FMHS’s Miller spearheads hurricane relief

Non-perishables will be collected at Friday game

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An enterprising sophomore Lexi Miller and her family, and now a group of staff at the Fort Madison High School, donations of non-perishable items are being collected at the high school. Also, it was confirmed today that collection boxes will be put out at the FMHS vs. Central Lee football game at Richmond Stadium Friday night and fans are asked to bring items to donate to Texas hurricane relief. Officials at Central Lee are also aware of the efforts and FMHS student volunteers will be on hand to accept the donations.

Amigo’s holding benefit for Hernandez

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A day at the gym turned tragic for a former Fort Madison couple earlier this month.

Cameron Hernandez, 31 of Burlington was working out the Burlington YMCA when he experienced a sharp headache. He stopped his workout and went home and when the headache hadn’t subsided his family urged him to go to the ER and a short time later he was airlifted to Iowa with a brain bleed from a weakened artery in his head.

During an angiogram to repair the artery, Hernandez suffered a stroke leaving his right side limp and compromised.

Hernandez is employed with Winergard Company in Burlington has insurance so the family is focusing on getting him better, but Vela’s Amigos restaurant will be holding a benefit for the Hernandez family all day on Friday.

Amigos will be donating 10% of all sales on Friday to the family as well as having people on site selling ‘Hernandez’

See BENEFIT page 4

Amigo’s will be donating 10% of all sales on Friday to the family as well as having people on site selling ‘Hernandez’

See STORM page 4

Big Buckle Bash Voice judge, and 2nd Ward City Councilman, Brian Wright mirrors Stewart Beyer’s cover of Dan Seals’ ‘Kiss From a Rose’ as part of the annual Big Buckle Bash Voice contest. Stewart took second place, while below left first-place winner Nicole Miller does a LeeAnn Rhimes cover. Below right are some of the Cruise-In entrants on Saturday.
OBITUARIES

LESTER PERRY NETTLES

Lester Perry Nettles, 48, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, August 28, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on November 25, 1968 in Columbia, MO to Lester H. & Violet S. Hays Nettles. He worked at fast food restaurants for many years, was an all-around country boy and enjoyed a cold beer with friends.

Lester is survived by: 1-sister: Shirley (Howard Hoffman) Nettles of Mexico, MO; 1-brother: Steve (Terri) Nettles of Fulton, MO; several half-brothers & half-sisters and several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, 2-half-sisters & 1-half-brother.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned at this time. Online condolences to Lester's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

FAITH ELLEN KENEL-SMITH

Faith Ellen Kenel-Smith, 67, of Niota, IL, passed away at 5:50 a.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. Faith was born to Calvin & Carol Holverson Packard in Mason City, IA on January 3, 1950. She lettered four years in music in high school and attended Iowa Wesleyan College, graduating with a degree in Music. On November 1, 1966, Faith married F.W. Smith in Fort Madison, IA and he survives. Faith loved music and was a past organist and choir leader for St. Mary & Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Madison for five years. Hobbies included sewing, crocheting, playing cards, and always working crossword puzzles. She loved good wine and enjoyed making it to share with friends. She was very proud of her home and loved sharing it with friends and family. She was a big fan of basketball and March Madness, especially the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Faith is survived by her husband, F.W. Smith of Niota, IL, her mother, Carol Packard of Fort Madison, IA, one brother, Brent (Cathy) Packard of Fort Madison, IA; four children, Pam (Jim) Patrick of Fort Madison, IA, Angie (Travis) Blint of Donnellson, IA, Lindy Blanchard of West Point, IA, and seven grandchildren, Tristan, Kyler & Karley Blint, Cole, Colt & Cash Blanchard and James Hale. She was preceded in death by her father, one brother, Paul, and one infant son.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated by King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 2, 2017 at St. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A private family burial will be held at Gethsemane Cemetery. No luncheon will be served following the funeral. A memorial has been established for Lee County Hospice. Online condolences to Faith's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.
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Or call 800-369-3211 or 319-372-2550
Donations accepted through mid-October to benefit Hurricane Harvey victims

STORM - Continued from Page 1

The district will also have a pick up truck on site to hold and move donations, if needed, to a location where they will be held until being shipped.

Miller has family in the Houston area, but on the north side currently out of Tropical Storm and Hurricane Harvey's path of destruction. But it was when she saw footage of elderly women in a nursing home standing in flooded waters needing assistance, that she told her parents they needed to do something.

