SPORTS:
Lady Hounds down Fairfield; Hounds travel to Clear Creek Amana Friday.

See page 4

Rodeo starts with CINCH Shootout

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Rolling over four years of helping local students with specialized studies and exposing them to culinary arts, the Elliott Test Kitchen is seeing growth beyond founder Kumar Wickramasingha’s expectations.

At his fourth open house since 2015, Wickramasingha says he's gone from about 30 students in various initial programs to more than 200 this year. Although he says some of the 200 registered may be the same students registering for different sessions, he says he has to look at them individually because he feeds students while they are at programs.

“My philosophy was that prior after-school programs were kind of looked at as something like a punishment and I want to break that. I want them to come in and feel welcomed and we've been working on that.

Part of the new growth, “STEMS” from a new program that is currently under way with more than 60 students signed up. Wickramasingha has teamed up with the Fort Madison High School’s Robotics Club.

See KUMAR, page 13

Kumar Wickramasingha works with students in this photo from last year at the Elliott Test Kitchen. Wickramasingha said enrollment is up from 20 in 2015 when he first opened to more than 200 registrations this year.
At left, Dawson Jandreau gets thrown high off his saddle in the saddle bronc event Wednesday night at the C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena as part of the CINCH Shootout. Below, Clint Cooper dismounts after roping a calf and while holding his rope in his mouth. Cooper would throw the calf to the ground and tie up three legs. That tie would have to hold for six seconds for the ride to count.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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Founded in 2016

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For the Record/Lottery Numbers

Pen City Current - Thursday, September 6, 2018 - 3

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
09/04/18 - 2:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a personal injury accident at the intersection of 27th Street and Avenue M.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
09/04/18 - 6:06 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 5800 block of Avenue G.

09/04/18 - 6:46 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Robert Russell Bennett, 57, of Keokuk in the 3400 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on a warrant for contempt. He was released on bond.

09/04/18 - 9:20 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Sharel Ann Creek, 56, of Donnellson, in the 2300 block of 160th Avenue in Donnellson on a charge of first-degree harassment. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Those listed above are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report
09/01/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one smoke detector malfunction

09/02/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls, one smoke alarm

09/03/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls one flash fire

09/04/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call, one vehicle accident with injuries, one vehicle accident with leaking fluid.

CURRENT-LEE

Quarry Creek Sidewalk Sales run through Sunday

Quarry Creek Elk and Bison Company’s annual Sidewalk Sales are going on now through September 9th. Save up to 75% on select merchandise, 20% off all Carhartt apparel, plus receive a FREE ticket for Thursday night’s Rodeo for every $50 purchase of Wrangler products. Make sure you stop in after the parade on Saturday and grab a bite to eat from Fort Madison’s favorite food truck, Twisted River 61.

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<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cutoff Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
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<td>Mega Millions®</td>
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<td>Powerball®</td>
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At top, Sherry Cer-vi gets close to the barrel on the second turn in the CINCH Shootout barrel rac-ing event Wednesday night. At left, bullrider, Travor Reisto es- capes to the left as rodeo clowns distract the bucking animal.

FMCH Welcomes Dr. Josh Sirucek

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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.
Spikers have taken five of the last six matches after tough season-openingourney

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG   
PCC EDITOR

FAIRFIELD - The Fort Madison girls volleyball team is on a five-match win streak taking four out of five contests on Saturday at the Quincy Tournament and then going to Fairfield and sweeping the highly touted Trojans in three straight.

The Hounds move to 9-4 on the year and 2-0 in conference play. After coming out of the Bondurant-Farrar touunry splitting six matches to open the season, the Hounds have won six of their last seven with the only loss coming to Pekin, Ill., at the Quincy Tournament on Saturday.

On Tuesday at Fairfield, Fort Madison won 25-23, 25-20, and 25-21. Junior Jillian Wiseman had 16 kills on 37 attacks at the net for the Hounds on the night. Sophomore Lauren Bailey went 16-16 serving with an ace and offered up 33 assists on the night.

Senior Kaeli Hutson was 30-34 on attacks with nine kills and eight blocks in the front for Fort Madison. Senior Josie Pumphrey went 14-14 at the service line with a couple of aces and 22 digs. Other top hitters for Fort Madison included senior Jassmine Bass with six kills and two blocks, senior Olivia Williams was 23-25 attacking and had five kills and 10 digs.

