



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 191

American Legion sending eight on Honor Flight

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With Sunday's charity breakfast literally in the bank, the Fort Madison American Legion Post will now send eight local veterans to D.C.

As part of the Great River Honor Flight program, the American Legion Post 82 raised \$3,200 between 8 a.m. and noon Sunday to help foot the bill for the trip.

Dan Vice, the post commander, said the program buses veterans to Quincy where another bus will take them to St. Louis where they catch a flight to Washing-

ton D.C.

"They go to all the memorials, the memorials for the Vietnam and Korean conflicts, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, they get to see all those things," he said.

"People are familiar with that aspect of the program, but what they don't know as much about is the motorcycle motorcade that takes place on the trip home. It starts in Bowling Green and there will be people lining the streets and cheering and waving and just giving them a nice welcome home. It gives them some real closure."

Vice said that's one of the most emotional parts of the

trip.

"When veterans got back from World War I and World War II they were greeted with celebrations and parades. But the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts didn't get the same reception. We're just trying to make sure they get that recognition. The saying is "All Gave Some and Some Gave All" and that's pretty much what these veterans have done," he said.

At Sunday's breakfast it was common for people eating to make the recommended donation of \$7 for

See **VETERANS**, page 4

She's showing it's not just a man's world



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory mortician Heather O'Tool just passed 20 years in the funeral home business. She has been with King-Lynk for just over 10 years full time but has more than 20 years in what is traditionally a male role.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After 20 years in what was traditionally a man's world, a Fort Madison woman has shown that well...maybe not so much.

Heather O'Tool has spent the past 20 years helping families bury their loved ones, a career that typically was handled by men...in suits...with deep voices.

The wife, and mother of one, says that trend is going away and women are finding their own path and putting their own flare on an otherwise somber profession.

"It's turning around now. It's a physical job picking up bodies and not a lot of students are still doing

it. My mortuary science class in Houston had 120 students in it and I think only about 40 are still doing it," O'Tool said.

In bigger city funeral homes, you typically get every other weekend off, but in a rural community like this you don't get that time off. Some women want to be home with the kids, cook, have weekends off. And in this career you have to create a balance and lot of that stuff goes on the back burner."

But O'Tool said she sees families transitioning in how they want funerals to be conducted and by whom.

She said people are looking for that friend to han-

See **O'TOOL**, page 2

2017 numbers paint nice picture for RiverFest

Sunday rain hindered final revenue tally

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the second year of Fort Madison RiverFest in the books, the co-chairman of the event said there will be a year three.

"I think it's safe to say that just about everyone I saw down there had a smile on their face. That means it was a success in my book," said Charles Craft, who along with his wife Jenny and a volunteer committee put on the event every year.

He said if the rain had held off on Sunday, the event probably would have been in a better positive equity position. But he said the festival

did well enough to ensure a third year.

"We got some rain Sunday and I think that kind of hurt our attendance for the carnival and we did a promo - one ticket for one ride. The rain also brought in a sparse crowd for the Ozone Ramblers open jam that afternoon. Had our Sunday this year been what it was last year we would have ended up in pretty nice position."

Attendance was very similar to the 2016 event, but he said Thursday's turnout was really good and revenues were sufficient to show growth, which was the committee's goal for the year.

"We didn't make a lot of money, but the more we make the more we can roll into bigger acts next year," Craft said. "We did prove that we can put on that level of show. Now all we have to do is figure out how to get more people

See **CRAFT**, page 3

Advertiser Index

Boulders Inn & Suites Fort Madison..... P.7	Lee County Bank..... P.8
Classifieds Ps.6-7	River City Motors Plus..... P.6
Dave's Old Fashion Meats P.2	State Farm - Thomas Klann..... P.7
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis and Associates..... P.8	StopBullying.gov P.6
Fort Madison Chamber Riverview Games..... P.7	The Kensington P.3
Fort Madison Depot Farmers' Market..... P.7	The Madison / Rodeo Park Rehab P.7
Fort Madison Main Street Big Buckle Bash..... P.7	Trailways Travel..... P.3
Great River Regional Waste Authority..... P.4	Tri-State Rodeo P.5
Hill Side Inn P.7	Tri-State Rodeo Parade Committee P.4
Hope Associates Real Estate P.6	West Liberty Foods..... P.6

