SPORTS: Central Lee girls get third win in as many days • See page 4

PEN CITY CUR It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, June 18, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 122

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City rethinks event fees

RIVERFEST: Lease agreement gets put in Mayor Mohrfeld's lap to negotiate

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A dust up at the Fort Madison City Council meeting left Mayor Matt Mohrfeld with authority to negotiate a lease agreement with RiverFest founder Charles Craft and the committee that runs the event.

At Tuesday's regular council meeting, a lease agreement was on the agenda that would charge RiverFest \$600 a year for the next three years for usage of Riverview Park for the four days of the annual event, plus three days to set up and tear down the event.

Councilman Chad Cangas initially made a motion to accept the lease agreement, but then without a second, conversation began about what some council members



saw as a possible burden the lease places on future events in the city No action was taken on Cangas' initial motion. Mayor Matt Mohrfed said in his opinion

the event shouldn't have fees attached to it. "I think we ought to let them do it for free," Mohrfeld said. "I think he brings a

lot of people to town, it's a great attraction.

We're in the business of providing services to people and not charging events money. Now, is that realistic? I don't know."

Mohrfeld and Craft spoke Wednesday morning and came to an agreement where Craft would pay for the utilities associated with the event, which was included in

See FEES, page 3



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

City fireman roll in a hose to help fill the city's swimming pool early Wednesday morning. The pool is slated to open for lap swimming Thursday and Friday from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. A free day compliments of Lee County Bank is being planned for Saturday.

FUNDRAISER CANCELLED

COUNTY COMMITTEES FSA accepting nominations for committees

WASHINGTON, June 17, 2020 - US-DA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for these members who make important decisions about how federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2020 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2020.

"I encourage America's farmers, ranchers and forest stewards to nominate candidates to lead, serve and represent their community on their county committee," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "There's an increasing need for diverse representation, including underserved

See USDA, page 7

BUDGETS Milestones offers countywide meal delivery programs

LEE COUNTY—Do you live in Lee County? Milestones Area Agency on Aging has a special meal delivery program during the COVID-19 pandemic to help you with food during this unprecedented time.

"We are establishing delivery routes for those who live in rural areas to make sure they have access to a nutritious meal," said Pam Taylor,

FMCH Foundation nixes 2020 golf outing

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital has cancelled the 2020 Golf Classic event currently scheduled for August 21, 2020. The decision was made due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation.

"With the continuing spread of

COVID-19 and the unpredictable nature of this pandemic, we believe it is the best decision. Our priority is and always will be the physical and emotional health, safety, and well-being of our community. We all need to do our part to protect our loved ones, our local and

global community, and ourselves. Canceling our golf tournament is therefore the only responsible choice," explained Carrie Green, FMCH Foundation. This annual event is the largest

See GOLF, page 5

director of nutrition services for Milestones. The communities targeted include Argyle, Denmark, Donnellson, Montrose, and West Point. Milestones can deliver 5 frozen meals, once a week to those age 60+ who are homebound. Meals are provided on a contribution basis, and include instructions on proper storage as well as re-heating instructions for the oven or microwave.

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For the Record/From the Front

Craft says RiverFest will stay for as long as its supported

FEES- Continued from Page 1

the previous proposal, but no daily fee would be assessed.

Craft said the lease agreement in front of the council Tuesday was different than the one he had seen about a week earlier when he met with Public Works Director Mark Bousselot.

"I want it to be known, the city's behind Riverfest and supports Riverfest and we support this city," Craft said Wednesday morning. "I had a very productive conversation with the Mayor today. He's working on the lease agreement. We're gonna be paying for the utilities and things of that nature."

Craft said he's also talking with the Mohrfeld about how River-Fest is giving back and how being good stewards of the city is a priority with the festival.

Bousselot prepared the lease agreement with City Manager David Varley's signature.

