



Pen City Current

Friday, August 4, 2017 | 9 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 187

Perfect night kicks off RiverFest 2017

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The 2nd annual RiverFest summer celebration kicked off Thursday night with gorgeous weather and family fun.

Temperatures hovered in the mid to lower 70s and some heavy downpours stayed just far enough north to allow families from the around southeast Iowa peppered the lawn at Riverview Park for discounted tickets for carnival rides, carnival food fare and some good music.

Event co-founder Charles Craft said attendance at about 7:30 was very good.

"We've gotta be about 20 times where we were last year on Thursday," he said. "This is just a fantastic turnout. I couldn't be happier."

Festival goers echoed the sentiment.

Lloyd Elmore of Mt. Pleasant was standing by shooting cellphone videos as his son Nolan went upside down and in circles on the carnival rides.

"We're having a really nice time," Elmore said. "It's good that they keep bringing it back."

As carnival goers worked their way around all the rides with their discounted ride bands, most of the food vendors including Fort Madison's own Fork-It, had at least two people in line most of the evening.

But the rides were the focus of the early evening, before the music started in the Entertainment Tent.

Pebbles Schneider of Fort Madison was with her grandson working their way through the carnival games and winning big prizes.

"I'm glad to see that this is here for the little kids," Schneider said. "We plan on keep coming back, if they keep putting it on."



Beer (water) pong was also on tap behind the entertainment tent. Teams went through a double elimination tournament tossing ping-pong balls into half-filled plastic keg cups and the first team to land a ball in all 10 cups wins. Prizes including a trip to Las

See **FESTIVAL**, page 8



Above, Mason Roach, green shirt, and Nolan Elmore get upside down at RiverFest 2017 Thursday night. At left, Kurt Featheringill makes this shot to win the game in a Beer Pong competition as Wes Holtkamp and Chris Conover, far left, look on.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County GOP wants to educate voters

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After another successful annual dinner banquet and auction, the Lee County Republican leadership is looking to help educate voters on issues ranging from voter registration, to health care, state budgets, and more.

At a sit-down Wednesday afternoon, Lee County Republican Chairman Martin Graber said the county's Republican base is strong and is drawing the attention of state party leaders.

"We didn't ask for it, but one of the great things that came out of the dinner was Jeff Kaufman (chairman of the Iowa Republican Party) said 'I don't worry about you guys down here, you are doing it right.'" Graber said.

Featured state speakers at the dinner included Secretary of State Paul Pate and Iowa State Auditor Mary Mosiman.



PATE

Graber said the Lee County Republicans always try to bring in high level, high profile speakers who can provide educational presentations.

He said Pate talked about the things being done to eliminate voter fraud.

"You hear that that's not a problem in Iowa, but it is and he said there were five cases of Lee County voter fraud under investigation right now. You go across the river and it gets pretty ugly over there. But he said in Iowa we're going to do it right."

The group's former chairman and current finance chairman, Terry Schrepfer said education needs to take place in voter registration.

"I used to be at our headquarters on most days and we would get people who would come in and say, 'I'm registered as Democrat but want to vote Republican, so how do I change that?'," he said. "I was honest with them and told them they didn't have to change and could vote any way they wanted. There are people out there that still don't understand. They just think it's easier to vote the way they did last time."

Graber said Pate referred to more than 300 people who voted absentee and then tried to show up at the

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Obituaries

OBITUARY

CHARLES S. HARRIS

Charles S. Harris, 89 years of Fort Madison passed away Wednesday August 2, 2017 at the Linn Manor Care Center, Marion, Iowa. He was born July 11, 1928 in New Florence, Missouri, a son of Vollie and Rosa (Wilkerson) Harris. On November 6, 1971, he married Grace Beecham in Fort Madison.



