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SPORTS:

Sunday, April 23, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 104

HTC 2nd at Keokuk tourney in boys golf action.

See page 7

Riverfest returns with bigger bang for the local buck

FMHS grad Moss to play Saturday after Buddy Jewell

BY CHUCK **VANDENBERG**

FORT MADISON -The effort continues to grow as a group of Fort Madison volunteers try to resurrect the Riverfest of old along the Mississippi River in Fort Madison.

The group, spearheaded by Charles and Jenny Craft of Fort Madison, is building on the event which came back to the riverfront in 2016 for the first time since the summer of 1997.

This year's event will take place Aug. 3-6 along Fort Madison's Riverview Park and for the first time in almost 20 years, the event will feature a national entertainer.

Craft, an 18-year veteran of the U.S. Army and National Guard, brought the festival back in 2016 with the help of the city and many sponsors.

"Everyone kept talking how great Riverfest was. We'd been promoting mixed martial arts fights with sometimes as many as 30 fighters. So my wife and I started talking, 'how hard can it be'. I mean, we're dealing with six or seven bands and some vendors. This should be easier," Craft said.

Craft said the 2016 event was a huge learning



The carnival, which co-organizer Charles Craft says is the "keystone" to the annual Riverfest weekend, will be back in 2017. Above Lauren Andrews smiles while she rides the cars last year.

experience and one of the main things he learned was that he can't manage everything himself.

"Last year I planned and managed the event and didn't have a committee. I even did sound for our second stage to keep costs down. This year, I reached Ill., Craft said he was ex-

out and asked for help from people who expressed interest last year. We were able to form a committee and we meet at the Elks. I'm really thankful to them for allowing us to do that," he said.

Growing up in Bushnell

It gives people who budget for one festival, to have the opportunity to attend two, if we spread it out from Steamboat Days."

> -Charles Craft, Riverfest co-organizer

posed to festivals a couple times a year. The community had a spring and fall festival and his memories of those days, coupled with his wife's memories of Riverfest of the '90s, sparked a fire that has resulted in the festival returning.

The first weekend in August, is the best time to hold the event, Craft said. Because of all the other local festivals including the Dry Creek Festival put on by Vinnie's Santa Fe Tap and the Iowa State Fair in the middle of August, he said the festival

See **SUMMER**, page 8

SUNDAY SPORTS

FMHS girls get rare win over **Burlington**

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Tennis in Fort Madison keeps getting better and better.

The Fort Madison girls beat Burlington 5-4 on Friday night in girls high school action. The meet was a makeup of a rain out earlier in the season.

"Holy cow, this one was a nail biter!," Head Coach Amy Doherty said.

"The girls played very well tonight and even the losing matches had many close games. Katie and Hope found a really nice groove tonight and got us the win we needed to take the meet. They all pulled through and earned us our first win against Burlington in many years, a great improvement from the 0-9 score from last year."

The two team split the six singles matches and the meet came down to the last doubles match, which pitted Katie Larson and Hope Gray against Emma Johanns and Emily Bloomer. Mercedee Doty and Charissa Smith had come back to get an 8-6 win over Abby Wittkamp and Hallie Todd after being down 3-5 in the first-to-eight-by-two format.

Kearstyn Johnson and Larissa Ferrill had fallen to Grace Breuer and Rachel Mason 4-8 at No. 2 dou-

See **TENNIS**, page 2

LCHD cancels upcoming clinics

BY PCC STAFF

The Lee County Health Department TB (Tuberculous) clinic for Monday, April 24, and immunization clinic scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at the LCHD office have been cancelled.

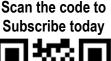
The next regularly scheduled immunization clinic will be held on Thursday, May 11 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church in Keokuk. For more information on future clinic times and locations please check the LCHD Facebook page and website at www.leecountyhd.org.

The health department staff was relocated on Thursday to the North Lee County offices in Fort Madison after a concern arose that prompted Lee County Attornev Ross Braden to advise the move.