Councilman Rusty Andrews said he and Councilman Kevin Rink met with Bousselot about the agreement. Andrews said he commended Bousselot for trying to create some standards for all events. Andrews is a member of the RiverFest committee and Rink is liaison to the city's parks board. "But I'm on the other end of the spectrum of what that treatment should be." Andrews said.

"I've said for a long time that if anyone walks into City Hall and says 'I want to put on an event in Fort Madison, Iowa', the first thing you should say is 'what can I do for you'. Not hand them a piece of paper that shows a fee structure."

Varley said the council needs to consider the ramifications of giving things away to a money making event, but to not others.

"When park board approved this event, they also approved a youth fishing tournament from the conservation corp and they had to pay \$25 and I don't know what to tell them if you give this to (RiverFest) for free," Varley said.

"If somebody comes in and wants a graduation party or to rent the pavilion for a wedding. Do I charge them or do I say 'No, you're part of the community and we want to support you'. If you're going to discuss this you need to think about the whole picture."

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said there's a substantial dif-

Westbury Aluminum Railing & Ultra Aluminum Fence ference between a rental and an organization that has to put a million dollar insurance policy.

Andrews said if the event makes money that's great because it can be reinvested to make an ever better event, but no individual was profiting from the event.

"You find me an event that makes money and somebody's is profiting off it," Andrews said. "It's not a for-profit business. I understand their might be a structure there."

Varley said he could produce someone who said Craft told on Friday night, that all proceeds from that point were profit.

"Last year the person

See VARLEY, page 8

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report 06/15/20 - 2:28 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Christine Michelle Pennington, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Avenue E on a charge of driving while barred. She was released on a promise to appear. 06/15/20 - 2:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue I. 06/15/20 - 2:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue I. 06/15/20 - 3:21 p.m.

 Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L 06/16/20 - 12:08 a.m. -Fort Madison Police cited and released Tyrone Jason Brown, Jr., 25, of Fort Madison in the 2400 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. 06/16/20 - 2:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited and released Timothy Allen Regan, 24, of Fort Madison in the 2300 block of

Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension. 06/16/20 - 5:00 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested William Paul Cochenour, 50, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for probation violation. He was released on a promise to appear. 06/16/20 - 10:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kara Sue Nelson. 24, of Fort Madison, at the police department, on a charge of 4th-degree criminal mischief. She was released with a court date. 06/16/20 - 2:32 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of Avenue C. 06/16/20 - 5:28 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue I.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/15/20 – 12:10 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justice Cole Woodsmall, 24, of Fort Madison, in the 3400

Welcome (back)

block of Business 61 in Fort Madison on charges of possession of a controlled substance and speeding. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/15/20 - 1:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Delbert John Kellum. 45. of Keokuk. at the sheriff's office on a warrant for driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 06/16/20 - 11:38 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Loran Lee Cheely, III, 39, of Burlington at the Lee County Jail on a charge of serious assault. He was held in custody. 06/17/20 - 12:18 a.m. -Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited and released Jack William Skinner, 53, of Keokuk, in the 3300 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on charges of possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

We are honored to be joined by Dr. Courtney on June 1, after more than three decades of private practice. Dr. Courtney will be seeing patients at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.





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It's Black & White and Read all over

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Sports

Central Lee girls start season with 3 wins in 3 days

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – After starting last year 0-6 and then playing .500 ball the rest of the year, the Central Lee girls softball team is flying high at 3-0 this year.

The Lady Hawks have played three days straight to open the season and have given up just one run outscoring their opponents 29-1, highlighted by Wednesday's 11-1 win over Class 4A Washington in non-conference action.

It was a pitchers' dual the first five innings with the Lady Demon's Alexa Mitchell and Central Lee's Meghan Hopp turning up the heat on a otherwise cool evening.

Hopp gave up a single into left field in the top of the first to Kaitlyn Mitchell. Kellie Dallmeyer then hit into a fielder's choice eliminating Mitchell at second. But Halo Arrowood would gun Dallmeyer down trying to pilfer second with a nice catch and tag from Shanna Buford, just an 8th grader, over from short.

