



Pen City Current

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Pen City Current Spotlight

Smith ends 43-year Rodeo ride



Past General Chairman says it was his “small” way of giving back to the community that has given so much to him

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – He started hocking food in 1975 at the Rodeo as a way to get his face out in the public after he and his wife purchased an eye care business in Fort Madison.

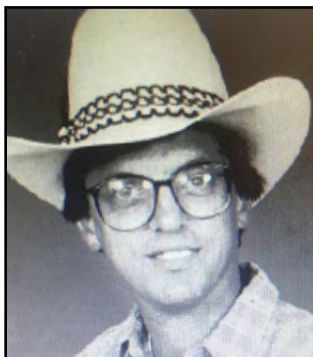
Forty-three years later, Larry Smith, one of the most renowned and relied upon names in Fort Madison, is ending his “rodeo career” with Tri-State Rodeo.

Smith announced at the board’s meeting in January, that he was stepping off the Tri-State Rodeo Board of Directors in 2019.

Growing up in southwest Iowa near Creston, Smith considers himself an Iowa “farmboy”. He graduated high school near Creston, at what is now the CAM Community School District. He studied at Iowa State University in a pre-optometry program before finish-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Out of the saddle

Retired optometrist Larry Smith has stepped down from the Tri-State Rodeo board of directors. Smith has spent more than four decades volunteering in different capacities with the rodeo including two years as General Chairman.

ing his degree at the University of Indiana.

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In 1975 he moved to Fort Madison with his wife Carolyn, whom he had met while they were both pursuing optometry doctorals in Bloomington, Ind., to start a business they acquired here.

Smith started working in the Rodeo food tents as part of the Fort Madison Jaycees, who used to handle the vending at the Rodeo prior to the Fort Madison Aquinas and Holy Trinity Catholic taking over food and beverage services.

He continued to work with the Jaycees for several years and then began to take on more community roles including being a part of the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce. As the Chamber President in 1983, Smith had a seat on the Rodeo Operating Committee and in 1984, Larry Roberts, the operating

committee chairman, asked Smith to help bring back Pre-Rodeo Days.

“One of the first things we did was book Sawyer Brown, who had just won Ed McMahon’s Star Search and we had them in on a Wednesday at the arena to kick things off that year,” Smith said.

Another event that set up was Kids & Clowns Day at Victory Park. Smith said the committee underestimated the attendance and things got out of hand as legendary Rodeo clowns including Leon Coffey were on hand to sign autographs for the kids.

“There were way more people there than we planned and we had to keep sending volunteers to the stores for hot dogs and stuff. Then the winds were like 30 mph that day and we were chasing hot dog wrappers all over the park. That could have been my last

See **SMITH**, page 5

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Current-Lee/Lottery Numbers

CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON – The following is a list of events and happenings going on in Fort Madison as submitted to en City Current.

HTC Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Holy Trinity Catholic Schools is celebrating National Catholic Schools Week January 27 through February 2. During this special week, Holy Trinity Catholic Schools would like to thank their community, their HTC families, alumni, and all who support them throughout the year. We thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Nerf Wars at FM YMCA

The Fort Madison YMCA will be the site of another round of Nerf Wars on Sunday, Jan. 27. From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. boys and girls ages 1 through 6 will compete in Nerf Wars in the gymnasium. Children must bring eye protection, their own Nerf guns, darts/bullets/balls. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. For more information contact program director Noah Dean or visit the YMCA's Facebook page for more information.

Local artist on display at SCC

Lori Illner Greene will have her art work on display at the Southeastern Community College Art Gallery, 1500 W. Agency Road in West Burlington from Jan. 28-Feb. 15. The gallery showing will feature her "Raptors and Other Birds of Prey" series.

Evening with Chuck Long

Former Iowa standout and NFL quarterback Chuck Long will be at Sheaf-

fer Memorial Golf Course on Tuesday, Feb. 12 for presentation, including a social hour and dinner with doors opening at 4:30. The social hour and dinner will be from 5 to 6 and Long will speak at 6 p.m. with a question and answer to follow. For more information, contact Ryan at 319-528-6214 or by email at mcmillan@sheaffergolf.com.

Ribbon-Cutting

A ribbon cutting for The Kingsley Inn and River Rocks Bar & Grille will be held on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

Fort Madison Partners Annual Dinner

The Fort Madison Partners Annual Dinner will be held Feb. 22 at McAleere Hall in Fort Madison. A night of gaming, food and fun has been planned. Contact Partners at 372-5471 for more information.

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington


Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information. The next luncheon will be held January 22, 2019.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Effective Jan. 1, 2019 non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, call Chuck at (319)371.1670 or Lee at (319)371.4125.