"Well, it all started when I saw the pictures of the ladies in the nursing home with water up to their chest and I didn't see or hear any news about them getting any help and that just made me think we need to do something," Miller said.

"I went to the counselor to see if we could set up some kind of donation thing at the school for things like canned goods, old clothes and they initially said they were too busy setting up for the rodeo. But my mom posted on Facebook and the principal immediately called and got things going."

Miller said she started writing down lists of people they could reach out to and supplies that should be collected. I already have boxes ready. My mom has contacted some of her friends to help. We have a place to store everything and my dad's company, Ny, Ruan Transportation, is looking to see what they can do to help. "Somebody saw that on Facebook and got back to (FMHS Principal) Greg Smith, who then put out an email and asked someone to get in touch with me and see what donations would be."

"Hayes said the Red Cross and Salvation Army only deal in monetary donations but she said, "even if we have to rent every U-Haul in town, we're gonna get these things up and down both sides of the parade and would be able to take donations and put them on the float as it moves down the parade route."

"A communication was sent from Ruan Transportation, where Hayes husband works, and those employees and vendors are trying to generate a collection as well."

"All the goods will be shipped to the areas of Texas where they are needed most. Hayes said the Red Cross and Salvation Army only deal in monetary donations but she said, "even if we have to rent every U-Haul in town, we're gonna get these things down there, if we have to take them ourselves."

"Miller's group wants to collect through the middle of October to allow time for the waters to recede and officials to get a better hand on where the best use of the donations would be."

"Right now they're just focused on getting people out of the water and in safe places." Jacqueline Lumsden, owner of SubArena has offered to be a collection site as well, but only for non-perishable food, not clothing, items as restaurants have strict state and local guidelines about what can be held in a food service establishment.

Donations being accepted will included non-perishables, baby supplies, formula, toiletries, water, clothing, blankets, first aid kits, gift cards for gas or food or anything else you can think of that people in the devastated areas would need.

"This really warmed my heart because we do so much to get kids to think about other people. We didn't have it on our radar, all the staff and faculty, with so much going on and one of our students said we really want to do this. That's really a testament that they are getting that 'giving back' piece. It validates what we're doing here."

"Hayes said Miller's group will also be putting a float in the parade and are looking at requesting donations be brought to the parade where adults will be walking up and down both sides of the parade and would be able to take donations and put them on the float as it moves down the parade route."

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Donations accepted through mid-October to benefit Hurricane Harvey victims
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No. 2 ranked HTC wins first test on the road

Crusaders shake off first game jitters to roll in win

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - Holy Trinity Catholic head girls volleyball coach Melissa Freesmeier said people are forgetting that she started five sophomores last year. The West Burlington Falcons won't be forgetting that any time soon as the 2nd-ranked Class 1A Lady Crusaders handled their first test of the season in fine form knocking off Class 3A West Burlington in three straight sets 25-19, 25-12, 25-16 to highlight Southeast Iowa girls Supercconference action Tuesday night.

It looked as if the Falcons, 3-1 coming into the contest, were going to make HTC earn the lofty status in the first game of the set having HTC tied at 7s before junior Taylor Boeding stepped to the line and reeled off four straight service points including an ace. Boeding got some help from two back-to-back kills by Eryn Anderson to take a 10-7 lead. West Burlington battled back with three straight points off HTC miscues and a kill by the Falcon freshman Sydney Marlow. Alyssa Dameron biffed a serve and gave the Crusaders a 1-11 lead. Junior Emily Box had a kill at 13 and Sam Hoenig fired an ace to put HTC back up by 2. Aside from an Eryn Anderson fault at service, Box and Boeding combined for three kills to give the Crusaders a little breathing room at 17-13. The two teams exchanged points to about 22-17 and then Box and Hoenig blocked a kill at the net to put HTC up 22-17. Box had another kill on the next point before the Falcons put together three straight including an ace by Dameron. But Box sealed the game with a kill in the next point.

The Crusaders made quick work of the second set with Elyse Pothitakis going 12 of 13 serving including seven straight to start the match. The junior then put up five straight to push HTC from a 15-10 lead to a 20-10 lead including two aces.

After the game Freesmeier commended Pothitakis’ play.

“Elyse, I had her running around ragged and she was just doing a great job on defense,” Freesmeier said.