Head Coach Tiffany Woodruff said the girls have been playing some of the best defense she's seen in her two years at the helm.

"It's them really. I wish I could take all the credit. We're hitting the ball and our defense has just been fantastic," Woodruff said after the game.

"I don't know - it's just them I guess."

The Lady Hawks would get on the board in the bottom half when sophomore Macy Watkins drew a one out walk and then senior Daly Brisby laced a gapper to left-center pushing Watkins to third. Buford would then ground out to short scoring Watkins.

Brisby would get stranded at third on a ground out back to the pitcher.

Then both Mitchell and Hopp went to work in the circle. Both sides would go three-up, three down in the second. In the third, both pitchers would give up walks and singles to start the inning.

Hopp got an assist in center field when Zoe Eschman came up firing off a single and threw out Washington's Emma Herr at second on a force play. Then a fielder's choice got the second out before Hopp got Kinsey Duwa swinging to retire the side, one of her two Ks on the night.

Makayla Morrison would walk to start the bottom half for Central and Eschman would move her over with a single to left. But two flyouts and strike out stranded both the girls.

Washington would tie the game in the fourth when Kaitlyn Mitchell doubled to start things and then Dallmeyer would reach on an fielding error at short by Buford. But Buford would redeem her-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee pitcher Meghan Hopp is all smiles as Andrea Benner dives back to first for an out after bobbling the grounder. Benner made the tag and the Lady Hawks went on to win 11-1.

self starting a 6-4-3 double play on the next at bat, allowing Mitchell to score on the play. A pop out to Sophie Woodley in right ended the inning.

The fifth inning would be another three-up, three-down affair for both teams. Hopp would repeat the feat in the sixth, but then Central Lee would blow things open in the bottom half with the game tied at 1.

Brisby started with a single, her second hit of the night. But Paige Worrell hit a smash back to the Mitchell who fielded clean and threw Brisby out at 2nd. Arrowood would reach on dropped fly to left that advanced Worrell.

Then Hopp, Woodley and Andrea Benner all singled with Woodley and Benner each getting an RBI. The wheels fell off for the Lady Demons battery at that point and the Lady Hawks would score three runs on wild pitches and passed balls for a 6-1 lead.

Morrison and Eschman would both work a base on balls before Watkins hit one through the middle scoring Morrison still with just one out. Brisby would reach on another error in left scoring Eschman, and Watkins would come around on passed ball before Buford would ground out to Claire Linnenkamp who had come on



in relief of Mitchell.

Arrowood drew a walk to load the bases and Hopp then hit a smash between short and third to score Brisby for a 10-1 lead. Another wild pitch from Linnenbrink brought Arrowood around to score for an 11-1 win on the 10-run rule after five innings.

Hopp, who got her first win of the year in her first outing, gave up just two hits and two walks against two strikeouts and the one run.

"I first came out fairly nervous, but I knew our defense would back me up," she said. "After a few hits I got pretty confident with the girls behind me."

Hopp said this year has a different feel then the poor start last year.

"I feel like this year we're a lot closer and we started strong and more confident. We're feeling pretty good right now."

Brisby, who went 2 for 4 at the plate with a double and a run scored, said the Lady Hawks didn't want to repeat last year's slow start.

"We wanted to redeem ourselves, so we're ready to fight for this year," she said. "We knew we needed to make up for last year, so we knew we had to work in the off-season and get our confidence up."

Woodruff summed the game up quickly.

"That's huge. That's a big win."

The Lady Hawks (3-0, 2-0) take on New London (2-1, 1-0) Thursday night back in Southeast Iowa Superconference South Divsion play.





Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday & Monday, June 21 & 22 due to the Father's Day holiday. Breaking news will continue to be published to our website and social media channels as it happens. The e-Edition will resume publication Tuesday, June 23.