Got a news tip?
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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 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



1/25
8 16 30 38 61
Mega Ball: 10
Megaplier: 2



1/25 MID-DAY
4 7 2
1/25 EVENING
9 8 2



1/25 MID-DAY
2 7 5 3
1/25 EVENING
7 6 3 9

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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Friday Sports/Weather

Hounds fall to Mt. Pleasant; split series

FM can't muster another comeback win over Panthers

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It was shaping up to be another buzzer beater between the Bloodhounds and the Mt. Pleasant Panthers Friday night.

Just before the holiday break, Fort Madison's Logan Rashid converted a free throw with no time on the clock to beat Mt. Pleasant on the road. But in the rematch at the Hound Dome Friday night, the Hound rally came up short as Mt. Pleasant knocked off Fort Madison 52-47 in Southeast Conference boys basketball action.

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Fort Madison was trailing 47-40 with 1:45 left on the clock in the game, when Logan Rashid drove the lane from the top of the key and was fouled by 6'4" Sam Beatty. Rashid hit both free throws to make it 42-47.

The Panthers had run a stall in the previous possession that took almost 1:30 off the clock and then scored on an easy bucket inside senior Rhett Zeglin after Fort Madison got stretched chasing the extended offense around looking for a turnover.

The Hounds tried to press the Panthers off Rashid's free throws to keep them from setting up the stall again and FM's Jace Burgher fouled Zeglin going for a steal on an outlet pass over the halfcourt line, which put the Panthers into the first bonus situation of the game.

Zeglin made just the front end of a free throw that clanked off the back of the rim, sat dead for a moment and then rolled into the net. He missed the second and the Hounds were off to the races with 1:24 left on the clock down 48-42.

Rashid hit senior Brandon Keester on a pass up the floor and Keester pulled up from 24 on the left wing in front of the Fort Madison student section and laced a 3-ball to cut the lead to two at 45-47.

Mt. Pleasant would take an inbound pass off the Keester bucket and throw the second pass into the Panther bench for a turnover, but Rashid would lose the handle on the way back to the Hound side of the court.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison junior Mike Mosena gets caught in the air Friday against Mt. Pleasant. The Hounds lost 52-47 to split the season series.

On the inbound, the Hounds would go for another steal, but freshman Dayton Davis would get tangled up with Keegan Kohorst trying to pick off a pass up the court. Kohorst made both freebies to make it 50-45. Rashid, who finished with a team high 17 points on the night, would then again penetrate off the dribble this time from the left baseline and score on a reverse layup with two Panthers chasing him through the lane, to cut the lead to 50-47.

Fort Madison would call a timeout, to set up a play on the inbounds, but the Panthers would get the ball in and down the floor to Beatty who would score in the transition to set the final at 52-47.

Fort Madison had trouble with ball control most of the night, giving up 11 turnovers, four in the first nine minutes, and were out rebounded regularly on the offensive board, as junior Jayden Fedler had an off night inside with Beatty being able to control the inside game for most of the night.

The Bloodhounds opened the scoring on a short jumper by Rashid, but Mt. Pleasant would then outpace the Hounds 12-7 the rest of the quarter with Kohorst, Zegin, and Beatty doing the damage.

Fort Madison clamped down on the defense in the 2nd quarter allowing just seven shots from the floor, four of which the Panthers missed. Junior Parker Denning hit a three pointer to cut the lead to 14-12 in the opening seconds of the second.

Denning then converted a 3-point play scoring underneath with a foul by Beatty, who got turned around on a pretty pass from Rashid that slipped through on a fast break. Denning converted the free throw to bring Fort Madison to within one at 18-17.

Mt. Pleasant's Brody Bender would make the front end of a free throw in the Panthers' next possession and then Davis would score for Fort Madison on a drive from the left side to tie it up at 19.

The two teams would tie again at 21 and then Rashid would score the final four points of the half on two short jumpers, the last of which was an 18-foot fade away as time expired with Fort Madison up 25-21.

Keester would start the 3rd quarter with a bucket, but then Mt. Pleasant would score on the next six possessions and tie the game at 34 when Kohorst would complete a three-point play when he was fouled inside by Davis.

Mt. Pleasant would take the lead for good when Beatty out-wrestled Denning for a high inbound pass at the half-court line and raced to the other end for a dunk to give the Panthers a 38-35 lead at the end of three.

After Rashid's 17 points, Keester finished with 12, as the only two players in double figures for Fort Madison. Denning finished with eight points and Davis added two. Fedler, who led the conference in scoring at almost 15 points per game, was held to just two points on the night. Jordyn Gerdes also scored a bucket to round out the scoring for Fort Madison.

