



# Pen City Current

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016 | 4 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 8

## IASB official helping school board

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Community School boards usually operate from a warm room a couple times a month, obey Robert's Rules of Order, handle personnel issues, give the superintendent direction and call it day.



LAMB

But Fort Madison Community School District's current board members are taking things to a whole new level...and putting their money where their mouth is.

About two years ago, Board President Timm Lamb approached the Iowa Association of School Boards about how to bring about educating the school board on becoming better leaders and helping teachers drive excellence in learning and teaching.

"When I became president I had been on the board about five years and never had any workshops in that time," Lamb said Tuesday. "As a teacher in the district we always had workshops and I just thought we needed to bring in workshops for the board for learning sessions."

So Lamb reached out to the IASB and its Leadership Development Director Harry Heiligenenthal, who has worked with about 25 different school districts on leadership

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## Foecke taking loss in stride

Former HTC, national prep standout led Huskers in final game with 19 kills

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT - Just two years into her collegiate volleyball career, Mikaela Foecke, a national high school volleyball standout, is dripping with humility.

Fresh off the University of Nebraska's loss to No. 4 Texas (25-18, 25-23, 25-21) in the semifinals of the NCAA Volleyball tournament where Foecke led the team with 13 kills, the 2014 Holy Trinity grad is back home looking for a little down time and a recharge.

The 6'-3" sophomore outside hitter received honorable mention for the NCAA Volleyball All-American squad. She was selected Third Team All-American in 2015 as a freshman.

But she said the loss is just a step in the process of being a collegiate



Photos courtesy University of Nebraska Sports Information

### Killin' a Longhorn

University of Nebraska All-American, and HTC grad Mikaela Foecke, attempts to drive a spike by a Texas Longhorn during the NCAA semi-finals Thursday. Foecke led the Huskers in kills with 19 in the game. The Huskers lost in 3 sets sending Foecke home for the holidays.

athlete.

"The season didn't end like we had hoped it would but we were able to make it to the semifinals," she said.

"We just weren't able to shut down their outside game and we got

too frantic at the end, we didn't play Nebraska volleyball. But you live and learn and hopefully learn lessons we can take into

next year."

The 'Huskers won the national championship in 2015 and Foecke was named the NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player, becoming just the third freshman to earn the honor after recording 19 kills on .385 hitting in the championship win over Texas. It was the Longhorns that knocked Foecke and the Huskers out in three straight sets, the first time the Huskers have lost in three sets all year.

Nebraska went 31-3 on the season with losses to

Ohio State in four sets and No. 2 ranked Minnesota in five sets. They also beat both those Big Ten schools by the same scores this year.

"I don't think we really could have asked for a much better season outside of winning it all. One of our losses was to Minnesota at No. 2 and the other was to Ohio State and they both played great," she said. It was a great season and we got Nebraska's only Big Ten Championship."

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FOECKE

## City looking to revamp zoning code

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison City Building Inspector Doug Krogmeier wants to streamline the city's zoning codes and got support of the room Tuesday night.

At the regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, Krogmeier approached the council to amend Title 10, chapters 2, 19-24 and 31 of the city code to streamline the duties of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and the City's Board of Adjustment and Appeals. The move is aimed at providing residents with a simpler process in getting variances and special usage permits," Krogmeier said.

"In a nutshell, we've always reviewed special uses and variances through the Planning and Zoning first and

See ZONING, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## A gift well received

The Fort Madison Food Pantry volunteers with an assist from donors and Holy Trinity Catholic students, help area residents fill food baskets as part of the pantry's annual holiday giveaway. Complete story on page 3.

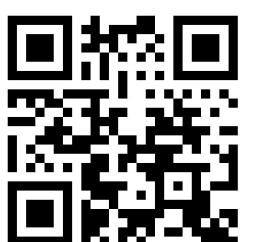
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## From the Front



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### A long line

Fort Madison residents wait in line outside the Riverview Park Pavilion on Tuesday to get inside for the Fort Madison Food Pantry's annual Holiday food giveaway. Donations of staples lined the inside of the pavilion as volunteers helped pack and carry out the food items.

## Food Madison Food Pantry gives residents holiday gifts of food

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Well, 'Ole Man Winter' may have thrown a curve ball at the Fort Madison Food Pantry's Holiday food handout last week, but volunteers at the rescheduled event today hit a home run with families looking to supplement meals over the holidays.

George Gaudette, president of the board of the Community Services Inc., Fort Madison Food Pantry and his wife, Mary Ann Gaudette, another board member, along with about 30 volunteers worked for two hours on Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. handing out food to residents.

