



Pen City Current

Thursday, June 29, 2017 | 6 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 159

Lee County Fair brings in new events

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - Starting Wednesday, the 176th Lee County Fair will take to life at the Lee County Fairgrounds in Donnellson.

The smell of fair grub and the calliope music has been historically enticing to people at one of southeast Iowa's annual traditions. And, although you'll have the traditional fair barn activities and events, Lee County Fair Board Chairman Brock Westfall said there's something for everyone this year.

"We're becoming a younger board and we're coming up with some new and exciting ideas and trying to reach out to different crowds of people," Westfall said Tuesday.

"One of the biggest comments we got last year was on the harness racing. We put together our own races last year and the crowds loved it so much we've expanded on that this year and will be bringing the Iowa Harness Racing Association in from Des Moines. We must have had 300 or 400 people ask us to bring back that event. I would think we'd have some pretty good attendance on that."



Drone photography courtesy of Lee County Fair Board

The 176th Lee County Fair kicks off on Wednesday and new events this year include Human Foosball, yeah that's right, BINGO, and the Iowa Harness Racing Association will be in town, to go along with all the usual favorites.



General admission to the races will be \$5 and enthusiasts can also buy a pit pass for just \$5 more.

Also new to the fair this year will be a human foosball tournament. Westfall said the fair board has actually built a 14 foot by 40 foot six-on-six table out of plywood to be used for the tournament. The tournament will be held with games on Thursday and Friday at 6 p.m. with the championship starting on Saturday at 6 p.m.

"The fair board members actually built this and it's portable. We're actually going to try to keep this portable and rent it out to groups for area events," Westfall said. "Something different. Every year we try to add something different. When I go to fair conferences in Des Moines every year they have vendors who share these ideas with us.

The fair has also added nightly BINGO starting on Thursday and a fish fry to kick off the fair on July 5 starting at 5 p.m. in the FFA Building on the fairgrounds.

Improvements fans will see this year include new roofing, lots of LED lighting, and a new public address system for better sound and visuals at the fair.

See FAIR, page 6

Artist Trax hosts grand opening

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The walls are home to some very eye-catching art and sculpturing and the space is conducive to area artists who are looking for motivation and a place to call their own.

On Saturday, co-owners Rebecca Bowker and Ian Hauck celebrated the grand opening of their artists studio, Artist Trax Studio, at 827 Avenue H in Fort Madison.

Close to 50 people toured the new gallery Saturday and spent time with the co-owners talking about the format and listening to local music and a live remote from The New Mix out of Burlington.

The couple opened the event to family, friends, and members of the Fort Madison business community to showcase the art on display as well as inform them of

See ARTISTS, page 6



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Ian Hauck, left, talks with visitors at the Artist Trax Grand Opening held Saturday at the gallery in Avenue H. The studio with art spaces for rent is open daily.

Fireworks recall announced

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Keokuk Fire Department is warning residents of some faulty fireworks sold in Illinois and other states. The information on the products is listed below.

Name of Product: TNT Red, White, & Blue Smoke fireworks. Hazard: The fireworks can explode unexpectedly after being lit, posing burn and injury hazards to consumers. Remedy: Refund

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled fireworks and contact America Promotional Events for a full refund.

Consumer Contact: American Promotional Events at 800-243-1189 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday; email at info@tntfireworks.com or online at www.tntfireworks.com and click on Product Recall at the bottom right-hand corner of the page.

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Sports/Weather

Fort Madison boys break losing skid with win over HTC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison baseball team got their first win of the season in an exciting matchup with crosstown rival Holy Trinity Catholic 4-2 Tuesday night.

The game really came down to two innings of unfortunate circumstances for the Crusaders. The bottom of the first and the top of the 5th.

Holy Trinity jumped out to a two nothing lead in the top half of the first. Reed Fehseke led off the game with a triple to right field. The Hounds' Carlos Gonzalez tried to make a shoe slide catch on the play and the ball bounded over his glove and Fehseke slid into third under the throw. Kaiden Medland then hit a

grounder to Jordyn Gerdes on the mound. Fehseke was off on contact and the throw to home was off target. Collin Thornton then hit a double to left to score Medland.