In the Pekin match, Williams had four kills on 17 attacks with Wiseman, Hutson, and Bass combining for nine kills on 42 attacks at the net. Bailey led the squad with 10 assists and Pumphrey had 15 digs on defense in the 13-25, 15-25 loss.

Against Quincy's varsity squad, the Hounds dropped the first game 17-25, but rebounded for a 26-24 win and then won the tiebreaker 15-12. Bailey was 11-11 serving with 25 assists moving the ball to hitters Wiseman, Bass, Williams, and Hutson. Wiseman had 11 kills on 30 attacks over the three-game match. Hutson had seven kills on 26 attacks. Junior Jenna Jones went 14 of 15 at the service line with two aces in the win.

The Hounds didn't drop another set the rest of the day knocking off Quincy JV 25-15, 25-18 and then taking two from East St. Louis, 25-19, 25-22 and 25-14, 25-22.

The ladies play host to Washington on Thursday in a freshman, junior varsity, varsity tilt beginning at 5:45 p.m.
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On motion, Council appointed Matt Mohrfield as Third Ward Council Member. Mohrfield was sworn in by Mayor Randolph and took his seat at the Council table.

On motion, Council approved the agenda as written. On motion, Council approved the Mayor’s signature on an Agreement “Location Cooperation” between the City, Department of Utilities, Trinity Catholic Schools, and authorizing the Mayors’ signatures on a Quit Claim Deed for certain City-owned property located on the GRRWA side of a boundary line, recently established by survey.

Mayor Randolph opened the public hearing Concerning the Transfer of City-owned property. At 6:24 P.M. on motion, Council adjourned until August 21, 2018, at 5:30 P.M. Mayor Randolph presided at City Hall, 811 Avenue E.

There were no oral or written comments. On motion, Council approved Resolution No. 2018-46, extending the time frame of the City-Wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District (URTED) Plan at 5:43 P.M. There were no oral or written comments. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-46, extending the time frame of the City-Wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District Plan until October 13, 2021.


On motion, Council approved the Mayor’s signature on an Agreement for Surface Transportation Block Program (STB) funding for the BNSF Bridge Study Agreement. On motion, Council approved the Mayor’s signature on a “Location Cooperation Agreement” between the City of Fort Madison, the City Airport Commission and Great River Regional Waste Authority.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-45, transferring and authorizing the Mayor and Clerk’s signatures on a Quit Claim Deed for certain City-owned property located on the GRRWA side of a boundary line, recently established by survey.

After the public hearing, Council adjourned until August 21, 2018, at 5:30 P.M.

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COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

100 years,” Cangas said. “I would hope even in my lifetime we don’t see this come to an end.”

Randolph said the festival was more than tradition, but a part of the fabric of the city.

“This is really a part of the fabric of who we are as a city and if there’s even a small way we can help keep this festival going we should do that,” Randolph said.

Councilman Mark Lair asked if going forward, the festival committee should do that, “so we can keep this festival going, we should do that.”

Randolph said the city’s tourism director, Kevin Rink were absent from the meeting.

In an unrelated issue, Varley said the first meeting on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe bridge study will take place Thursday.

“The city had committed $72,000 for the study and Randolph at the time said he was going to try to solicit some support from area industries and businesses. He said working through the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, he notified area businesses and industries of the city’s intent to help with the study of the current bridge.

“One of the $72,000 the city committed to the study, one industry committed $40,000 and that industry was Iowa Fertilizer Company. We appreciate them stepping up and contributing such a large amount to this study.”

Varley said the city didn’t budget the full $32,000 that was remaining on the city’s contribution, but he said staff will be looking into ways to come up with the remainder of the city’s share.

“This is really a part of the fabric of who we are as a city and if there’s even a small way we can help keep this festival going, we should do that.”

-Brad Randolph, Fort Madison Mayor

FMHS on the road at Tiffin

PREVIEW - Continued from Page 4

Shiffman said Fort Madison will have to continue to play assignment defense and contain Rohret and Figueroa and watch for junior Sam Stevens out of the backfield and through the air. Sophomore T.J. Bollers also runs both sides of the field as a cornerback and a wideout. Rohret has only completed 13 passes combined in the last two games for two scores.

