



# Pen City Current

Sunday, October 29, 2017 | 10 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 251

## Judge tosses deal, sends FM woman to prison

*Weiler pleads guilty in deal that had prosecution seeking suspended sentence*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A Fort Madison woman has been sentenced to up to 10 years in prison for embezzling more than \$70,000 from a local chiropractor's office.

Danylle L. Weiler, 48, of Chariton, was sentenced Fri-



BRADEN

*"The facts and circumstances of the case justified the sentence. But I didn't argue for that."*

**- Ross Braden, Asst. Lee County Attorney**

day morning by Eighth District Judge Michael Schilling to an indeterminate number of years in prison not to exceed 10 after Weiler pled guilty to a first-degree theft.

Assistant Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, who prosecuted the case, said the judge sentenced Weiler according to the penalties allowed by law. However,

Braden said he was not arguing for prison time for Weiler.

"I wouldn't say I was shocked by the sentence," Braden said Friday afternoon. "The facts and circumstances of the case justified the sentencing. But I didn't argue for that."

The case was scheduled for trial on three separate occasions in March, June, and August, but Braden said Weiler chose to plead guilty to the Class C Felony first-degree theft instead of going to trial, in exchange for the state not asking for prison time, but a suspended sentence and restitution.

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Pen City Current owner Lee K. Vandenberg hands some chocolate to a couple heroes who braved the sub-40 degree temperatures and winds to attend the first annual YMCA Trunk or Treat event Friday night in the YMCA parking lot. More than 350 youngsters dressed up and paraded through the YMCA parking lot with 12 vendors handing out candy.

## Mayorga trial set for Feb. 13 in Fort Madison

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The trial for a Burlington man accused of first-degree murder is tentatively set to begin almost one year

to the day after a body was found in Indian Path Park on the Lee County side of Skunk River.

Joseph Mayorga, Jr., 35, Burlington, is accused of murdering James Merlin Nelson of Fairfield on or about Feb. 11, 2017 and

will stand trial on Feb. 13, 2018 at the North Lee County Courthouse in Fort Madison.

Mayorga is being represented by public defender Allen Cook III, of Ottumwa. Bruce McDonald, an assistant with the Lee

County Attorney's office, will be prosecuting the case for the state.

A pretrial conference has been set for Jan. 19 and Iowa District 8 Judge Mark Kruse will preside

See **TRIAL**, page 5



**Patrick Lamb**

Assistant Principal,  
Fort Madison High School

*Dreamers v. Realists:  
An interconnected  
dichotomy of choice*

"There are dreamers and there are realists in this world. You would think that the dreamers would find the dreamers and the realists would find the realists, but more often than not, the opposite is true. You see, the dreamers need the realists to keep them from soaring too close to the sun. And the realists...well, without the dreamers, they might never get off the ground." - Modern Family

I'm a pessimist. I don't know how I got this way, but nearly everyone who knows me personally will identify me as such. I find it hard to envision the positive results of anything, and even if things are going well for me, I'm always waiting for the proverbial other shoe to drop. I'm positive that the people who work with me and live with me on a daily basis find it maddening. In relation to the above quote, I consider myself a realist.

By now, you've identified yourself as one or the other, too, and as much as you'd like to, you really can't identify as both. So now that you've identified yourself, consider how you came to be a dreamer or realist. More than likely, we were all dreamers at one point. I distinctly remember telling my first grade teacher that

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# Obituaries/Area News



## Having the Governor's ear

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, center, speaks with Fort Madison High School Superintendent Erin Slater, left, and Jenny Steffensmeier, second from left, while Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, listens Friday afternoon at Steffensmeier Welding & Manufacturing's 35th anniversary celebration.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

## OBITUARIES

# GEORGIA L. "LU" STANSBERRY

Georgia L. "Lu" Stansberry, 90, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:50 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.



STANSBERRY

She was born on April 13, 1927 in Fort Madison, IA to Aloysious & Evelyn Lewis Sallen. She was a homemaker most of her life and attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She enjoyed gardening, crocheting and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Lu is survived by: 3-daughters: Linda Harvey of Osage Beach, MO, Cathy (Frank) Brandhorst of St. Louis, MO & Sally (Tom) Cook of Springfield, MO; 2-sons: Darrell Stansberry Jr. of Bremerton, WA & Patrick Stansberry of Sequim, WA; 1-brother: Larry (Sherrill) Sallen of Fort Madison, IA and she was "Nana" to 12-grandchildren and 16-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 2-sisters & 1-brother.

Cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family will receive friends from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, October 30, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church with the funeral mass to immediately follow at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Mark P. Spring officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Priests for Life, an organization to protect unborn children. Online condolences to the Stansberry family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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# Lottery Numbers



## IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS



**10/27**  
17 27 41 51 52  
Mega Ball: 13  
Megaplier: 5



**10/28**  
27 35 38 57 66  
Powerball: 10  
Power Play: 2

### Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



**10/28**  
13 23 31 35 46  
Hot Ball: 19  
Sizzler: 3



**10/27 MID-DAY**  
4 9 5  
**10/27 EVENING**  
1 0 0  
  
**10/28 MID-DAY**  
5 1 0  
**10/28 EVENING**  
2 5 7



**10/27 MID-DAY**  
8 7 1 0  
**10/27 EVENING**  
0 4 0 2  
  
**10/28 MID-DAY**  
3 8 1 8  
**10/28 EVENING**  
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**Sports**

# Four local prep runners compete in state meet

*Colder weather favors three seniors, sophomore at Lakeside Golf Course in Fort Dodge*

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

*(Editor's Note: Full coverage from the state track meet with photos will be in tomorrow's e-Edition.)*

FORT MADISON - Four area high school runners will put their heads in maybe a pretty chilly wind on Saturday in Fort Dodge and try to come home with medals at the state cross country meet.

Seniors Aaron Steffensmeier, Sierra Howardson, and Brett Schneider will run for Fort Madison on Saturday, while sophomore Matt Hellige will run for Holy Trinity Catholic.

The meet is held annually at the Lakeside Municipal Golf Course in Fort Dodge. Howardson and Schneider will take off on the 5K run at noon with the Class 3A girls meet. Steffensmeier will race at 12:30 with the Class 3A boys and Hellige runs at 2:30 in Class 1A boys.

The three runners from Fort Madison are all looking to medal, or place in the top 15 in the meet. Hellige on the other hand, being just a sophomore, says if he can finish in the top 30, that would be success for him.

"I barely missed (qualifying) last year," he said. "Hopefully to be a top 30 would be a good goal."

Hellige said the colder weather won't bother him.

"Once I get to the start line I'll take off my warm-up clothes off and just run in my uniform. I'd rather run in the cold than the heat," he said.

With state less than two weeks away from districts, Hellige said he didn't do a whole lot in the way of additional training.

"Well, we ran fewer miles the past couple of weeks so I could be fresher for state, but the training really has been pretty much the same."

He said a top 30 finish would springboard him hopefully into the top 20 as a junior and top 10 as a senior.

Senior Brett Schneider of Holy Trinity, usually finished behind Howardson in meets this year by 30 to 45 seconds, but in the qualifying meet at Solon, Schneider closed the gap and finished just :13 behind her teammate.

Schneider, who has never placed at state, says her



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Matthew Hellige, far left, and Brett Schneider, far right, get treated to a toga assembly of Holy Trinity Catholic teachers and administration on Friday at the high school prior to the two leaving for the state cross country meet in Fort Dodge Saturday. Schneider runs with the Fort Madison High School cross country team.

“  
*I'm more worried about placing and getting that top 15, which I haven't done yet*”

-Brett Schneider,  
HTC senior

focus isn't on winning the run, but running well and placing. As a sophomore she finished in 20th place with a time of 19:48.7. The IGHSAU website link for 2016 results wasn't accessible on Friday.

"I would say for me - at this point - I'm going to state," she said with a chuckle. "I'm more worried about placing and getting in that top 15 which I haven't done yet. In the end, yeah, I'll look at my time. I'm just hoping to run really well and place well. Doing that against the best runners in the state would be great my senior year," Schneider said.

She said she prefers running in the colder weather, but in the end all the girls have to run in the same

elements.

"Personally, I like running in the colder weather. It takes more of a toll on my body but it kind of numbs everything out, too, and that helps me run better," she said. "I'd rather have it cold and snowy than hot. The 45-degree weather is better for running, but it is what it is. The other thing is that all my opponents will run in it, too, so everyone will be affected the same, then it comes down to how you run in the cold, and like I said, I prefer that to heat."

