



Pen City Current

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Success comes small at Simple Table

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - If you ask Hitomi Moritani and Jimmie Wendorf how they measure success for their quaint neighborhood restaurant, chances are you won't hear anything about dollars and cents.

The two opened Simple Table in Fort Madison almost three years ago and are celebrating the restaurant's anniversary on Oct. 31 with a costume party featuring tapas, live music, and prizes on Oct. 31 starting at 6 p.m.

The growth of Simple Table locally has been in just filling the downtown bistro with friends and recurring customers.

"We have people that come on Monday, and we'll have people that come on Tuesday and over lunch time, too. Eighty percent of our customers are return customers, so I think in terms of success - that's it," Moritani said early Monday evening as several couples filed in right at opening.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Simple Table owners Jimmy Wendorf, front, and Hitomi Moritani get ready for customers on Monday evening. The restaurant is celebrating its 3rd anniversary on Oct. 31 with a costume party starting at 6 p.m.

Moritani easily greets the couples, who sit at different wooden tables and then cracks open a bottle of wine to start their evening meal.

Wendorf opens a tablet and pulls up a Spotify account, touches a track and music slips over the dim-lit restaurant

that, jam-packed, may hold 30.

But they come here for a reason. It is the "simplicity" of it all, garnished with Moritani's under-rated offerings for those looking for something more than can be obtained with a five second greeting and "please full

forward".

The two bank on the experience their customers get. It helps develop a well-defined day-to-day menu.

"It's been a journey. I can't believe three years is already here, but if you're busy, time flies. Simple Table is successful enough for us to create the place across the street," Wendorf said.

That place across the street is the 7th Street Marketplace which the two purchased in the spring and orchestrated a five-business enterprise anchored by "sip. (n.) a coffee and wine bistro" and Harvestville Mercantile. Also in the new venture are Sun Meets Moon Holistic Healing, Sugar Lumps, and Tacos, Tacos, TAKOS. The latter of which is an offshoot from Simple Table and features seasonal daily taco specials. Wendorf said that business will be closing for the season on Saturday. It will reopen before June 1 next year, "when we get the first 10 or so good

See SIMPLE, page 3

State withdraws insurance stopgap measure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC STAFF

DES MOINES - The Iowa Insurance Division has withdrawn its effort to create a stopgap insurance program for Iowans, according to a release today from Governor Kim Reynolds office.

State officials, including Iowa Insurance Division (IID) Commissioner Doug Ommen, received a letter on Friday from the Center of Medicaid and Medicare Services outlining how federal funding will be calculated for the state's waiver, also known as the Iowa Stopgap Measure. The announcement came early Monday afternoon. There were also concerns about the timeline for providers to be able to handle the application process with the Nov. 1 ACA open enrollment date quickly approaching.

"Premiums under Obamacare have increased 110% for Iowans since 2013, and thousands of Iowans can no longer afford health insurance," Governor Kim

Reynolds and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma said in a joint statement. "Iowa pursued state flexibility through the Stopgap Measure, but ultimately, Obamacare is an inflexible law that Congress must repeal and replace. Obamacare is unaffordable, unsustainable, and unworkable."

"Obamacare is an unworkable law," Ommen said. "The Stopgap Measure was an innovative solution to help thousands of Iowans. Unfortunately, Obamacare's waiver rules are so inflexible that the Stopgap cannot be approved under terms that would be workable for Iowa. This is evidenced by the fact that a bipartisan group of senators recently announced a bill to fix some of the inflexibilities on Obamacare's waiver provision that Iowa has run into."

Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield indicated if the stopgap measure were put in place in Iowa, it would be willing to offer ACA plans in 2018, as well. Many insur-

ance providers are continuing to offer insurance plans in Iowa, but only Medica will offer ACA plans that may include subsidies to offset premium costs. However, Medica has said premium rates could increase by as much as 57% in 2018.

"I think it's generally the administration's lack of flexibility. Generally speaking, President Trump has been very clear that he wants it gone and he doesn't want to put a band-aid on it," said Justin Pieper from Fort Madison's Group Benefit Partner's office.

"Medica will be the only carrier and it will be very status quo as it was last year. We have not seen the rates and how the subsidies are going to be impacted.

So anyone eligible for a premium subsidy should be eligible and the subsidies will likely be absorbing that increase, but we haven't seen any numbers."