Kyle Bredemeyer then lined out to first and Thornton got caught leaning at second and was the victim of a double play. Cameron Bahl grounded out to second to end the inning with the Crusaders up 2-0.

The bottom half of the inning started out harmless enough when Ryan Steffensmeier flew out to left and Aaron Steffensmeier grounded into an unassisted out at first.

Then things took a wild turn for the 0-26 Hounds. Gerdes started with a double to left and advanced to third on the play on an

error on throw in from left that missed Thornton on the cutoff. Tyler O'Tool then singled to left driving in Gerdes' courtesy runner. O'Tool swiped second. Logan Allen then came to the plate and struck out, which should have ended the inning there, but Allen raced to first on the dropped strike. Bredemeyer threw down to first to get Allen on the play but the ball sailed over Vasin Thurman into the right field corner. The Crusaders couldn't track the ball down before the speedy Allen raced all the way around and scored.

On the following play Jace Burgher struck out in what would have been the fourth out of the inning, but again the ball got away from Bredemeyer and Burgher ended up at first.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC's Reed Fehseke puts a tag on Brady Reynolds at third base in the bottom of the 2nd inning Tuesday. The Hounds downed Holy Trinity 4-2 in the first time the two local teams have met in almost 15 years.

Bahl got Lennon Barker to strike, which was the third hitter in a row to strike out, but this time the ball hit Bredemeyer's mitt to end the inning with the Hounds up 3-2.

The next three innings went very quickly. Gerdes gave up a walk to HTC's Ben Tinguely in the second, and a bang-bang play at third when Brady Reynolds didn't see a hold sign from Head Coach Ken Steeples and tried to stretch a double into a triple in the bottom half of the inning and was caught at third. The

third inning had two base runners. HTC's Thornton was issued a walk and was left stranded at first and O'Tool reached on a Thornton error in the bottom half, but was stranded, as well.

HTC started the fifth with a Quentin Schneider ground out to Dayne Cor dray at short. Then Gerdes

See **BASEBALL**, page 5

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 29 Jun



Heavy Intensity Rain
Low - 67.6° F | High - 85.2° F

FRI 30 Jun



Heavy Intensity Rain
Low - 65.2° F | High - 73.0° F

SAT 01 Jul



Light Rain
Low - 67.1° F | High - 77.9° F

SUN 02 Jul



Moderate Rain
Low - 73.6° F | High - 81.4° F

MON 03 Jul



Heavy Intensity Rain
Low - 74.5° F | High - 78.5° F

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**Pen City
current**

Area News/For the Record

Little Miss Rodeo, All-Around Cowboy Contest contestants sought

It's that time of year!! Contestants are being sought for the annual Little Miss Rodeo & All-Around Cowboy Contest!

This year's event is to be held on Monday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tri-State Rodeo Arena.

Contestants must be ages 5-7 and must be age 5 by August 10.

An entry form is available on the Tri-State Rodeo website at www.tri-staterodeo.org under the "Ready to Rodeo Week Events" tab.

Entry forms must be postmarked by August 1st and can be mailed to Trish Eaves-Fedler, 1930 303rd Avenue Fort Madison, IA 52627. For more information, contact Trish at (319) 470-8030.

Canisters, with each child's photo and name, will once again be placed in area businesses for family and friends to cast

a vote by dropping their "spare change" into the canister.

The night of the event, contestants will be interviewed and have a chance to showcase their talent.

Judges will score the children on personality, attire, interview and talent.

Judges have no knowledge of how much money each contestant has collected in their canister. In the event of a tie, the amount in the canister will help determine the winner.

A portion of the money collected in the canisters goes to Miss Rodeo Iowa



to help defray traveling expenses as she competes for the coveted title of Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas this coming December.

Each contestant will receive a goodie bag for participating, however only one girl and one boy can win the title of Little Miss Rodeo & All-Around Cowboy.

