



Pen City Current

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 | 7 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 254

OFP looking to "Making God Laugh"

Old Fort Players release

FORT MADISON - It's a familiar quote from film-maker, Woody Allen that's meant to put humankind's control over their own destiny in perspective. "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Those words became the touchstone for the funny, but heart-warming stage play that OFP is bringing to life this December. This production is directed by Angela Sanford and the co-sponsor is Lee County Bank.

The play follows one typical American family over the course of thirty years' worth of holidays. Starting in 1980, Ruthie and Bill's grown children -- a priest, an aspiring actress, and a former football star -- all return home, where we learn of their plans and dreams as they embark on their adult lives. The empty-nester parents contend with their own changes, too, as old family rituals are trotted out and ancient tensions flare up. As the years go by, the family discovers that, despite what we may have in mind, we often arrive at unexpected destinations.

Rehearsal began before the successful run of "Steel Magnolias" in early October so OFP was forced to reconnect with their roots as a gypsy theater. "Our downtown space was double booked for a couple weeks, so we had to make do," Sanford said. Luckily cast members were able to hold their rehearsals off site at St. Luke's



Courtesy photo

The cast of "Making God Laugh" poses for a family photo. Back row: Ty Clute as Richard, Richar Abel as Maddie, Mike Randolph as Thomas. On the couch: Jim Cole as Bill, the dad, and Shelley Dowling as Ruthie, the mom.

Episcopal Church.

The cast has been having a ball embracing their characters that can - every now and then - hit pretty close to home. If not to the actors themselves then at least to people they know and love.

Veteran actor Jim Cole portrays Bill, the easy-go-

See HOLIDAY page 6

Crusaders settle in to advance to semis

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

CEDAR RAPIDS - After a first set that left Holy Trinity Catholic fans on their seats, the Crusaders settled in to cruise to a three-set win over Montezuma to advance to the semifinals of the Class 1A State Volleyball tournament.

The 3rd seeded Crusaders knocked off the 7th seeded Bravettes 25-22, 26-24, and 25-17 to advance to the semifinals where they'll face the No. 2 seed LeMar Gehlen Catholic (30-4) who downed East Mills in three sets in the opener at U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids.

The Crusaders jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead in the first set with senior Mya Lawlor serving and got back-to-back kills from senior Emily Box and sophomore Claire Pothitakis to open the set.

Senior Mya Pargeone got a kill to get the Bravettes on the board and then Montezuma came rushing back with a 4-1 run with a big block and a kill in back-to-back rallies from junior Shateah Wetering. Wetering, who's verbally committed to play hoops for the University of Iowa, finished with 12 kills on 36 attacks.

Box got a kill to give the Crusaders a one-point cushion at 5-4, but the Bravettes went on another run, this time going up by 3, when Waverly Roorda put up a block to give Montezuma a 9-6 lead. Holy Trinity crept back to within one and two points and got a kill from Pothitakis to pull HTC to within one at 11-12. Wetering then took over at the net to push the lead to four with three kills through HTC's front line to force a timeout down 11-15.

Out of the break, Montezuma suffered a net violation error for a sideout and then Box had a kill and went to the service line where she got three straight points with two attacks from the Bravettes' front line that went long.

