

Don't forget Social Media! Check us out on the following sites @pencitycurrent: **INSIDE TODAY:** 

The United Way of Great River Region is holding two golf fundraisers this year.

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# Den City Current Friday, March 24, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 81

# Game(s) on at Baxter Sports Complex

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Baxter Sports Complex is getting ready to ring the bell on a new outdoor sports season and according to park officials it's filling up fast.

Complex Manager Wes Holtkamp said the calendar is filling up fast this year with a couple events starting before the end of the month.

"I was just notified that we are the local site for the Scotts' "Pitch, Hit & Run" national competition. That's gonna be held on April 1 and all the kids have to do is show up," Holtkamp said.

The event is for boys and girls ages 7 to 14 and is free of charge. Holtkamp said the event begins at 12:30.

According to the PHR website, contestants compete in four age groups 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14



#### ...s'and it's volleyball time

Two new sand volleyball courts adorn the Baxter Sports Complex property this year. There are three leagues set for this year on Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday and registrations are still being accepted. At right, Director Wes Holtkamp hangs netting in anticipation of the league softball and baseball play next month.

in a local event with the all-around, pitching, hitting and running champions advancing from each division age group. Age is determined as of July 17, 2017.

Participants compete in either the Baseball Division or Softball Division and have the opportunity to advance through four levels of competition including Locals, Sectionals, Team Championships and the National Finals during MLB All-Star Week. Those who make it to the National Finals get to be in the outfield to shag balls during the Home Run Derby.

#### SAND Volleyball

A new sport is being offered at the complex now that two sand volleyball courts have been added just north of the concession building.

"Yep, we've got sand volleyball coming to town which is going to be awe-



some," he said. "We have two courts and it's all lit up so we can play all night long if we want to. And the sand volleyball will have netting all the way around it to contain the action."

There are three nights of leagues being formed with Tuesdays being a competitive night with officiating. Wednesday will be more recreational and Sundays

See BAXTER, page 2

# Tri-State Rodeo kickoff set for April 8

## **Expressions art auction set for April 1**

#### **BY BRIAN RIGGS** FORT MADISON AREA ARTS ASSOCIATION

FORT MADISON - No foolin' - Expressions Art Auction takes place April 1st at 6:30 p.m. with wine tasting at Comfort Inn & Suites in Ft. Madison. The live auction begins at 7:30 p.m. and hor d'oeuvres plated all evening. Expressions is the main annual fundraiser that allows non-profit Ft. Madison Area Arts Association (FMAAA) to churn out a grand menu of regional programs and events all year long. Many new arts and cultural experiences have been intermixed with the expected line-up of fantastic regional artwork paired with amazing vacation packages. The entire auction line-up can be accessed at www.fmaaa.com .



Expression auction

At right is a Cattermole Library watercolor by OJ James Dowart. This piece is an example of the artwork to be auctioned as part of the FMAAA's annual fundraiser.

BURLINGTON - The 2017 Tri-State Rodeo Operating Committee will be holding its annual Tri-State Rodeo kickoff event on April 8 at the Boogaloo Cafe, in the Pzazz Entertainment Complex in Burlington.

New this year is a focus on enticing experiences. Silent auction viewers can bid on a Glassblowing Class

See AUCTION, page 2

The committee is inviting the public to attend the event which kickstarts the rodeo's 70th anniversary beginning at 8 p.m.

The committee will announce this year's entertainment including the specialty and national musical acts. The party starts with ticket giveaways with the music announcements following at 8:30 p.m.

Graphic courtesy of FMAAA.

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## From the Front Page/For the Record

"

## Battle of FM, flag football on for 2017

#### **BAXTER** - Continued from Page 1

will be a combination of both.

"That'll be more of a Sunday Funday kind of setting," Holtkamp said.

Holtkamp said one of the newest ideas for this year is a Battle of Fort Madison.

"This is going to be a fun event. You sign up as a team of six and you play volleyball, kickball and wiffle ball throughout the day on Saturday, June 3. It's a co-ed adult tournament and the winners will be determined by a point system."

Another new flare will be a high school level flag-football league. Youth currently in high school will be able to participate in a 7 on 7 league that starts May 7.

