Murder at MACC?

By Donna M. Monnig
Express Staff

Someone is going to die at MACC, and it’s your job to solve the crime.

MACC’s theatre department is preparing an exciting performance this spring: an interactive murder mystery/dinner theatre. Showgoers will travel back to the ‘80s for Murder at the Prom and test their inner sleuth.

“You’ll come and get dinner, and on your table you will have clues,” explained theatre instructor Joyce Pauley.

“Then you will watch what happens; the actors will be in the audience all the time, so you’ll get to interview them.”

At the end of the performance, spectators will fill out who dun it and why. The person whose answer is the closest will win a prize.

“The auditions were fun,” stated Jobea Branstetter, who was cast as Private Detective Kim Cranston.

“I always enjoy working with Mrs. Pauley.”

An interactive murder-mystery is a rare opportunity for a small community. It is not often that a spectator gets the opportunity to participate in a play, let alone test out his or her detective skills. Murder at the Prom is going to provide a fun, friendly environment for anyone who has ever been a Sherlock wannabe.

“We’re also going to encourage people to come in ‘80s prom wear,” stated Pauley.

“We will have a costume contest for the tackiest ‘80s prom wear.” The audience will have numerous opportunities to participate in the play. A prom king and queen will be crowned, audience may help reenact the murder, and attendees can dance to 80’s music during intermission and win prizes. Pauley also said that one lucky guy will get to be Patty Primpinpoof’s date. (She is played by a he.)

MACC’s theatre department puts a lot of effort into putting on the best play possible. This year happens to involve a performer murdering someone. Just who is going to die at MACC? More importantly, who is the murderer at MACC? For those who wish to know, the answer is: be there.

This pre-meditated murder will take place on April 25, and the crime will be repeated on April 26 and 27. Everyone will have an opportunity to catch a killer.

As Pauley stated, “It should be a lot of fun.”

Continued on pg 2
Financial Aid Continued...

Merit-based financial aid is typically given in the form of scholarships. You can find applications for scholarships for MACC on the Financial Aid department’s website. Visit the MACC website (MACC.edu) and select “Financial Aid” under the “Services” menu. The deadline to apply for MACC’s scholarships is fast approaching – Monday, Apr. 1.

Some students go above-and-beyond in their quest for financial aid. Kori Caswell was a Hannibal High School senior in 2012 and is now attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. While in high school, she aggressively applied for numerous forms of financial aid. Through her search and application, she now has completely paid for four years at Belmont, including out-of-state tuition, books, and on-campus living. Caswell provides a tip that she found useful in her applications for scholarships.

“There’s a lot of essay writing involved, and I would suggest writing a good stock essay about yourself and your qualities. Something you can edit easily for different applications. You also want to have a good resume built up of anything you are doing that is worth note. Also, just for professional purposes, having a resume is good.”

As the financial aid season approaches, it is better to be prepared and knowledgeable about the various financial aid awards available and know how to distinguish between them. MACC’s financial aid office is an excellent source for additional information, and applications can be found on their webpage on the MACC website.

By Kalyn Surls
Express Staff

After getting stored into backpacks playfully termed “Buddy Packs,” donated food gets sent home with local children who need it. MACC students have gone above and beyond to help collect food and pack it.

Wendy Johnson, director of MACC Hannibal, said, “The food items that are donated go directly to children within our own community who are having a need for food when they are at home in the evenings or over the weekends.”

From October to early December 2012, MACC Hannibal students brought in food suitable for donating to local kids. The food items were things that kids would enjoy eating that they would be able to make themselves. Other requirements were that the food be healthy and nutritious as well as have a long shelf life. Granola bars, ramen, peanut butter, and pudding cups were frequently donated items.

Extra credit was given in some classes for donating to the Buddy Packs. Mrs. Jeanne Bastian, instructor of several English classes and Hannibal PTK sponsor, gave extra credit for donating items.

“We had a really good response last semester,” said Bastian. “A lot of students, even though they knew they would only get a few points of extra credit, went overboard. They brought in bags that had a lot of food in them when all they had to bring in was one item.”