See HTC, page 7



LAWLOR

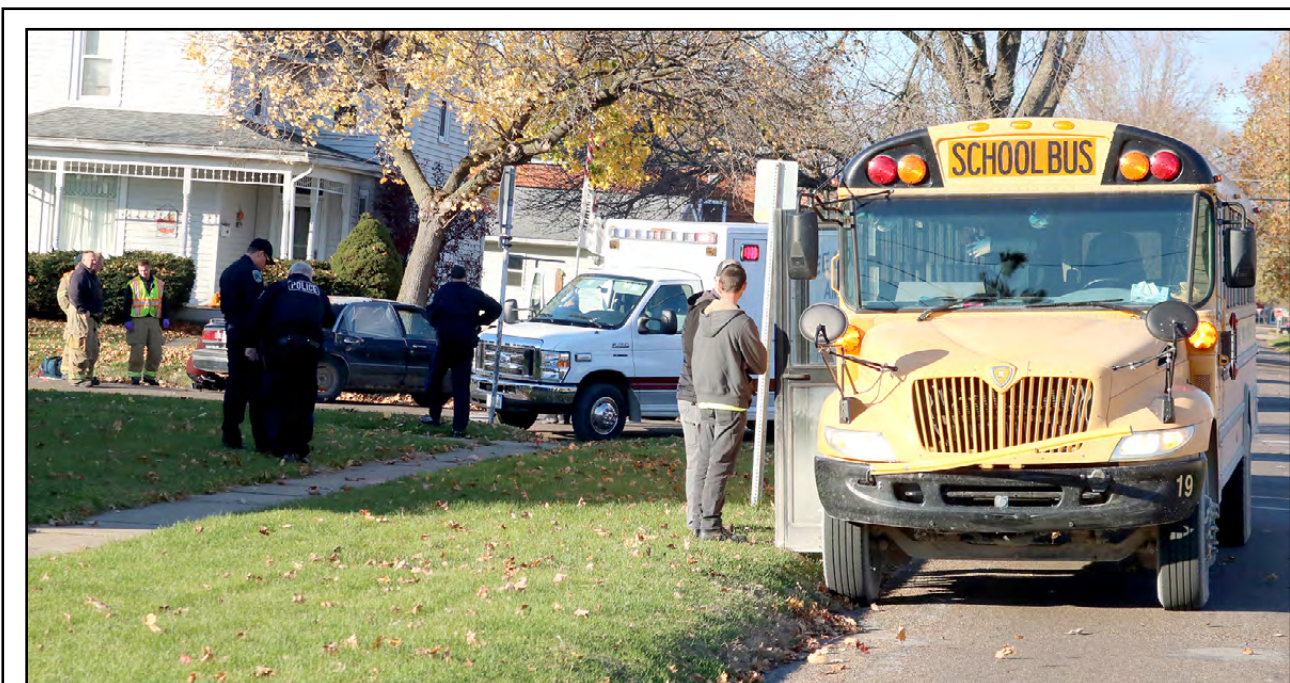


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

School bus in minor accident

A Fort Madison School bus was involved in a minor two-vehicle accident Wednesday afternoon just after 3 p.m. at the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue G. Rescue personnel were sent to the scene but no students were on the bus and no injuries were reported at the scene.

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

RONALD GREEN

Ronald Green, 58 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 9:12 pm Thursday, November 1, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. He was born 10/04/1960 in Louisiana, a son of George Sr. and Elnora (Holden) Green.



GREEN

Ronnie loved driving and was a truck driver for JB Hunt for 6 years. "Big Toxie" was his nickname! He also worked for Garner's and Gerry Morgan. He was jolly and direct to the point! His family loved him!

He is survived by two sons, one brother, Anthony (Dorothy) Green of Shreveport, LA; seven sisters: Juanita King of Sacramento, CA; Ruth (Willie) Small of Shreveport, LA; Dorothy McCoy of Fort Madison; Noletha Green of Shreveport, LA; Eulander (Samuel) Johnson of Keatchie, LA; Lawaunda (Sylvester) LaCour Shreveport, LA; and Glenis Green of Shreveport, LA; a dear friend, Jeanette Collier of Fort Madison; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son Ronald Allen, five brothers: George Jr, Lee, John, Samuel, Dalton, and Willie; and one sister Velma Samuels.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 am Friday, November 9, 2018 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the Green Family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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OBITUARIES

FRANCIS P. KLESNER

Francis P. Klesner, born January 29, 1940 passed away at approximately 11 pm, November 6, 2018 after a prolonged battle with cancer. Fred is survived by his wife, Jane, five children, six grandchildren, and six sisters. On behalf of Fred, he would



KLESNER

like to thank all of his family and friends for their support and friendship throughout his life, which can be considered complete and successful. Jane appreciates the 55 years of marriage which they enjoyed. His children consider themselves extremely fortunate for their upbringing, with



its wisdom, discipline, and recreational opportunities. Friends and family have enjoyed Fred's ethic and sharing of fun and recreation.

Fred served in the Air Force from 1958 to 1962 as a mechanic. Then, commenced work in and around Fort Madison, being a superb welder, maintenance man, millwright, and carpenter. Jane and Fred were married on June 15, 1963 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Among Fred's interests were sports, hunting, fishing, auto restoration and mechanics, carpentry, and keeping a well maintained home and cabin.

The funeral mass will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at St. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Thomas Szydlak officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9 AM until the service at 11 AM. Burial will follow in Soldiers Circle at Oakland Cemetery with military rites performed by the Ft. Madison Veterans Honor Guard. A memorial has been established for Saint Jude's Children's Hospital, as no child should have to suffer. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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CURRENT-LEE

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

11/6/18 - 8:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of 28th Street.
 11/6/18 - 9:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 11/6/18 - 11:21 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 400 block of Avenue H.
 11/6/18 - 11:41 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
 11/6/18 - 12:09 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Lane Drive.
 11/6/18 - 3:56 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 11/6/18 - 4:39 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue O.
 11/7/18 - 5:41 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1500 block of Avenue E.
 11/7/18 - 12:13 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Brittney Nichole Wylie, 25, Fort Madison in the 800 block of Avenue F, on a charge of driving under suspension. She was released upon citation.