The complex will also feature coed slow pitch softball leagues again this year. And the complex will be the host for Fort Madison Bloodhound boys and girls soccer home games.

But the little kids get on the fields first as the Little Tykes Soccer league kicks off March 28.

Registrations are currently still available in most leagues and you can do so by visiting the Baxter Sports Complex website at www. fortmadisonsportscomplex.com. The website is fully integrated with calendars, leagues, registrations and those interested can register for tournaments and leagues directly through the website. Advertising sponsorships will soon be available on the website for those businesses or individuals interested in continuing support of the complex and its programs. For more information, contact the Pen City Current sales and marketing team here.

Holtkamp said this year's calendar is filling up nicely with a big jump in tournaments and events.

"We're looking pretty full for the year. Next Tuesday is our first event and that's the Little Tykes soccer and our first Bloodhound home game is next Thursday," he said.

"But we still have openings. Registration for slow pitch ends next Thursday and that will begin the 13th of April. Registration for sand volleyball which starts Tuesday the 18th and that registration closes April 7."

2016 was a great year, Holtkamp said, but 2017 has already almost doubled the events and tournaments taking place, including competitive youth baseball and softball. The complex has opened USSSA travel softball leagues and both the boys and girls leagues will play Tuesday and Wednesday night on all three fields.

"We're full every Saturday with

This is going to be a fun event. You sign up as a team of six and you play volleyball, kickball and wiffleball throughout the day."

-Wes Holtkamp, Director, **Baxter Sports Complex** 

some kind of tournament or event from April 1 to July 22, so that's really good," he said.

And when the Friday workday is complete at the end of the month, music, food and beverages are available with the return of the popular Party on the Patio, on the fourth Friday of each month starting in June.

"Registrations are the big thing right now. I can always take more teams," Holtkamp said. "There's a limit to an extent, but we haven't hit that limit yet this spring. Hopefully by the summer, with three fields going we'll have a packed schedule."

#### For the Record

#### Editor's Note: After careful consideration

and speaking with members of our readership, the Pen City Current will now begin listing citations as citations and not arrests. Although the report from the Fort Madison Police is an "Adult Arrest Log" and lists "Arrest time". "Location of Arrest" and "Arrest Disposition" the term arrest does have a connotation of being detained by law enforcement in some form or another. For example, several weeks ago we listed a high school student as being arrested when she received a citation by the police for being involved in an accident, but she was not detained by police. And although this was listed as an arrest, with a citation and release, it does to the reader seem as though she was detained. We believe this could be confusing but we want to be reactive to our readership when it's possible and we strive to paint the clearest picture of our community and its residents. Going forward, to be listed as arrested the person listed in the log will have had to have been, at a minimum. taken to the Lee County Jail.

> Fort Madison **Police Department**

03/22/17 - 7:50 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Rodney Parsall, no age given, in the 500 block of 14th Street for parking where prohibited.

03/22/17 - 6:46 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Cody Sheridan Collins, 27, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M on a warrant service for harassment-1st. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 03/22/17 - 2:52 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a call of larceny/theft in the 3600 block of Avenue L. 03/22/17 - 6:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a call of vandalism in the 500 block of 10th Street. 03/22/17 - 7:50 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Kevin Drew Washburne, 46, of Fort Madison on a warrant service for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Department

03/22/17 - 4:11 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Codev Lane Page, 40. of Montrose, no location given. on a charge of false reporting to law enforcement. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 03/22/17 - 9:08 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kurt Frederick Jensen, 46. of Mt. Pleasant on a warrant for contempt of courtnon-payment. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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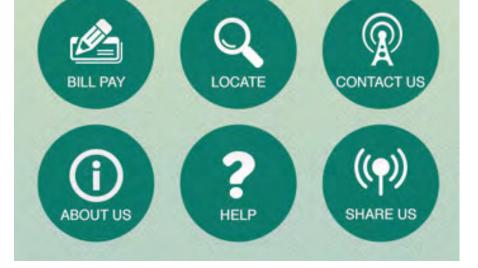
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## Obituaries

## CRAIG A. WILKINS

Craig A. Wilkins, 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. He was born on April 9, 1946 in Fort Madison, IA to Don & Dor-



othy Slee Wilkins. He married Patricia R. Bell on August 20, 1967 at the Sharon Church in rural Farmington, IA. He was the band director at Aquinas High School from 1968 to 1976 and band director at Iowa Falls High School from 1977 to 1978. He then worked at Fort

WILKINS

Madison Bank & Trust as a loan originator. He was the band and choir director at Central Lee High School from 1989 to 1995 and lastly band director at Fort Madison High School from 1996 to 2007.

