



# Pen City Current

Wed., February 1, 2017 | 4 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 37

## Supervisors favor adding sheriff deputies, dog

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - In a clear sign that Lee County Supervisors stand squarely behind their newly elected sheriff, it was recommended Tuesday that two new deputies and possibly a full-time additional correctional officer be added to the sheriff's budget.

At Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisors' meeting, during the budget workshop, supervisors looked at the preliminary budget, specifically items that had come up during the budgeting process that weren't included in original department budgets.

The county budget has to be finalized by the end of February to allow time for public hearings before final approval and being submitted to the state.



WEBER

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber was on hand to discuss his budget, which includes costs associated with bringing on a service dog. Weber's original budget submitted to the board in December didn't include the dog, but Lee County Budget

Director Cindy Renstrom included it in the revised budget submitted on Tuesday.

Weber had also wanted to upgrade the county's video court system to be compatible with Des Moines County. He said Des Moines county had upgraded its system and now Lee County's was not compatible. That upgrade, too, was included in the revised budget.

When questioned by supervisors on Tuesday, Renstrom said Weber was still hoping to

add two deputies to "backfill" the department so he could promote two current deputies, as well as the part-time C.O.

The two deputies weren't heavily discussed and Rick Larkin, chairman of the board instructed Renstrom to add the deputies to the budget after not getting any push back from the other supervisors.

Supervisor Don Hunold told Weber to refigure his calculations on the part-time because it could actually be a cost-savings to hire a full-time C.O. and replace the part-time positions. Weber indicated that he was running at about 500% to his overtime budget so far this year and he said it is difficult to find and keep part-time people.

"What happens is they get a taste for it and then they go to the prison which is a higher paying, full-time gig. I've got some professional people down there now, but I didn't want to come into this heavy-handed and ask for a bunch of stuff," Weber told the board.

"If you're paying these three part-timers and have any OT, this could be a wash or we may even save some money hiring someone full time," Hunold said. "I'd like to see those numbers before moving on."

Weber said he would have those numbers by the end of the day, but was very happy with the reaction to the requests.

"I was very pleased with that," Weber said. "I'm glad the board is seeing things this way. I've been giving them tours and working with them. And like I said at the meeting, I'll do whatever they need me to and work with the budget they give me. But I'm very happy with today's discussions."

“  
I'm glad the board is seeing things this way. I've been giving them tours and working with them. And like I said at the meeting, I'll do whatever they need me to and work with the budget they give me. But I'm very happy with today's discussions.”

-Stacy Weber  
Lee County Sheriff

If the budget is finalized with the two new deputies, Weber said he will promote one deputy to the rank of detective and another to a full-time evidence clerk who would also be responsible for video requests and that type of evidentiary processing.

The dog would be used as a multi-service animal for drug searches, people searches and in situations where deputies need back up or assistance with an offender. The dog could also be used to help keep order in the jail when not tasked out.

Again, the budget is still in the reviewing stage and will not be finalized until all recommendations and hearings have been held.

*PCC poised to prop up P.A.W. with pet parade*

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Last week, Fort Madison's no-kill animal shelter P.A.W. rescued 37 of 77 Shih Tzu puppies from a Burlington home. (Read the full story at [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)) Due to the enormous response to this story (over 15,000 people have expressed interest), Pen City Current has announced a new promotion designed to raise funds and awareness for the puppies' plight, as well as care for the other animals in the charge of P.A.W. of which there are over 200 at this time.

Pen City Current encourages all pet owners and animal lovers to post or tweet their most adorable pet picture with the hashtag #PCCPawesomePets and tag us @PenCityCurrent. We will gather all pet photos onto

See PARADE, page 2

## County nixes roadside program in budget prelims

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - After several presentations on the subject, county supervisors have pulled \$200,000 from preliminary budgets for a roadside vegetation program aimed at rekindling the native plants on county roadsides.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, funding for the project was pulled after Supervisor Don Hunold said he would like to get a group of those in the know together to set a plan for the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget.

Donnellson resident Margo Sprenger has been spearheading the effort to try and keep some native Iowa plants growing along the roadsides and reduce the mowing so deep into the ditches in Lee County.