Lines of more than 50 people streamed to the north side of the parking lot at the Riverview Park Pavilion, while inside more than 30 people were rotating through tables loaded with eggs, bread, cereal, cake mixes and peanut butter, canned goods and other food staples.

The peanut butter became a story in itself.

The Gaudettes said they were thankful

for all the donations and community support, as well as Holy Trinity Catholic High School and Fort Madison High School who came to the rescue with 770 jars of peanut butter. Each person in line got to pick two jars of their favorite... creamy or chunky.

"We got 385 jars of peanut butter from each school," said George.

"Our budget was maxed out," said Mary Ann. "The schools came up with a fundraiser and did a peanut butter drive."

The weather made holding the event last week treacherous on last weekend, so the giveaway was rescheduled for Tuesday, but it took some work to move it to Riverview Park.

"We ended up having to call people," Mary Ann said. "We called everyone who had working phone numbers. We couldn't reach everyone, but the word got out."

"We've got Holy Trinity kids here helping people carry boxes. We had some churches donate the cake mixes. This is a real community effort," she said.

## Lighthouse project aimed at improved learning

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

development and bringing school boards into a more interactive role with the learning experience in Iowa schools.

"We needed to know what we're to be doing as a board. So we brought Harry in and one of the first sessions we had him explain test scores," Lamb said. "We got test results and data but no one knew what it all meant. Harry explained those scores to us and it was a real eye opener for me and the board. We were doing a lot better than we thought."

Since that time the board has had Heiligenthal back two more times and Lamb said each time he comes there is a lot of information thrown at the board, but he said in the end this will result in a more streamlined goal-setting process that incorporates, teachers, students, the community and the board.

"We were pretty much doing business meetings and nothing else," Lamb said. "This will help define our role as a board and how we can set better teaching and

*"In theory, the board sets the district goals, the SIAC comes up with ideas and ways to support those goals so you don't have different goals all over the place."*

-Erin Slater,  
FMCS  
Superintendent

going for themselves. It's a great time for them with a new superintendent and the new Curriculum Director. It's a terrific opportunity for that whole leadership group to get focused on what's going to help their district."

The Lighthouse of Leadership for Learning program is based on research-based practices or habits that make a difference, especially when it comes to improved teacher learning. Up to about 15 years ago, the year 2000 give or take, most of the information of leadership of boards, when it came to learning, was theory and interesting ideas. Not a lot of study. So the IASB, at that point conducted some original research, not cause and effect, but original research, Heiligenthal said.

He said the name Lighthouse came from the principle of a guiding light..of showing people the right direction to go.

"I'm really excited about the direction. I've spoken with the board and I've talked to some teachers and they are excited we're doing some of the same things they are doing," Lamb said.

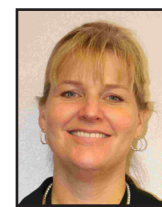
Superintendent Erin Slater said the program focuses on seven areas: Shared leadership, continuous improvement and shared decision-making, ability to create and sustain, supportive workplace for staff, staff development, support for school sites through data and information, and community involvement.

"Those are the tenants of the conditions that need to exist for positive school renewal," Slater said.

"Harry is working with our school board to help it understand that we want to focus on that improvement and renewal. In theory the school board sets the district goals, the SIAC comes up with ideas and ways to support those goals so you don't have different goals all over the place. That's too chaotic and things don't get done that way."

Because of the ramped up efforts of the board and the district administration, six board members were recently honored at the IASB annual convention in November.

Board members Lamb, Tim Wondra, Dianne Hope, Carol Ross, Gayla Young and Lois DiPrima were all honored individually for engaging in activity above the traditional board duties. The entire FMCS board was also honored for their efforts.



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## For the Record/Local News

# Changes aimed at cleaning up special request timetable

**ZONING** - Continued from Page 1

then Board of Adjustments. We're the only city in the state that is still doing it like this since I've been here," Krogmeier said. "It's time we speed that process up. Typically when someone applies for one it takes up to 2 months for a special use (permit) and just under that for variances at about a month and a half."

He said by eliminating that step, he can eliminate the time needed to hold two different meetings.

"People understand what to ask in the first one and then they learn what to ask in the second. Planning and Zoning should be focusing on writing an allowable special use, and the Board of Adjustment would hear on whether something would be considered an allowable use. We're also making a few other changes along the way," he said.

"Ultimately, we need to update the entire zoning code, so this would give the Planning and Zoning Committee time to focus on that and not worry so much about every variance and special use that comes along."

After the meeting Krogmeier said he's trying to help fix the timing of the process for Fort Madison residents.

"It's timing...you know you redo those meetings so often and they talk about the same things so much. It's not beneficial to the citizens when you have the same argument twice," he said. "Really, part of it is we are so short-handed. Every commission we have is short-handed of people. If I can reduce the burden on P&Z and not create a conflict of interest...obviously Robert Johnson will have still have to review all of that."