He was a member of the Iowa Band Masters Association, Iowa Choral Directors Association & Southeast Iowa Band Masters Association. He was a founding member of Phi Mu Alpha collegiate music fraternity at Truman State University. He enjoyed traveling and adored his grandchildren, family and friends. He was an amazing teacher, mentor and loved touching the lives of his students through countless hours of jazz, pep, marching band and choir practices. He was an incredible music teacher who was a major influence on generations of music students in Southeast Iowa.

Craig is survived by: his wife: Patty Wilkins of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Ann (Mike) Thomas of Donnellson, IA; 2-sons: Robb (Carrie Sunden) Wilkins of Fort Madison, IA & Scott (Tiffiny) Wilkins of Fort Madison, IA; 3-grandchildren: Ethan Wilkins, Leo Thomas, Lily Thomas and 1-brother: Dennis (Kathy) Wilkins of West Point, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents and 1-infant brother: Gene.

The family will receive friends from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the Union Presbyterian Church in Fort Madison. The funeral service will immediately follow at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday at Union Presbyterian Church. Following the funeral, a dinner will be held at the church and all are invited. A private family burial will be held at Sharon Cemetery in rural Farmington, IA. A memorial has been established in Craig's memory, dedicated to music education. Online condolences to Craig's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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



## JOHN C. CROSS

John C. Cross, 52, of Ft. Madison passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 9:40 p.m. at his home after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on November 23, 1964 in Ft. Madi-



son to Victor and Dorothy Mansheim Cross. John married Connie Gregory and they later divorced. He was of the Catholic faith and was a 1983 graduate of Aquinas High School. John worked at Roquette and previously had worked at the Walmart Distribution Center in

CROSS

Mt. Pleasant for several years. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and played slow pitch softball when he was younger.

Survivors include two sons, Nate (Sarah) Cross of Ft. Madison and Nick Cross of Des Moines; his Dad and step mom, Victor (Esther) Cross of Ft. Madison; five sisters, Julia (Bill) Patterson of West Burlington, Cheryl Moreland of Ft. Worth, TX, Carol Day of Ft. Madison, Sue (Gilbert) Potter of Ft. Madison and Abby Ramirez of Burlington; two brothers, Steve (Susan) Cross of Ft. Madison and Bill (Loly) Cross of Ft. Madison; two step brothers, Cecil Dickson and Chuck Pilkington; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his Mom, one brother, Roger and his grandparents.

Friends may call after 2 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2016 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory where the family will meet with friends from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home with Rev. Bill Willis officiating.

A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at <u>www.kinglynk.com</u>.

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4 - Pen City Current - Friday, March 24, 2017





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### **Local News**

## **Event helps fund FMAAA** activities throughout the year

#### AUCTION - Continued from Page 1

at Nauvoo Glassworks. A tasty pairing of downtown Ft. Madison neighbors, Artisans and Simple Table, delivers the goods with Delicious Art-Beautiful Food combination for four. Sushi, dessert, and drink wrapped in a 3 hour mixed media art class! How about this for team building? Baker's dozen Horsehair Raku party at the Works. Group has option of creating their raku handbuilt or wheel-thrown piece at FMAAA gallery to prepare. Once fired the date gets set for outdoor adventure, whereby the party finalizes horsehair raku pottery at Southeast Iowa Works outdoor campus with FMAAA providing the gnosh under the shelterhouse.

Feel like a proper pampering? FMAAA offers VIP Parade of Lights treatment, offering heated hospitality with high backed chairs for cozy comfort for the Ft. Madison annual. Or take the Lost Canvas treat for 6 with wine, dessert, and a painting class in the eclectic atmosphere of the bistro gallery in Keokuk. Silent auction beckons you to The Stag for Massage, Manicure, and Spray Tan...or treat your dawg to Dawgs&Divas Pet Package. Even more enticing, take 4 VIP Tri-State rodeo tickets at silent auction!

