



# Pen City Current

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## Wendorfs buy Hesse building from Wolf

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - After months of speculation, confirmation was made today that the Hesse building, former home of the Ivy Bake Shoppe, has been purchased by Jimmy and Hitomi Wendorf of Fort Madison.

Wendorf and former owner Martha Wolf, both confirmed the sale of the building and both are excited that it's going to stay in local hands.

"It's an iconic build-

ing and when you get a building like this it's not so much you own the building but it kind of owns you," Wendorf said. "We're excited to have it. We want to make sure it's a beauty downtown."

He said plans for the building are still up in the air and he didn't want to go into specifics but he did want to make sure it was clear that he didn't buy the Ivy name.

"That's a thriving business that's doing very well in Burlington. We're going to return the name to Hesse. We will have

a big plaque out there at some point that says "Hesse 17th Street Market Place. I can't go into detail on what that means yet, but as we get closer to the confirmation of things we'll do that. It's going to benefit...everyone."

The Wendorfs have been living across the street from the building for 11 years and operate Simple Table, a quaint, and highly popular local specialty restaurant, on the first floor. During those 11 years Wendorf

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### In reliable hands

The Hesse building is now in the hands of Jimmy and Hitomi Wendorf. The two, and former owner Martha Wolf, confirmed the sale today. Wendorf said plans are still up in the air but they are excited to have the historic downtown structure.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### All School Band night

FMHS band student Connor Brink, above, slugs away at the timpani drums during the Crimson and Black portion of the All School Band night at Fort Madison High School. At left, David Freitag keeps pace on the flute.



## Supervisors stamp wage ordinance, but extend effective date

*State legislature continues to move on bill that would put a stop to county's efforts*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Any shot at moving the minimum wage in Lee County was pushed back to May 1, but was approved on first reading by supervisors.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, an ordinance pushing the minimum wage to \$8.20 in Lee County was amended and then approved after Supervisor Don Hunold requested the effective date be changed from April 1 to May 1. The vote passed 3-1 with Ron Fedler voting against the measure. Supervisor Matt Pflug was absent.

Hunold said his amendment was based on the trajectory of a bill in front of the Iowa Senate that has already been passed in the State House.

The bill currently in front of the Iowa Senate, House File 295, as of Monday was in front of the Senate's State Government committee which has nine Republicans and six Democrats, none of whom are locally elected.

"I see the house passed the bill up to the senate. I don't know if I want to inject the county into this. If

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## From the Front/Local News

# FMCH welcomes new general surgeon

BY PCC STAFF



TOMMERAASEN

his Medical Degree from the University of Nebraska College Of Medicine, completing a Residency there as well. He also completed a General Surgery Residency at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He practiced with Nebraska Surgical Specialists in Lincoln, Nebraska for fourteen years prior to becoming a locum tenen

physician in January of 2016.

Dr. Tommeraasen was with FMCH as a temporary physician (locum tenen) since September of 2016 before deciding to join FMCH. "I am excited to continue my care for the Fort Madison community!" expressed Dr. Tommeraasen. Dr. Tommeraasen will care for patients through diagnosis, the creation of a



treatment plan, providing non-operative, elective and emergency surgical treatment as well as management of post-operative care. He is currently accepting new patients.

You can make an appointment with Dr. Tommeraasen by calling FMP&S General Surgery, 319-376-2756 or by going online to the MyHealth patient portal at [www.fmchosp.com](http://www.fmchosp.com).

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome General Surgeon, Dr. Miles Tommeraasen to our medical staff. Dr. Tommeraasen joins Dr. Riggs Bagan in the FMP&S General Surgery Clinic.

Dr. Tommeraasen brings a high level of expertise and experience to the FMCH surgical team, having practiced for over thirty years. He received

# Building holds strong memories for Wolf, community

**HESSE** - Continued from Page 1

said the couple had thought about buying into the business that was across the street.

Wolf, who just finished moving some of her final belongings out of the building on Monday said she was hit with emotion as she photographed the building on the way out.

"It's such an iconic building. There are twenty years of memories and memories of Ivy people. I hope it has great stories to tell in the future and I'm anxious to see what those stories will be," she said.

"I got very melancholy of how many stories you could tell of the Hesses and Sheaffer's doing some production there and the Ivy. We always said we got a different story every day we were open."

Wolf said she remembers when the building was purchased by her former husband Tom. It was after it had been put up for auction and a lot of the building's character had been sold such as doors and other parts of the building. She said some of the things that belonged to Bernie Hesse that were in the building were returned to him including blue prints of the building.

Wolf said she had a copy of the blue prints framed, but gave that to the Wendorfs because she said she feels anything to do with the Hesse building needs to stay with the Hesse building.

"In the summer of 1995 Tom bought it. It had been empty, installation in top arches that was coming down. Windows had been bricked up and we tore out the brick to get back to the windows. But the amazing thing was that people who had bought parts of the building brought them back for us to put back in the building. It was really fantastic. It was really a community endeavor but it's kind of bittersweet. And I want the very best for her, it's such a lovely lady. Not only was it my home, but the Ivy created an outside family," Wolf said.

## Grandparent advocacy group to meet

BY PCC STAFF

BURLINGTON - An upstart group to fight for legal rights of grandparents in Iowa and nationwide, will be meeting March 24 from 11 a.m.-noon in Room A of the Burlington Public Library.