Krogmeier said the Planning and Zoning commission writes the code and gives the Board of Adjustment parameters to approve. As it is currently, the city is sending requests to Planning and Zoning for recommendation and then over to Board of Adjustments for approval.

"There's no reason to send it to both commissions. Two months just seems silly. It should be two weeks unless you're at the end of the month and then it might take a little longer."

In other action:

- the council approved a resolution to take additional action for authorizing the issuance of \$20,026,179 in sewer revenue capital loan notes.
- approved the final reading of an ordinance to amend two chapters of the building and fire codes to update them to the 2012 International Building, Plumbing and Fire codes.
- Appointed City Manager David Varley to a one-year term on the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors.
- heard from City Works Director Larry Driscoll that the 15th Street construction should be bidded out in January or February with work starting in April. Driscoll also reminded residents that 24th Street cannot be treated for ice due to the new surface and it will be slick in icy conditions.

### For the Record

#### Lee County Sheriff's report

12/19/2016 - no time reported, Lee County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Kaleb Michael Finton, 26, of Main Street in Warsaw, Ill. was arrested on a charge of voluntary absence. He was taken to Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.  
12/19/2016 - 8:10 a.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident in the 2200 block of 255th St. According to reports a vehicle driven by Dustin Adam Hartley, 18 of West Point slid on icy conditions and hit a vehicle driven by Sheri Lynne Huprich, 56, of West Point who had slowed for a snow plow. No injuries were sustained. No citations were issued.

12/19/2016 - 7:32 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of 268th Avenue and 121st Street. Robert Edward Seidel, 28, Fort Madison, lost control of his vehicle and slid into the ditch. No injuries were sustained. No citations were issued.  
12/19/2016 - 1:02 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Brandon Allan Erb, 31, of Avenue G, West Point, Iowa in Rock Island, Ill on charges of forgery and probation/pretrial violation. He was taken the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. A criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Clear to land

The Fort Madison Riverfront was literally a geese feeding ground on Tuesday. More than 500 geese invaded the park just east of the Old Fort. Two come in for a landing on the snow with the Mississippi River and the Illinois banks in the background. It was a short-lived feeding frenzy as most were gone within 45 minutes of landing.

“There’s no reason to send it to both commissions. Two months just seems silly. It should be two weeks.”

-Doug Krogmeier  
FM Building Inspector



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## Sports

# Nebraska not that big of a change for Foecke

**FOECKE** - Continued from Page 1

After receiving national recognition and accolades, and leading Holy Trinity Catholic to the school's only state championship, Foecke says the change really hasn't been that dramatic for her.

"You know, going to Nebraska wasn't that big of a change," she said. "It's a lot like Iowa and the people back home and I wanted that same type of environment and I got it. There's a saying here that there's no place like Nebraska. At first I was a bit skeptical, but now I completely understand. There are so many people helping us and wanting us to succeed. It makes the transition much easier that's for sure."

She said one of the changes that has been a bit more trying is the travel and time away from school, despite being named to the Nebraska Scholar Athlete Honor Roll in the fall 2015 semester and spring 2016 semester.

"I think just the travel is a bit harder," she said. "In high school you travel, but not very far and don't miss much school," Foecke said. "In college we're gone almost every weekend and typically the Friday before. That's a lot to take on. You're missing all this class and you have to balance that."

But she said the support system with the Huskers is strong and there are people who help her with staying focused on her courses and she's able to stay in touch with her professors even when she's not in class. Foecke is majoring in animal sciences.

According to the PrepVolleyball Magazine Foecke was the No. 2 player in the country coming out of Holy Trinity. She was also named the Gatorade National Player of the Year as a senior after totaling 812 kills, 270 digs, 170 aces and 95 blocks, and leading Holy Trinity Catholic to a



Photos courtesy University of Nebraska - Sports Information

## Get ready

HTC grad Mikaela Foecke goes for another kill in Thursday's NCAA National semifinal contest with the Texas Longhorns. Foecke said the move to Nebraska wasn't too trying except for all the travel.

48-4 record. She was also named the PrepVolleyball.com National Freshman of the Year and a third-team All-America and was a unanimous Big Ten All-Freshman Team selection.

Foecke says she does try to stay in touch with former teammates including HTC senior Ali Randolph, but her schedule keeps her very busy.

"A little bit, but not a whole lot," she said of staying touch. "I have a few friends that are still on that team. I like Ali Randolph a lot.. she's a good friend."

As far as the accolades, Foecke said they are really awards she shares with her fellow Huskers.