The program was headed to the Lee County Conservation Board to staff and administrate. Hunold said he would like to get Sprenger, Lee County Conservation Director Tom Buckley, County Engineer Ernie Steffensmeier, who also oversees the secondary roads department for the county, and a few others together to create a plan going forward.

Sprenger said she was unhappy with the decision but indicated she's getting some support from the county in

See BUDGET, page 2



PCC file photo by Chuck Vandenberg

### Program dumped

Margo Sprenger, a Lee County farmer, looks over a patch of native prairie. Sprenger is asking the county to not mow so deep into the ditches to allow natural native plants to grow.

### Advertiser Index

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Hope Associates Real Estate.....          | P.2 |
| IWitnessBullying.org....                  | P.2 |
| Boulders Inn and Suites Fort Madison..... | P.3 |
| Elliott Test Kitchen.....                 | P.3 |
| KLM Realty.....                           | P.3 |
| Classifieds.....                          | P.4 |
| Public Notices.....                       | P.4 |
| StopTextsStopWrecks.org.....              | P.4 |

### News Index

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| From the front/ |       |
| Local News..... | P.2   |
| Sports.....     | P.3-4 |

Scan the code to  
Subscribe today



## From the Front/Local News

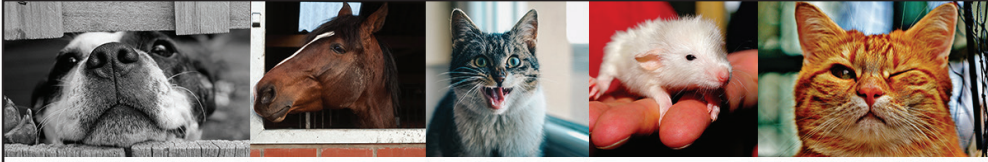
# Readers' photos sought for contest


### PARADE - Continued from Page 1

a page on our website and encourage visitors to vote for their favorite pet photo and make a donation to the shelter through our page. All photos posted through Tuesday, February 7, 2017 will be uploaded to the page.

Voting will commence Wednesday, February 8 and will end Valentine's Day Tuesday, February 14. The winning photo will be announced on this website and our social media channels. 100% of the funds

raised through this promotion will be donated to P.A.W. at the conclusion of the promotion. To donate directly to the organization, please visit their website at [www.paw-fortmadison.com](http://www.paw-fortmadison.com).





## #PCCPawwsomePets

**Is your pet the most PAWSOME?**

Post or tweet your favorite pet picture with the hashtag #PCCPawwsomePets and tag @PenCityCurrent.

We'll collect all the photos to display on our website [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com) and will open the voting process. The pet with the most votes will be recognized in an upcoming issue of *Pen City Current* and on our website. We'll also be taking donations for P.A.W. Animal Shelter. 100% of donations will be given to P.A.W. at the end of the promotion. Deadline to post your pet's photo is Tues., Feb. 7, 2017. Voting will be open Wed., Feb. 8, 2017 through Tues., Feb. 14, 2017.

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

No activity report for the day.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/27/17 - 1:55 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy. 16. A vehicle driven by Thomas Michael Seibert, 39, of Middletown, left the roadway in the 2800 block of Hwy. 16 and went air-born over a driveway landing back in the ditch and eventually on the roadway.

No injuries were reported or citations issued at the scene. 01/30/17 - 9:10 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rachel Genelle James, 47 of Keokuk, in the 2500 block of 255th Street on a charge of possession of controlled substance. She was cited and released on a promise to appear. 1/30/17 - 1:40 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Alex Joseph Derr, 29, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for probation/pretrial violation. He was taken the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed. 1/30/17 - 11:04 p.m. - Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Chad Alan Riddle, 33, of Keokuk at the Des Moines County Line on a warrant for arrest of a parole violator. He was taken the Lee County Correctional Center and jailed.