The group advocates for visitation rights, notification of illnesses and guardianship of grandchildren in the event the child or children are removed from the parents.

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**From the Front/For the Record**

# Raise the Wage committee questions board's motives

**ORDINANCE** - Continued from Page 2

they are going to tell us what to do we don't have a choice do we?" Hunold asked the board. "If that's the case why don't we move the date to May 1, let them settle it one way or the other and be done. I don't think I want to be in a legal battle with them. I don't think that's the road to take."

Hunold said passing the bill before April 1 and then potentially having to pull it back off the books two weeks later would be a waste of time on the part of the county and businesses.

"Isn't that a bookkeeping nightmare, I don't know. I would prefer to say May 1 because if they haven't decided by then they're probably not going to decide and they can leave us alone and we can go on with the minimum wage."

Fedler reminded the board that city's will have an option to participate or not.

"From what I've heard since our last meeting, is that some of the city's will not support this. Since last meeting, the people that have either called me or talked to me in my area, not one of them was in favor of doing this," he said.

Kathy Gabel of Keokuk who sits on the Raise the Wage committee was present along with Mike



LARKIN

Bennett and Robert Cale, said if people have an issue and they know this effort is underway why aren't they coming forward.

"Today is one of three open meetings and if there are people who are opposed to this, we need to encourage them to come here," she said.

Fedler said none of the people he spoke with would agree to come to the meeting and speak in opposition because they were afraid of retribution.

Cale said he felt the decision to push the deadline to May 1 was a political one and was unfortunate for the people of Lee County.

"They may be able to tell people, 'Hey we tried,' and it may be protection for them politically to not make a decision," Cale said after the meeting.

"Our group discussion was to get it done before the state moved on it to give us some legal footing. It doesn't seem to be a battle (the supervisors) want to fight and they don't think it's important. I think it is important to get it passed before the (state passes the bill) so we can tell our residents it was Des Moines that took it away. We voted to

value the workers in Lee County and they took that away from us."

During the open session, Cale questioned why Fedler in particular was fighting the issue.

"Why are we governing like this? Johnson County knew there was some risk, Polk County and Wapello have that, but if you have your values you can't govern like that."

Fedler said he had to cast a vote that was in line with the majority of his constituency. And he personally felt the issue was a federal and state issue, not a local issue.

"I represent everyone in my district and I try to vote based on what the majority of them tell me. So again, all of them that have talked to me said they felt the same way I did that this should be a state and federal issue not a county issue."

Cale said he agreed that the state should set a reasonable minimum wage, but they haven't done that so the county should.

"I feel fair minimum wage should be set by the state, but when the state fails to do so for nine years it becomes our responsibility. And your responsibility as a supervisor on this board," Cale said.

Supervisor Gary Folluo said he has also spoken with many people on the



FEDLER

issue and the one person who was against it was fairly well versed in the opposition,

but most people were in favor of moving the wage. He also said the county needed to take action because this just wasn't an issue of minimum wage.

"I did receive one negative correspondence right from the Chamber Alliance playbook on why it shouldn't be raised, but also have had other contacts with people at stores or at a meeting, that they felt it was healthy to raise the minimum wage. In addition, it sends a message to the state that something needs to be done. We are the poorest county in the state," Folluo said.

"A rising tide floats all boats. I think it would serve our county very well to let our people know we care about them and we want good employees. And you have to pay for good employees. We need to do all we can for the people of Lee County to raise their standards and send a message to the State of Iowa because this is bigger than minimum wage. The state of Iowa is looking at taking away local control and we have to send them a message."

**For the Record**

**Fort Madison Police report**  
03/13/17 - 9:53 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1500 block of 38th Street

03/13/17 - 1:27 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kody William Johnson, 24, of Fort Madison in the 1000 block of 34th Street on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
03/13/17 - 2:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
03/13/17 - 2:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Storms Court.

03/13/17 - 2:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Policed arrested Haley Renee Guzman, 19, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L for failure to yield upon entering a highway. She was cited and released.

03/13/17 - 2:38 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
03/14/17 - 5:42 a.m. - Fort

Madison Police arrested Sherri Lynn Grubbs-Bartner, 43, of Fort Madison in the 3500 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was cited and released.

**Lee County Sheriff's report**  
03/13/17 - 10:25 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kathy Sue Crowell, 49, of Keokuk at the Lee County Jail on a warrant on a judgment entry. She was held.

03/13/17 - 11:01 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kevin Lee McCarty, 44, of Keokuk at the intersection of 331st and 340th streets on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
*All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

**Fort Madison Fire report**  
03/13/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one lift assist and one motor vehicle accident.


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You can also stop in The Kensington at: 2210 Avenue H Fort Madison, IA



**HELP WANTED**

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking a **Maintenance Electrician** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Maintenance Electrician will perform detailed mechanical, instrumentation, and electrical troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance on plant process, utility, and packaging equipment. This position will perform multi-discipline maintenance and electrical work and maintain appropriate documentation.

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Minimum one year experience in a manufacturing or warehouse environment and past SAP experience. For expanded job details and to apply visit <http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers> and search for Req 2124.

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