Charles was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War as a Machine Gunner. He proudly shared with his family that a Machine Gunner's life expectancy in the Korean War was three minutes, but he survived. He retired from Farmall in Rock Island, Illinois where he worked as a machinist for 17 1/2 years. Charles continued to work and volunteer after his retirement. He was a devout Christian and served for many years as a Deacon at Second Baptist Church in Fort Madison. He enjoyed driving dialysis patients to and from their appointments for several years. Charles could also be found whistling as he worked in his garden, sitting on a fishing bank, or working in his garage repairing tractors and lawn mowers, prior to failing health. He



HARRIS

Jones of Dallas, Texas, Goef Harris of East Moline, Illinois; two daughters: Charlotte Hollingsworth, of Seattle, Washington and Mrs. Stacey (Lew) Montgomery of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; one step-son Gordon Beecham of Ankeny, Iowa; five step-daughters: Mrs. Deborah (Peter) Humphrey of Hayward, California, Theresa Burnough of Lee's Summit, Missouri, Dr. Rosalyn Beecham-Green of Savannah, Georgia, Mrs. Ruth (John) Hairston of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mrs. Janice (Julius) Cousin of Oak Park, Illinois; one

was a member of the Joy Baptist Church, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Democrat Party.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Harris of Fort Madison, Iowa; three sons: Charles Harris Jr. of Seattle, Washington, Carey

brother, Robert (Josphine) Harris of Rock Island, Illinois; one sister, Mrs. Anna Mae (Kenneth) Byrd of McPhearson, Kansas; grandchildren; great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Gregory S. Harris, two daughters: Teri Harris and Traci Harris, two step-sons, C. Steve Beecham and Aaron Beecham, one step-daughter, Johanna Beecham Williams, three brothers: Lyle Harris, Donald Harris and Vollie Harris and one sister, Patsy Redmond.

Family will greet friends at the Joy Baptist Church, Fort Madison on Monday August 7, 2017 from 10:00-11:00 am, one hour prior to service time. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am, with Reverend Earl Beal officiating. Burial with full military rites will be at the Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. A memorial has been established for the Joy Baptist Church, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel or at the church. Online condolences to the Harris Family may be at www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.

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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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Local News/For the Record

State alcohol group urges caution with copper mugs

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division is advising businesses with alcoholic beverage licenses to know the rules and regulations of using copper mugs with food and beverages. The popular drink, Moscow Mule, is an alcoholic beverage typically served in a copper mug. Many states, including Iowa, have adopted the federal Food and Drug Administration's Model Food Code, which prohibits copper from coming into direct contact with foods that have a pH below 6.0.

Examples of foods with pH below 6.0 include vinegar, fruit juice, or wine. The pH of a traditional Moscow Mule is below 6.0. This means that copper mugs that have a copper interior may not be used with this beverage. However, copper mugs lined on the interior with another metal, such as nickel or stainless steel, are allowed to be used.

For more information contact LCHD at (319)372-5225.

Kiwanis Fun Day Saturday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Kiwanis are hosting a family fun day at Putt-A-Round on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Residents ages 0-18 will be able to play around of putt-putt golf and get a free ice cream cone courtesy of the Fort Madison Kiwanis Club.

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police report
08/02/17 - 6:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a burglary in the 1200 block of Avenue E.
08/02/17 - 8:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jesse Winslow Mcgee, 38, Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue O on a charges of violation of a no contact order and 4th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
08/02/17 - 10:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a hit and run in the 1900 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's report
08/02/17 - 1:55 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Skylah Christine Beach, 25, of Burlington at the Des Moines/Lee County Line in Wever on a warrant for 2nd-degree theft. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
08/02/17 - 8:50 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Cody Allen Hudson, 32, of Montrose, in the 3400 block of River Road on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was cited and released.
08/02/17 - no time given - Lee County deputies arrested a 14-year old female from Ottumwa on a charge of 4th-degree criminal mischief. She was held at the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center pending a hearing.
08/02/17 - no time given -

Lee County deputies arrested a 17-year-old male from Mediapolis on a charge of 3rd-degree criminal mischief. He was held at the Southeast Iowa Juvenile Detention Center pending a hearing. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

08/01/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, two gas smell reports, one false alarm and one motor-vehicle accident
08/02/17 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one vapor cloud call in the 800 block of 35th Street, one FM Police assist.

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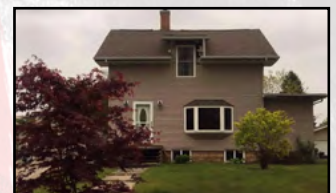
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Local News

GOP Chair says being informed is the key to good choices

REPUBLICANS - Continued from Page 1

polls.
 "I can see a scenario where someone who might vote absentee and might forget. I won't argue the intent but I will say it's happening in Iowa and I appreciate Paul Pate bringing that to the discussion," he said.

