



Pen City Current

Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 223

HOUND MARCHING BAND CLASSIC



Alto Hounds

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Marching Band put on an exhibition at the end of the Fort Madison Marching Band Classic Saturday. Here, a row of alto saxophone players fall into line at the front of the formation during the performance.



A stern snare and a hard-working flag corps helped bring the Classic to an end Saturday before heading to Mt. Pleasant where the Bloodhounds took 2nd place in their division.

Roomba seems to be part of the family

Ginnie came to me in a panic. "I can't find Roomba!"

Roomba is a computerized vacuum cleaner I gave Ginnie for her birthday. I know, you shouldn't give your wife a vacuum cleaner for her birthday, but she loves it. It's like an old friend. Turn Roomba loose in any area of the house, and she vacuums better than we can the old fashioned way. She's short and compact and whirls under furniture like a ballerina.



SWARM

If a double-yolk egg is good luck, does two double-yolk eggs bring double good luck? Ginnie was going to have cataract surgery the next day and wanted to have the house clean before she came home with her sharpened eyesight. She had turned Roomba loose in the master bedroom, shutting the bathroom door and putting a barricade in front of the walk-in closet.

I looked under the bed, under the dressers, no Roomba. I checked the bathroom and the closet, nothing, not even a sound. Roomba makes a comforting humming noise.

See **SWARM**, page 2

Volunteers run deep to make rodeo a hit

Prior to this year, the Tri-State Rodeo to me was something my family attended one time each year to see the reactions on our girls' faces as the horses and cowboys went flying by kicking up clods of dirt.



VANDEMBERG

We usually purchased seats close to the action so we could feel it and have a nice view of Bobby Reid coming into the stadium. Our girls would always cheer and sometimes scream when cowboys would try to hold on as a 1,500 pound animal jumped four or five feet in the air trying to knock the pesky rider off.

See **RODEO**, page 8

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9/17 EVENING
3 5 1



9/17 MID-DAY
9 6 8 1
9/17 EVENING
8 9 4 9

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

DEATH NOTICE

STEVEN C. GILLETTE

Steven C. Gillette, age 30 of Fort Madison passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2017. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

Infamous hens laying good luck eggs

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

“How can she just disappear?” Ginnie wondered. “Roomba, where are you?” I checked the rest of the house, just in case Roomba had somehow escaped the bedroom.

I turned around and there was Ginnie, holding Roomba upside down, a shoe in one hand, its shoestring stuck up in the rollers and brushes of Roomba’s underside. “I must not have had the bathroom door shut tight. Roomba bumped it open, got into the bathroom, and ate a shoestring. I found her on top of the bathroom scales, hiding behind the toilet. She had shut herself off. Poor Roomba. I hope I haven’t hurt her.”

I helped Ginnie extricate the shoestring. We turned Roomba back on and she went to work on the bedroom floor, humming contentedly, harboring no grudges. Whew!

Ginnie’s cataract surgery went amazingly smooth. In fact, it was so smooth and fast, if I ever need it done, I won’t hesitate. It’s nothing like I had imagined, not like getting poked in the eye. Ginnie’s eye wasn’t even red after surgery. And she walked out to the car afterward, no wheel chair needed.

Ginnie tells me she feels like she’s falling apart. She had hip-replacement surgery a few months ago, and now cataracts. She wants to be the trail-hiking, bike-riding gal she used to be.

I tell her that as long as she can make it out to the hen house to gather eggs, that’s all I want. Just kidding. Actually, gathering eggs is fun, now that our hens are starting to lay. One hen can’t seem to get it right and insists on laying her eggs on a flat, open surface, above the nesting box. But at least I know where to look.

I had Ginnie fix me some of our own brown eggs for breakfast. She cracked one, it was a double-yolker. The next one was a double-yolker also—two double yolkers in a row! It must be the laying mash. It has marigold extract in it to brighten the yolks and give ‘em zing.

They say a double-yolker is good luck. Two double-yolkers has to mean double good luck. Right?

After suffering hail damage this spring, contractors are replacing our roof with steel—blue steel. The sky is blue and our roof too. Blue sky is the color of dreams.

And Roomba keeps right on doing the rumba.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt stories are also read on 106.3 FM in Farmington.

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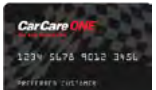
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HTC spikers goes 4-1 at Keokuk Invite

Crusaders to host Classic Monday

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Holy Trinity Crusaders dropped their first games of the year Saturday evening at the Keokuk Invitational volleyball tournament.

The Crusaders dropped two straight to 14-1 New London in the last contest of the tournament for HTC. Knoxville beat New London earlier in the day in a 15-12 tiebreaker. HTC downed Knoxville in straight sets 21-11, 21-11, but couldn't catch up with the Lady Tigers falling 21-17, 21-18 for HTC's first loss of the year.

