



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Sept. 6 2017 | 16 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 213

Little 'pokes kick off 2017 Tri-State Rodeo week



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



At top right, TSR General Chairman Josh Denning congratulates Ryan Rose, 7, after Rose was named 2017 All-Around Cowboy. Above Branton Putnam gets dumped by a sheep during the Mutton Bustin' event Monday morning. At right, Brett Fairchild takes a crack calf riding Monday.



Rose, Booten named All-Around Cowboy, Little Miss Rodeo

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Ryan Rose, 7, and Allee Rose Booten, 6, were coronated Monday night as the All-Around Cowboy and Little Miss Rodeo at the Tri-State Rodeo CE 'Eddie' Richards Arena.

Rose is the son of Josh and Heather Rose of Keokuk and Booten is the daughter of David Booten and Carman Kaufman of Denmark. Booten performed a rendition of Holly Dunn's Daddy's Hands as a vocal with no background music as part of her performance.

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Lost Bear finds home at sports complex

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - Their story is sweet, their coffee is fresh, and their plans are set.

TJ Widbin and Melissa Cervantes, a married couple who own and operate Lost Bear Coffee in West Burlington, have announced plans to expand in Fort Madison with a larger outlet at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Specialty coffees, frappes, and

“

It's kind of fate because if I had still been working, I don't think I would have taken a chance on doing something like this.”

-TJ Widbin
Lost Bear Coffee co-owner

smoothies will soon be an option for the those traveling on 48th Avenue with a similar concept to the current Lost Bear outlet in

the parking lot of Westland Mall in West Burlington.

Widbin said hopes to have the location up by mid-November.

“We were hoping to have it done in October with the fall season and everything, but that's in a perfect world... and we all know how that goes,” he said.

Widbin just a year ago was laid off from his job working with computer software and wasn't sure where he was going to land.

Widbin said he and Cervantes, at one point said a prayer after he had been laid off for guidance.

See **COFFEE**, page 14

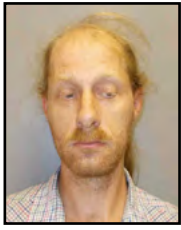
Obituaries/Area News

Keokuk man arrested on felony pot charges

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on felony drug charges.

Leeroy L Gray, 40, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on September 4th, 2017 in Keokuk on felony drug charges. Gray is charged with two counts of delivery of marijuana second or subsequent offense, a class D felony. If convicted, Gray faces up to 20 years in a state correctional facility.



NORRIS

The arrest of Gray stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that he was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Fort Madison Police Department, Keokuk Police Department,

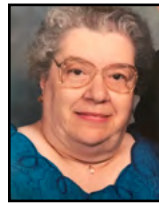
Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the 8th Judicial District of Probation and Parole assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.

OBITUARIES

JOANNE E. WOLLMERING



WOLLMERING

Joanne E. Wollmering, 79, of Kirksville, MO and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at 3:50 AM at Kirksville Manor.

She was born on July 7, 1938 in Hastings, MN to Matthew and Marie Ludwig Stoffel. On August 20, 1960 she married William E. Wollmering in Miesville, MN and he passed away on June 14, 2003. Joanne was a bus driver for twenty six years for the FMSD.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Newberry Center. Joanne also enjoyed watching TV, especially sports. She was also an avid Iowa Hawkeye and Chicago Cubs fan.

Survivors include one son, Jerry (Alicia) Wollmering of Kirksville, MO; one daughter, Karen (Stephen) Lind of Onalaska, WI; five grandchildren, Leah, Erica and Kate Wollmering, Christine (Matt) Ray and Michael Lind; one great grandson, Joshua Ray; two sisters, Kathy Lanz of Minneapolis, MN and Elaine Worshek of Charleston, IL; one brother, Donald Stoffel of Hastings, MN and a sister-in-law, Mary Mortenson of Blaine, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

The funeral mass will be held at 12:30 PM on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends for a time of food and fellowship from 11 AM until 12 PM at Rolling Hall just prior to the service. Burial will be in Soldier's Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Sacred Heart Church and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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For the Record

