



# Pen City Current

Monday, January 9, 2017 | 4 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 17

## SCC cuts ribbon on new dormitory



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

### Thanks for the support

At left, is the new SCC student residential building where officials such as Becky Rump and Dr. Michael Ash welcomed visitors Friday.

### BESIDE THE POINT

## Can we talk tech?

I want to talk about my disdain for technology.

I know that seems oxymoronic to "talk" about technology...technology can do that for you.

I know that it's extremely ironic,

because this talk is being prepared with technology and is being consumed on, or even by, technology.

So yeah...I'm gonna trash the very means by which I make a living. I'm not, to use a Charles Barkley idiotic-ism, 'scurred'. Technology can't in itself, yet...punish me or seek any type of retribution on me. Karma however, is after me at light speed as I write.

My wife and I had lunch at one of our favorite sit-down, get-breakfast-anytime joints Saturday. We're genuinely enjoying each other's company. My cellphone was at my right hand and hers was at

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### New building is second of three new projects

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON - The view when pulling into the south side of the Southeastern Community College campus has changed over the past 50 years.

One looks to the right pulling into the campus off West Agency Rd. and sees the new Health Profession Center opened in August and now to the left is the new BlackHawk Tower student residential building.

On Friday, more than 150 people gathered on the first floor of the new four-story residential building to hear from college officials and area dignitaries how the project came to be and what future plans the college has lined up.

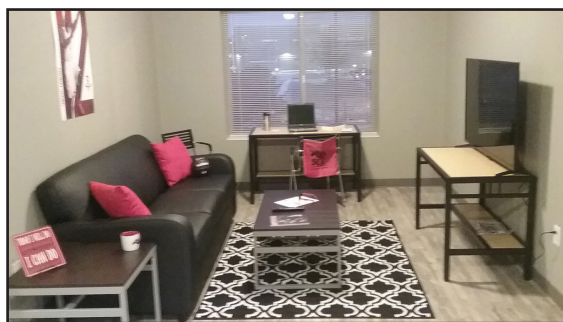
"This is a beautiful facility for housing and

will keep students not only comfortable, but a in safe place for them to do their learning and their studies," said Dr. Michael Ash, President of Southeastern Community College.

The new structure, which has three floors of alternating men's and women's flooring with the women having two floors, also has an area for food and study commons on the first floor, and covers approximately 50,000 square feet. The lighting on the first floor is motion-activated to conserve on power. There are also high efficiency windows and the building is double insulated to help keep energy consumption as low as possible.

Safety was also a paramount concern according to Ash. Students will have an access badge to access the building and elevator, but then will have individual keys to get into each room. There are also 20 internal and 3 external cameras operating 24 hours a day in and around the building. Staff will be on hand at the building as well.

"This is an amazing place..an amazing place," said Becky Rump, SCC's Executive Director for Institutional Development. "This beautiful structure serves as a compliment to our first building the Health Profession Center which opened in August. And when we begin on our third project, the Hall of Sciences building in March, when that is completed we will have truly changed the landscape of our West Burlington campus and surrounding area."



### Bridal expo

Julie Melvin, of Ma-comb, talks with Kendra Knowles of doTERRA Essential Oils at the Bridal Expo held at the Elks Club in Fort Madison on Sunday. The expo had 19 vendors according to Elks Club Manager Lori Illner.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC





**From the Front/Local News**

*The mind is still faster than the gadgetry*

**TECH** - Continued from Page 1

her left. We weren't ignoring each other, but they were there nonetheless.

I didn't think much of it, really. I have three techno-geeks who I love dearly, but their main source of amusement and entertainment, aside from said gadgets, is laughing at their husband/father who, on an hour-to-hour basis, curses his pieces of futurama as "broken" and/or "stupid".

Here's my problem with them...other than the fact that I'm starting to see all children and most adults as suffering from "craneneck" and the almost abandonment of going "outside to play". They're too slow! I want things in life to go at my speed. Everything fast. EVERYTHING!

I touch a screen or touchpad or whatever you call it and it doesn't respond. It's no different, and I mean absolutely no different, than when I used to tell my girls to clean their room or help with the laundry and that command rarely worked. If I tell you to do something, I'm the boss, so you do it. Rob Thomas asks in his hit song Real World, "I wonder what it's like to be the head honcho", well it ain't no picnic. If I want to switch from my key pad screen to the voice recorder screen, just do

what I command..don't sit there and go blank for five seconds. Stupid.