PIEPER

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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

OBITUARIES

DAKOTAH DALE RAINBOLT

Dakotah Dale Rainbolt, 21 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Sunday, October 22, 2017 at his home. He was born July 3, 1996 in Fort Madison the son of Shawn Brannen and Shawna Rainbolt.



RAINBOLT

He attended Fort Madison High School. He worked for Hellige Lawn Care and most recently for Pipeline Cleaners, both of Fort Madison. He attended Joy Baptist Church. He enjoyed fishing, hanging out with friends, surfing in Florida, and in the past boxing with the Lee County Boxing Club.

He is survived by his mother, Shawna Rainbolt of Ankeny, Iowa; his father, Shawn Brannen of Palm Coast, Florida; grandparents: Sara Jennings of Palm Coast; Carlo and Debra Bruno of Fort Madison; and Jim and Leslie Rainbolt of Keokuk; one great grandmother, Edith Johnson of Kahoka, Missouri; three sisters: Daylan Rainbolt of Ankeny; Stormi Norris of Angier, North Carolina; Kaylie Brannen of Palm Coast; several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Larry Brannen; great grandparents: Pete and Ruth Farmer and Hillis Dale Rainbolt.

His family will greet friends during a visitation from 4:00 - 6:00 pm Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. His body will then be cremated. A memorial has been established, contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the Rainbolt /Brannen family may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

CONSTANTINE JAMES "ROCKY" ROKOSZ

Constantine James "Rocky" Rokosz, 78, of Denmark, IA passed away at 7:55 AM on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at The Blair House.



RAINBOLT

He was born on March 10, 1939 in Dubna Zagajie, Poland to Thomas and Eufrozyna Koschielniak Rokosz. On November 22, 1969 Rocky married Carolyn Schnedler in Carthage, IL. He served in the US Army from 1958-1961. Rocky worked at IAAP until 1978 then worked for the Sante Fe Railroad and retired in June of 2000. He was an avid fisherman and hunter and enjoyed playing golf and cards. Rocky enjoyed his fishing trips to Minnesota with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Rokosz of Denmark; three sons, Karl "Brian" (Annie) Rokosz of Montrose, Rick (Alicia) Rokosz of Tiskilwa, IL and Kevin Rokosz of Honolulu, HI; one daughter, Diana (Jane Carruthers) Rokosz of Springfield, IL; five grandchildren, Jill Rokosz, Garrett Rokosz, Kyle Rokosz, Wyatt Rokosz and Clayton Rokosz; one great granddaughter, Madison; two sisters, Belbina Reinart and Katie McElwain. He was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother.



The funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 11 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9 AM until the time of the service at 11 AM at the funeral home. Burial will be in Denmark Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Denmark Fire and Rescue and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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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

10/23
4 7 9 10 31
Lucky Ball: 15

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2 7 5
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6 8 2

10/23 MID-DAY
6 7 3 9
10/23 EVENING
7 1 4 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

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

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

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Pen City Current

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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
ssross@pencitycurrent.com

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From the Front

Owners don't foresee many changes

SIMPLE - Continued from Page 1

days of warmer weather” he said.

But Simple Table has taken on a character of its own even as the new venture across the street takes off.

“There’s been quite a bit of evolution over time,” Wendorf said. “We’ve really gotten to know what people are interested in. In the beginning we had some ideas, but some things come and you try them out to see how well they do. Hitomi’s figured out what she can do. Some places open big with all these options and they fall flat because it’s just too much.” Wendorf said.

“I think with us we’ve adapted to what people like... what we can do right. We’ve kept it small

because we don’t want to get into all that. After three years it’s not going to change.”

Moritani said the restaurant itself has grown in the hours of business and selection.

“We started only offering dinner and then we decided to add lunch time, then we added more dessert items,” she said. “Slowly it grew, but nothing over the top. It’s still the same people doing everything. We’re small enough that we know everybody’s name and we know what they want and then we continue to take care of them and build on that.”

The couple doesn’t see a lot of major changes in the next two to three years, but would like to

mix up some of what customers see on a regular basis.

“We just want to keep doing what we’re doing. I’d like to change some of the equipment and maybe upgrade the services from just beer and wine, to possibly cocktails.”

Moritani said small changes are fine, but outgrowing the fresh, home-made feel of the menu cannot change.

“We want to keep the things the way they are. Everything handmade, nothing premade and even growing, we are sticking to it. That’s the most important thing to me. I don’t want to get so busy that we buy frozen this or frozen that. That’s not going to happen,” Moritani said.