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Fort Madison Police report

08/31/17 - 8:52 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 08/31/17 - 9:14 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 300 block of Avenue E.
 08/31/17 - 11:04 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Bradley Robert Bohnenkamp, 31, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of on a charge of 4th degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/31/17 - 11:32 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Shaunna Ellingson, 23 of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 10th Street, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/31/17 - 11:40 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Larry Leroy Dawson, 24, of Fort Madison, at the Lee County Probation office, on a charge of probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/31/17 - 1:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 500 block of 11th Street.
 08/31/17 - 3:46 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 08/31/17 - 4:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 08/31/17 - 5:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 08/31/17 - 5:59 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Leeanna May Baker, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of 22nd Street, on two charges of 5th degree theft. She was released on a promise to appear.
 08/31/17 - 7:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 48th Street and Avenue O.
 09/01/17 - 9:41 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 200 block of 15th Street.
 09/01/17 - 12:45 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 300 block of 12th Street.
 09/01/17 - 2:22 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 09/01/17 - 1:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Teresa Ann Manning, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 1700 block of Avenue H on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released on a promise to appear.

09/01/17 - 4:48 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 10th Street and Avenue E.
 09/01/17 - 8:28 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report a gas drive off in the 1200 block of Avenue H
 09/02/17 - 12:21 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 09/02/17 - 4:11 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue G.
 09/02/17 - 7:53 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a larceny/theft in the 5100 block of 120th Avenue.
 09/02/17 - 1:58 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue F.
 09/02/17 - 5:18 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue F.
 09/02/17 - 6:17 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Tevin Michael Black, 23, Fort Madison in the 600 block of Avenue H on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear.
 09/03/17 - 2:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 800 block of Avenue H.
 09/03/17 - 5:02 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 09/03/17 - 6:30 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue D.
 09/03/17 - 6:36 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M.
 09/03/17 - 7:43 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue I.
 09/04/17 - 9:19 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue I.
 09/04/17 - 10:01 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 09/04/17 - 10:12 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 09/04/17 - 2:41 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a personal injury accident in the 2800 block of Hwy 103.
 09/04/17 - 7:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's report

08/31/17 - 1:31 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Richard Scholz, 45, of Keokuk, on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 08/31/17 - 3:09 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jon Myron Nickel, 52 of Keokuk, at the Lee County Sheriff's Dept on a judgment entry. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/01/17 - 11:23 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Timothy Aaron Williams, 35, of Donnellson, in the 2300 block of 220th Street in Donnellson, on a charge of trespassing. He was taken to Lee County Jail, held overnight and then released on a promised to appear.
 09/01/17 - 3:32 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Candice Maree Robinson, 23, of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff's office, on a warrant for a judgment entry.
 09/01/17 - 6:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thomas Jay Ruble, 50, of Donnellson at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for a judgment entry. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 09/04/17 - 2:41 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 103. A vehicle driven by Margaret Mary Paradise, of Tampa, Fla., was traveling east on Hwy 103 in the 2800 block and struck a horse and buggy being driven by Jan Marie Buchanan of Bethany, Ill., pushing the buggy into the south ditch. Buchanan suffered minor injuries and the horse suffered cuts and marks. The buggy was destroyed in the crash.
 09/05/17 - 2:52 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rod Wayne Knustrom, 54 of Fort Madison, at Fort Madison Community Hospital on a charge of eluding police. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those mentioned above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire report

09/01/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls
 09/02/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, one assist
 09/03/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters had no calls.
 09/04/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical, one burn permit.

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Local News

Letterpress featured for September FMAAA exhibit

Reception set for Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. at studio

Courtesy of Brian Riggs
Fort Madison Area Arts Association

FORT MADISON - Ft. Madison Area Arts Association always contributes to Ft. Madison's major tourism month. The September feature exhibition uniquely blends the artistry of The Calico Press with commercial printing

of Dodd Printing & Stationery. A reception occurs for the collaborative on September 8th from 5:00-7:00pm. Letterpress printing will be demonstrated, and receptions are always free and open to the public. Two Rivers Insurance is the sponsor for the exhibition.