Want to get-a-way? Thanks to Dave&Jane Bartlett take 14 to Myrtle Beach with 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, and private pool. Martha's Vineyard, donated by the Marshall family, has become a fan favorite at Expressions with availability for 13. This destination has garnered 5 star ratings from past visitors! Or escape to the Captain's Quarters at 10 Acre Treehouse in Nauvoo. This Swiss Family Robinson type experience sleeps 4 to 6 in pristine privacy thanks to Bob Hopp!

Tis but a sampling of the offerings available, but the lifeblood of Expressions is the regional artisans. So much talent, so many mediums..... wood both turned and carved, jewelry, photography, painting, sculpture, pottery, glass both stained and blown, and pastel.

Tim Laffey of Carthage is the Cover Artist this year with his Best of Show win at the 2016 Annual Member Artist Exhibition with "Romantic Landscape". Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at FMAAA gallery and Dana Bushong Jewelers in Ft. Madison or Weird Harold's in Burlington. Also, available at the door of Comfort Inn&Suites that evening.

Cannot attend but like what you see? Set a bid with an FMAAA Board Member for silent or live auction items.

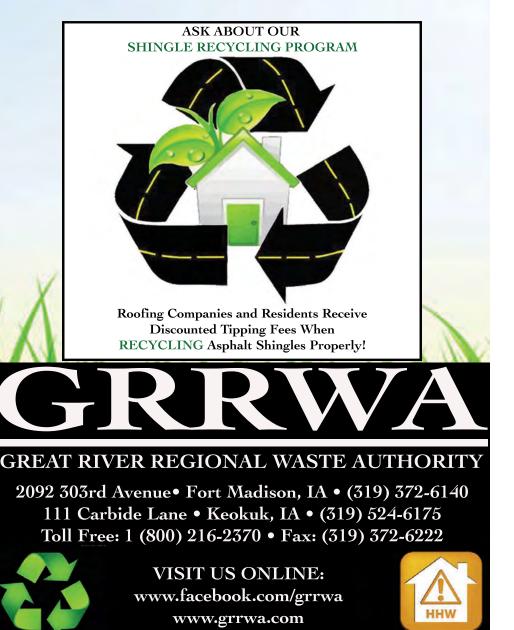
You can purchase event and raffle tickets from them as well: Angela Sodey, Teresa Dearing, Becky Carlsen, Mary Brockman, Coni Graber, Jerry Granaman, George&MaryAnn Gaudette, Gary&Anna Grinestead, Kathy Mc-Cracken, Linda Marshall, Cindy Roberts, Dorothy Kramer, Kelly Peters, Dr. Tim Benson, Pam Perdue, and Mio Santiago.

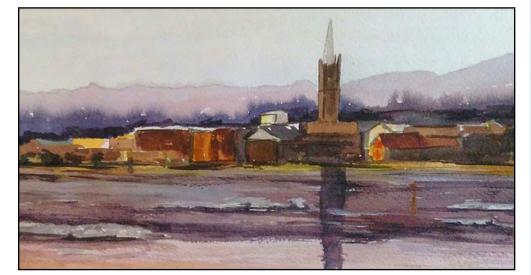


Great River Regional Waste Authority woud like to remind you to propoerly dispose of your Household Hazardous Waste, Construction Waste and Electronic Waste. Call GRRWA's Household Hazardous Waste Regional Collection to schedule your appointment Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm

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Waterfront watercolor

Photo by courtesy of FMAAA

The Fort Madison Skyline watercolor by Jessica Kirby-Runge. The FMAAA will be holding an auction April 1.

## Lick Creek to play at Tri-State Rodeo kickoff

#### KICKOFF - Continued from Page 1

You won't want to miss the excitement as this year's national entertainment; CINCH Rodeo Shootout and Specialty Act are announced.

The committee then invites everyone to stick around and enjoy musical entertainment by the Lick Creek Country Band starting at 9 p.m. The 2017 Tri-State Rodeo is set for action September 6-9th. For the past 70 years this premiere community event has featured fast paced Rodeo action, specialty acts and top name entertainment in Fort Madison, Iowa at the C.E. "Eddie" Richards Arena and this year will be no exception.