News Index

For the Record..... P.3
From the front..... Ps.2-4
Local News..... Ps.2-4,8
Lottery Numbers..... P.2
Obituaries P.3
-Michael Lee Doty
Weather..... P.8

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Local News/Lottery Numbers

Tragedy helped shape O'Tool's skill set

O'TOOL - Continued from Page 1

dle things for them.

"People don't want the old man with the somber voice in a black suit. They want someone they can run into at the grocery store and see at a ballgame. They want a friend that can take care of the family. They really do," she said.

O'Tool grew up in Northwest Iowa and graduated from South Dakota State with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and then went to Houston to attend a year long mortuary science program.

"Well, my plan was to come here and get my Iowa license. Iowa is tough and my plan was to get it here and then go back to Arizona. But... I

met a man, got married, and here I am."

"The people who ran the funeral home in my hometown were friends of my parents and I was always intrigued by the work that they did. That's what originally sparked my interest," she said.

The idea of a woman in the mortuary business was tough on the social life, she said.

"Guys would run when they found out I was in mortuary school. People have a general perception that all we do is work on bodies, but that's not the case. About 20% of the time is spent on the body, unless an autopsy is done. But the rest is spent on working with the family."

She realized the importance of her work and the impact she had on people's lives when tragedy struck her own family more than seven years ago.

Her husband Todd Matlock, complained of feeling ill one night during dinner and said he was on his way up to bed to lay down. O'Tool said she had just put their plates in the sink and went around the corner to see him laying on the floor, a victim of a massive heart attack.

"I was dumbfounded. You think someone in my position would be better prepared for that, but I didn't know what to do," she said. "And from that point on I had a better

understanding of the shock and loss people experience in death. Now I completely understand how people can forget pictures or where people live in planning funerals because they are still dazed and they're really still in shock."

She said he was her right hand man and helped her raise her daughter Kerrigan. With the 24/7 nature of the funeral business, she said sacrifices had to be made, but she never thought about leaving the business.

"The crock pot is one of my best friends. If I have a visitation at night, I would make sure the meal is planned. And when Kerrigan was playing sports you just made those sacrifices, I may end up at a softball game in 90-degree heat in a suit, but it's just the sacrifices you make for both the career and the family. We make it work."

O'Tool did an intern-

ship in Keokuk after graduation and then went to work at Lunning Chapel in Burlington for 10 years. While she worked there she also helped out on a part-time basis at King-Lynk for about seven years. She's been at King-Lynk full time for the past 10 years.

She said she has no plans to change her career or own her own business.

"I'm happy as a lark just doing what I'm doing. Never wanted to own my own business. I had an opportunity years ago, but I don't want the finances and responsibility of ownership. I just want to do what I love doing."

"I had a young lady that had to make funeral arrangements for when her dad that passed away suddenly. She said to me, 'I have to make all these decisions in less than a day and I can't think. It's almost like trying to plan a wedding in two days and I don't know if I'm doing all of this right.'

Death is inevitable and unfortunately we don't know when it will take place. People plan for weddings, retirement, kids' college. Heck most people it takes 2-3 months to plan a week-long vacation. More and more people are pre-planning the service they want at the time of death. It so greatly eases the burden and stress on the survivors at the time of need. I've never once had anyone say, 'I wish Mom or Dad would not have done this.'"

Helping people move through the phase of loss and providing some closure for families is O'Tool's passion.

"I just love helping people. When I meet with somebody you become part of their family. You really do. You see them at the grocery store. You may have helped bury someone in their family and they come and thank you. That goes a long ways," she said.