Also this month Art-

in-Central Park makes its annual return on September 17th from 10am-4pm. Dozens of visual artists under the shade trees, Kid's Art Zone activities by the playground, and BBQ&Lost Duck Brewing under the Johnson shelter house. Afternoon musicians perform in the gazebo beginning with Fox River Fields country sounds, followed by the blues of The Travis Reid Band, and closing with

the guitar students of Jesse Mazzoccoli. Guitar lessons available on Wednesdays at FMAAA.

Dodd Printing and Stationery has been in Ft. Madison for four generations and was just purchased by the "fifth" generation Matt Hayes. A hand feed press, purchased many moons ago at ISP by Neal Dodd, is amongst the display and will be utilized at the reception. The Chandler &

Price Pilot press is special in that it is the only table top press that prints with the quality of a table press. The wood type is locked into a chase. Displays show the differing stages of letterpress to the end product. Cuts or zinks provide style. Naptha cleans the inks. Inks have evolved from rubber or oil base to a polymer. Oil is still widely used. Drink coasters are perfect for letter press and will be

available for families or businesses to order at the gallery (the perfect business card!).

Offset printing came along in the 1950's to take the place of letterpress. When Neal started in 1977 half of the work projects were still letterpress, which is a more technical craft. In the last few years digital printing has taken the place of

See FMAAA, page 9

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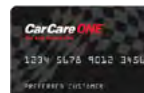
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Sports

HTC blows out WACO in home volleyball opener

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity Catholic volleyball team made easy work of visiting WACO on Tuesday night in the home opener at HTC High School.

The win moves the Lady Crusaders to 3-0 on the season and 3-0 in Southeast Iowa Superconference South Division play.

Junior Emily Box again Holy Trinity at the net with 25 kills. Junior Taylor Boeding had 10 and Senior Maya Rashid had five.

Box also led five HTC hitters with perfect serving, going 25-of-25 with an ace. Anderson was 19-of-19 with three aces, senior Sam Hoenig was 15-of-15, Rashid was 7-of-7 and Boeding was 2-of-2.

Defensively Box had 13 digs, Anderson had 11 and junior Elyse Pothitakis had 10.

The Crusaders are off until Sept. 12 when they play host the Cardinal of Eldon with matches starting at 5:30 p.m.

Lady Hounds sweep Fairfield

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Bloodhound volleyball team took three games from Fairfield in their first home match of the season on Tuesday night.

The Lady Hounds won 25-15, 25-15, 25-15 and move to 7-4 on the season and 2-0 in the conference.

Senior Amber Dilsaver paced FMHS at the net with 20 kills and served 8 of 10 with two aces. Leigh Johnson recorded 41 assists and served 9 of 9 on the night.

Junior Josie Pumphrey had 17 digs and served 15 of 16 with two aces from her libero position. Head Coach Kent Bailey gave credit to the back row passing for the night's success.

"Our back row set the tone tonight," Bailey said. "They passed the ball well and didn't let many balls hit the floor."

He said he wasn't surprised by the score, but indicated sometimes they girls are streaky.

"I knew we had the potential to win this way," Bailey said after the game. The Bloodhounds placed fourth over the weekend in the Quincy Invitational Tournament, losing to eventual champions Belleville West.

Junior Olivia Williams served 18 of 19 on the night including three aces and had four digs. Senior Courtney Woodley had seven kills

"We were able to run our offense tonight with Leigh doing a good job on quick sets allowing our hitters open lanes for kills," Bailey said.

The Hounds travel to Washington on Thursday night.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Amber Dilsaver goes for the kill in the third game of the Hounds win over Fairfield Tuesday night. Leigh Johnson (16) provided the set on the point.

FMHS takes fourth at weekend tourney

Led eventual champion Belleville 23-15 before losing 24-26

BY PCC STAFF

QUINCY - The Fort Madison Lady Hounds took 4th place at the Quincy High School Tournament over the holiday weekend.

FMHS lost to Quincy in the opening round by identical 23-25, 23-25 scores before dropping Burlington Notre Dame 25-14, 25-14 and East St. Louis 25-18, 25-18 to get the tourney semifinals.