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Sports



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PC0

Katie Larson and Hope Gray (background) work the front/back of a doubles match against Burlington's Emma Johanns and Emily Bloomer. The FMHS duo won the match 8-5 and gave the Lady Hounds their first win over Burlington in many years.

Larson, Gray's win at No. 1 doubles seals the deal

TENNIS - Continued from Page 1

bles.

Larson and Gray were able to get up a service game and hold that for an 8-5 win to give the Hounds a 5-4 win on the night.

In singles action the Lady Grayhounds got the best of FMHS' No. 1 and No. 2 players in Larson and Johnson. Larson fell to Johanns 4-8 and Johnson fell to Bloomer in a closer 6-8 match.

Gray got the Hounds on the board with a win at No. 3 8-3 over Breuer. Larissa Ferrill swung the momentum in favor of Fort Madison when she beat Mason 9-8 in a 8-6 tiebreaker.

Doty gave the Hounds another win at No. 5 singles when she beat Wittkamp 8-5. Smith fell to Todd 5-8.

The Lady Hounds face a tough Fairfield team on the road Tuesday.

In junior varsity action, Lanie Kuntz and Lilli Scott won 6-1, Alyse Schmidt and Marlee Klesner lost 3-6, Zoe Ramatowski and CJ Lozano won 7-5. Jamie Folks and Paige Auge won 6-2, Deanna Warner and Taylor-Ann McGee lost 0-6, Abbee Kelly and Kuntz lost 2-5 and Kelsey Penrod and Zina Johnstun lost 1-6.





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Rung's first half goal isn't enough for Hounds

BY PCC STAF

FORT MADISON - A first half goal by Brody Rung wasn't enough to hold off Washington in boys high school soccer action at Baxter Sports Complex Friday night.

Rung scored at the 18-minute mark in the first half off assists from Austin Sexton and AJ Nolting, according to head coach Kevin Wellman.

The Demons got on the board at the 39:45 mark in the 2nd half and again at 16-minute mark to break the tie and the Hounds couldn't manage another goal. Carson Donaldson had nine saves in the contest for the Hounds who fall to 3-4

overall and 0-3 in the Southeast Conference. They travel to Fairfield on Tuesday. The junior varsity squad fell 2-0 with Washington scoring at the 4:00 mark in the first half and at 11:00 in the 2nd half.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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At left, FMHS sophomore Brody Rung gets locked up with a Mt. Pleasant defender in first-half action against Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday. Rung scored the only Hound goal of the night Friday against Washington in a 2-1 loss. Above, Chase Rogers gets the jump on a Mt. Pleasaant defender.

Meet and greet for Shiffman, Bailey set for Friday at FMHS

BY PCC STAFF

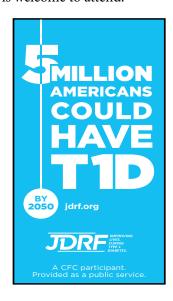
FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison High School Activities Department is inviting the community to a special meet and greet with new head volleyball

coach Kent Bailey and new head football coach Tony Shiffman.

The event will take place Friday April 28, 2017 at 3:30 pm in the FMHS Media Center.

The public is welcome to attend.





Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

IRENE MAE YEAGER

Irene Mae Yeager, 91 years, Wever, Iowa died at 12:47 pm Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the West Point Care Center, West Point, Iowa. She was born November 19,



SMITH

1925 at Niota, Illinois, a daughter of Roy D and Grace (Charles) Siegfried. On May 10, 1958 at Carthage, Illinois, she married Robert L. Yeager Sr. He preceded her in death on April 14, 2008.

Mrs. Yeager was a wife, mother, and homemaker. She had been a resident of the rural Wever, Lee County area since 1961. She worked many seasons at Bee Bee's Greenhouses in Wever.