Schneider has qualified for state each year of high school, the first of which was with Holy Trinity in Class 1A and then the last two were with Fort Madison in Class 3A.

Howardson will also be running in her fourth state competition, but not all were run at Fort Dodge.

"This will be my third year at Fort Dodge, but I ran state at Tennessee my freshman year," she said.

"Howardson moved into the Fort Madison school district in the middle of her freshman year. She said this year her focus is on running well and placing because in the past three years, although she qualified for

See **STATE**, page 5

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## Sports/Local News

### Tough districts may help at state

**STATE** - Continued from Page 4

state, she has never placed. As a junior last year, Howardson didn't finish the race. "I was running third and then I passed out because I hadn't eaten enough for breakfast," she said. "So I've never really placed. This year I'm going to do everything right so I can place my senior year. That's what I'm focusing on."

She said head coach Brian Mendez had the girls do speed workouts Monday and Tuesday and then Wednesday through Friday they do shake out runs, which is a little different training than regular workouts during the year.

The website [OpenWeatherMap.com](http://OpenWeatherMap.com) is predicting a slight chance of snow possible on Friday, but clear skies and cold temperatures on Saturday with highs near 37 degrees.

The Girls 3A run begins at noon so temperatures should be near 30-35 degrees at that time. Howardson said the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union has ruled to allow runners to wear tights and arm sleeves due to the colder temperatures. Howardson said she prefers to run in milder temperatures, but likes a breeze so the colder temperatures shouldn't be that much of a problem.

Mendez said despite rankings and the fact that Fort Madison runs in a tough district, he thinks all his runners are top 30 competitors.

"They played with rankings all year in and out of the top 30 and there's no doubt in my mind they're in the top 30 in the state. I think arguably were in one of the toughest districts and I think that gives us potential going into state. I've got a great group of kids, they're gritty and we're going to go up there and give it our all," Mendez said.

HTC head coach Mohrfeld said state is a different dynamic for runners and Hellige will be in for a different run than he's seen this year.

"You're going to a kid who's been second or third all year and finished 8th at districts, which is still top the class, to a large group of kids. Matthew's going up there and gonna run in the middle of the pack for a while," Mohrfeld said. "We've talked all year about running your own race and not getting boxed in. It comes down to running a smart race strategically and I think Matthew's up to the challenge. The statue's built, you just don't want it fall apart."

Aaron Steffensmeier is going to his second state meet after qualifying as a sophomore. He didn't make it out of districts as a freshman or junior, but Mendez said Aaron's been running for six years and he's a runner that can complete and place on Saturday.

"My goal is to medal and be in the top 15," Steffensmeier said. "I'm looking forward to the weather and maybe getting an edge on some of the runners."

He said the training he's been through with Mendez over the past years has prepared him for this final cross country run.

"I think coach Mendez does a good job getting us in big meets so we know what we're up against."

### Murder trial may start Feb. 13

**TRIAL** - Continued from Page 1

at the trial. Kruse had set an arraignment for Friday, but a written arraignment and plea of not guilty were filed by Cook on Mayorga's behalf on Oct. 10.

Nelson's body was discovered at the park at about 11 a.m. on Feb. 11 by visitors of the park. According to family members, Nelson was working construction at the Iowa Fertilizer Company prior to his death, but they weren't sure what his job status was when he was killed.

On Feb. 11th, the Lee County Sheriff's Office responded to a call of a possible deceased person at a Lee County roadside park near Wever, Iowa.

Upon arrival, a male subject, later identified as 47-year-old Nelson, was found deceased. An autopsy performed on Nelson determined that he was killed by a single gunshot to the head. According to Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations Special Agent Rick Rahn, since the body was discovered in Lee County, the court case would be handled there, however Mayorga has the option to ask for a change of venue.

Mayorga had been incarcerated in Muscatine county on a federal gun charge but was transported to Lee County on Sept 28 and charges were filed Friday with the Lee County Attorney's office.

### Judge surprises court with ruling

**SENTENCE** - Continued from Page 1

Braden said the defense was asking for a deferred judgment but the state argued strongly against that motion.

"I didn't ask for prison time because of her lack of criminal past, but I didn't think a deferred judgement was appropriate either."