#### Fort Madison Fire Dept. Report

01/31/2017 - Fort Madison Fire responded to 2 medical calls. It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

# Weed mucks up roadside plan

### BUDGET - Continued from Page 1

the interim. "I'm really disappointed," she said. "But I will say Ernie has been really good about working with me and saying we can do quite a bit to not mow a lot of what we mowed last year."

"He's shown interest in looking at staying in that five to eight foot range off the roadway and that might be the best we can do this year. Hopefully there were will be people that will tell me about these prairie remnants around the county. If we inform the people doing the mowing, they've been good about saving some of those areas."

The weed most likely will not persist in these new locations being established for conservation habitat since the Palmer amaranth should be crowded out once native, perennial vegetation is established. The concern, however, is that until the perennial plants become established, Palmer amaranth may produce enough seed to begin moving into neighboring corn and soybean fields, according to the extension's website.

Hunold took it a step further saying that, left uncontrolled, that could take a farmer's field in about three years.

"You have to kill it be-

not going to spray it or mow it every week that's the only way to kill it. So if we have to go walk that out of the ditches, that's gonna be a problem," Hunold said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he had a report from the University of Purdue that indicates if left uncontrolled it could hurt soybean yields by 79% and corn by 91%.

"Basically you can't kill it so the way to control it is to cut before it gets to seed. If it's left to grow in the ditches one plant can produce a half million seeds. That's amazing to me and it's resistant to spray. It's pretty scary," Fedler said.

### Palmer amaranth

Supervisor Ron Fedler also brought a news article about a weed called Palmer Amaranth that is scaring the heck out of county farmers.

According to the Iowa State University Extension office, the weed can potentially have a devastating effect on soybean and corn yields.

"The initial Palmer amaranth infestations in Iowa were found in crop fields associated with equipment and inputs from outside of the state. More recently, Palmer amaranth has been found on ground set aside for conservation practices.



Palmer amaranth

Photo courtesy ISU Extension

fore it gets 4" tall. If you don't you have to actually hoe it out of the fields. That plant will seed a half million seed," he said. If it gets in the ditches we're

"We're not mandated by the state to (have the program), especially if this is going to be problematic going forward," Pflug said.

Nissa Rung, Sales & Marketing Consultant  
[n.rung@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:n.rung@pencitycurrent.com)  
 319.520.8953

# Pen City current

Fort Madison's 24/7 All Digital Source for News & Advertising • [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## Follow Us

@pencitycurrent



**Submit your news items for publication to Chuck Vandenberg, PCC Editor (319)371.1670 editor@pencitycurrent.com**

## Home is where your heart is.

**We want to help you find it.**  
**(319) 372-4040**



Hundreds of great listings available now at [www.seia.rapmls.com](http://www.seia.rapmls.com)



**WHEN YOU see BULLYING, use THIS EMOJI TO do SOMETHING ABOUT it.**



**Sports**

# Hopper scores 29 in 2nd half as HTC pulls out win

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It was a pretty quiet Shottenkirk gymnasium Tuesday night considering it was senior night. Until...

Cory Hopper put away a break away dunk and then just went bonkers with 29 points in the second half as HTC upset Wapello 58-51 in a non-conference match-up Tuesday night.

While Hopper was walking on water, fellow senior Nick Pothitakis held Southeast Iowa Superconference North scoring leader Trenton Massner to 18 points, four in the second half. Massner averages 22 a game for the Arrows.

"Coach said just don't let him have the ball," Pothitakis said. "When he did get it, I just laid off until he put it on the floor and then was right up on him," Pothitakis said.

HTC had two leads in the first quarter 2-0 and 4-3 and then never led again until the 4:04 left in the game. Wapello and head coach Ken Spielbauer were dead set on pressing the Crusaders into submission and scored regularly off turnovers on the inbounds, highlighted by Massner who stole an inbound pass, took two steps and went for a slam, but the ball caught the front of the rim and bounced out.

The Arrows went on to outscore HTC 13 to 8 in the second quarter highlighted by Massner's six points for a 35-19 lead going into the half.

HTC Head Coach John Hellige said he told his squad in the locker room that it was Senior Night and they needed to start playing like it.