Wishing you a very happy Father's Day

PEN CITY CURREN

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Sports

Whaley homers to lift Hounds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

WAPELLO – The Lady Hounds engaged in slugfest at Wapello Wednesday night, but had to stave off a rally from the Arrows to get the win.

Fort Madison put up nine runs in the third and fourth innings and then held off a wicked rally in the bottom of the seventh for a 15-13 win, the squad's second in a row.

Fort Madison spotted Wapello a 6-2 lead through the first two innings, but then got the bats going in the third.

Ivy Geerdes started the donnybrook with a double to deep right field. Lexi Whaley, just an 8th grader who went 4 for 5 on the day with 3 RBI and a home run, singled and Erika Kruse hit a deep ball to center scoring Geerdes.

Maycee Featheringill would pop up to the pitcher, but then Neeley Rehm singled to center plating Whaley. Kruse would come around to score on an error off a Lauryn Helmick pop to right field. Emily Steffensmeier would hit a shot to right deep enough for Rehm to come around and score and tie the game up at 6 each.

Rehm would hold the Arrows scoreless in the bottom of the third and fourth, while

Fort Madison piled on five more runs in the fourth.

Senior Dalyn Wondra singled to left, and then Geerdes almost hit one out to center, but raced around to third for a triple and the Wondra RBI. Whaley would hit into an RBI fielder's choice to short, but reached safely as Geerdes scored on the play at the plate. An error and a Helmick grounder to short had Whaley standing at third and she would come around to score on an error.

With just one out Featheringill reached on a walk and Rhem would reach on an error in left. Lauryn Helmick would then hit into a fielder's choice, but again Wapello couldn't record an out on the play. Rehm and Helmick both advanced on a double steal and the Rehm scored on a wild pitch. Helmick would also score on a miscue and Fort Madison was in business up 11-6.

The Hounds would put up two in the sixth and two more in the seventh when Whaley yanked one over the fence on a 2-1 count with Geerdes on at first.

Fort Madison is 2-1 on the season after splitting with Mt. Pleasant on Monday and plays Thursday at Burlington High School in a double header.

FMCH Foundation scraps outing

GOLF - Continued from Page 1

fundraising event for the organization historically raising over \$50,000 for the FMCH Foundation.

"It is difficult to walk away from this event, especially at this time when the hospital is experiencing significant operating loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Green commented.

"We encourage our teams and corporate sponsors to consider making a donation to the FMCH Foundation in lieu of their normal sponsorship of the event."

Plans are for the FMCH Foundation Golf Classic to return in June of 2021.

Additional information about the FMCH Foundation can be found at <u>www.fm-chosp.com</u> or on their Facebook page.



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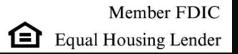
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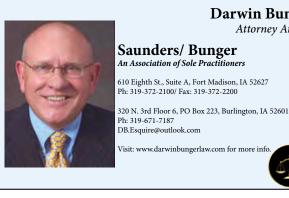






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More than 7,700 serve nationally on county FSA committees

USDA - Continued from Page 1

producers, which includes beginning, women and minority farmers and ranchers."

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program, and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others, and organizations, including those representing beginning, women and minority producers, also may nominate candidates.

Committee members are vital to how FSA carries out disaster programs, as well as conservation, commodity and price support programs, county office employment and other agricultural issues.

Nationwide, more than 7,700 dedicated members of the agricultural community serve on FSA county committees. The committees are made of three to 11 members and typically meet once a month. Members serve three-year terms. Producers serving on FSA county committees play a critical role in the day-to-day operations of the agency.

Producers should contact their local FSA office today to find out how to get involved in their county's election. Check with your local USDA service center to see if your LAA is up for election this year. To be considered, a producer must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at fsa.usda.gov/elections.

Election ballots will be mailed to eligible voters beginning Nov. 2, 2020.

Seniors have access to delivered meals

MEALS - Continued from Page 1

Milestones frozen meals are prepared locally by Milestones cooks. Most meals include a protein, vegetable, fruit and grain item and milk. Special diets are not available. Participants are responsible to comply with their own dietary restrictions.