Montrose, IA Watermelon Festival

Thursday-Saturday Aug 17-19th
FOOD - CARNIVAL - FAMILY FUN

Boneless Ribeye Steaks \$6.99
8 oz. Each Limit 10

10 lb. Roll 80% Lean Ground Beef \$2.77/lb.
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Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Hot Lotto®	Wed & Sat	8:18 pm	9:40 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



8/8
11 17 50 52 74
Lucky Ball: 14
Megaplier: 2



8/8 MID-DAY
3 9 1
8/8 EVENING
7 0 8




8/8 MID-DAY
0 8 0 6
8/8 EVENING
7 9 0 9

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL LEE DOTY

Michael Lee Doty, 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. He was born on June 7, 1947 in Fort Madison, IA, the son of Fred & Patricia (Decker) Doty. They preceded him in death. He married Vickie Herrmuth on February 21, 1970 in Fort Madison, IA, she survives. They have two children, Shone Topham (Joe) and Chanda Waters (Tracy). They also have four grandchildren, Samantha, Alexis, Evan and Shae. He is survived by a sister, Terry, a half sister, Nikki and a half brother, Bob.



DOTY

He is a US Army Vietnam Veteran and worked for J.I. Case, retiring after 30 years of employment. He drove a semi for Chem Gro of Houghton and also drove for Shottenkirk of Fort Madison.

Mike loved life! He loved talking to people and laughter. He was deeply in love with his wife and he loved and adored his daughters and grandchildren. He loved to fish, hunt, trap and to just be outdoors. Sunday afternoons were all about NASCAR races. He loved Jesus Christ and it was very simple to him... Jesus loved him back. When Mike got to Heaven, he got a new tongue, and after loving on Jesus, I'm sure he said, "Where's the food? Lets eat!"

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A "Remembrance of Mike's Life" will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 11, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. A memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Online condolences and a video tribute of Mike's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



Carnival revenues helped carry event

CRAFT - Continued from Page 1

down there. We've got the management of the event down. We didn't have any customer service issues. We had some long lines last year, but we overcame that this year with a new gate. Not really any issues at all."

He said the carnival receipts were up this year compared to 2017.

"We weren't up by a whole lot, but enough that we saw growth and I think that's a positive."

One of the bigger success stories was the American Legion Honor Flight fundraiser, where enough money was raised to help send eight local veterans on the trip to Washington D.C.

"I'm glad we were able to be a part of that and help them with that event," he said. "I think we've already decided to let them do that again next year. I think it was a good cause and we do want to rotate that down the road because we don't want anyone to take ownership of it, but that breakfast will grow next year for sure. It's just an issue of seeing RiverFest grow as well."

Craft said he was very impressed with the enter-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Buddy Jewell gave a gem of a performance Saturday night at RiverFest. Organizers said the event was equal to attendance of 2016 and will be meeting to start 2018 plans next month.

tainment and was happy with the performance and reception of Buddy Jewell.

"His show was fantastic. He's a star no doubt. He came out and signed some autographs and then stayed around for a long time taking pictures. He kept a smile on his face and we talked for a while. He's just a great guy."

Craft said he wanted to thank all the sponsors for

their contributions.

"I definitely want to thank Rusty Andrews and Dave Clark for their contributions. Dave and Bob Britton both were part of the old RiverFest committee and they were a very big help as usual. Also, a big thanks to Pinnacle who had an employee picnic down at the festival and brought a lot of attention to the event."

For next year, Craft said he has a lot of really great ideas and leads for entertainment and how to build even more energy around the event.

Now the committee will take a month off before starting plans for the next year. One of the new events will be dragon boat racing which they want to start taking registrations in the fall for the summer event.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police report

08/07/17 - 8:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2800 block of Avenue N.
08/07/17 - 2:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3500 block of Bluff Road
08/07/17 - 4:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100

block of 48th Street.
08/07/17 - 8:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of Avenue F.
08/07/17 - 8:42 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 400 block of 34th Place.

Lee County Sheriff's report
No incidents to report.

All persons in these listings are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

08/07/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls and one accidental alarm.