They lost in the semifinals to Belleville West 24-26, 21-25.

"We had a good weekend of volleyball. We led in the

semifinal against Belleville 23-15 before losing 24-26 and then 21-25. Belleville went on to defeat Quincy in the championship.

Leigh Johnson led the Lady Hounds in assists with 99 over the span of the tournament. She also served 20-23. Amber Dilsaver led the Hounds offensively with 35 kills and served 36-40 with eight aces.

Josie Pumphrey had 64 digs and served 32-37 with two aces. Kamryn Bailey was tops in service for the crimson and black going 44-46 with seven aces. McKenna Fehseke and Kaeli Hutson each had 11 kills. Courtney Woodley had a dozen kills, and Jasmine Bass had 10 kills and six blocks. Olivia Williams had 13 digs and served 27-28 with an ace.

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Acceptable Computer Equipment: Monitors, Servers, Desktops, PC's, laptops, Netbooks, Macs, Tablets, Keyboards, Mice, Speakers, Modems, Routers, Cables, Hardware, All Components & Accessories.

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Local News/Lottery Numbers

Locals bring in printing history

FMAAA - Continued from Page 4

offset. Now one piece of equipment takes the place of many machines. Neal feels that the nostalgia of letterpress will keep the format continuing, similar to black & white photography. Neal reminisces "I grew up with letterpress and offset. The thing most missed is the smell of the shop. The containers of gas and inks smelled so good that people would come by just to smell the shop. The chemical make-up of solvents has changed and the smell is gone. "We had an old cabinet with the smell trapped inside. As the overall smell of the shop changed, I would go to the cabinet to get the last whiffs!" There is a loyalty and appreciation for the letterpress art form. It is not practical or viable anymore in commercial work, but the beauty of the art can create unique products, like the coasters, bookmarks, and notecards made that are available in the show.

Mel Stockwell of The Calico Press is one busy lady. When she graduated Coe College her degree was in fine arts with emphasis in printmaking but more intaglio and litho. She worked for large commercial print houses and began collecting presses. Eventually she left the corporate world and placed all her collected equipment into one building on her farm. The Calico Press is a commercial printer outside of Birmingham, Iowa, which she runs 36 hours per week.

FMAAA at 825 Avenue G is open for viewing Tuesday-Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

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When creating a masterpiece, artists gather their tools and sketch a plan. Life is your art, and you can do the same to make a rough sketch for the end of life. This informational series will give you tools to start making plans.

6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays
Art Center of Burlington
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Sept. 14
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This free series is open to the public, regardless of whether they have used Great River Hospice services.

Oct. 12
Organ Donation
Garrett M. Brockway Foundation

- At each session:
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 - Walk to the "Before I Die ..." mural
 - Light refreshments
 - Questions



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Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
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9/5
11 17 59 70 72
Lucky Ball: 1
Megaplier: 3



9/4
1 4 9 15 33
Lucky Ball: 3



9/3 MID-DAY
5 5 6
9/3 EVENING
1 0 2
9/4 MID-DAY
7 2 9
9/4 EVENING
8 2 2
9/5 MID-DAY
0 5 8
9/5 EVENING
3 7 8



9/3 MID-DAY
8 9 2 3
9/3 EVENING
1 4 6 4
9/4 MID-DAY
8 3 1 2
9/4 EVENING
7 5 3 1
9/5 MID-DAY
0 7 3 7
9/5 EVENING
2 4 7 3

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Tri-State Rodeo

13 vie for kid royalty Monday night

YOUNGSTERS - Continued from Page 1

Rose did a version of Alabama's "Play Me Some Mountain Music" for the talent part of his audition.

1st Runner up for the girls was Aubryanna Burke, 6, daughter of Travis and Lacy Gustafson of Denmark, while 2nd Runner up was Breonna Stewart, 7, daughter of Brenda Stewart of Bloomfield.

For the Cowboys, 1st Runner up was Tate Markell, 6, son of Kami Markell and Brent Knustrom, and the 2nd-Runner up was Holden Pezley, 5, son of Travis and Katelyn Pezley of Montrose.