To be enrolled in the Milestones Home Delivered Meal Program, call an agency resource navigator at 1-855-410-6222.

Milestones Area Agency on Aging serves older Iowans age 60+ and their caregivers with information and assistance, nutrition services, options counseling, elder rights protective services, and evidence-based health programs. Information and assistance and options counseling services are also available for those age 18+ living with disabilities. Funding is provided by communities, state and federal sources.



The Sonny's staff sends a heartfelt Thank You to our friends, old and new, who have supported us during the COVID-19 situation. As always, we work hard to stay stocked while providing personal service to our customers. Thank you, in advance, for your continued business during this crazy time, as well as after it passes... whenever that may be. Dale & Deina Merschbrock

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From the Front

RiverFest to increase safety precautions for 2020 event

VARLEY - Continued from Page 1

that runs this event said on Friday night, 'as of now all my costs are covered and everything going forward is pure profit in my pocket," said City Manager David Varley. "So don't tell me there's no profit."

Shanna Krogmeier, who also sits on the RiverFest committee, told the council that no one told Varley that all the money after Friday night was going to the pockets.

"What was probably said was that after Friday evening our costs were met so we could probably pay the bands for the rest of the weekend," Krogmeier said.

"No," Varley replied.

Craft said Wednesday that it's easy for people to count heads and think there's a lot of money being made.

"There's a tremendous amount of costs involved

in putting on a event like this. We spend \$6,000 a year on porta potties and \$3,000 on a tent."

But Craft, who has a background in event promotion, said these types of negotiations are typically part of the process and RiverFest will be in Fort Madison as long as people continue to support it.

The lease agreement, Craft feared, would be forced on anyone trying to build an event in Fort Madison.

"While myself and the Rodeo can afford to pay those fees, and all those fees take away from money for next year, this could be cost prohibitive for any other event," Craft said.

"I do not want RiverFest to be the reason someone else can't get it off the ground.

"I've had nothing but words of encouragement and support from the council and mayor. As a whole, they've been very supportive and think it's good for the city."

Craft said the coronavirus has had a huge impact on festivals across the country and he believes that he may be the only multi-day rock festival left in the nation right now in 2020.

"It would have been an easy thing to hang it up with COVID and just do it next year," he said.

"But were taking precautions and following state and federal guidelines but it's the number one thing is personal responsibility. This is a free country. Freedom of assembly and movement is an individual right. If you don't feel safe going to a large gathering, you shouldn't go. Do what you feel is safe."

This year's event is slated for Aug. 5-8th with tickets currently on sale online. A 4-day pass if \$42 and a 4-day VIP is \$72. Individual dates are \$30 per day and can be found at the following link: <u>https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/16290/riverfest?</u>

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Cancer didn't stop because of COVID-19 and neither have we!

Join us as we Light Up The Fight on June 19 from 6:00 - 10:00 PM.

This year we are asking our community members to purchase Luminaria Bags and place them at their home, neighborhood, or storefront then cruise around, taking pictures & posting on the North Lee County Relay for Life Facebook Page.

Undecorated bag with "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" with the name of Recognized Person on Label. Want a community member to decorate your bag for you? Will also include Recognized Person Label.

| 1 bag for \$5 | 1 bag for \$10 |
|--|--|
| 5 bags for \$20 | 5 bags for \$40 |
| 12 bags for \$50 | 12 bags for \$100 |
| Deadline for purchase with customized label is Monday, June, 15. | Deadline to purchase decorated bags is Monday, June 15. |
| Un-customized bags available for purchase | |

Wednesday, June 17 from 3-6PM at Central Park.

A Relay for Life Committee Member can also deliver your bags and glow-sticks to your door for a \$5 fee.

Pick up your luminarias at Central Park from 3-6 PM on Wednesday, June 17.

Please call 319-376-2249 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of The American Cancer Society and the Fight for more Birthdays!



~ The North Lee County Relay for Life.