Lee County Sheriff's report

11/6/18 - 6:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jared Richard Altgilbers, 29, of Keokuk, at the Burlington Parole Office in Burlington on a warrant for violation of parole. He

was taken into custody and then released on bond.
 11/6/18 - 7:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shaunna Lynn Ellingson, 24, of Farmington, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold.
 11/6/18 - 6:18 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jamie Lyn Mayes, 42, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Johnson Street Road on a charge of violating a temporary restraining order. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

11/6/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls

Experienced cast, crew will make you laugh

HOLIDAY - Continued from Page 1

ing father of this motley crew of a family. Cole has played everything from a wife murderer ("Dial M For Murder") and happy eccentric ("The Good Lord Willing and the Creek Don't Rise") with equal enthusiasm and this show is no different.

Shelley Dowling, director of 2014's "Snow Child" and star of many Opal plays, has been cast as Ruthie, the bossy but well-meaning mother.

OFP President, Ty Clute plays the oldest son Richard, a stylish entrepreneur with a hysterical scene as a Y2K-conspiracy-prepper fanatic. "He does this meticulous search for recording devices around the set all the while spouting lines like, 'That's what the government wants you to think!' He's had us all in stitches," co-star Shelley Dowling told us.

Richar Abel takes a break from her familiar role as makeup and hair stylist ("Steel Magnolias") and is back on the stage as daughter Maddie, the

strong-willed artist. Abel said after a recent rehearsal, "This is an easy role to play. We get along great. Ty and Mike Randolph are like the brothers I never wanted."

Mike Randolph, a relative newcomer ("Misconceptions") to OFP, is cast as Thomas, the even-tempered 'good' son. With this group though, Randolph has his work cut out for him. OFP President Ty Clute said, "Mike has a pretty emotional, serious monologue and we aren't making it easy for him. It's a challenge every rehearsal to see who can get him to crack." Sounds like a typical big brother, right?

That is what makes this show so special as holiday fare. Everybody's family has at least one quirky character in an ugly Christmas sweater to keep the party interesting. The best part about seeing "Making God Laugh" is that you can laugh out loud at all those crazy people all at once. Get it out of your system in time for your own family reunion!

Rounding out the crew are Kerrington Wardlow as Stage Manager and

Xandra Abel on Sound and Lights. Kerrington is a recent grad from the OFP Youth Theater Program and Xandra is in her final year with them. Jan Jud will be helping Ty Clute with Set Design. Amy Perez, on hair and makeup, will tackle the monumental task of aging five cast members thirty years in just two hours.

Making God Laugh, by Sean Grennan, will be presented by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com) Performances run December 7-9 and 14-16. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and the curtain rises on Sundays at 2:00 pm. Tickets for Adults are \$12, and Students are \$8. They are available at the door one hour before show time or on our website.

The Old Fort Players have been entertaining the community since 1981 and are located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 08 Nov

Snow
 High - 35.2° F | Low - 29.3° F

FRI 09 Nov

Snow
 High - 33.2° F | Low - 18.2° F

SAT 10 Nov

Light Snow
 High - 27.8° F | Low - 24.6° F

SUN 11 Nov

Light Snow
 High - 30.9° F | Low - 28.9° F

MON 12 Nov

Light Snow
 High - 33.1° F | Low - 27.2° F

OpenWeatherMap

From the Front

Crusaders head to state semis

HTC - Continued from Page 1

Riley Gatton, the lead-hitter for the Bravettes, had a couple sneaky placements for kills to push the lead to 18-15. Two consecutive errors, including a net error, brought Holy Trinity even at 19-all. Freshman Kassi Randolph got a kill dumping the ball over Wetering on the left side to give HTC its first lead since 5-4 at 20-19. The two squads would tie up again at 21 and then Eryn Anderson got a big block from the left side that fell over the Bravettes' front line for a 22-21 lead. A net error at 23-21 forced a Montezuma timeout. Box got a kill right out of the break and then got another at 24-22 to put the first set away.

Box said the girls knew they would have some nerves in the first game despite the experience of going to state all four years for the seniors. "We knew that we were all going to have butterflies, even the seniors who've been out there for three years. One of the things we haven't done well all year was finish and tonight we did that well," Box said.