Weiler's sentence was to begin immediately at Iowa Correctional Institute for Women in Mitchellville. She was facing five counts of theft in the crime, which occurred over a five-year time frame, according to a release that came from Fort Madison police when Weiler was charged in November. The release said she worked for the chiropractor for 15 years total.

She was originally charged with three counts of first-degree theft and two counts of 2nd-degree theft and faced close to 40 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

Weiler was represented by Johnathan Stensvaag of Burlington.

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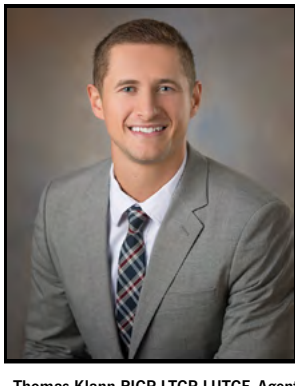
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# Classifieds

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Team Staffing Solutions is now hiring for Packers in Fort Madison, Keokuk and Hamilton. All shifts are available. \$9.00 - \$10.50 per hour, some positions available with pay increase potential. Apply in person at Team Staffing Solutions, 4502 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or online at [www.teamssi.com](http://www.teamssi.com). Team Staffing Solutions is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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## From the Front/Weather

### 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 29 Oct



Light Rain  
Low – 47.3° F | High – 41.7° F

MON 30 Oct



Scattered Clouds  
Low – 45.0° F | High – 36.0° F

TUE 31 Oct



Light Rain  
Low – 41.9° F | High – 33.5° F

WED 01 Nov



Snow  
Low – 37.7° F | High – 33.3° F

THU 02 Nov



Light Snow  
Low – 34.7° F | High – 26.7° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

## Who should take lead – Dreamers or Realists

**LAMB** - Continued from Page 1

I wanted to be a farmer. I didn't have the wherewithal to make this happen, but it didn't matter at that point.

My oldest daughter told my wife and I when she was five that she wanted to be a doctor during the day, and a veterinarian at night. We all know that while that dream may be improbable, improbable wasn't on her mind. Because she was (and still is) a dreamer. I hope she never loses that spirit.

We are mostly dreamers at that point in life because we are encouraged. We are told we can be whatever we'd like to be if we work hard enough. "You can be the president of the United States if you set your mind to it," right? Right.

Unfortunately, as we get older, the world around us changes. The expectations get higher, and the decisions become more serious. At this point, the decision to be a dreamer comes with it the scrutiny of others considering you

"unrealistic." The realists consider dreamers inferior, a form of intellectual snobbery that is terribly sad. The realists sit around waiting for the dreamers to fail, so they can tell them "I told you so!" It's a lonely existence being a dreamer.

Dreamers learn resiliency. They realize that failure is going to happen and they must embrace it as a means of becoming a better version of themselves. They never quit believing that they can achieve whatever they set out to be. They have a growth mindset.

Realists are bad, then, right? No. Realists are the reason things move forward. All of us should continue to tell children as long as we can that they should be dreamers. That's been established. The actuality is that there are already many realists in the world, and they exist to set the stage for dreamers to thrive. Realists are managers. They envision the potholes. They have



the forethought to create a plan centered around the dreamer's ideas, and can help the dreamers navigate. Realists deal in "what ifs," which makes the "how?" possible.

Here's the problem: being a realist by default makes you less likely to branch out to bigger and better things. Fear of failure becomes the motivating factor in every decision that a realist makes. Failure isn't embraced as a stepping stone for realists. In their minds, failure is a stopping point. "Better not do it that way again," says the realist. Meanwhile, the dreamer is figuring out what they did that caused them to fail, and correcting for success.

George Bernard Shaw said "people who say it cannot be done should not interrupt with those

who are doing it." I don't quote Shaw to say that realists aren't doing important work. But great things are achieved by dreamers.

So, what now? Well, I guess that depends on your desire to be great.

I like quotes, so I'll offer another: the Islamic scholar Rumi stated long ago "yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

Patrick Lamb is the Assistant Principal at Fort Madison High School and blogs on a variety of issues and spheres of thought. The Pen City Current is happy to offer his thoughts to our readership and we hope you enjoy them too. Please feel free to comment on our website or media channels on Mr. Lamb's writing.

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