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

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/27/17 - 8:22 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4500 block of Avenue O.
06/27/17 - 10:17 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue H.
06/27/17 - 2:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
06/27/17 - 2:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited and released Jimmy Ray Schneider, 47, of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of Avenue O on a charge of 5th degree criminal mischief.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/27/17 - no incidents to report

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

06/27/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls and one smoke investigation

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Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
All or Nothing™ - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:45 pm
All or Nothing™ - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:45 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:50 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	8:00 pm	8:50 pm



6/28
29 37 46 53 68
Powerball: 8
Power Play: 2



6/28
3 21 30 41 45
Hot Ball: 11
Sizzler: 3



6/28 MID-DAY
1 2 3 5 6 7
9 10 13 14 16 24
6/28 EVENING
3 4 6 13 14 16
17 18 20 21 22 23



6/28 MID-DAY
0 0 6
6/28 EVENING
0 9 0



6/28 MID-DAY
5 5 3 5
6/28 EVENING
2 6 5 4

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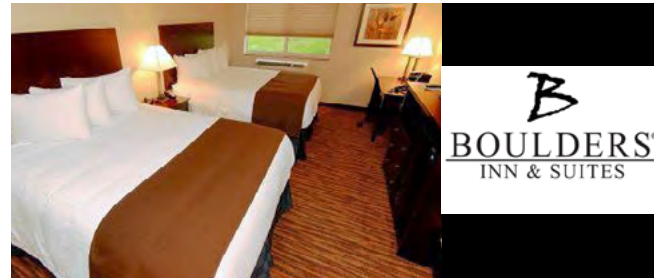


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Sports

Crazy half inning sees five outs

BASEBALL - Continued from Page 2

walked Fehseke and Medland. Thornton reached on an infield single that held everyone on the base paths. Bredemeyer then grounded to third where Lennon Barker threw to Allen at home and he relayed to O'Tool at first for a 6-2-3 double play that ended the inning.

"That was the key play of the game," said Steeples. "We were just doing everything we could to get an out there."

Indeed it was the play of the game as Fort Madison would score what amounted to the winning run in the bottom half. Ryan Steffensmeier fanned to start the inning. Aaron Steffensmeier singled to deep short. The Crusaders got Gerdes to hit into a fielder's choice at second and was thrown out while Steffensmeier advanced. HTC Head Coach Albert Schin-stock then put O'Tool on intentionally to create a force on the bases, but Allen came through with a single to left to score Steffensmeier. Jace Burgher then flew out to center to end the inning.

Bahl started the sixth with a double to right-center but was thrown out on a fielder's choice on a grounder back to the pitcher by Aiden Alfred. The next two hitters flew out to right and left field to end the top half of the sixth. HTC senior Ben Tinguely made a diving catch of a Barker fly to right and the Crusaders went unscathed the rest of the sixth.

The Hounds got a little more defense going in the top of the 7th. Schneider grounded out to the pitcher, but Fehseke walked. Medland then grounded to the left of second base but Cordray scooped it up, stepped on second, and fired over to first to end the game.

"Aside from the first inning, I thought

we played very well defensively," Schin-stock said after the game. "We also probably had our best hitting game of the year."

Schin-stock said the intensity was a little higher in the crosstown game and he hopes the scheduling continues to include the Hounds.

"We haven't played them, I think, since 2001 and they were just coming off their state championship. We had a good team, they had a good team, and I think they brought their jay-vee," he said.

"So yeah, it was a little more intense. And obviously both teams played very well."

Schin-stock also said Bahl, who went the distance for the Crusaders, pitched well and kept their runners under control.

Steeples also only used one pitcher for the whole game.

"I'm really happy statistically that he got the win. He really did a good job with his command."

Steeples said the game was more energized because of the crosstown atmosphere.

"I really hope they continue to schedule them. It was good for our team to get the win, but they played very well and it was a good game," he said.

Defensively, the Hounds turned three double plays.

"We haven't had three double plays all year," Steeples said. "I told them to make the routine plays and the special plays will come and we saw some of that tonight."

The Hounds improve to 1-26 on the season and HTC falls to 3-15 on the season. Holy Trinity travels to West Burlington on Friday and the Hounds play at Centerville on the same day.

with a double and a triple and two rbi. Kamryn Bailey hit a two-run homer which ties her for second in the conference with six on the year. Schmidt went 2-3 with an rbi. Wondra went 2-4 on the night, while Olivia Williams, Shyla Farmer and Kylee Cashman all had hits for Fort Madison in the win.