"I just challenged them and said this is Senior Night. We have to stop all the turnovers and miscues. I told them to just focus on getting the lead to single digits by



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## Dribble and drive

HTC's Cory Hopper looks for a move off the dribble in Tuesday's win over Wapello. Hopper led all scorers with 36 points, 29 of which came in the second half as HTC wiped out a 16-point first half deficit to move to 10-8 on the season.

the fourth quarter and we'd have a chance."

Massner converted a quick bucket to start the 2nd half, but Pothitakis hit a 3-pointer to start the HTC festivities. Wapello's Gage Witte answered with a three of his own and then Hopper outscored the Arrows 12-8 the rest of the third period capped by a Connor Helligweg bucket to pull the Crusaders to within six, 42-48 going into the final stanza.

Hopper said he started to feed off the energy of the crowd. And with Connor Conrad out for the rest of the regular season, Hopper said it's now his job to lead.

"I like playing in front of crowds like that," Hopper said. "And with Connor out it feels sometimes like I have to take over."

See **COMEBACK**, page 4



## Sliding by

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

An unidentified Wapello girl slides by HTC's Emily Box in Tuesday's action. The Arrows downed the Crusaders 54-45 after HTC overcame a 15-point deficit at halftime to take a one-point lead early in the 4th quarter.

# Lady Crusaders come up short after rally

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity girls wiped out a 15-point deficit at halftime only to go cold in the fourth quarter en route to a 54-45 loss to Wapello Tuesday night.

The Crusaders put three players in double figures and seemed to have Wapello figured out in the third quarter when they closed the gap to four on several occasions. Sophomore Emily Box scored nine points in the half as HTC managed to work the ball inside for most of the period, working the perimeter until a passing lane opened up to Box.

She finished with 11 points for the game. Ali Randolph led HTC with

12 points, but got into foul trouble early and had to ride the bench early on.

"We struggled with fouls all night," Head Coach Tony Johnson said. "Randolph and Box were on the bench for most of the 2nd quarter so that hurt us."

"But we did a real good job in the third quarter, but we just got in too big of a hurry in the fourth quarter and got away from our offense."

Wapello's head coach John Vandenberg put the squeeze on the Crusaders with a trap press for most of the game forcing some turnovers in transition and getting the Crusaders off balance right out of the gate.

HTC only converted 4 of 13 first half shot attempts but their defense

was able to keep the game within four at the end of the first period, but the Arrows pulled away outscoring HTC 18-7 in the second quarter, highlighted by a six-minute scoring drought for the Crusaders.

Out of the locker room, Holy Trinity scored first and often kicked off by

a Brett Schneider bucket and then two back-to-back buckets by Box. Ali Randolph scored on a bucket inside. The Arrows managed a free throw by Denalyn Lanz, but Box answered with another easy bucket inside.

See **RALLY**, page 4

The Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com website are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. The Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Lee Vandenberg, Sales manager  
319-371-4125  
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Charles Vandenberg, Editor  
319-371-1670  
editor@pencitycurrent.com



Pen City Current  
P.O. Box 366  
Fort Madison, IA

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**Math & Science Day**  
3:30-6:30pm



Stop in.  
We're here to help.



807 Avenue G • Ft. Madison  
Call (319) 250-9052  
Click here or go to www.tkef.org

Call us  
for all your real estate needs.

**KEEPING LIVES MOVING**  
*it's what we do.*

CLICK OR CALL NOW  
(866) 263-4640

**BOULDERS**  
INN & SUITES  
Fort Madison

*Stay in elevated comfort.*

**Sports/Classifieds**

# Pothitakis quiets Wapello's Massner in 2nd half

**COMEBACK** - Continued from Page 3

With about three minutes left in the 3rd period, Hopper picked off a Wapello pass in the 1/2 court offense, measured his steps and put down a two-handed dunk that brought the HTC faithful to their feet. The momentum shifted and Hopper was off to the races.

He scored 15 points in the fourth quarter, while the Crusaders' defense held Wapello to three free throws in the quarter as the Arrows didn't convert a single bucket the rest of the way.

"Nick did a tremendous job of guarding Massner. (Massner's) a tremendous athlete and scorer. Collin Thornton gave Nick some breaks and did a good job, too." Hellige said.