Other contestants for Little Miss Rodeo were

Presleigh Johnson, 5, daughter of Curtis and Amanda Johnson of Fort Madison; Macy Butler, 6, the daughter of Zeb and Kayla Butler of Keokuk; Lauren Andrews, 5, daughter of Rusty and Devan Andrews of Fort Madison; Brooklyn Harvey-Orton, 6, daughter of Amy Orton, Heath Hawthorne and AJ Harvey, all of Fort Madison; Allie Ehlers, 7, daughter of Mike and Renee Ehlers of Fort Madison; and Melanie Sims, 6, daughter of Erin Sims of Fort Madison.

The other All-Around Cowboy contestant was Terren Donlan, 5, son of Jessica Donlan of Burlington.



Above, Reese Kibbe seems pretty comfortable out of the chute trying to hold onto his sheep for a full six-seconds. At right, Shyenne Steenhook brings in the American flag and Morgan Carson carries the Tri-State Rodeo flag prior to the Li'L Spurs Rodeo action on Monday.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Above, Allee Rose Booten gets her sash as Little Miss Rodeo and below Tinley Covert tries to make good time on the turn in the Stick Horse Race.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
September 11, 2017
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum

II. Recognition of guests

III. Approve the agenda

IV. 2017-2018 Board meeting location discussion

V. Foundation Documents

– per new goals discussion

VI. Adjourn

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Sept. 7th **2017**

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LOCATION: 160 Industrial Park, Hamilton, IL 62341
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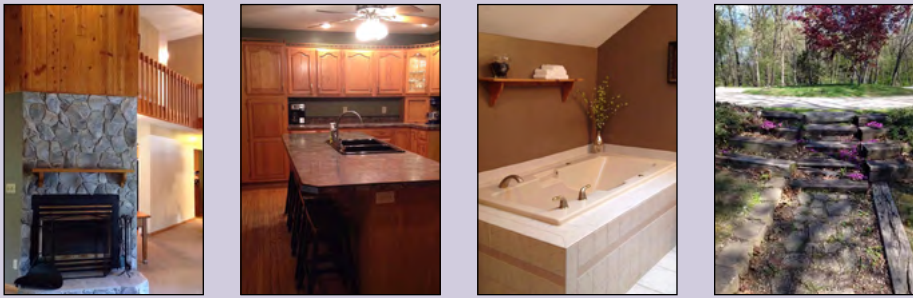


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We are currently in need of bus drivers for athletic events and occasional day-time trips. Pay is \$16.00 an hour. Drivers will need to have all standard CDL licensing requirements for driving a school bus. If interested, please contact John Goetz at the Jr./Sr. High - john.goetz@holyltrinityschools.org or 319-372-2486 x2.

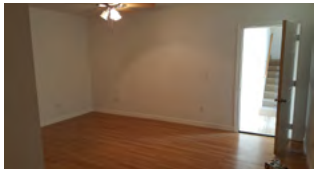
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From the Front/Weather

Coffee brought owners together

COFFEE - Continued from Page 1

“We knew that at some point God would open a door. It’s kind of fate because if I had still been working I don’t think I would have taken the chance on doing something like this,” Widbin said.

“My wife just told me to take some time and take a breath. I took a trip to Lebanon, which had

already been planned, and then when I came back we heard that Java Shack was for sale and we decided we’d take a chance with this,” he said.

Cervantes has held her name due to her professional wedding photography business, but said the two have a passion for coffee because of how they met.

“We had our first date over coffee so that’s why we have a passion for it,” Cervantes said. “Coffee is something warm that people can come together over so that’s how we developed a passion for doing this.”

But they didn’t meet at the local coffee shop. Cervantes was visiting Kenya at the same time Widbin, a Wever native, was also visiting with friends. The two bumped into each other and started a long-distance relationship and then ended up marrying.

Still not quite 30, Widbin said he originally looked in the Burlington area to expand, but couldn’t find anything to their liking before they were approached by individuals with the Baxter Sports Complex.