In the first game, the Lady Trojans held a slim 2-1 lead going into the bottom of the sixth and then took three runs off Lowney to make it 5-1, which would be the final score.

Bailey went 2-3 with an rbi double in the fourth inning to give the Hounds their only run of the game. Vanessa Golowach, Jada Lamm and Lowney had the only other hits for the Hounds in the first game.

Fort Madison is now 7-22 on the season (1-14 in the Southeast conference) and hosts Ottumwa in a doubleheader on Thursday.

of the first inning. Gerdes leads the Hounds in hitting among players with more than 30 at bats hitting .318 on the season. He also leads the team in doubles with four, and runs scored tied at eight with Allen.

In the second game Ryan Steffensmeier, Lennon Barker and Allen all had hits for the Hounds in the loss.

The Hounds (0-26) host Holy Trinity tonight in a cross-town matchup with the varsity playing first at 5:30 p.m. in hopes of avoiding pending bad weather.

Girls split with No. 2 Fairfield

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD - The record may not indicate it, but the FMHS softball team can be pretty good. For the third time this year, the Lady Hounds have knocked off a Class 4A ranked team.

On Monday, the girls downed No. 2-ranked Fairfield, a team that was No. 1 in the state two weeks ago, on some timely hitting in the second game of the doubleheader. Lexi Schmidt gave up seven runs in the seventh inning, but did not allow a single run the rest of the game.

Meanwhile the Hounds went on a slugfest in the last three innings highlighted by a two-out, two-strike single to center in the top of the seventh by Dayln Wondra that plated the two go ahead runs for Fort Madison.

Schmidt then slammed the door in the bottom half for the win. Chayse Lowney led Fort Madison at the plate going 3-4

FMHS boys drop two to Muscatine

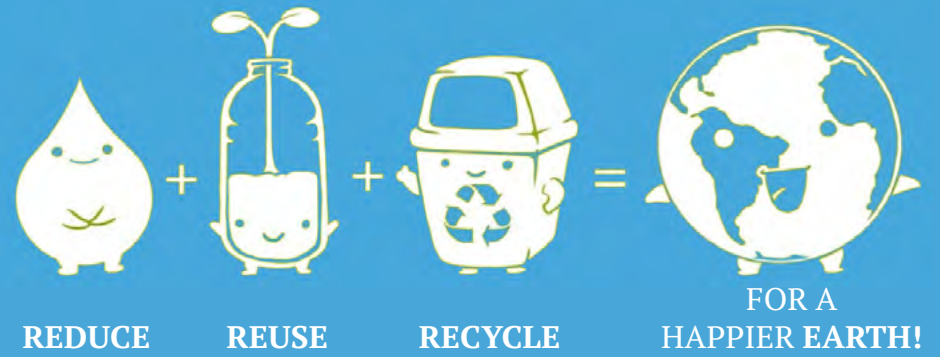
PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhounds dropped two games at home Tuesday night in high school baseball action.

The Hounds mustered two hits in an 11-1 loss to Muscatine in the first game of a double header and then were shut out 12-0 in the five-inning night cap.

Allen Logan and Aaron Steffensmeier got the only hits for the Hounds in the first game. Logan's was a double that drove in Jordyn Gerdes in the bottom

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REDUCE

*Reduce the amount of waste produced in society

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- Make 2-sided copies whenever possible
- Maintain central files for multiple individuals
- Use electronic mail/communications or a central bulletin board

REUSE

* Reuse products for the same purpose or for a different purpose

It makes economic & environmental sense to reuse products. Sometimes it takes a creative mind to do so.

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From the Front

Lee County Fair looking to add board members to team

FAIR - Continued from Page 1

Westfall, who's in his second year as president, said the fair is also looking for new members to serve on the board. He said serving on the board is a very rewarding experience and you get out of it what you put into it. The board meets monthly to coordinate and plan the upcoming fair and is comprised of 18 members.

