His hobby becomes a 3rd career

A former Evening Democrat staffer finds passion behind the lens

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A former reporter and editor of Daily Democrat sports will be duckin’ the puck at the Stanley Cup games in St. Louis next week.

Keith Gillett, 69, of St. Louis, is a regional photographer for Icon Sportswire, a division of XML Team Solutions, Inc., and was selected to be one of the company’s two photographers allowed to shoot the NHL Championships beginning next week when the Boston Bruins come to St. Louis on June 1.

Gillett, originally from Fort Madison, worked for the Fort Madison Daily Democrat during his high school days after turning 16 and was given the title of sports editor since the paper didn’t have one at the time.

“The Democrat needed a proof reader when I was 16. The sports editor quit, so I covered every single high school game the entire time I was in high school. They had no regular sports guy, I was it,” Gillett said.

“I even voted in the AP poll and helped Fort Madison finish 4th in the state in football in 1966. I was the defacto sports editor.”

Here’s an online ESPN.com story that features one of Gillett’s stock photos (see photo credit) from a St. Louis Blues/Boston Bruins game. See GILLETT, page 8
ROY DORSEY

Roy Dorsey, 46, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, May 23, 2019 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on March 22, 1973 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Carla Dorsey McKune. Roy graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1991. Roy was currently employed at OCI Iowa Fertilizer Company in Wever, IA. Prior to that he had worked at HTH Company in Muscatine, IA.

He enjoyed deer hunting and trading Magic the Gathering cards. Roy loved riding his motorcycle and traveling. He was a loving father and enjoyed spending time with his sons. Roy is survived by his grandmother, Helen Thorn of Keokuk, two sons, Vaughn Dorsey of Shakopee, MN and Alex Zier of Kahoka, MO, one sister, Becky (Bruce) Anderson of Bricelyn, MN, two brothers, Cheyenne McKune of Fort Madison and Curtis McKune (Valkyrie Clancy) of Keokuk, several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Hubert Thorn and his mother, Carla McKune. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Gregg Wiegel officiating. Burial will be in the Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to ManCountry.

GLENN H. GARRINGER

Glenn H. Garringer, 59, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 3:00 a.m. Monday, May 26, 2019 at the Van Buren County Hospital, Keosauqua, Iowa. He was born May 13, 1960 in Iowa City, Iowa, the son of Glenn D. and Mamie (Burkett) Garringer.

Glenn met the love of his life, Janet Wood in Florida. They later married August 21, 1999.

Survivors include his wife: Janet of Farmington, Iowa; his daughter: Seleste Garringer of Ottumwa, Iowa; his sister: Teresa (Dan) Hahn of Letts, Iowa; three brothers: Dale (Jennifer) Garringer of Korea, Joe Garringer of Williamsburg, Iowa and Ben (Queenbe) Garringer of Kansas. Also surviving are several aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his infant sister and two brothers, John David and Larry D.

Glenn graduated from Auto Mechanics Inc. He traveled the United States as a young man on his beloved bike, Loki, a 1960 Triumph. He enjoyed his travels and making new friends. Glenn also enjoyed listening to music and especially loved his animals Shadoe and Ivy. Glenn worked the last 16 years for Iowa Fire Equipment of Iowa City, as a service technician. Glenn will be greatly missed by his family and special friends.

His body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington for cremation. A Memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 31, 2019 at First Baptist Church in Farmington with Pastor Chad Welch officiating. A memorial has been established in his memory. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. The Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.
For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
05/23/19 – 5:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Steve Raekay Lodde, 28, of Keokuk, in the 1600 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for probation violation out of Illinois. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/23/19 – 10:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Mychael Richard Patten, 27, of Fort Madison at the police station on a charge of invasion of privacy. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/23/19 – no time listed – Fort Madison Police arrested Jalen Keith Kutcher, 18, of Fort Madison in the 3400 block of Avenue N, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/23/19 – 8:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jeffrey Lee Raines, 62, of Fort Madison in the 1000 block of Avenue G, on a charge of dog running at large. He was released upon citation.
05/24/19 – 2:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Gerald Earl Johnson, 62, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/24/19 – 5:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Sala Mariah Noel, 27, of New London, in Moncton on a charge of false reporting and accessory to a felony. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/25/19 – 12:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of Avenue F. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 300 block of Avenue G. Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 900 block of 48th Street.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
05/23/19 – 1:59 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Demetrius Alexander, 15, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/23/19 – 2:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jason Scott Cotter, 39, of Donnellson, in the 300 block of Madison Avenue, on a charge of violation of no contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Jail and held.
05/23/19 – 6:03 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Dwayne lemon, 25, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff’s office on a charge of willful injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/24/19 – 9:59 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Dwayne lemon, 25, of Mt. Pleasant, at the sheriff’s office on a charge of willful injury. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
05/24/19 – 10:30 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Dustin, 26, of Keokuk, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for violation of parole and a temporary hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

For the Record

Clean Home. Clean Planet.

Do your part during this year’s Spring Cleaning activities by making sure you’re choosing products safe for our planet.

Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

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- Check our website for proper disposals methods, acceptable materials, & more
Walker planning for big things from Bloodhounds

First year coach has team putting up runs, believing

BY ETHAN LILLARD
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON -- Fort Madison baseball had a collective record of 11-14-5 over the course of the prior half decade. Needless to say, winning hasn't been a strong suit for the Bloodhounds on the diamond.

Coming into the 2018-2019 baseball season, the Hounds and new Head Coach Ron Walker are ready to break that losing trend. How exactly do they plan on doing that? According to the new bench boss, one pitch and one day at a time.

"Expectations are high," Walker said. "We don't necessarily look at wins and losses, they kind of take care of themselves. Our goal is to be a better team each and every day.

If we do that each and every day, the wins will add up and they'll take care of themselves.

"If the kids keep working hard like they are, they have a good chance at putting together a great season. I'm looking forward to seeing what they can do."

So far, the season has been a wash (literally and figuratively) as the Bloodhounds have now missed a total of four games while playing just three. Despite the lack of regular game time, the top of the line indoor hitting facility at Fort Madison High School has allowed the Bloodhounds to collect some at bats and get back to the fundamentals.

"We're pretty fortunate to have the facility we have," Walker said. "We're able to set up eight different hitting stations."

So far in the three games that have been played, Fort Madison is 2-1 on the season. The win total has the Bloodhounds just shy of half of last season's wins already. Even with it being his inaugural season, Walker hasn't lowered the bar for his expectations. In fact, coming in as the new head coach has allowed Walker to look at the team with a completely fresh perspective.

"It's a great opportunity for me and it made it easy on me because there were no expectations or thoughts being put into my head of what this kid has done in the past or where he has played," Walker said. "We talk everyday about how no spot in the lineup is solidified by any individual."

While no spot is solidified, there are a few names that should hang around the top of the lineup for Fort Madison throughout the season. One of those names is senior Jordin Gerdes. Gerdes will serve as one of the top arms in the rotation this season and will also provide the Hounds with a powerful bat in the No. 3 spot.

Fellow senior Dayne Cordray will often see his at bats from the leadoff spot with his combo of hitting skills and speed on the bases. Cordray will also serve as one of the top arms in the Fort Madison rotation along with Gerdes.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I knew what the heart of the order is looking like right now," Walker said. "In our batting order here at the beginning of the season we've had Dayne Cordray, a senior, leading off for us, followed by Jason Thurman, a sophomore. Then Jordin Gerdes, a senior, and then after that in the four hole it kind of depends on where we're at … I've got some great at bats out of our seven and nine hitters as well."

"Jordyn has done a great job of buying into our philosophy and our hitting approach. He's been the leader with that staying inside the baseball and playing gap to gap. With his early season success, I hope some of the younger kids buy into it and it gets contagious."

So far this season Gerdes is 5 for 12 at the plate with three runs scored, three RBIs, two walks and one home run. Even he will admit, early on it was a struggle for Walker to adjust to Iowa athletics and transition from Spring to Summer sports. Back in Illinois, where Walker played his high school baseball, there weren't sports offered such as soccer or tennis. That's something Walker will have to get used to with two of the best tennis players in the state on his team in Jason and Vasin Thurman.

The Thurman twins again made it to the state finals in doubles action this season, conflicting with baseball practices (not games since they were all rained out). While it’s a new concept for Walker, it has been a smooth transition. He credits the work ethic of his athletes putting in the extra time to make sure they are prepared for baseball despite not being able to make it to every after-school practice.

"That's a big change for myself," Walker said. "Coming from Illinois High School, we offered two boys sports, baseball and basketball, and there was no overlapping.

"I will say that kind of blindsided me. Once baseball season started… I had a hard time understanding that we still had soccer and tennis and track and golf all going on as we're three weeks into practice. I'm big on kids playing other sports. I've got to tip my hat to our kids.

"We were inside the facility hitting at 5:45 this morning because they knew they had track practice or tennis practice."

The fact that athletes are showing up before school that early in the morning has told Walker every thing he needs to know about his guys.

"It makes my job really easy because that means they bought in," he said. "They're taking pride in who they are and what they represent. We talked about it early on, some-..."
thing we may do is offense in the morning and come out and do baserunning and defense in the afternoon. "I threw it out there to them and a week before the season I had about four upperclassmen come up to me and say, "Hey coach, are we still going to do the mornings?" Next thing you know we're going at 5:45a.m. every morning.

Walker played four years of high school baseball and continued his baseball career at Southeastern Community College. He later helped coach the baseball team and eventually served as the head coach for his fellow coach's son's traveling team. Two of the players on that team were Jason and Vason Thurman.

It's all coming full circle now for Walker who has lived in Fort Madison for ten years. However, just this season the Fort Madison Head Coach position became available and it seemed like the perfect fit and perfect time for Walker to make the leap.

Being from Fort Madison, Walker makes sure he reflects the same amount of pride he feels in being the head coach of the program onto his players. He also understands that while the community wants to see the program turn around its losing ways, it is also vital that these young men be taught life lessons that allow them to give back to the Fort Madison community past high school, much like Walker is doing now.