He said the team’s motto on defense is just do your job and if everyone does their job the Hounds will be fine.

“We’ve gotta play with confidence, not arrogance,” Shiffman said. “I gave the guys a quote this week that said, ‘Arrogance is thinking you’re above someone else, confidence is knowing no one is above you.’ We gotta play with confidence and not arrogance. If we do that we’ll be fine.”

The Hounds had success shutting down the Hawks and Falcons offensively and have recorded 14 tackles for losses with speedy Romeo Maestro and Quentin Schneider playing containment and a veteran linebacking corp of senior Sam Haynes and junior Diego Lozano. Seniors Alex Lauber and Danen Settles anchor the Hounds’ defensive line.

Hayes lead the Hounds with 10 total tackles, while Maestro and Schneider each have nine plus and have combined for nine tackles for loss, four sacks and a safety.

Shiffman said Rohret hasn’t established the pass yet, but said he can throw and the Hounds need to have their eyes open and stick to their assignments.

“He’s not a true passing threat, but he can pass it and pass it well, so we have to be prepared for that,” he said. “They’ve got a couple different guys that can play running back, too, so we’ve just gotta be prepared.”

Offensively Fort Madison has been spreading the ball around efficiently with senior quarterback Lennon Barker completing 42 of 70 passes for 621 yards and two scores. He’s yet to throw an interception. Barker’s hooked up with seven different receivers led by senior Shaymourn Redd-Donald with 205 yards. Dom Frantz is right behind at 197 and has both of Barker’s scoring throws.

Lozano leads the Hounds on the ground with a 112 yards on 13 carries gobbling up 8.6 yards per attempt.

Shiffman said he has no plans to change what’s been working for the Hounds with the ball. The Clippers run a three-man front with the rest of the defensive running zones in the flats and secondary.

“We saw it a bit against Mediapolis,” he said. “It’s not a problem, it’s just different. ‘They’ve got a real good defensive line, definitely, and we have to do a good job protecting and getting the ball out quick. We’ve gotta find the windows to hit in the passing game and the bubbles and alleys we can hit in the run game.’

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and sponsorships will come along with that. “Last year, the FMHS started CyberHounds, a school robotics club. They had to raise money for that and they went to the highest competitions in the state. I had them bring them their robotics stuff to our open house at the middle school last week and kids were excited about that.”

The CyberHounds got up and running during the last school year and now the Test Kitchen will be the headquarters for the club’s work and fundraising activities.

“Now those students will be bringing their stuff in here on Monday which will be their headquarters for CyberHounds,” Wickramasingha said. “We told them at our open house at the middle school any kids that want to learn robotics can come over here and those high school kids will come and do some activities with them. At the same time they will over here and those high school kids will come and do this into the community for people to see the value of the program. We had footage on social media of this kid or that getting a 33 on an ACT,” he said. “You just didn’t see those types of things before.”

Over the past four years, former Governor Terry Branstad and Iowa Public Television, and many area and local media outlets, have made stops to check out the programs and community events taking place at the kitchen.

“Those people that were here gave it a nice thing, but they all went away saying, ‘Let’s see how this goes’ but now I have the numbers and the data and the reaction from the community to show how this is helping students,” he said.

The programs are also free of charge and support comes from area businesses and individual donations to the Elliott Test Kitchen Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

“There is no charge. If I were to have charged I think this would have gone down the drain,” he said.

Sesssions typically run from 3:30 to 6 with snacks and dinner included, with transportation provided from Fort Madison Middle School to the Test Kitchen on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Mondays are STEM study sessions with the Fort Madison Robotics Club, or CyberHounds. Tuesdays are dedicated to Middle School students with teachers on hand for various academic enrichments such as Spanish, science, cooking, and even chess. Wednesdays are math days for students in grades 4th -12th, and Thursdays are dedicated to science fair preparation.

Patrons of the Fort Madison Main Street were able to enjoy a meal at the Test Kitchen in January last year. Wickramasingha regularly opens up the facility to community organizations to showcase students mentored cooking skills.

KUMAR - Continued from Page 1

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