And if I want my Pandora to play in the background I just want that to happen. I don't want the "P" to sit there and pound like a heartbeat, steadily increasing my own. (But, when I'm feeling real creative I can bring in my recordings of coach's post-game comments over music. Friday night, the Holy Trinity girls basketball team was plagued by the shooting yips and Coach Tony Johnson's comments came in over Nickelback's "Are We Having Fun Yet?". Now it's a party.

The watch that I wear on my wrist is supposed to vibrate when I get a call or a message from my wife to bring Cream of Chicken soup home or stop by the pharmacy. Don't get me started. It's also supposed to show me the time when I shake my wrist. It just stares blank and black at me. Broken.

And why are there so many buttons on the side of my phone? Isn't that where you hold the darned thing?. I have big hands and just holding the wretched thing in

my hands sends it on an almost epileptic exchange of screens and usually I end up handing it to my wife and saying "How the hell did it get here?" Stupid.



My laptop is new. I have some software on it that apparently takes up like three mega-uber-teraflops of memory. We read the specs and knew we would need enough memory to do the dishes. Now, when I open a drop down window and stream down with my arrow, the options go black and I can't see what I'm supposed to be selecting. So I literally guess...the dishes never got done.

I have a police scanner so I can bug local law enforcement. For the first week of getting the product it just read, "All LocOut" on the screen. I read the freakin' instructions. I did what it said, against the very grain of who I am, and nothing changed. I hit the scan button. Nothing. Broken and Stupid.

I called the customer service line. Twenty minutes later...literally 20 minutes later...a guy comes on. I explain what's happening after I tell him, "Dude... you've got to change that hold music, I'm on hold for 20 minutes and I've got to listen to that?"

He apologizes and says they are very busy after the holidays and asks what he can do to help. I tell him it's broken. Three minutes later I'm scanning. Stupid.

But I'm getting there. Can I ask a favor? When you see me out covering events in the community and see you see me shaking my wrist like there's a giant wasp on it... or rummaging through my bag to find this gadget or that... or spinning around like a dog chasing its tail trying to get my God-foresaken cellphone in it's hip clip. Just smile and shake your head.

It works for my wife.



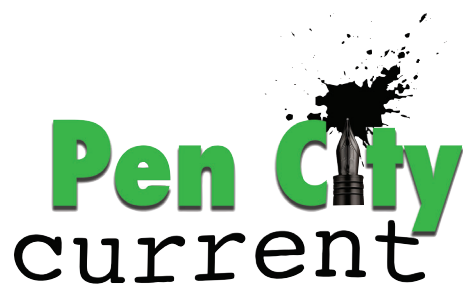
Photo by Lee K. Vandenberg/PCC

**Sunday accident**

Fort Madison police, along with Fort Madison firefighters and Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to an accident on Bluff Road near Crescent Lane at approximately 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Details were not immediately available, but will be updated as they become available.

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Sports

# Lady Crusaders 'rebound' in Saturday night clash

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The word "rebound" was probably very heavy on the mind of Holy Trinity Catholic's Head Coach Tony Johnson Saturday afternoon.

His Lady Crusaders were looking to rebound from a pounding at the hands of No. 9 ranked Notre Dame Friday night when they faced cross-town rival Fort Madison on Saturday night at Fort Madison. And one of his keys to the game was to rebound better.

The plan worked as Holy Trinity 'rebounded' from a slow first quarter to put away the Lady Bloodhounds 53-43 behind a 14-point performance from senior Ali Randolph.

The Hounds started working their inside game, which was minus leading scorer Amber Dilsaver, in the first quarter and rushed out to a 14-7 lead on the backs of Mercedes and Mariah Trimble who scored the first 8 points for the Hounds.

Johnson said his team was working a man-to-man defense that wasn't doing much with the Hounds bigger inside presence, so he switched to a zone defense and the Hounds had trouble reacting. But Johnson said poor shooting in the first quarter didn't harken him back to thoughts of Friday's icy shooting at Notre Dame.

"I knew they'd break out of it. They played hard the whole game and they never gave up last night, even when they were down they kept playing hard so I knew they wouldn't have trouble with it. This is a rival game so it's easy for them to get up for it."

Johnson had his squad in a man-to-man defense for the first quarter but then switched to a zone to stop the Hounds from pounding points in the paint.

Fort Madison Head Coach Charlie Knipe said his squad, which won the first game between the two 53-50 back on Dec. 3, still had open shots after HTC moved to the zone, but they just couldn't convert a bucket.