“We take a lot of pride in it," Walker said. "We don’t win every day, but as a goal, whether it's your job as a human or a baseball player, we talk a lot about wearing that Bloodhound jersey with pride and representing our family and our community as well as our school district."

“It’s the same thing we talk about when we say we want to be a better team when we walk off the field than when we walked on. We also talk a lot about life lessons and how when we go to bed at night, we want to be a better person or a better son or a better brother than when we walked on. We also talk a lot about life lessons and how when we go to bed at night, we want to be a better person or a better son or a better brother than when we were that morning when we got up.”

So far in the early stages of his head coaching career, things appear to be on the up and up for both Walker and the Bloodhound program. One key factor Walker attributes to the early success is the fact his kids are buying into what he is trying to instill into the program.

“I couldn’t be happier with the way the kids have bought in with their approach, their attitudes, their mindset," Walker said. "Our goal is to play the game hard and compete one pitch at a time and good things will happen. The kids have bought in early and that has led to some early season success for us.”

Fort Madison fans will have an opportunity to see the 2019 version of the Bloodhounds this Thursday, as Fort Madison takes on Southeast conference foe Mount Pleasant in a double header on Mount Pleasant’s home field. If you can’t make it to the game, be sure to tune into KOKX 1310AM on Thursday for live coverage of the contest, as Ethan Lillard will be there with play-by-play coverage for Radio Keokuk.
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Lee County Attorney’s Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim Witness Coordinator is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney’s Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and/or their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of files/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for effective prosecution, and assist with case management.

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level degree or in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or related fields or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.
7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney’s Office computer programs.
8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
9. Ability to multi-task.
10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.
11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.
12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims and witnesses of crimes.
13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court.
14. Ability to maintain a large caseload.
15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of $35,000 annually plus benefits.

For more information about duties email request to bbowden@leecounty.org

Please send resume to Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney 25 N. 7th St., PO Box 624, Keokuk, IA 52632 or e-mail rbraden@leecounty.org by May 28, 2019.
After graduating from the University of Iowa, Gillett was a member of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (R.O.T.C.) and when he graduated he told then-Evening Democrat publisher George Fish-er he probably wouldn’t be called to active duty because the Vietnam War was coming to a close.

“So they tapped me to be city editor and it wasn’t two weeks later….uh-oh….I was going active duty. George wasn’t very happy about that. But if I’d stayed I probably would have been at the Democrat for a while,” Gillett said.

Gillett said he didn’t have any particular attraction to photography; it was just part of the job. In the Air Force he used a point-and-shoot as a public affairs officer and did basic photography. But it wasn’t until he retired from the Air Force in 1972 that he began to have any particular attraction to photography.

“After I got out of the Air Force, it was a few weeks later I got into a weekly paper as editor in O’Fallon, Illinois and I had to take pictures. I realized I wasn’t too bad at it,” Gillett said.

He moved around to a few papers before landing in Mascoutah, Illinois where he was named what he described as the ‘do-everything editor with no staff’.

He said he liked to enter contests competing with other photographers and realized his photography stacked up against some of the best in his division.

“One of the proudest moments I’ve had is I was sitting at the table in Springfield, right with the Chicago Tribune staff and my stack (of awards) was a big as theirs,” he said.

When he retired at the age of 62, he found he enjoyed shooting sports pictures and got on with Icon Sportswire. He said he makes enough to pay for gas and overnight lodging, about $8,000 to $10,000 per year.

His work has been featured in Forbes Magazine, ESPN, USA Today, National Hockey Magazine and other national publications. A story he likes to tell is about a balloon fest in Arizona where he uploaded 100 pictures and sold about 15 to the Smithsonian Magazine.

“I probably would have stayed in Mascoutah, Illinois and I would’ve been a city editor and it wasn’t because the Vietnam War was coming to a close. So they tapped me to be city editor and it wasn’t two weeks later….uh-oh….I was going active duty. George wasn’t very happy about that. But if I’d stayed I probably would have been at the Democrat for a while.”

Keith makes regular trips back to Fort Madison from St. Louis to check on his 96-year-old father who still lives on his own on the city’s north side.

Compensation for his work comes directly from sale of his pictures that are uploaded to the Icon Sportswire website. He said he makes enough to pay for gas and overnight lodging, about $8,000 to $10,000 per year.

“He’s a fun advanced hobby for me. Right now there’s only about a dozen of us in St. Louis that are accredited in town. We’ll have more at the Stanley Cup because we’ll have all the big shots in town.”

Gillett sticks mainly to Nikon cameras and was showing a backup pack he carries with a severely dinged up lens.

“It’s enough to make it a nice lucrative ‘advanced’ hobby for you. You’re not going to make a full-time living out of sports photography anymore unless your a star with a big agency or publication,” Gillett said.

“This is a fun advanced hobby for me. Right now there’s only about a dozen of us in St. Louis that are accredited in town. We’ll have more at the Stanley Cup because we’ll have all the big shots in town.”

Gillett gets to shoot Stanley Cup finals in St. Louis.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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