Withdrawal leaves Iowa with Medica

STOPGAP - Continued from Page 1

Pieper said Ommen was very clear that this was a stopgap, not a long-term solution, and was intended to bring some short-term cost relief to the market until further progress could be made at the federal level.

The Affordable Care Act provided in Section 1332 a path for states to file for a waiver, but if those states are facing a failing market, and if they are successful in stabilizing the market and bringing people back in, the waiver will not work. In other words, the title of Section 1332—“state innovation waivers - is an oxymoron”, according to the governor’s release.

“We are hopeful that expansion of short-term health plans and association plans for individuals will provide much needed relief in the near future. Additionally, Iowans eligible for Obamacare subsidies or who can afford the high

cost of Obamacare will be able to sign up for health insurance on healthcare.gov, starting November 1, 2017, with Medica.”

Wellmark issued a statement following the announcement.

“Wellmark commends Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa Insurance Commissioner Doug Ommen and their staffs, for taking the lead in creating the Iowa Stopgap Measure. We also want to thank Senators Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst for their strong support of this effort. The Iowa Stopgap Measure is the most innovative attempt to address the challenges with the individual Affordable Care Act (ACA) market in the country. Wellmark stands by our beliefs on what it will take to stabilize the individual ACA market and will continue to work on a long-term solution with state and federal officials.”

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Sports

HTC win sets up clash with New London



At left, Junior Eryn Anderson attacks the ball against Seymour on Monday night in the Crusaders' 25-6, 25-10, 25-15 win to advance to the regional semifinals Thursday in New London. Above, Junior Emily Box gets on the floor for a dig in the third set.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Well...two of the best volleyball teams in the state in Class 1A are going to meet in a regional semifinal Thursday.

No. 5-ranked Holy Trinity Catholic made fairly easy work of Seymour Monday night in regional quarterfinals at Shottenkirk Gymnasium 25-6, 25-10, 25-15 and 6th-ranked New London downed Moravia 25-5, 25-7, 25-7 in New London to set up the donnybrook in New London on Thursday night beginning at 7 p.m.

The two teams have split four matches already this year with both playing in the Southeast Iowa Superconference. Aside from a 21-17, 21-18 loss in the Keokuk Invitational at the beginning of the season, the two teams went into tie breakers in each of the last three meetings, with HTC winning two of those three. New London won the SEISC tournament 21-25, 25-22, 16-14.

"It's going to be a dog fight, no doubt about that. It's unfortunate that we are playing each other in the semifinal, but that's not our call. We're going to go in and do the best we can on our side and they will do the same, so it will be a great matchup as it has been all year," Head Coach Melissa Freesmeier said.

Junior Emily Box led the Crusaders against Seymour going 22 to 23 attacking and 12 kills. She also was 13-13 serving with 12 digs and five blocks defensively. Eryn Anderson went 16 of 18 attacking with eight kills and was 16-17 serving with five aces and 10 digs. Senior Maya Rashid was 6 of 6 serving with a couple aces and five digs and was solid again setting with 24 assists. Mya Lawlor was 6-of-7 serving with 12 digs. Sam Hoenig led the Crusaders at the service line going a perfect 20-20 with four aces. Taylor Boeding was 9 of 9 with an ace and went 15 of 17 attacking with four kills.

Lawlor was on the court for her first match of the year after suffering a left knee injury during soccer season. Lawlor hadn't been cleared by a physician until

Thursday to play competitively, but had been participating in workouts on a limited basis throughout the year.

She said it felt good to be back on the floor with her teammates in a game situation.

"It felt awesome. I was so happy to be out there again," Lawlor said. "I told coach I definitely wanted to play because I just got released last Thursday with no restrictions."

Lawlor said the game situation was a bit different.

"It was different to be in a game. But I was really excited. For sure there were some nerves but my knee feels pretty good. It's a little sore, but I've been doing this a long time."

Freesmeier said the team, as much as Lawlor, has been itching to get her back on the floor.

"She's just been working hard all year and the girls have been pushing to get her back on the court. They wanted her as bad as she wanted to be on the floor," Freesmeier said.