The Crusaders rolled through the first four games of the tourney giving up only 12 points to Columbus Junction in their first match of the day before downing Burlington Notre Dame 21-17, 21-14. HTC then turned away Central Lee 21-14, 21-6 before knocking off

Knoxville and then facing New London.

Junior Emily Box led the Crusaders on offense with 113-of-129 attacking and 65 kills for the tournament Box also had 38 digs to lead HTC in that category as well. Elyse Pothitakis had 37 digs. Fellow junior Taylor Boeding had 19 kills on 35-40 attacks at the net. Senior Maya Rashid has 111 assists in the 10 sets played on the day for 11.1 average per set, a number that's tops in Class 1A.

Sam Hoenig was a perfect 62-of-62 serving with 10 aces on the day. Rashid was 40-of-40 from the service line with five aces.

Other top performers for HTC at the tournament included Eryn Anderson who was 36-of-41 attacking and went 47-of-48 service with eight aces. Box was 32-of-33 serving, Pothitakis was 29-of-31 at the line with four aces.

The Crusaders host the Holy Trinity Catholic Volleyball Classic Monday with games beginning at 4 p.m. HTC will play in the 1st, 3rd and 5th games according to school's website.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Taylor Boeding fires a kill in Thursday's match up with Central Lee. HTC lost their first game of the season to New London at the Keokuk Invitational Tournament Saturday.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jordan Trelstad works on glazing a skull during Sunday's Art in Central Park. Sydney Suesens, Jordan's mother, helps with the project. The two are originally from Fort Madison, but now live in Hamilton and made the trek to the 10th annual art festival.

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From the Front/Weather

Local volunteers give rodeo strength

RODEO - Continued from Page 1

But this year was something different. I was given a media pass to move about the stadium and shoot pictures. I got some great photos but being close to the action with a good piece of equipment and some anticipation can yield good pix for even a novice shooter.

But the real value of the media pass was in the number of people I ran into that were helping put on on the event.

I had no idea the number of people I saw that were helping put this event on day in and day out. I was especially impressed while shooting the Li'l Spurs Rodeo. I went up by the chutes and was going to climb up on the staging areas and shoot pictures from there, but it was packed.

The amazing thing was that every person volunteering and helping with that event was local. Too numerous to mention, but the names Holtkamp, Wilson, Sherwood, Fullenkamp, Culbertson,

Andrews, and of course General Chairman Josh Denning all come to mind, and those were just some of the names in official capacities.

Behind the scenes there were even more Fort Madison people involved. Of course, it may all seem very naive of me, but truly until you see all these people donning a cowboy hat behind the scenes it's really amazing. From the start of the week you have breakfasts and meals being planned, people moving products and supplies in and out of arena facilities, Holy Trinity parents and students helping park and serve meals. Yeah, there is some motivation with funding, but that's a ton of work. You have social groups stepping up to help sell buttons, serve as ushers, and even helping provide some security.

This year, the committee had to reach out to the community to help fill some of the positions that were normally filled by

local schools and service clubs due to reduced numbers in the clubs and participation and the whole week seemed to go off without a hitch.

Even the city is to be commended for getting 15th street up to the arena completed prior to the rodeo and holding off on the main work of the 27th Street intersection until after Rodeo week. They had thought of keeping just one lane open each way during the week.

Josh Denning and the rodeo committee are probably still asleep after the long week, and who could blame them. More than 32,000 people went through the gates this year, marketing was advanced with technology, and the community helped fill the arena with billboards and digital support, and the program continues to grow.

Denning said next year, they may reach out to the community through social media and ask for suggestions on enter-

tainment. This guy and that committee spend an enormous amount of their own time and making sure they put together one of the best rodeos in the midwest. When they reach out for suggestions, make sure you take a few minutes to give them some feedback because, as Denning said, their goal is to provide the best entertainment at a price that makes sense to families in the area.

So, hats off to this year's rodeo committee and ALL the people who gave of their own time to put on an event that can rival any other event in the Midwest. And here's looking forward to what they unveil for next year.

By the way, a big kudos to Jesse Rudd, who quickly gathered up the American flag when Bobby Reid missed his mark and landed outside the stadium for the first time in long while. It's touching to see someone keeping things in perspective. But that's Beside the Point.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 18 Sep



Moderate Rain
High- 70.8° F | Low - 65.6° F

TUE 19 Sep



Light Rain
High- 78.6° F | Low - 71.6° F

WED 20 Sep



Light Rain
High- 84.9° F | Low - 69.3° F

THU 21 Sep



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