"Wapello is a very good team, very well coached. Coach Spielbauer does a tremendous job with his teams. This is just a huge win for us going into the seeding meeting tomorrow night."

Hellige said HTC is probably battling Notre Dame for a 4th or 5th seed in district play.

Rounding out the scoring for the Crusaders was Connor Hellweg with 10, Bailey Merschman with 7, Pothitakis with 3 and Jack Stinson Jr. with 2. Massner led Wapello with his 18.

HTC, now 10-8 on the year, finishes up the regular season with a road trip to New London on Tuesday and then hosts Burlington Notre Dame on Friday.

In the junior varsity matchup, Matt Hellige led the Crusaders with 22 points as they downed Wapello 50-41. Reed Fehseke added 8 points, Bryant Holtkamp had 6 and Quentin Schneider, Adam Rauenbueler, and Kyle Bredemeyer each added four. Connor Holvoet added a bucket.

# HTC girls falter in 4th

**RALLY** - Continued from Page 3

Schneider then reeled off a 3-pointer and bucket on the next trip down to force a Wapello time out. By that time, HTC had closed the gap to 30-32. After the breather, Karlee Carey hit two-free throws to put the game back at four points 34-30.

Box connected on a jumper from the free throw line and hit the front end of a one-and-one but Wapello's leading scorer Eryka Dickey hit a 3-pointer to hold the four-point advantage going into the final period.

Box and Randolph combined for six points to Wapello's one point on a free throw by Jena Gerot and to take a 39-38 lead but Wapello came storming back and put the game away with a 10-0 run that didn't end until Randolph converted inside to make the score 51-41 with less than a minute left and the game out of reach.

"We just came out a little flat and got into foul trouble," Johnson said. "Credit to them, they came and took it to us."

Rounding out the scoring for the Crusaders was Schneider with 11 and Mya Lawlor and Ashyn Haas each with four points.

Wapello was led by Carey with 20 points.

HTC falls to 9-10 on the season and travels to New London on Tuesday night to wrap up the regular season.



## Room for one

HTC's Brett Schneider looks for room to the basket in Tuesday's 45-54 loss to Wapello.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

**Follow Us**  
**@pencitycurrent**



**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**FORT MADISON  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

February 6, 2017 5:30

P.M.

**AGENDA**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum

II. Recognition of guests

III. Approve the agenda

IV. Financial workshop – Sandy Elmore

V. Lighthouse topic 3 – Harry Heiligenthal, IASB

VI. Adjourn

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Lee County Conference Board has scheduled the public hearing to adopt the 2017-2018 Assessor's budget for Thursday, February 23rd, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lee County Sheriff's Office Conference room, 2530 255th St, Montrose, Iowa.

The agenda will include:

1. Approve the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes of the January 26th, 2017 meeting.

3. Discuss the Urban revitalization tax abatement applications

4. Public hearing for the Assessor's budget.

5. Adoption of the approved 2017-2018 Assessor's budget.

**SHOP**  
**the classifieds**



PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT [WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM](http://WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM) OR CALL (319)371.4125

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

**Beautiful**

One Bedroom Apartment



One bedroom apt located on the second floor in a historic building in downtown Fort Madison.

The apartment includes water, trash, off street parking as well as kitchen appliances.

**Lots of built in storage!**

**Only \$500 per month!**



**No Smoking  
No Pets**

**\$500 security  
deposit required**

**Call or Text 319-371-7753**

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**

**Printer Ink**



Epson 69 Black and Color C/M/Y Ink Cartridges (T069120-BCS), Combo 4/Pack . Box opened, but cartridges are not - purchased wrong package for my printer.

Regularly \$62.99

**Will sell for \$50.00**

Call Lee at

(319)371.4125

[sales@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:sales@pencitycurrent.com)

**TEXTING  
AND DRIVING  
MAKES  
GOOD PEOPLE  
LOOK BAD.**

**STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG**



**Advertise in a brand new way.**

**Nissa (319)520.8953 • Lee (319)371.4125**

**Pen City  
current**