Box finished with 16 kills on 38 attacks and had three block assists and a solo block on the night to lead HTC at the net.

She said the Crusaders knew Wetering and Gatton could be aggressive at the net, but the Crusaders just needed to settle in and adjust. Wetering is a left-handed hitter and HTC didn't see a lot of those hitters during the year.

"We knew that they were going to take big swings and we saw they were tipping a lot so we had to adjust to that. Having the left hander you had to go up with her hand and after we adjusted in that first set we were able to kind of neutralize that in the second and third sets," Box said.

With senior Eryn Anderson serving to start the second set, HTC again jumped out to a big 7-1 lead on a kill by Box. Then Wetering countered with

a wild shot that found the floor in front of senior libero Elyse Pothitakis who dove to the right trying to fist the ball up. The Bravettes got consecutive blocks on Box to close the gap to 7-3 but junior Avery Hopper got a side out kill following a Wetering error at the net to give HTC a 11-3 lead.

Then Gatton rotated into the front line and the crafty senior kept HTC guessing with big swings and then accurate pushes accounting for five kills in a 3-8 run that brought Montezuma back to just a two-point deficit 13-11. Gatton was whistled for a carry at 14-11 and Randolph scored an ace to push the lead to 15-11. But Gatton asserted herself again in a 4-1 Bravettes run that cut the lead back to two at 16-14 and HTC head coach Melissa Freesmeier called a timeout.

The set would stay within two points until a Gatton kill knotted everything up at 19, forcing another Crusaders timeout. Montezuma again was whistled for a carry. The teams traded points before Montezuma's Riley Hasley's serve went deep and HTC senior Elyse Pothitakis recoiled on the return and let the ball go deep for a 22-21 lead. Roorda got a block to tie it again at 23-23, and 24-24. The Bravettes were called for a double hit to put HTC within a point at 25-24 and then Box got a kill to give the Crusaders the second match 26-24.

HTC held control of the third set and didn't allow Montezuma to get any energy going and pushed leads of 4-0, 10-5, and 19-9 getting the fans, some dressed as cows, to their feet sensing a Crusaders advance.

Anderson, rotating to the front line with Holy Trinity up 20-13, got two kills to make it 22-14. Gatton put kills in between the Crusaders, sensing the end, to start a bit of trade-for-points at 23-17. The Crusaders went to Box again for back-to-back kills to end the night.

Anderson said the Bravettes may have been underestimated coming into the tourney.

"I think they were really underrated. They were just big and we had to get used to that. Around southeast Iowa there aren't that many big teams," she said. "We haven't seen a lot of lefties. That was different and that was a little intimidating for some of the girls but we all settled in well."

Senior Mya Lawlor, who tied for team high in digs with Randolph with nine, said the second and third sets they were able to take some of the Bravettes' energy.

"The second and third set we started off strong and energy was so high and that's so important and we've been working on that all season," she said. "Volleyball is such a mental game and we were able to get in their heads a little bit."

Freesmeier said the Crusaders knew Montezuma would be strong with their middle hitters.

"We knew their offense would move through their middle. Those are two very talented kids in the middle. Our kids did an amazing job of staying with it and fighting back and we got that first win which was huge for us," Freesmeier said.

"Game two we started big and then let them in a little but I didn't see any fear and the girls kept pushing and were there for each other and that was nice to see from a coach's standpoint."

She said Gehlen Catholic will pose some of the same threats that Montezuma showed.

"They do a lot of the same things. They run their offense out of the middle and we need to slow them down. Just play hard and play defense and I think our kids are up to that task."

Anderson finished with five kills on 14 attacks and had two blocks for HTC. Sophomore Bailey Hellweg had 13 assists and Randolph chipped in with 11.

HTC will play on court 2 starting at 6 p.m. Thursday.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Eryn Anderson and Claire Pothitakis put up a block in the 3rd set Tuesday night.

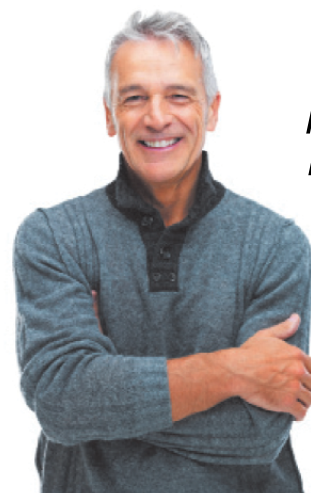


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