Box had two more kills in the final five points. That, coupled with a tip-over from senior Maya Rashid and a kill and an ace from Sam Hoenig, sent the match to a third game. The third game was again a

Junior Emily Box right and senior Sam Hoenig block a shot West Burlington in Tuesday win over the Falcons on the road. The No. 2 ranked Lady Crusaders won 25-19, 25-12, 25-16.

PHOTO BY CHUCK VANDENBERG/PCC

See WIN, page 8
Hoenig goes 15-15 with three aces in win

WIN - Continued from Page 1

bit more balanced through the first 10 points with HTC holding a slim 10-7 lead, but Hoenig went on a run from the line giving the Crusaders a comfortable 18-10 lead. The Falcons managed to trade points with Holy Trinity, but couldn't ever muster a run and the Crusaders ended it on a Box kill.

Box ended the game with 10 attacks and 23 kills and only three errors on the night. Box also recorded 11 digs and three block assists.

"Box is just a great asset," Freesmeier said. "We know we can go to her if we need a quick kill and we know she'll get the job done. We keep her in full rotation now so she's got that shot from the back row, too."

Pothitakis went 19 to 20 serving with three aces. She also had eight digs. Anderson had 10 attacks, 10 kills, and five digs on the night. Boeding had 13 digs and was 10 of 11 from the service line. Hoenig was 15 of 15 at the line with three aces. Senior Maya Rashid was all over the floor with 39 assists on the night. It was the first outing of the season for Holy Trinity and Freesmeier said once they got the nerves out they played pretty well. "You know, we're still a little rusty, but we did some really good things tonight," she said. "Our offense is starting to come together. This was the first game, so we got those first-game jitters out of the way. I think it's going to be a fun year. These kids are focused and it's going to be a pleasure to watch them get better and better as the season goes."

As for the No. 2 ranking to start the season, Freesmeier said she didn't really expect that, but the team isn't wrapped up in the hype. "No, I didn't expect a top 2 but we gave them a good run at the state tournament last year and sometimes they don't forget that. But we try not to focus on the ranking and just focus on one game at a time. I told them for the first game I'll take that -- we did some really good things."

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September 22nd, 2017
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6th Annual Ladies Golf Outing

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Welcome all you
Cowboys & Cowgirls...

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**From the Front/Weather**

**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WED 30 Aug</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>76.2º F</td>
<td>59.9º F</td>
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<tr>
<td>THU 31 Aug</td>
<td>Light Rain</td>
<td>70.0º F</td>
<td>57.1º F</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI 01 Sep</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>70.4º F</td>
<td>50.4º F</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 02 Sep</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>66.8º F</td>
<td>47.5º F</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 03 Sep</td>
<td>Clear Skies</td>
<td>75.3º F</td>
<td>65.8º F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OpenWeatherMap

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**Donations can be made online through family’s GoFundMe page**

**BENEFIT - Continued from Page 1**

Strong" wristbands and car and window decals. Hernandez, and his wife Ashley (Orlandini) Hernandez have two boys, Kellan, 6, and Jax, 2. He was kept in Iowa City ICU for three weeks before being sent to Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Omaha.

"He'll do the rest of his rehab there and then hopefully they'll send him home," said Cameron's mother Lori.

"He's doing well now but he has a long way to go. He's walking with some assistance and his mind is all there so he's really doing remarkable." Lori said she didn't even know about the donations until she saw the event on Facebook and then was moved to tears.

"They have just decided out of the goodness of their heart to do this for us. My mother, who has passed now, was good friends of the owners and so was my husband's dad. We also have a GoFundMe page to help raise money, but this is just their way of helping." According to the site, "Cameron had suffered a massive brain bleed. It has been determined that he has an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM), which had ruptured and bled into his thalamus area of the brain. What this means is that his brain was under a great deal of pressure to accommodate his bleeding, causing significant damage. An MRI has determined that his brain stem is unharmed, but that there is an area of significant permanent damage in his brain. It remains undetermined what level of function will return." The site has set a goal of $25K and as of Aug. 29 was at just under $15,000.

Ashley had an in-home day care business that she's since had to close down in order to care for the family. Lori said that Cameron will likely be moved to some sort of disability depending on the how his body rehabilitates.

"The outpouring from the community has been so overwhelming I almost can't breathe sometimes," Lori said.

Another benefit is being planned for Nov. 5 in Burlington but the details on that event aren't available yet.