She volunteered at the Salvation Army for several years. She was of the Christian faith. She enjoyed swimming at the YMCA, gardening, mushroom hunting, and jigsaw puzzles. She especially loved spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by three sons: Robert L. (Susan) Yeager Jr., of Lowell, Iowa; Randy J. (Janet) Yeager, of Waxahachie, Texas; and Russell T. Yeager, of Wever, Iowa; one daughter, Roene C. (Karen) Yeager, of Grand Prairie, Texas; one daughter-in-law Rosie Upton Ossont, of Lecanto, Florida; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers Lee and Carl Siegfried, two sisters, Gladys Huston and Margaret Wylie, one son Kenneth Upton, and two grandsons, K.J. and Kurt Upton.

Per her wishes her body has been cremated. Arrangements are pending for a future date. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison YMCA and the Burlington Salvation Army, contributions may be sent to Russell Yeager, 3956 180th Street, Wever, Iowa 52658. Online condolences to the Yeager family may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department Report

04/20/17 - 7:43 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of 23rd Street. 04/20/17 - 9:05 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael Grahm Donaldson, 33, of La-Harpe, Ill., at the intersection of 9th Street and Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear on a burglary charge. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

04/20/17 - 2:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of Avenue H. 04/20/17 - 3:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue G. 04/20/27 - 4 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2700 block of Avenue L. 04/20/17 - 4:15 p.m.- Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the

1700 block of Avenue G. 04/20/17 - 5:29 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue P. 04/20/17 - 8:34 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3100 block of Avenue O.

Lee County Sheriff's Department report

04/20/17 - 10:08 p.m. - Lee County sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle rollover accident in the 2600 block of 320th Street. A vehicle driven by Claire Rene Smith, 17, of Montrose lost control and entered a ditch striking a tree and then rolling over onto it's top. Smith and a 15-year-old passenger were able to exit the vehicle and refused medical treatment at the scene. No citations were issued at the scene.

The individuals charged above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Sue Astheimer of Fort Madison waits as Paul and Aidan, 2, come off the Santa Fe Caboose Saturday. The family was down visiting the train museum as part of the weekend's train expo and swap and meet on the riverfront. Paul said Aidan, "just loves trains".



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Pen City Current P.O. Box 366 Fort Madison, IA



Lee County Attorney, Ross Braden, is dedicated to protect and serve Lee County, Iowa to make it a safer place for our children and community as a whole!



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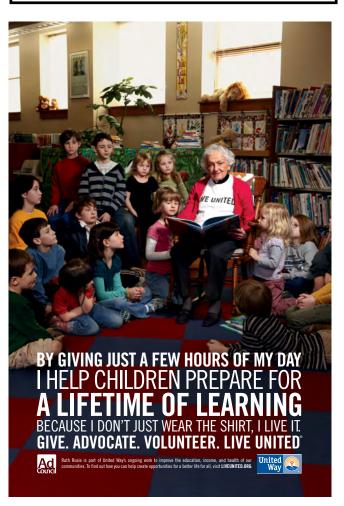
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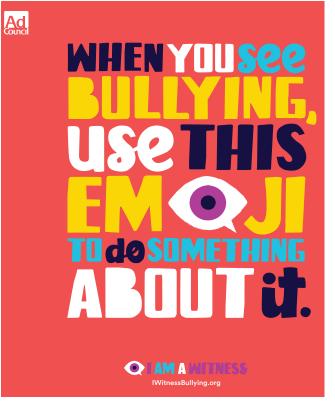
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1703 Avenue L Listing #20165151 • \$55,900



3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage 1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot

Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

1712 Avenue E Listing #20164725 • \$92,000



4BR • 1.50BA 1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot

This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

3098 County Road 103 Listing #20164991 • \$129,900



2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage 1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres

Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

4911 Bluff Road Listing #20164861 • \$157,500



3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage 1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres

Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

1708 Avenue G Listing #20165237 • \$92,500



3BR • 1BA 1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot

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Sports

HTC 2nd at Keokuk tourney

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Keokuk hosted its annual tournament Friday the Elk's Fairview, in a makeup date from March. Keokuk won the tournament carding a 311, while Holy Trinity shot a 348 for second place. Ft. Madison finished third with a 353.