Mt. Pleasant had three players in double figures led by Beatty's 18. They are 7-8 overall and 3-4 in conference play.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 27 Jan

Light Snow
High— 31.4° F | Low – 3.9° F

MON 28 Jan

Light Snow
High— 31.2° F | Low – 9.4° F

TUE 29 Jan

Light Snow
High— 5.7° F | Low – -9.2° F

WED 30 Jan

Light Rain
High— -9.9° F | Low – -15.5° F

THU 31 Jan

Light Snow
High— -7.1° F | Low – -9.8° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



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Sports

Lady Crusaders roll to sixth straight win

Box goes for 20 with three blocks to lead HTC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Despite some cool first quarter shooting, the Holy Trinity girls basketball team sailed to its sixth consecutive win Saturday.

The Crusaders wound up sneaking in a make-up game with WACO Saturday afternoon and rolled to a 62-28 win led by senior Emily Box's 20-point night.

With the win, the Lady Crusaders move to 12-5 on the year and have won six straight dating back to Jan. 7. Three of HTC's losses were by a combined eight points. They suffered a lopsided loss to Van Buren in December by 33 points at home, which was their worst loss of the year. Holy Trinity travels to Van Buren on Monday.

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Head Coach Tony Johnson said despite the recent success, the Crusaders haven't played their best game yet.

"I don't think we've peaked yet," he said Saturday. "We're getting better every game, but we've still got some things to get cleaned up. Our goal after Christmas was to get ready for regionals. That's our focus, and even when we've lost we learned something," he said.

The Crusaders went just 5 of 16 in the first quarter, but WACO had a worse go of it, managing just four shots from the field as HTC's 1-3-1 press made it tough for the Lady Warriors to get anything going in the half-court set.

The Lady Crusaders' 3-point specialist, Taylor Boeding, had an off night and didn't connect on her first long ball until about 1:30 left in the 3rd period. But junior Ashlynn Haas filled in the role and hit two in the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC senior Mya Lawlor (14) drives and makes contact with WACO's Morgan Graber (33) in the first half of Saturday's win.

first quarter as HTC opened up a 16-6 edge.

Holy Trinity would push the lead to 29-13 at the 3:51 mark of the second period when junior Avery Hopper

"I feel more confident with taking that shot now, so I'm shooting it when I'm open, and my teammates are doing well getting me the ball when I'm open."

-Ashlynn Haas,
HTC junior guard

pulled down a Boeding miss and scored sliding in from the left block.

WACO converted on just two buckets and a couple of free throws in the second and HTC was off to the races with a 41-15 halftime lead.

The Warriors' senior Claire Schmitz gave a spark in the third with a bucket at 43-19 and then followed with a 3-ball from the right side of the offense to cut the lead to 46-22, but that was all that was in the tank for WACO, as HTC opened a 53-24 3rd quarter lead on back-to-back buckets by Box to end the period.

Johnson was able to substitute heavily in the fourth quarter and emptied the bench with about three minutes left in the game as WACO managed just a bucket by Nadiyah Brown and then missed their final nine shots of the game.

Haas, who finished with 19 on the night, said things are working well for the Crusaders because everyone's getting more confident on the floor.

"I've worked on my shot some and I tweaked it a bit because it wasn't falling," she said. "I feel more confident with taking that shot now, so I'm shooting it when I'm open and my teammates are doing well getting me the ball when I'm open."

The Crusaders had seven players score in the game led by Box and Haas. Hopper finished with eight points, while Boeding had seven, junior Claire Pothitakis chipped in with four, senior Mya Lawlor added three, and senior Eryn Anderson scored one.

Johnson said the scoring is fairly balanced and he likes it that way.

"That's how I want to be. I don't want to have one girl averaging 20 a night and everybody else with five. That doesn't work. I want five girls averaging 13, that's what I'd really like," he said.

"But we're more comfortable right now. We've simplified some of this. I know it sounds crazy, but sometimes easier is better, so we did that and it seems to be working for them right now."

After Monday's road trip to 14-2 Van Buren, the Crusaders turn around and travel to 11-4 West Burlington on Tuesday.

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BEST OF S.E. IOWA 2018 1ST PLACE

From the Front

Giving back has always been part of Smith's plan

SMITH - Continued from Page 1

year with the Rodeo," he laughed.

Other events brought back included the Chili Supper, which was originally held in the Elks parking lot.

Over the next decade Smith worked his way through the Operating Committee overseeing programs such as buttons and sales, program sales, advertising, entertainment, and working his way up to General Chairman in 1992 and 1993.

In 1989, during Carl Saunders' term as General Chairman, the operating committee was restructured and Smith didn't have a seat on the committee that year.

Now the board has two members from the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, but they don't share board members.

"Before then, the two boards had so many things in common it made sense to have a Chamber board member on the rodeo operating committee," he said.

As general chairman, Smith helped lead the transition from a Friday thru Sunday rodeo, to a Thursday-Saturday rodeo.