MACC students help with the program, but HAYES – Hannibal Alliance for Youth Success – is the entity that runs the program in the Hannibal area. HAYES organizes multiple programs, including mentoring, mental health and dental care, and Buddy Packs, all for children in the area. F.A.C.T. – Families and Communities Together – is the working body of the organization for the Buddy Packs that promotes the program in Hannibal, as well as collecting and distributing the Buddy Packs to local elementary students.

Within MACC, PTK – Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society, as well as other volunteers, helped in donating and packing Buddy Packs. Once the food was gathered, it was taken to the F.A.C.T. building where it was sorted and packed for local elementary students to take home. Michael Raynolds, an MACC student, worked on the line to help package food and operated the palette jack.

“I would definitely volunteer again,” he said. “The experience of knowing you’re helping little kids is very rewarding.”

“It doesn’t take a whole lot of time or effort in order to be able to assist with prepping or stuffing the Buddy Packs,” said Wendy Johnson, also a member of HAYES. “When you leave, it gives you such a good feeling because you know you did something good for the children in our community.”

If you would like to donate, look for opportunities in your school or community. The Moberly campus is involved with the Buddy Pack program and the Mexico campus has in the past. Columbia is the home of The Food Bank, an organization that gathers food and supplies for families in need in the central and northeast Missouri area. You can donate canned goods for families or Buddy Pack food for children, and you can also donate your time to help organize and distribute these goods.

“I think everyone should donate,” MACC student, Stephanie Willing, said. “I love being able to give back to the community. The community has been backing me so much, and I feel it is my duty to give back to them.”

Visit http://sharefoodbringhope.org/ to find out how you can donate food and time to your community.
Departing museum director makes impression on Hannibal tourism

By Jeremy Ledford
Express Staff

Those who have read Mark Twain have undoubtedly heard of Hannibal, MO, the town where Twain grew up. Hannibal serves as the inspiration for many of Twain’s settings.

The historic downtown district of Hannibal contains a myriad of tourism destinations, including the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum.

Dr. Cindy Lovell, the Boyhood Home and Museum’s executive director, is soon leaving her post in Hannibal to take on an executive director position at the Mark Twain Home and Museum in Hartford, CT. Lovell has held her position in Hannibal since 2008.

Twain lived in both Hannibal and Hartford for significant portions of his life, and Twain fans have flocked to both locations to learn more about the author. Collaboration between the two historical sites has been ongoing, and Lovell’s moving to Connecticut is only another bridge between the two locations.

Meredith Riggs and Kane Laks are Hannibal residents who have frequented the downtown area and shared their thoughts on the museum and Hannibal.

“I have visited the museum several times in my life. It’s a great tourist destination. I especially enjoy the third floor because of the old movie posters and historical artifacts,” said Riggs.

Riggs also enjoys the small town atmosphere that Hannibal has to offer, and the town has many locally-owned businesses that appeal to a wide variety of tourists.

Hannibal native Kane Laks remarked how other individuals he has encountered interpret Hannibal and Twain.

“Now that I am attending college away from home, I can truly appreciate how well-known Hannibal is. Nearly everyone I have met recognizes my hometown as the boyhood home of Mark Twain.”

The museum has been responsible for organizing many projects to further Hannibal’s popularity as a tourism destination through Dr. Lovell’s initiative.

During her tenure as executive director, Lovell organized the “Mark Twain: Words & Music” project. It is a CD compilation that includes a narrative of Twain’s life, filled with various original songs with themes related to his life. It contains the work of several famous talents, including Clint Eastwood, Brad Paisley, and Sheryl Crow. The CD was released in September 2011. Some of the CD royalties go to the museum.

In addition, Lovell worked with Missouri legislators in 2012 to pass the Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act. This act will see that Mark Twain coins are minted in 2016, and some of the profits will benefit several Twain historical sites.

Dr. Lovell’s last day at the museum was March 1, and she began work in Connecticut the following Monday. The museum held a going-away reception for Lovell on Feb. 23. The reception was open to the public.