"We had open shots even after they went to a zone," he said. "But we couldn't get the ball inside and then we went away from what was working and then just fell apart."

With both teams installing full court presses for most of the game, HTC took advantage of the running and pulled ahead of the Hounds at the three minute mark 18-17. The two teams traded buckets the rest of the way through the 2nd period with the Lady Crusaders holding a 23-22 lead at the break.

The Lady Crusaders outscored the Hounds, 14-8 in what is becoming a cursed quarter for Fort Madison, and held a 37-30 lead going into the final period.

The Hounds would cut the lead to five at 36-41 with 8 minutes remaining but HTC, who continued to keep pressure on the Hounds back court throughout the quarter pushed the lead to 10 and then 11 at the end.

"They bounced back from a tough loss last night where we couldn't make a shot. But they didn't hang their heads," Johnson said. You just come back and play good defense and rebound, which we did better in the 2nd half," Johnson said.

They are good team, they have a good mix of speed, (Taylor) Boeding can hit the jumper, Schneider can drive and Randolph is strong. They're something to worry about in the future," Knipe said.

Knipe commended the play of junior Kamryn Bailey who had a season-high nine points.

"Kamryn is just a workhorse and she doesn't hold back. She'll stick her nose in anything and coming off last night's 7 boards she's been doing very well lately."

Knipe said he'll put his girls back to work Monday and try to regain some focus.

"We're gonna come back Monday and go back to work. The girls realize that we're only one or two 3-minute spans in a couple games from some more wins. If we could change those three minutes in a lot of our games we'd be there. They're down right now but losing's a part of winning."

For the Lady Crusaders, Brett Schneider had 11 points, Boeding had 7, Emily Box had 6, Mya Lawlor, Ashlyn Haas and Madison Mohrfeld each had four points. Maggie Walker had 3.

For Fort Madison, Mariah Trimble led all scorers with 13, Brittiney Harris had 8, Katie Larson added 5 points, Emily Mitchell had 3, Taylor Shannon and Mercedes Trimble had two each, and Anna Kester had 1.

Fort Madison falls to 3-7 on the year, while HTC improves to 5-6 with the win. Fort Madison junior varsity and varsity girls play host to Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday, while the Lady Crusaders travel to Van Buren for a junior varsity boys/varsity girls/varsity boys matchup.



## Crosstown clash

At top, FMHS' Mercedes Trimble slides between Ali Randolph (11), Maggie Walker, right, and Brett Schneider (2) At far left, Emily Box goes up for a jumper and at left, Randolph get her usual workout under the basket. Below FMHS's Brittiney Harris slides in for a short jumper.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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**Sports**

# Local female athletes honored Saturday night



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

**Group shot**

From left to right holding the plaques, Sierra Howardson, Allison Sporkman, Brett Schneider and Sara Steffensmeier hold their plaques for performances at the state track meeting in 2016. Coach Brian Mendez joins them on the far right.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

From left to right, Sierra Howardson, Allison Sporkman, Brett Schneider and Sara Steffensmeier hold their plaque for the team's 2nd-place finish at the 2016 state track meeting in the Class 3A 4x800 meter relay.

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Brett Schneider, shows her plaque for finishing 4th at the 2016 state track meet in the 800-meter run.

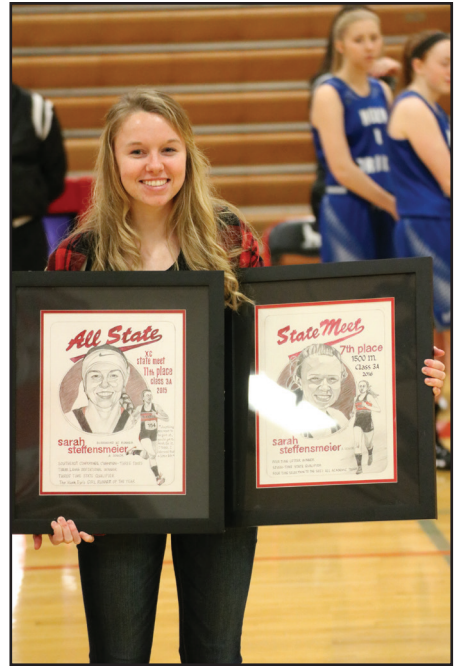


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Sara Steffensmeier will have two plaques hung in the rafters in the MPR at FMHS, one for 11th place at the Class 3A state cross-country meet and a 7th place in the 1500-meter run.

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