 total blocks



Brooke Mueller - Fr.

152 Kills
140 digs
11 blocks



Avery Hopper - Sr.

72 total blocks - team high
142 kills (24.6% efficiency)



Kassi Randolph - So.

474 assists - team high
296 digs (3.02/set)
232 kills (23.4% eff.)



Katie Denning - Jr.

52 blocks -2nd on team
126 kills



Bailey Hellweg - Jr.

395 assists - 2nd on team
86 kills
235/272 serving 35 aces

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Good Luck at State, Crusaders



Taylor Crabtree - Jr.

210/240 serving
35 aces
242 digs



Anna Sobczak - So.

53 digs
94/105 serving
10 aces



Elle Rashid - Sr.

43/48 Serving
4 aces
15 digs/3 assists



Abby Dingman - Sr.



Nicole Pothitakis - Sr.



Ali Robu - Jr.



Great River Regional Waste Authority

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Congrats & Good Luck!

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