Facts about Mark Twain

- Twain moved to Hannibal with family at age 4 in 1839
- He was a fully licensed pilot, in addition to his illustrious writing career.
- His wife, Olivia Langdon, rejected his first marriage proposal.
- Lost over $30,000 (nearly $6 million today) in investments for a failed typesetter, the Paige Compositor.
- Paid off all of his debts by 1898.
- Had 4 children - 3 girls and 1 boy. His son and one daughter died in their youth.
- Died in 1901 in Redding, CT at age 74.

Source: Mark Twain Museum
Candy Corn

Continued from last issue
Contributed by Megan Brock

I couldn’t help but hear the cashier’s words: the ‘No kid is brave enough to trick-or-treat her house.’ Even most five-year-olds know it’s wrong to leave someone out of the fun just because they’re a little….different. My cousin, who always went trick-or-treating with me, teased me all week long on how I was a scaredy-cat and there was absolutely no way in the whole wide universe I’d ever trick-or-treat the witch’s house because I was scared of everything. Then he’d remind me for the billionth time how I’d have to turn the horror movies around just to pick from the latest Disney releases on the rack just in front of them.

Halloween dawned, and I, dressed as a werewolf with a hood, complete with big grey wolfy ears sewn on top, and my cousin, dressed like a mummy wrapped in torn sheets, set out with my mom for trick-or-treating uptown near Hagood Street.

The sun slowly set, and the houses glowed brightly with jack-o-lanterns on the porches and in the windows. It was when my mom announced we only had time for one more house that I whispered in her ear where I wanted to end my night of candy-coated enchantment.

“I would like to go to Mrs. Monroe’s.”

The witch’s house was a big green two-story box house at the corner of a street with no street lights. Dark green spiky ivy grew over the outside walls, and the wooden fence in front of the house was crooked.

A big dead tree sat near the end of the house; the tree’s leafless fingers scraped at the black windows of the great two-story. The witch had cats everywhere: a big black cat on the stoop, an orange and grey-striped one playing in the overgrown weeds in the yard, and an enormous white fluffy haired cat spying from a second story window.

My mom parked the car right in front of the witch’s house. I was scared, and my five-year-old logic reasoned that since she was a witch, she might be off flying on her broom stick somewhere, and we should just leave.

Then the door of the house slowly opened, and the witch stepped out. My cousin refused to go; his five-year-old logic told him that you didn’t mess with a witch, especially on Halloween! Instead, he just sat there in the car staring at the house that loomed over us through the car’s window.

All by myself, with my mom watching me outside our old blue car, I walked up the cracked and crooked concrete path to the first step of the house’s stoop. I held up my plastic jack-o-lantern bucket. Shaking a little, I smiled up at the witch and said, almost in a whisper,

“Trick-or-treat.”

I remember how the witch smiled, every wrinkle whimsically dancing up and showing a few pearly white teeth. And then she reached into her pocket and dropped a few pieces of candy corn, which softly thudded musically onto my other glittery wrapped pieces of candy. Then in a slow, raspy, pepperminty voice, Mrs. Monroe replied, “Happy Halloween, Megan.”

And then with several cats that had been circling her fuzzy orange slippers, she retreated back into her house.

How she knew my name I didn’t discover for some years. As it turned out, Mrs. Monroe was a very smart old lady who was a professor at MACC, the college in my hometown.

For a split moment, I felt all the magic of All Hallow’s Eve whirl around me! I think I smiled for a full week because I had not only been the one kid in town brave enough to trick-or-treat the witch’s house, but I had also made that particular Halloween the best Halloween in years for Mrs. Monroe, who I learned was not at all a wicked witch, but just a nice old lady in Moberly who was just a little different.

I’d like to believe if it hadn’t been for Mrs. Monroe, I would have never gotten up the courage to rent my first horror movie, one of those evil faces trapped inside a VHS tape. Furthermore, if I had never watched one of those movies, I never would have discovered how much I actually loved monsters and how much I love writing about them, especially creatures from the black lagoon, hockey mask wearing zombies and, of course, witches.

MACC celebrates spring!

Spring Flings

Columbia campus April 3
Hannibal campus April 3
Mexico campus April 16
Macon April 18
Online April 15-29
Moberly campus April 24
Kirkville campus April 25
I’ll jump if you will!