Senior Community BINGO

2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm in our dining room

All Seniors Welcome Cash Prizes



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Jamaica is a unique country where you are sure to have unforgettable experiences. There will be plenty to do off the resort as well - all within walking distance, including Booby Cay, Kool Runnings Water Park, Times Square Mall, Throne Room and the Negril Hills Golf Club.

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From the Front/Local News

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Honor Flight just one area of service to local vets

VETERANS- Continued from Page 1

adults and then write another check or give additional cash for the veterans.

It was such a success that the RiverFest committee has already asked the post to host the charity breakfast again in 2018.

"We were invited again by Charles and Jenny to go ahead and come back and do that event again," Vice said. "We're pleased with that because all we're trying to do is make the community and the area aware of what were doing and why were doing it."

"We've got quite a few veterans around here who need help and they aren't getting it from the (Veteran's Administration). We're stepping up to help them. A lot can't afford to go to DC to see their memorial."

Vice said Velma Bogart of Fort Madison has purchase a full seat in honor of a family member who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967.

Vice said other fundraisers throughout the year provide necessary monies to help with the other assistance the post gives.

Last year the post did a fundraiser through the Eagles and we raised more than \$16,000. Lee County Bank, Connections Bank, Eagles, Siemens were all very big contributors last year. This year Kohl's Wholesale jumped in to help too, but Fareway was the biggest sponsor in addition to Lee and the biggest contributor this year was Fareway.

"They supplied 3/4 of the supplies we needed Sunday so hats off to them. I guess they really do believe in helping out the veterans," he said.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Post or the honor flight program can send donations earmarked for Great River Honor Flight or the post to Dan Vice, 30 Florence Drive, Fort Madison, 52627.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Work has begun on Phase II of the P.O.R.T. (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails). The next phase connects Phase I at Ivanhoe Park to 48th Street along the rear Middle School property.

TRI-STATE RODEO Parade

2103 303RD AVENUE P.O. BOX 80
FORT MADISON, IA 52627
319-372-2550
tristaterodeo.org



September 9, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Theme: "Kids, Clowns, and Cowboys"

Registration required! Entry Forms due by Saturday, August 26, 2017

Category Desired (circle one below)	Classification (circle one below)
Theme Float (\$100, \$75, \$50 prizes)	Competitive (\$20 fee make checks payable to the Tri-State Rodeo)
Non Theme Float (\$90, \$60, \$40 prizes)	Non Competitive
Decorated Car/Truck (\$80, \$50, \$30 prizes)	
Antique Car/Truck (\$75, \$50 prizes)	
Miscellaneous (\$40 prize)	

Name of Entry _____
 Contact Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone (_____) _____-_____
 Note special conditions (extra-long, extra-high, will have music)

ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE DECORATED TO BE CROWD PLEASING EXCEPT ANTIQUES AND MILITARY VEHICLES. FOR SAFETY REASONS, CANDY AND FAVORS ARE NOT TO BE THROWN FROM THE ENTRIES, BUT CAN BE PASSED OUT BY THOSE WALKING WITH THE ENTRIES

Note: Lineup information will be sent out 10 days prior to the parade. All entries are to be in place by 8:30 AM parade day. Competitive entries to be in place by 8:00AM.

Special Note: The Tri-State Rodeo is a private organization and reserves the right to refuse any entry on the day of the parade if the entries' message is not consistent with the express content of the organization. If you have any question about the entries' message quality please contact Kirk Sherwood BEFORE the day of the parade.

Please return the entry form to the address below:

Kirk Sherwood
31 Storms Court
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
319.470.3584

70TH

TRI-STATE **RODEO**

ANNUAL

SEPTEMBER 6-9, 2017

Fort Madison, IA



Wed., Sept. 6

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Thur., Sept. 7

PRCA

Rodeo Action

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Cody Johnson

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Fri., Sept. 8

PRCA

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with

Smash Mouth

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Sat., Sept. 9

PRCA

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Fort Madison, IA

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Classifieds

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Nissa Rung, Sales & Marketing Consultant
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com
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Fort Madison Main Street Presents:

FORT MADISON MAIN STREET'S 7TH ANNUAL **BIG BUCKLE BASH**

AUGUST 26, 2017
4 PM - 12 AM

Main Street's Premier Summer Event kicking off Rodeo season welcomes all ages to join in on the fun!
Adults: \$5 Kids: \$2 • Food Vendors
Beer Tent (must be 21 w/ valid ID)
DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AT IT'S FINEST!