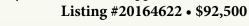
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## Area News/Classifieds

## Area United Way doubles down on golf outings

The United Way of the Great River Region is mixing it up in 2017. The United Way will hold two golf outings this year. The first will be an 18-hole outing on May 12 at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course in Fort Madison and the second will be a 9-hole glow golf on August 4 at Deer Run Golf Course in Hamilton.

"We found a lot people really missed the glow golf outing last year," remarked Jaclyn Lansing, Executive Director of UWGRR. "This way, we can reach more supporters and leave an impression by beginning and ending the golf season."

Carol Arnold, United Way Golf Committee member said, "The golf outing is a great way to show your support for the United Way and have a fun time doing it."

Net proceeds will go directly to help fund 28 local nonprofit organizations that show a measurable impact in the areas of health, education, and financial stability. Some of these nonprofit organizations will even be at the golf outing to show what their funding goes towards. United Way also supports key initiatives such as the Literacy Program and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

"One of the many great things about the United Way is the money stays in the tri-county area," said Emily Biddenstadt, United Way Golf Committee member, "Local money supporting local programs."

The United Way has already started accepting teams and sponsors for the May 12 golf outing



## United Way of the Great River Region

and expect slots to fill up quickly.

Several sponsorship opportunities are available as well as discounts for those who wish to sponsor both outings:

**Corporate Sponsorship** - \$1,000, both outings for \$1750. Includes name and/or logo on all advertising, 4-person team, hole/flag sign, carts, lunch, and drinks.

Team Sponsorship -\$360, both outings for \$675. Includes 4-person team, hole/flag sign, carts, lunch, and drinks.

Hole Sponsorship -

\$100, both outings for \$175. Includes hole/flag sign and a chance to be present at the course to promote your business.

Beverage Cart Sponsorship and Food Sponsorship also available.

To sign up for the United Way Golf Outing or to donate an auction or prize item, contact Jaclyn Lansing at 319-524-4504, or <u>director@unitedway-</u> <u>grr.org</u>.

United Way of the Great River Region serves Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

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#### **HELP WANTED**

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking a **Maintenance Electrician** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

The Maintenance Electrician will perform detailed mechanical, instrumentation, and electrical troubleshooting, repair, and preventative maintenance on plant process, utility, and packaging equipment. This position will perform multi-discipline maintenance and electrical work and maintain appropriate documentation.

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The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, the world's largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products, is seeking an **Inventory Coordinator** for the Fort Madison, Iowa location.

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Minimum five years' experience in an electrical maintenance field in a manufacturing environment. For expanded job details and to apply visit <u>http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers</u> and search for Req 2221.

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This position requires a High School Diploma/GED, strong math skills, and the ability to follow directions provided in verbal or non-verbal format. Candidates should be able to demonstrate a willingness to learn multiple job assignments, able to utilize Microsoft Office and Google Chrome, safely operate a fork truck in a manufacturing environment, excellent prioritization skills and the ability to perform multiple simultaneous tasks, with interruptions. This position must be available to work any shift and overtime as needed.

Minimum one year experience in a manufacturing or warehouse environment and past SAP experience. For expanded job details and to apply visit <u>http://www.scottsmiraclegro.com/careers</u> and search for Reg 2124.

Scotts is an Equal Opportunity Employer



## **Scene Around Town**



#### Shy...or dab-step?

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bobbi Redd, left, either is a bit camera shy or is showing off his best seated dab-step while visiting with residents at Sunnybrook at Fort Madison. Redd, and Amelia Bruhl, both 4, are part of the YMCA's Kids and Company and they are visiting with Barb Kirchgassner and Janet Clarkson.



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#### Future Bleacher Bums

Front from left to right are Zephan Abel, Lawrence Welch and James Salisbury and, back row left to right, are Ty Clute, Diana Wilson and Mark Philp. The six are rehearsing for the upcoming May production of "Bleacher Bums". The show is still in its early stages of production with shows on May 19-20th and 26-27 and sponsorships are still available for the production.



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