By Kalyn Surls
Express staff

One legend of the famous Lovers Leap in Hannibal, MO may make you hesitant to get down on one knee with a ring near the over 200 foot drop. For if your lover refuses your proposal, you are now required to leap over the side of the rock bluff! Or so legend goes.

Lovers Leap in Hannibal isn’t the only one in existence. Mark Twain once claimed there were over 50 along the Mississippi River, but only 30 official Lovers Leaps exist in the world. More than 20 of these are located in the United States, and eight of them are in Missouri.

One mile south of Hannibal on “the Great River Road” Highway 79, Lovers Leap looms over the city of almost 18,000 residents. From its peak, observers can see for miles all around: houses dotting Mark Twain’s hometown, the Mississippi River and railroad tracks snaking along the ground, and the far off horizon on the Illinois side. At the top of Lover's Leap is a rest area with picnic tables, benches, and historical information. The 5-acre city park is free for the public to visit and is open from sunrise to sunset, but it is usually closed during bad weather because of the steep drive to the top.

It is unknown how the many different legends for the Hannibal bluff got started (though Mark Twain’s older brother, Orion Clemens, as well as a man named Arthur O. Garrison claimed to have known the story). Most center around two Indian lovers, and one or both jumped off the edge of the bluff that would be named after them.

One legend is that an Indian woman jumped off the cliff in protest against marrying a man she didn’t love, dashing herself on the rocks below.

Arthur O. Garrison claimed that he obtained the story from “ancient inscriptions on a birch bark manuscript.” It follows the tale of two lovers in the undocumented Indian tribe, the Kirglou. Peltacen, the most skilled fighter in the tribe, went to war against another undocumented Indian tribe, the Holrois. His lover was Altala, the chief’s daughter. She watched from atop the high bluff as Peltacen fought bravely but perished against his foes. Not wanting to live without him, she threw herself off the cliff into the river so they could be in the happy hunting grounds together.

Tourists on the Mark Twain riverboats are told the legend by their captains. Their story goes that the Fox tribe on the Missouri side of the river was at war with the Illini tribe on the Illinois side. The daughter of the Fox chief fell in love with an Illini brave, and they met on the top of the now named Lovers Leap. However, they had been followed by the Fox, and the Indian brave was going to be killed. To be together, they clung to each other and both took their leap of love.

The riverboat captains like to put their own spin on the tale, and sometimes they say that the two lovers survived by jumping onto a haystack or on a grain train. The stone on top of Lovers Leap tells the same story, minus the specific tribe names, and instead of the possibility of surviving, both lovers die.

Whether any of these legends are true, it is up to the listener to decide. There has been no documentation of these events, except for a recent story of a leap quite by accident.

In August 2009, Ruth Hart, 78, wanted to show her friend Nancy Strohl, 67, the view from Lovers Leap. She drove her car up the steep hill and was going to park.

“I hit the gas instead of the brake,” Hart said in an article for the Hannibal Courier-Post.

The 2008 Toyota Camry tore through the chain link fence that was put up to prevent would-be lovers leaping and went over the edge of the bluff. But luck was on their side because the car only dropped 30 feet before it caught on a tree. Firefighters rushed to the scene and both Hart and Strohl made it back safely to the top of the cliff. But luck was on their side because the car only dropped 30 feet before it got caught on a tree. Firefighters rushed to the scene and both Hart and Strohl made it back safely to the top of the cliff, thanks to the training that firefighters had done in 1997 just in case such an incident occurred.

Three and a half years later on March 5, 2013, HFD training officer Shane Jaeger and engineer Jeff Moore were honored by Liberty Mutual Insurance with the FireMarK award for their heroic efforts to save the two women.

But not all people get saved. On May 9, 1967, three boys went missing exploring caves around the area of Lovers Leap. Joe Hoag, 13, Bill Hoag, 11, and Craig Dowell, 14, have never been found, even after one of the largest underground searches in US history.

A stone with their names carved into it rests at the park on the top of Lovers Leap, telling their story.

The crumbling layers of Lovers Leap are the subject of painters such as Billy O’Donnell, who has made it his mission to compose a painting from every county in Missouri.