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Boulders Inn & Suites, Connection Bank
Matt Lafrenz - Country Financial,
Hy-Vee, J&S Electronics

Classic Car Cruise-In

Starting at 4pm

The Voice Singing Competition

Starting at 5pm

Country Musician

JAKE DODDS

Starting at 8pm



Local News/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST


WED 09 Aug

 Clear Skies
High – 80.1° F | Low – 66.9° F


THU 10 Aug

 Light Rain
High – 76.7° F | Low – 67.6° F


FRI 11 Aug

 Moderate Rain
High – 84.1° F | Low – 68.0° F

SAT 12 Aug

 Moderate Rain
High – 79.7° F | Low – 62.4° F

SUN 13 Aug

 Light Rain
High – 78.0° F | Low – 58.1° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)



City workers continue with sewer construction between 4th and 5th Streets on Avenue G, behind new crosses with names of those lost in battles at Fort Madison. The crosses are lined along 4th Street and will become part of the new park being constructed on that block.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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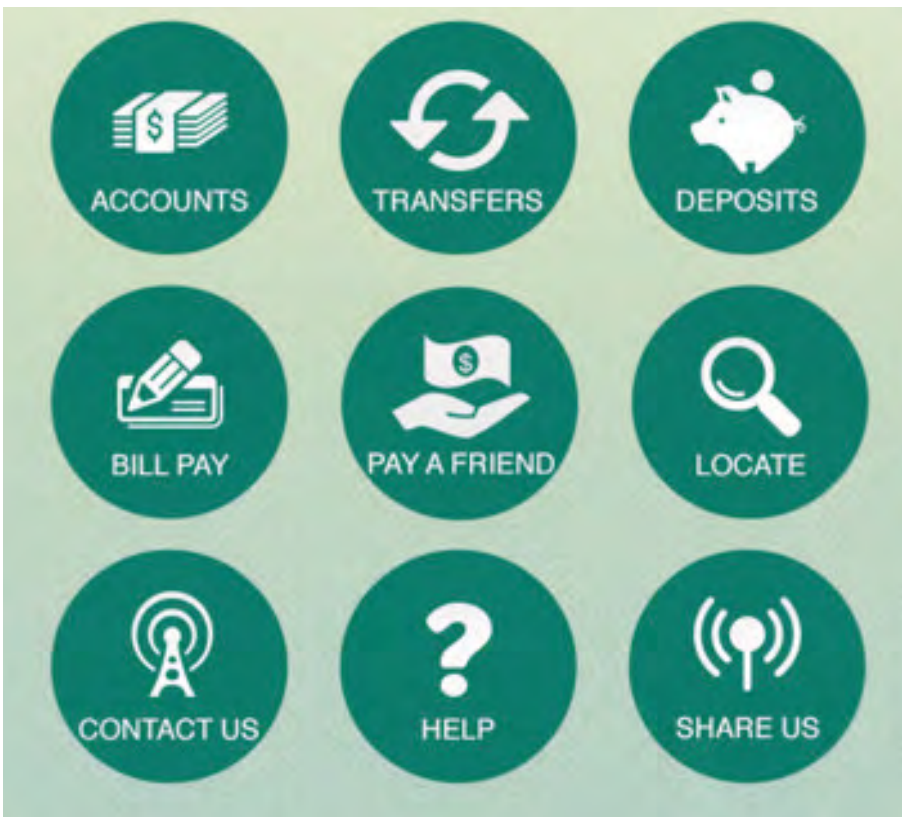
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