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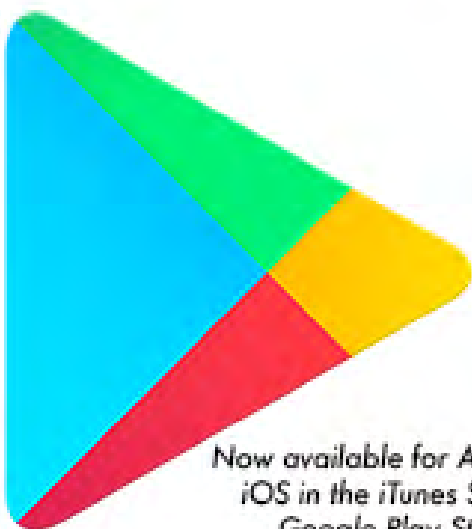
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Sports/Current-Lee

Bloodhounds kick off regionals Tuesday night

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Bloodhound volleyball team kicks off its regional action Tuesday night with a matchup against Southeast Conference rival Fairfield.

The 24-7 Bloodhounds got a bye in the first round of Class 4A Region 7 regional action and now face a Trojan team that is 24-8 on the year, but two of those losses are to the Bloodhounds in three-set affairs.

Head Coach Kent Bailey is all too aware of the pitfalls of playing the same team multiple times.

"It's always tough to play a team three times," Bailey said. "You know they're going to show up ready to play. We know them and they know us. But it's regionals and everyone's going to put their best effort on the court."

FMHS will be looking to senior leadership to carry them deep into the regional and possibly to state. Senior Amber Dilsaver stands head and shoulders, figuratively and statistically, above the rest in conference play this year. Dilsaver had 311 kills on the season, 84 ahead of the next girl in line, which happens to be Fairfield junior Alison Godwin. Kara Jeffrey is second on the Trojans with 174 kills to lead them offensively. Dilsaver is also 2nd in the conference in blocks with 72 on the year.

The Bloodhounds counter with Jillian Wiseman and Kaeli Hutson who have combined for 235 kills.

"We have two of the best middle hitters in the conference in Amber and Jillian but everyone's gonna have to come ready to play. You look at that team and they've been pretty consistent at 24-8. They have some pretty good volleyball players," Bailey said.

Senior Leigh Johnson is tops in the conference and ranks ninth in Class 4A in getting the ball to middle and outside hitters. She has 727 assists on the year with the next closest in the loop at 400.

Bailey will be looking to Josie Pumphrey and Kameron Bailey to keep the ball off the floor in the back court. Pumphrey, a junior, is second in the conference with 439 digs. Bailey has 261 and is fourth in the loop.

Kent Bailey said the team is battling a little soreness, but said the team, which just dropped out of the top 15 in Class 4A, has been working hard to get ready for the post season. The Hounds have gone 12 days without a game and lost their last two matches including an 0-2 loss to Class 1A 5th-ranked Holy Trinity and a 1-2 loss to Eddysville-Blakesburg, both at the Mediapolis Tournament on October 12.

"We've had some soreness but most of our kids have been playing. I think we've done the things we need to do to get prepared, but our kids have to realize at this time of the year that everyone is playing for the same thing and you're going to have to work that much harder," he said.

Game time starts at 7 p.m. at the Hound Dome.

CURRENT-LEE

Commemorative Fort Madison blankets available

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Rotary Club has begun accepting orders for a new commemorative Fort Madison blanket with the proceeds being used to help fund local community and charitable events.

The blanket will be similar to those produced in the past and will depict historic and iconic locations in Fort Madison. The blankets are \$60 each or two for \$100. Payment is requested at the time of ordering and checks can be made to Fort Madison Rotary Club

Funds raised will help support local high school scholarships, the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, Operation Warm (Coat Project), Central Park, International projects, Polio Plus, Community Match grants, and the Riverview games.

Those interested in the project or purchasing a blanket are encouraged to contact any Rotarian or Matt at 563-650-5272 or Janelle at 319-470-4011.



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Honor your family members that answered the call to serve in our special Veterans Day edition on Friday, November 10th.

It is our honor to publish this information. There is no charge for this service.

Submit your photos and information using the form on our website or email it to admin@pencitycurrent.com or mail it to Pen City Current, PO Box 366, Fort Madison, IA 52627.

Please include photo (color or black & white), veteran's name, branch of service, tour(s) of duty, your name and contact information in case of questions. A brief personal message is also welcome.

Submissions are due by the end of the day Tuesday, November 7th.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 24 Oct



Light Rain
High- 44.0° F | Low - 38.9° F

WED 25 Oct



Clear Skies
High- 51.0° F | Low - 48.6° F

THU 26 Oct



Clear Skies
High- 68.0° F | Low - 39.8° F

FRI 27 Oct



Clear Skies
High - 40.1° F | Low - 31.2° F

SAT 28 Oct



Clear Skies
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