From 1994-95 he served in the transitional role of Past Chairman and then until about 2002 he served in several capacities in the Past Chairman's group. In 2003 he started on the Tri-State Board, which is a traditional transition from the operating committee.

As part of the board, Smith said he got one of the most fun gigs available and that is the assistant to Rodeo MC Boyd Polhamus.

"I got to work with him on the non-PRCA stuff. Providing him with all the local information with queens' names, local sponsors, and helping him with that side of the rodeo," Smith said. "He's just a great guy and has been the voice of the rodeo, and he just loves to talk."

He said his time with the Rodeo has afforded him a chance to give back to Fort Madison. But Smith hasn't just spent his volunteer time

with the Tri-State Rodeo organization. He's served with the Fort Madison Chamber, Jaycees, Fort Madison's Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission board, the Fort Madison Economic Development Group, the Baxter Sports Complex board, and the Fort Madison Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails (P.O.R.T.) operating committee.

"I just enjoy being involved in the community that's given a lot to us" he said. I feel really good when I can give back in some small way."

He said the rodeo operating committee and board have always had the same goal of providing a great event and great entertainment at a

price people can afford.

"We always focus on making sure we have a really good value in that ticket price. We want to make sure everyone has a chance to come out and enjoy the rodeo. Sure we've put in VIP seating and have put money into infrastructure improvements, but we always have that base ticket where everyone can come in and see a really great show."

Entertainment is one area that Smith said is always a challenge, yet the Rodeo continues to bring in national acts.

"When I was in charge of entertainment, we had a budget of about \$20,000 to \$25,000 and that's not even close to what they have to spend now. Entertainment is tough,

yet this group continues to find ways to bring in some of the best acts in the country."

He said board investments have kept the rodeo contemporary and garnering attention from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

"Only the top 60 prize money rodeos in the country qualify for the National Finals Rodeo and we're still in that group. It's important to stay there so we can continue to attract the top cowboys in the country. There are lots of places they can be and they still choose to come here."

The CINCH Shootout has helped bring additional talent and attention to the Rodeo. Smith that addition on Wednesday

“

I just enjoy being involved in the community that's given a lot to us. I feel really good when I can give back in some small way."

-Larry Smith

Tri-State Rodeo, past chairman

night, which is still a separate rodeo event from the regular three-day Tri-State Rodeo, in the very near future could vault the TSR into the top half of purse money in the country and position the Rodeo for even greater things.

Smith said he's always stuck with volunteer work and never entered the political arena, although he's been asked on numerous occasions.

"There was talk about me running for Lee

County Supervisors or city council or even state office back when Rich Taylor won, but I think politics is a dirty word. I don't want to please some, I try and please everyone," he said.

He said he's trying to pull back from some of the volunteer efforts he's engaged in, but it still having a hard time not serving.

"I just don't know how to say 'no', yet," he laughed. "But I'm learning."



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Agenda
DATE: MONDAY,
January 28, 2019
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
1:00 P.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA
AGENDA

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Agenda
Consider Approval of
Claims
Discussion of County
FY20 Budget
Adjourn

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Budget Workshop
Agenda
DATE: MONDAY,
January 28, 2019
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
1:00 P.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA
MEETING AGENDA

Discussion of FY20
County Budget

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
EXCHANGE OF
PROPOSALS
Agenda

DATE: TUESDAY,
January 29, 2019
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA

9:00 a.m. Exchange of Initial Proposals with Sheriff's Union
Closed Session to follow: Negotiating sessions are exempt from Chapter 21 Open Meetings
11:00 a.m. Exchange of Initial Proposals with Administrative Union
Closed Session to follow: Negotiating sessions are exempt from Chapter 21 Open Meetings
1:00 p.m. Exchange of Initial Proposals with Secondary Roads Union
Closed Session to follow: Negotiating sessions are exempt from Chapter 21 Open Meetings

PUBLIC NOTICE
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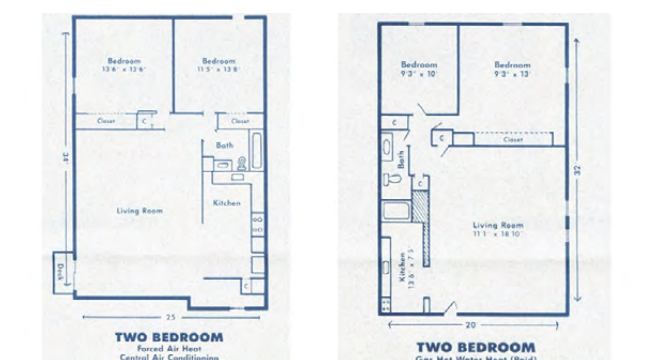



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