The format had each teams No. 1 and No. 2 golfers playing their own ball. The Nos. 3 and 4 played better ball, and 5's & 6's played best shot(scramble). Brett Wrieden and Jake Cook tied with an 81 with Wreiden winning the first playoff hole with a birdie.

Holy Trinity's Cameron Bahl and Collin Thornton shot a 170 at No. 1 and No. 2. Bahl shot an 84 and Thornton an 86. The Hounds went with Fort Madison's Tristan Reida and Bill Young at 1 and 2. They shot a combined 189 on the 18-hole course with Young shooting an 88 and Reida 101.

Keokuk won the better ball bracket

with a 76, with Ft. Madison's Tommy Wade and Tyler O'tool taking second with an 82 and Holy Trinity's Kyle Bredemeyer and Josh Barr shot a 95 to finish third.

Keokuk won the best shot (scramble) with a 73. Fort Madison's team of CJ Richardson and Brandon Keester took second with an 82, while the Crusaders' Alex Bentler and Nathan Bredemeyer took third shooting an 83.

On Thursday night Holy Trinity hosted New London in a dual meet at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course

New London won the meet 176-196 with the Tigers' Alex Dentlinger winning medalist honors with a 40 on the par-36, 9-hole event.

Collin Thornton paced the Crusaders with a 47 followed by Kyle Bredemeyer with a 48 and Cameron Bahl shot a 49.

Alex Bentler carded a 52, while Nathan Bredemeyer shot a 55 and Josh Barr rounded out the scoring with a 60.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Cameron Bahl watches his putt on Hole No. 6 at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Thursday night. The Crusaders lost to New London that night and finished 2nd at a makeup triangular in Keokuk on Friday.











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From the Front

FMHS grad Moss to play in front of home crowd

SUMMER - Continued from Page 1

will stay right in that first week of August.

"It gives people who budget for one festival, to have the opportunity to attend two if we spread it out from Steamboat Days," Craft said. "Plus, we don't want to pull people away from those other festivals. They have good music at those other places and we wouldn't want to compete with that."

He said he was on active duty in the 90s and wasn't able to attend Riverfest in those days, but Craft said he is striving to recapture the feel of Riverfest, even the higher end music.

Thursday night's music will be headlined by local favorite Cap'n Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters, a party band covering everything from the mid-70s to today, followed by a tent band to be named later. Craft said when the music is transitioned to the tent, it becomes a 21and over show. The main stage music is for the whole family. Thursday night is also wristband night at the carnival with unlimited rides for those who purchase a wristband.

RAMBLERS ARE BACK

This year, the Ozone Ramblers will be back for a Friday night show following the opening act Bluzillion, a Chicago-style blues funk band. The Ramblers are a staple in the Midwest and around the country. The Ramblers are in the 39th year of entertaining crowds throughout the country. There will be a free teen dance in the riverfront parking lot on Friday night, as well.

Saturday night will be a very special musical night when former Fort Madison High School graduate Shawn Moss brings his nationally renowned Garth Brooks tribute band to Fort Madison for the first time. Shaun tours under the name Shawn Gerhard.

"This is really a special event," Craft said. "He's going to play under his real name and if you've seen the videos of him, if you didn't know it wasn't Garth Brooks, you wouldn't be able to tell the difference."

Moss will actually be following national country recording artist Buddy Jewell, who's hit "Sweet Southern Comfort" is still on the charts. And the music's going to start a little later this year. Craft said some really good music was going on during the day, but attendance didn't really pop until about 7 p.m. for the entertainment.

Moss and Jewell worked it out so that Jewell would be opening for Moss since it was his hometown. He said he didn't want everyone to think that this was a country theme festival. "We go with the best bang for the buck. Next year it could be a rock festival, but we're really excited with what we've put together for this year."