Though Hannibal’s Lovers Leap has many sad tales, it is still a beautiful place for a picnic or to sit and think that overlooks the great Mississippi River. But don’t jump; it is a long way down.

For more information, visit www.greatriverroad.com
www.hannibal.net
www.visithannibalmo.com
www.connectirstates.com
Is anybody out there?  

By Donna Monnig  
Express staff

Imagine putting countless hours into memorizing lines, rehearsing scenes, choreographing moves and action, and getting ready for a play. At long last, opening night arrives. Everyone is ready to put on a high caliber performance. The curtains are pulled back so the show can begin, only for the actors to discover a handful of people in the audience. The majority of the chairs in the spacious auditorium are empty.

MACC's theatre department puts on two high caliber, professional quality plays a year: one in the spring and one in the fall. MACC students get in free to most plays and other attendees get in for a mere $5 per person. Yet, play attendance at MACC is negligible at best.

According to a survey of MACC students, very few students have ever attended a MACC play. One primary suggestion for increasing attendance at plays was “better advertising”.

“Maybe there could be more advertisements on MACC’s web page,” suggested Alex Houston.

“With pictures of the actors, to have a visual aid, and the show dates with the pictures.”

Several students stated that not enough professors mention the plays. A few students recommended that MACC send out e-mails to students telling about the plays.

Jessie Fluegg proposed that students sell tickets to family and friends who do not attend MACC.

Another popular suggestion by many students was that MACC should offer popcorn, drinks, and snacks during the plays.

“Selling popcorn and soda might increase attendance,” said Megan Brock. “Also, bigger posters for the plays would be nice.”

One consistent complaint from students who were surveyed was that there’s no synopsis telling about the play accompanying the advertising flyers.

A favorite idea among survey participants was that professors offer 10-15 extra credit points for attending an MACC play; they would be more likely to go.

“Just announce it in classes and offer extra credit to students who go,” stated Shannon Grenke.

Many students believe it would increase spirit and community at MACC if more students attended MACC plays. Some stated that they would be better able to attend if the plays were offered on weekdays or Sundays. A few suggested having the plays in the late afternoon; most students are out of class and could go straight to the play without having to wait around for several hours.

MACC offers a variety of free activities to students such as plays, basketball games, clubs, and other events. When students don’t take advantage of these events, they miss out on opportunities.

How do you know you won’t like the play unless you attend it to find out?

Joyce Pauley, MACC’s theatre instructor, says that students have nothing to lose by attending. They get in free and can get up and leave if they don’t like it.

Going to the plays, basketball games, and other MACC events is a way to support your friends, build community, and enjoy yourself. This semester’s play is scheduled for Apr. 25, 26, and 27. Fill up those empty seats, have a great time, and support MACC’s fine arts.

Around campus...

Jamie Birge  
Hometown: Huntsville, Mo  
MACC Moberly

Have you ever been to an MACC play?

“No I haven’t, but I will try to come see this one.”

Emily Hazelwood  
Hometown: Loveland, CO.  
Campus: Hannibal

Would you jump off Lovers Leap with your significant other?

“No, but I’m clumsy enough to fall off on my own.”

Ashley Donald  
MACC Moberly

Christian Huff  
MACC Hannibal  
Sophomore

The Greyhound Express is a student publication produced three times a semester at MACC, 101 College, Moberly, MO 65270. (660)263-4110. express@houndmail.macc.edu

Editorial Policy: All letters should be no longer than 150 words and must include identification as student or faculty and a phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for length. To place an advertisement: contact the faculty advisor, Ext 627, or the advertising manager to request rates, sample issue, etc.

Lady Hounds finish 2012-13 season with 23-8 record

By Ashley Thompson
Express Staff

The Lady Hounds finished the 2012-13 season with an impressive 23-8 record and were the semifinalist in the Region XVI tournament.

Head coach Chad Killinger stated, "The most memorable things about this past season were being ranked in the Top 24 after going almost four years without appearing in the poll, as well as breaking a 32-year-old school record for points allowed per game. Anytime a team or individual can set a new record at a program with as much history as the women’s program here at MACC, it's special."