"It means so much, but I couldn't do it without my

teammates. They put me in a position to go up and swing away. I think that with any personal awards you get whether it's All-American or not it's definitely a team award. It takes all six players on the court."

When asked about whether she had any Olympic aspirations, Foecke used perspective there as well.

"I think everyone does and hopefully it will work out some day, but definitely something I've thought about," she said. But indicated that it's almost unheard of to do that before you get out of college.

A lot of her success she credits to her family and coaches. Foecke said Melissa Freesmeier helped

position her for this success.

"She coached me all four years in high school. I was very glad to have her as a coach. Without her I wouldn't be where I am today," Foecke said.

She also said if wasn't for her parents constant support things would have been almost impossible.

"I'm just thankful for

*"In college we're gone almost every weekend and typically the Friday before. That's a lot to take on. You're missing all this class and you have to balance that."*

-Mikaela Foecke  
Former HTC standout

for everything they do for me. They travel a lot and it means so much to me that they are there. This year they even came out to Penn State," Foecke said. "I'm very lucky they are able to travel."

For the 2016 season, Foecke played 117 sets, averaged 2.9 kills per set, .07 assists per set, .2 aces per set, .8 digs per set, .4 blocks per set and 3.4 points per set. She was 2nd on the Huskers in attacks with 829, points with 393, kills with 343. The Cornhuskers went 31-3 on the season with their only regular season losses to Ohio State in four sets and No. 2 ranked Minnesota in five sets. The Huskers also beat those teams during the season by the same scores.

## Holy Trinity girls come up short at Wapello

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WAPELLO - Holy Trinity put three girls in double figures including a 27-point performance from senior Ali Randolph but came up short 62-65 on the road Tuesday night.

Randolph who's average 23.5 points per game over the last two outings scored 13 first-half points but trailed 29-25 at halftime after tying Wapello at 11 after the first period.

HTC opened the third period with some momentum and ran out to a 38-29 lead with just under four minutes left in the period, but Wapello outscored the Lady Crusaders 13-1 the rest of the way to take a four-point lead 42-38 at the end of the period.

Holy Trinity again, as they did last week against Central Lee, had a solid fourth quarter matching Wapello's girls for 23 points in the fourth quarter that saw 46 combined points.

"The kids played hard, but we struggled with foul trouble all night," head coach Tony Johnson said.

The stats would bear out that the referees were busy all night. Wapello went to the free throw line 44 times. HTC went to the line 24 times but only converted 8 compared to the Indians' 21.

Taylor Boeding was second on the team in scoring with 15 points including two second half 3-pointers and Emily Box had 11. Brett Schneider had 3 points for the Lady Crusaders, while Mya Lawlor, Ashley Haas and Madison Mohrfeld all contributed a bucket for Holy Trinity.

Wapello had four girls in double figures led by Korlee Carey with 14 and Emma Reid with a dozen.

HTC is off until Jan. 3, when they play host to New London in a girls/boys varsity double header beginning at 6 p.m.

## Crusaders play flat 2nd half in road loss

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

WAPELLO - Someone told Wapello coach Ken Spielbauer that Holy Trinity has some shooters.

The Crusaders traveled to Wapello last night to face the 30-year veteran coach and raced out to an 8-point first half lead highlighted by senior Cory Hopper's 12 points and Connor Conrad's 11 points, six of which came courtesy of the free throw line. Conrad was sent to the charity stripe nine times in the first half but only twice in the second half. Conrad is coming off a 40-point performance against Central Lee last week.

Head Coach John Hellige said Spielbauer ran a sticky defense that held the usually stout 3-point shooting of the Crusaders (4-3) in check.

"They manned us up pretty good and we didn't take too many 3s," Hellige said. "That's a pretty tough team and very well coached. Ken's been up there for close to 30 years and I think he scouted us pretty well."

"As a team we played really well in the first half. We had an 8-point lead at halftime. Second half came out really flat and they made a nice run. In the end we got into some foul trouble and that was it."

Hopper led HTC with 20 points including the team's only 3-pointer in the first half, followed by Conrad with 17, Bailey Merschman had 8, Cullin Thornton added 6, Nick Pothitakis tossed in a bucket and Connor Hellweg added a free throw to round out the scoring.

In the junior varsity game, Holy Trinity won 63-47 after holding just a two-point first half lead. The Crusaders outscored Wapello 37-20 in the second half. The Crusaders were led by Matt Hellige with 16, Reed Fehseke with 14 including four 3-pointers, 11 for Brant Holtkamp, 9 from Adam Rauenbueler. Quentin Schneider and Blake Crabtree each had 4 and Kyle Bredemeyer and Connor Holvoet each had a bucket.

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