The two got started in



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

TJ Widbin, and wife Melissa Cervantes, are opening a new branch of the couple’s Lost Bear Coffee at the Baxter Sports Complex. They hope to have the business up and running by mid-November.

November of last year when they looked at the Java Shack, which Cervantes said “had good bones, but needed a little TLC, and by Dec. 2 had taken possession of the Westland Mall location.

“They have just been fantastic to work with from the start. They’ve been very helpful in moving this project along.”

Widbin said they need to acquire a special use permit from the city, which is set for a hearing on Sept. 13. He said he would like to start construction on the facility the next day, if possible. The construction is being completed off a design by Widbin who said he can’t draw a lick.

“I just can’t draw at all so, I kind of put this design together using Legos. Myers Construction is going to build the shop and he looked at this and said,

“I got it. I can do that.” Hours of operation for the new shop haven’t been determined because of all the activity at the Sports Complex.

“We think it’s a great location with the sports complex and the schools in that area. We’re happy that it’s a local group we’re working with. A lot of times you pay rent to corporations and it’s nice when you can make those investments with local groups instead,” he said,

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 06 Sep



Clear Skies
High— 64.8° F | Low – 49.7° F

THU 07 Sep



A Few Clouds
High— 69.7° F | Low – 60.1° F

FRI 08 Sep



Clear Skies
High— 74.4° F | Low – 59.1° F

SAT 09 Sep



Clear Skies
High – 69.2° F | Low – 53.9° F

SUN 10 Sep



Clear Skies
High— 69.1° F | Low – 50.0° F

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Empty Nest – Turtle Island

"Everything in these two rows of tables, fifty cents," I told the dark-skinned couple as they moved slowly down the aisle, stopping occasionally to pick up an item and inspect it, an old-style eggbeater, a slightly used George Foreman grill, complete with instructions.



SWARM

I had joined the throng of "garage sellers" who blossom during Old Threshers in Mt. Pleasant, deluging the landscape with hawkers (including every road leading into Mt. Pleasant), selling everything from pots and pans to rusty old tractors. Only I was "justified" in holding my garage sale. When Ginnie and I got married going-on two years ago, we merged two households. We'd both had hurry-up garage sales at the time, but there was still a lot of stuff left over that I had shoved into the barn and let the mice have their way with. Since I'm wanting to get a bucket-calf in the spring, I needed to make room. Everything had to go, and fast. I priced the stuff for a quick sale, so that I wouldn't have to handle it again, or haul it to the Quarter-Maybe-More store. A lot of the items I had paid good money for, like an antique ballot box—bye bye, only two dollars.

The man stopped and fingered a black iron trivet in the shape of a turtle. There were two of them—a mamma and baby turtle, or maybe a papa and baby.

I knew what he was thinking, "Fifty cents each, or fifty cents total?"

Before he could ask, I volunteered, "They go together, fifty cents total."

He reached in his pocket for change.

"You know where Turtle Island is?" he asked.

I thought for a moment. I had heard the term somewhere. "Uh, Wisconsin?" I ventured.

He harrumphed, "Turtle Island is North America."

"That's right. Now I remember." Then it came to me. The couple was not Hispanic like I had assumed. They were Native American.

He launched into the story using a lot of hand gestures. "Sky Woman fell down to earth when it was covered with water. Different animals tried to swim to the bottom of the ocean to bring back enough dirt to create land. The muskrat was able to gather dirt and put it on the back of a turtle. The turtle grew into North America. That's why North America is called Turtle Island. Some say it resembles a turtle."

My phone beeped. My old phone had crapped out and I had just gotten a new one. I was still getting used to it.

He shook his head in disgust, "That gadget gonna save your bacon when you're up to your neck in water?"

I must have looked puzzled.

"Ask the folks in Texas. Phones went dead after twenty-four hours. Couldn't charge'm. Most rainfall ever in the United States."

He really emphasized the word, "ever."

I shook my head in agreement.

"It's only the beginning, white boy.

Man has polluted the environment until She cries out for help."

After they left I checked my phone for the average elevation of Iowa. It's 1,100 feet. Illinois is 800. Illinois will go first.

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's stories are also read on 106.3 FM in Farmington.

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