Mosiman talked about the financial outlook for the state and said revenue projections have been off by the state in past years and corrections are going to need to take place before the state runs out of money.

One of the concerns of the state's Democratic party leaders, including Iowa Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald, has been protecting and preserving the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System.

Several local Democrats, including State Sen. Rich Taylor, were outside the dinner on Saturday demonstrating with signs in support of the state not changing the IPERS current funding and payout system.

"Obviously it was more a protest kind of thing," Graber said. I was somewhat surprised, but not shocked, because this is their chance to go against us," Graber said. "One thing that I do wonder is if my state senator doesn't have something better to do, but that's his call."

He said IPERS is currently funded at about 80% and one of the better public retirement systems in the country, but Iowans would probably rather it be fully funded and it's a good idea to be having conversations about how to take care of the fund.

"The financial thing comes into play if we don't correct the course. It's like individuals, you just can't spend more than you make. As Mosiman said, ultimately the tax payers are the boss and we're the employer and we need to make sure we have our input in those discussions."

Graber said the Lee County Republicans have lots of activities coming up including being at RiverFest in Fort Madison this coming weekend, and additionally at fairs and rodeo, and then will be very active after Labor Day.

He also said the group has helped form a Young Republicans Club in Lee County for young residents between the ages of 14 and 25, that has had two meetings and have another one scheduled for September 2.

For more information you can contact the group at www.leeconomyrepublicans.org or 319-372-1896.

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From the Front/Weather

Still time to get in on RiverFest Games

FESTIVAL - Continued from Page 1

Vegas or a cash payout and coolers were awarded to the winners which weren't determined as of publication time.

Bob Smith, originally of Fort Madison said he likes the smaller feel of the festival, but still gets all the big festival elements.

"You've got a great view of the river here and you get that "beer tent" feel but still get good music and all the fun of the bigger festivals," Smith said. "I'll keep coming back because I just love this small town feel."

GAMES ON!

Doug Krogmeier, chairman of the RiverFest Games

which begin Saturday morning, said there is still some room left for people to register for the events on Saturday.

The RiverFest 5K run, which is being organized by Baxter Sports Complex Director Wes Holtkamp, begins with registration from 6:45 to 7:30 a.m. and race time at 8 a.m. Entry fee on race day is \$35.

Following the 5K is a sand volleyball tournament with registration beginning at 8:30. Double elimination tournament play begins at 9 a.m. and the fee is \$50 for at team of six. A bags or "cornhole" tournament starts with registration at 9 a.m. and two-person double elimination team play begins at 9:30. Following the start of the bags tournament a first time event for the Games will be Kanjam. Registration for that tournament starts at 9:30 with two-person double elimination play beginning at 10 a.m.

MUSIC

Captain Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters kicked off the entertainment on Thursday night to a full Entertainment Tent. Friday will feature Bluzillion at 6 p.m. on the Main Stage and then Ozone Ramblers will take over at 8 p.m. with a teen dance on the grounds starting at 9 p.m. The Natu Band will finish up the night's music with an 11 to 2 a.m. show in the Entertainment Tent.

Saturday will feature local talent Trystan Grisham on the Main Stage at 6 p.m. followed by national country recording artist Buddy Jewell at 8 p.m. and nationally



Aiden Saltzgaver, of Fort Madison is all smiles as he reels in his duck on the pond and wins a prize. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

acclaimed, and former FMHS graduate Shawn Moss, will bring his Garth Brooks cover act to the Main Stage at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are still available at the gate for all Friday and Saturday acts.

The Ozone Ramblers will offer up a pro-jam on Sunday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

FRI 04 Aug



Light Rain
High – 72.7° F | Low – 58.0° F

SAT 05 Aug



Light Rain
High – 72.7° F | Low – 59.1° F

SUN 06 Aug



Moderate Rain
High – 69.3° F | Low – 66.8° F

MON 07 Aug



Clear Skies
High – 73.6° F | Low – 58.7° F

TUE 08 Aug



Light Rain
High – 76.8° F | Low – 66.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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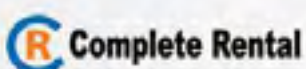
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