

# Connection

Vol. 18, No. 2

February 2018

## Ahrens retires after 43 years



In 43 years a lot has changed. When Patrick Ahrens started at F&B Communications, then Farmers' and Business Men's Telephone Company, the only service offered was telephone and it was provided over copper facilities. Since that time, service offerings have expanded to include Internet, video, home security and more. Instead of copper lines, many customers are now served directly with fiber optics.

Pat was instrumental in the reconstruction of copper facilities and installation of coax for cable TV in our service areas in the 1980s and 90s and then involved in the installation of hundreds of miles of fiber optic cable in the last decade.

F&B thanks Pat for his skills and commitment over the years and wishes him all the best in retirement.

**CELEBRATING FOUR DECADES.** Patrick Ahrens retired at the end of 2017 with more than 43 years of service to F&B. He plans to stay on in a part-time role to assist with cable locates and summer construction.

## F&B scholarship deadline

Applications for the 2018 F&B and Foundation for Rural Service scholarships must be postmarked by Feb. 20.

Stop by the office to pick up an application or go to [www.fbc-tele.com](http://www.fbc-tele.com) to download a copy.

The scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors who receive service and live in the F&B telephone service area.

## Employees earn recognition

Five employees were recently recognized for their years of service to F&B: Ken Laursen, general manager, 25 years; Lauren Heilig, computer sales and service tech, 5 years; Drew DeLoe, plant tech, 3 years; Derek Hendrickson, plant supervisor, 3 years; Joel Schroeder, computer service tech, 3 years.

Brooke Cavey, computer sales and service tech, was chosen as the 2017 Employee of the Year.

Congratulations!

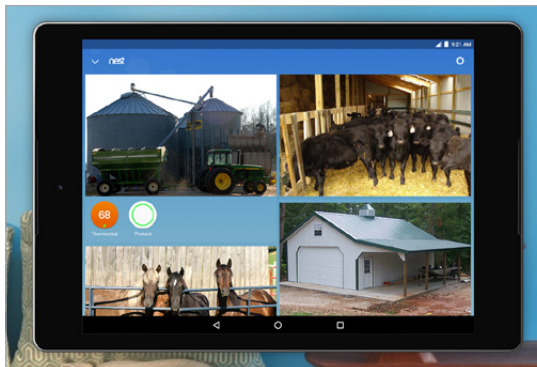
## Cameras keep eye on livestock

Technology is making it easier for farmers to keep an eye on their livestock and property.

With Nest Wi-Fi connected cameras, you can see and hear livestock or monitor grain bins and farm equipment on your smartphone or tablet.

Nest Cam indoor and outdoor models combined with an outdoor Wi-Fi network keep an eye on what matters to you. With advanced motion-sensing technology, if something is up, it sends an alert to your smartphone. Nest Cams stream securely in 1080p HD. Optional cloud storage maintains recordings for 10 or 30 days and offers a user-friendly interface to review footage on a computer or mobile device.

F&B is an authorized Nest Pro selling and servicing Nest Wi-Fi connected smart home devices.



To see a demo or learn how Nest cameras can enhance your farming operations, visit the professionals at Technology Solutions or call (563) 374-1322.



# Manage F&B account with SmartHub app

Never miss a payment with F&B's SmartHub mobile app.

Designed for iOS and Android devices, the SmartHub app allows you to view and pay your F&B bill, view monthly newsletters and marketing materials, contact F&B and locate payment drop sites.



To download the app, search "SmartHub" at the Apple App Store for iOS mobile devices like iPhones and iPads and at Google Play for Android smartphones and tablets.

Choose "F&B Communications" as your provider and log

in with your SmartHub e-mail address and password.

If you do not have a login, click the "New User" button to register. It may be necessary to contact the F&B office by phone to confirm your account if you are unable to register.

Not a smartphone or tablet user? A browser-based version of SmartHub with additional capabilities to manage your account is available at [www.fbc-tele.com](http://www.fbc-tele.com).

The browser version also allows you to view and download both billed and unbilled Lincolnway Long Distance usage.

The SmartHub site and app is a tool that provides secure access to manage account infor-



mation, make payments, view statements and report service issues.

There is no charge to download or use SmartHub.



F&B Communications, Inc.  
103 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 309  
Wheatland, IA 52777

**BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

**PHONE NUMBERS**

Business Office  
(563) 374-1236 or (563) 574-1236  
Trouble/Repair  
(563) 374-1238 or (563) 574-1238  
Internet Tech Support (24/7)  
1-888-832-4322  
Technology Solutions  
(563) 374-1322

**WEB SITE**

[www.fbc-tele.com](http://www.fbc-tele.com)

**EMPLOYEES**

General Manager: Ken Laursen  
Assistant General Manager: Aaron Horman  
Office Manager: Ariell Connelly  
Administrative Assistant: Carla Olson  
Billing/CABS: Kendra Rock  
Customer Service: Michelle Harrison, Kelly Scott  
Plant Supervisor: Derek Hendrickson  
Plant Technicians: Pat Ahrens, Scott Butt, Drew DeLoe, Tyler Leibold, Logan Warren  
Technology Solutions: Brooke Cavey, Chandler Gannon, Riley Holst, Matt Morris, Joel Schroeder

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President: Paul Ketelsen  
Vice-President: Ryan Vander Heiden  
Secretary/Treasurer: Brenda Kay  
Directors: Norman Boussetol, Doreen Henning, Joel Paulsen, Roland Reiling

## Recent video lineup changes

With a new series of retransmission consent agreements in place for local broadcast channels, several multicast channels have been added along with other changes to the video lineups.

Cedar County additions include: KGAN getTV, ch. 257; KGAN Comet, ch. 258; KFXA Charge! ch. 262; KFXA TBD, ch. 263; KFXA Stadium ch. 264. KWQC Cozi ch. 208 was removed from the Cedar County lineup.

Clinton/Scott County additions include: WHBF Grit, ch. 203; WHBF Escape, ch. 204; KGCW Laff, ch. 248; KGCW Bounce, ch. 249.

IPTV Kids was added to ch. 227 HD and ch. 228 SD on all lineups. IPTV World has moved to ch. 229 and IPTV Create is on ch. 230.

Also, Spike TV was rebranded as Paramount Network on Jan. 18.

## COUPON

# \$1.00 Off

Any Technology Solutions' 4x6 Photo Center purchase

108 Jefferson St. E. | Wheatland  
(563) 374-1322

Expires 2/28/18. Minimum \$1.00 purchase. Limit one coupon per customer. No cash value.



### FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP

## Navigating Windows 10

Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 6 to 7:30 pm

Interested in learning about Microsoft's Windows 10? Join us for a free class that covers the differences between Windows 10 and previous operating systems. We'll also go over the Windows App Store and ways to personalize your Windows 10 experience with some common tips and tricks.

FREE to F&B or Technology Solutions customers. Preregistration is required as class space is limited. Classes held at the Technology Solutions store. Call (563) 374-1322 to sign up or register online at [www.fbc-tele.com](http://www.fbc-tele.com).