Craft said the keystone of the event is the carnival and his group worked with the help of Rusty Andrews to find a carnival vendor that would fit the feel of Riverfest.

"Luckily, we did find one and they turned out to be extremely clean and very safe. Rusty, who is very well deserving of the Citizen of the Year award, was a big resource in steering me in the right direction. He didn't look at the carnival rides, he looked at the company's trucks, generators and

other equipment. All vendors should make their rides look clean and safe but the real tell is in how they take care of their behind-the-scenes equipment," Craft said.

They settled on Connor Amusements out of Beardstown, Illinois, and Craft said he knew it was the right decision on Sunday morning last year.

"We did a charity breakfast for a girl from Illinois who was battling brain cancer, and the owner opened up all the rides and let that girl ride whatever she wanted for as long as she wanted. It was just a fantastic thing for him to do."

Other entertainment will be the return of Riverfest games. Included this year will be pickelball, bags, kickball volleyball, and Kanjam, which is like horseshoes but with a disk that's thrown toward a 'kan'. Your partner can hit the disc into the kan with extra points for hitting the Kan or going in the Kan slot on the fly without assistance. Tournaments are set up for most of the events with some prize money returned, but pickleball will be just open play only this year.

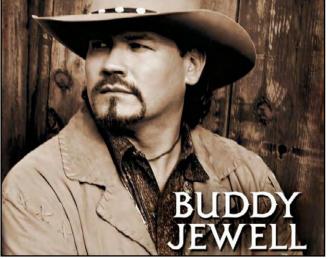
There will also be the kayak/canoe float from the Riverfront to the Lee County Conservation area. Craft says anyone with a kayak or canoe can register for the float which takes about two hours. He said he hopes to have the U.S. Coast Guard on hand with boats and information.

"A lot of people in this area don't know anything about the coast guard and the fact that they do help patrol these waters," Craft said

And don't forget the food. Vendors will be back with funnel cakes,



Courtesy photo



corn dogs, ice cream, hot dogs, popcorn, lemonade. Craft said they had six food vendors last year and the only overlap allowed was the hot dogs, which created a good mix.

SUNDAY CHARITY BREAKFAST

The charity breakfast will be on again on Sunday from 7:30 to about noon. Funds raised will go to the American Legion Honor Flight program. Craft said it is important to him to see what he called "America's Greatest Generation" honored for their service and hopes to send six or seven local veterans to Washington D.C. as part of the Honor Flight program.

"I'm really hoping people come down for that breakfast and shake the hands of one of these guys. When people see us in uniform today they're pretty good about thanking us and these guys deserve the same," Craft said. "And it's a pretty ambitious breakfast - all inclusive pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy. Had a good turnout last year and looking for a great turnout this year."

A donation of \$7 is suggested for the breakfast.

In the afternoon on Sunday is the pro-jam with the Ozone Ramblers where local musicians with some serious skills can go up and jam with the band.

Craft said he logged last year's event in the success column.

"In my mind, it was successful," he said. "Ticketing and getting people to the gate was slower than we anticipated. Everyone showed up en mass at around 7 pm. and we weren't really prepared for that but we're adjusting to that this year."

The 2017 Riverfest is set to feature local regional favorite Ozone Ramblers, and country recording star Buddy Jewell. Jewell will be opening for local Garth Brooks cover star Shawn Moss. who typically performs under the stage name Shawn Gerhard.

STRONG COMMITTEE

Committee member such as Doug and Shanna Krogmeier, Gena Simmons, Wes Holtkamp, Chris Summers, Jim Steffen, Andrews, and others have helped make this year's planning much easier, Craft said. He also said support from the city, the city police and fire departments and park board have also made continuing the event easier to manage this year.

Holtkamp will be helping organize a 5K run that will take place on Saturday morning.

Tickets will be available at Hy-Vee and Fast Break locations about a month prior to the festival, so around the first of July.

"We'll do this as long as the community continues to support it and grow and hopefully it gets bigger each year," Craft said.





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