"We have seven members that could rotate out of the board this year, so we're gonna need probably four or five, possibly more, people to step in and fill those roles. Our attendance has been increasing each year and this work couldn't be done without those people. We're becoming a younger board. I'm 30, there are several people I went to high school with on this board. It can be hard work, and it can also be rewarding work. Again, it's like anything else - you



Courtesy photo

The Demolition Derby is back at the Lee County Fair this year and is a usual crowd favorite. The event follows the kids' version with the Power Wheel Derby at 7 p.m. Saturday night.

get out of it, what you put into it."

Westfall also said the contributions of the sponsors are absolutely invaluable as the fair continues to grow.

"Our sponsors have allowed us to put a lot of

money into making this a great event," he said.

The 13th Annual Kevin Young Memorial Run and 10th Annual Kay Junkins Memorial Walk are back and will be held on Saturday at 8 a.m. The Queen crowning will be

held Wednesday night beginning at 6 p.m.

Westfall said it's the carnival that really brings people in.

"This is the fourth year having a carnival. We brought it back my first year as chairman," Westfall said. "It's getting bigger and bigger each year. This year we pushed to have a ferris wheel. We'll have a great midway with lots of LED lights to attract people."

Friday, July 7th will feature the annual Kid's Day from 1 p.m to 5 p.m. with special games and activities for children including Southeast Iowa

STEM Coding activities and \$25 armbands for an all-you-can-ride carnival experience.

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters hit the Entertainment Pavillion at 9 p.m. for a 21-and-over show.

Saturday's chock full of events highlighted by the ever popular Demolition Derby at 7:30 p.m. with a Power Wheel derby for kids at 7 p.m. A kid's Pedal Pull will take place beginning at 5 p.m. Throughout the day breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be served including a wine tasting and expo beginning at 2 p.m.

Madd-Hoss Jackson will be the pavilion entertainment on Saturday night.

Sunday is highlighted by the free Classic Farm and Tractor Show on the grandstand. The livestock auction wraps up the event on Monday.

The fair is also bringing back the annual chess tournament and senior day. The Fair Board is also holding a Night of Mayhem race on Aug. 5. A complete list of events can be found by clicking the links for the Lee County Fair brochure below.

[FairBrochureFront](#)
[FairBrochureBack](#)

Residents should check fireworks

FIREWORKS - Cont'd. from Page 1

Pictures available here: <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/Fireworks-Recalled-By-American-Promotional-Events>

Recall Details
Units: 36,100

Description: This recall involves TNT Red, White, & Blue Smoke fireworks. The recalled fireworks are pyrotechnic devices that make smoke when lit.

They were sold in a bag containing three canisters: one red, one blue and one white. Each colored smoke firework is a cardboard cylinder tube that measures about 1 inch in diameter and 5 inches long. The TNT logo, "Red, White & Blue Smoke" and UPC number 027736036561 appear on the packaging.

Incidents/Injuries: American Promotional Events has received three incident reports, resulting in three people suffering burn injuries. No property damage has been reported.

Sold at: Albertsons, Kroger, Meijer, Target, Walmart and other retailers in Illinois, Ohio, Vermont and Wisconsin from May 2017 through June 2017 about \$5.

4

July
Sale

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www.kempkerstruevalue.com

Trax still has spaces available

ARTISTS - Continued from Page 1

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Here is just one example of the work spaces available at Artist Trax in Fort Madison. A variety of spaces are still available for rent from \$50 to \$125 depending on the size of the space.

spaces that are still available for rent.

"We've still got about seven spaces left and they range in rent from \$50 to \$125 depending on the size of the space you're looking for.

Work areas are located down the east and west walls of the first floor of the building with spaces with a little more privacy located in the back. The gallery also has an outdoor area on the west side of the building where artists can sit outside and get inspiration looking out over the Mississippi River and the newly

renovated railroad depot right across the highway.

Bowker said the day went very well. "We had a lot of friends and family her. The radio did a nice job interviewing and engaging people throughout the remote," she said.

The studio also has a Facebook page with all the information on the gallery including contact information at <https://www.facebook.com/artisttrax/>

The studio is open daily and can be reached by calling 319-371-7753.