The beginning of the Lady Greyhound season hit off well as they took their first win against Culver-Stockton JV, winning 83-15. From there they had a winning streak of 21 games and a total of 8 games lost before the NJCAA Region XVI games.

The end of the season for the Lady Hounds was well fought as they wasted little time in seizing the opportunity to grab the #2 seed for the NJCAA Region 16 Tournament. With this victorious grab, MACC now has a 23-8 regular season record and a 6-4 mark in the Region XVI competition.

This year, after the Region XVI Tournament, freshman Kelsey Williams and sophomore Shanevian Holden were selected to the NJCAA All-Region XVI team. Sophomore Morgan Vetter received honorable mention.

Some of the notable games for this Lady Hounds season were: MACC vs. Rend Lake 86-39 at home, Westminster J.V. 102-35 at home and 105-25 away, Southeastern Iowa College 77-34 at home, Penn Valley C.C. 55-36 in Kansas City, MO, and Jefferson College 73-48 at home.

According to Coach Killinger, the two games that stuck out the most were the win on the road at State Fair, which has been a tough place to play, and beating Crowder at home. "The win against State Fair ended a seven-game losing streak against them, and we were the only team to defeat Crowder in region play, so that was a nice accomplishment."

The recruiting process has been long and hard but the coaches are satisfied with the results and are ready to begin the 2013-14 season. It won't be too long before we begin seeing the new recruits.

Coach Killinger added, "Recruiting is an ongoing process at the college level. We're really at a stage now where we are trying to determine which players we want to bring in for visits and see how they will fit into our program. There are a lot of things we are looking at as we recruit. We obviously need talented individuals, but we also need people who want to get an education and who are going to represent our program in the right manner on and off the court."
The Hounds finished the 2012-13 season with an impressive 24-9 record and runner-up in the Region XVI tournament.

The Hounds lost a disappointing but hard-fought battle for the Regional championship against the Mineral Area Cardinals. The Region XVI Regional championship was played out on Saturday, March 2, at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo. The Hounds took an early 13-point lead, but the Cardinals closed the gap and took the lead late in the first half. The lead exchanged hands throughout the 2nd half. The Cardinals maintained enough lead in the final seconds to win the game 77-70. Outstanding performances in the finals were by Hounds Mike Anderson who scored 29 points and grabbed 14 rebounds and TJ White who added 16 points and 5 rebounds.

The team would later look back and reflect on the successes they had this season; there were many of them.

The Hounds defeated the West Plains Grizzlies, ranked 1st in the Region tournament, in West Plains 68-62 in late February. The battle with Mineral Area was a struggle losing by 1 point 85-84 in January. They turned the tables by defeating the the Cardinals at their place just a few weeks later, Feb 13, with a 62-57 point margin.

Other notable wins this season were preseason wins against Wabash Valley 84-67 at home and 98-87 in the Coffeyville Classic and Northeast Oklahoma 98-84. The Hounds defeated Indian Hills 84-64 at home in February.

In Region play this season, the Hounds split with State Fair, winning 97-69 at home and losing 86-80 away. They defeated Three Rivers in both match-ups, 70-56 at home on Jan. 12 and 76-68 away on Jan. 26.

The biggest challenges this season came against the Cardinals (1-1 split) and the West Plains Grizzlies (2-1) whom the Hounds had lost two close games (62-58 at home and 68-62 away) but ultimately defeated during the Region tournament.

The Hounds defeated Three Rivers in the quarterfinals 81-61 and top-ranked West Plains in 77-63 in the semi-finals.

2012-13 Coaching Staff:

Pat Smith, head coach of the 2012-13 Greyhounds, returned to coach this year’s Hounds. Smith coached at MACC from 2001-2004.

His return to the Greyhound program for the 2012-13 season sparked Greyhound fans. Smith brought with him assistant coaches Andre Bell and Eric McCrary.

Bell played under Coach Pat Smith at Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota. He was also assistant coach at Trinity Valley Community college.

Eric McCrary played basketball at Mineral Area Community College, Southwestern Illinois Jr. College, and Southeastern Missouri State University. Before assisting at MACC, McCrary served as an Assistant coach at Mineral Area.