



# Pen City Current

Monday, August 6, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 184

## Dead body found in rural Lee County

*DCI agent doesn't believe body is that of Brooklyn's Mollie Tibbetts*

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The body of a woman in her 20s was discovered in Lee County Sunday morning southwest of West Point.

The Lee County Sheriff's department was notified just before noon that a body had been discovered just off 235th Avenue about five miles southwest of West Point. The Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations is investigating the death and special agent in charge Rick Rahn, said they do not believe the girl is Mollie Tibbetts. The Tibbett disappearance has been part of national news for close to a month.

See **BODY**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A Lee County Sheriff's deputy and an Iowa State Trooper block traffic on 235th Avenue where a woman's body was found Sunday morning. Authorities say a woman in her early to mid-twenties was discovered in the ditch and an autopsy is pending.

## Colt Ford "raps" up RiverFest 2018

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - He'll never admit to being a country rapper, but Colt Ford put his wrap on Fort Madison's third and most successful RiverFest since 2016 Sunday night.

After pushing aside a career in professional golf, Ford took to the country music genre with a zest for talk albums, while putting some of country's biggest names on tracks with him.

Ford took the stage Sunday night on the final night of a festival that's being hailed by many on the RiverFest committee as the most successful since its return in 2016.

"It exceeded expectations in every single way," said RiverFest organizer Charles Craft. "There are really just very few words that I can come up with to describe what happened here."

He said ticket sales were strong enough that the committee has already been able to put aside deposit funds for next year's entertainment, which Craft said fans will be just as happy, "if not more" with that lineup.

"We've got funds to put toward deposits next year to ensure that the level of entertainment will not drop. Tri-State music fans will be very impressed with what we

See **FESTIVAL**, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Country rocker Colt Ford and a bandmate work the crowd on Sunday night at RiverFest 2018. Sunday was the final night of the four-day festival.

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



### *The dog ate my 70th birthday present*

Ginnie came to me bright and early the day before my birthday. "There's an issue with Buddy."

"Ah, oh." I didn't like the sound of the word 'issue.' "Oh, what's that?" I asked, trying to act nonchalant.

"Papa Swarm" gives Gator rides to grandkids on his 70th birthday, minus Buddy. It was at this point Ginnie broke down. "I feel terrible," she said, covering her face with her hands, and speaking between her palms, like the words were secret. "For your birthday," she confessed, "I got you some gourmet dark chocolate from Missouri. I had it hidden in the closet. Buddy found it and ate it—all three bars."

It was 6:00 a.m. The veterinarian wouldn't open until

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**CURRENT-LEE**

FORT MADISON - The following is a list of events in and around north Lee County as submitted to Pen City Current.

**American Legion meeting**

Fort Madison Post 82 The American Legion will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Eagles Club 4821 Avenue O. Our 2018, \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded, and Post 82 officers for 2018-2019 will be sworn in by 1st District Vice Commander Larry Loney. All members and those interested in The American Legion are encouraged to attend. For additional information contact George Shields, Adjutant at 319-371-5755 or Dan Vice, Commander at 319-470-7377.

**Relay for Life**

The North Lee County Relay for Life's Roving Rally will be held August 8, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Kinnick on the River in Montrose

**Fort Madison Farmer's Market**

Every Monday local vendors have farmer's market options available at the Old Santa Fe Depot on the Riverfront in Fort Madison. The farmer's market runs every Monday until Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the parking lot west of the depot.

**Carousel Preschool Registration**

Registration for the Fall Preschool session at Carousel Preschool, 719 Avenue F, in Fort Madison will take place on Aug. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m.

**United Way Trivia Night**

The United Way of the Great River Region will be holding a trivia night on Aug. 10 at the Southside Boat Club beginning at 7 p.m. Entry is \$80 for a table of up to eight players. Food will be available and a 50/50 raffle will be held. Proceeds will go to the efforts of the United Way. Call Karen at 319-524-4504 for additional information.

**Party on the Patio**

Fort Madison Partners summer Party on the Patio continues on Aug. 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Baxter Sports Complex

**Riverview Games**

The annual Riverview Games will be held on Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon in Riverview Park in Fort Madison. The event is free to area families and is sponsored by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club, Fort Madison Lions Club, Fort Madison Kiwanis, and Fort Madison Rotary. Volunteers are still needed. Please call the Chamber at 372-5471 for details.

*Chocolate overdose puts birthday plans on temporary hold*

**SWARM** - Continued from Page 1

8:00. I put Buddy outside, and he went about his business shamed faced. "Let's get our exercising done," I told Ginnie. "Then call the vet."



I knew Ginnie was distraught when she climbed off the treadmill halfway through her 30-minute routine, with AC-DC singing "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap," to go out and check on Buddy. When I finished my 30 minutes on the elliptical, I took another look at Buddy. He was lying on his side in his outdoor pen, panting. I knew then that we, indeed, had an 'issue.'

The veterinarian took Buddy's temperature, felt his tummy, looked at his eyes and gums, and listened to his heart. "Tachycardia," he said. "Buddy needs to go to Iowa City where they can keep an eye on him."

Anyway we went. Ironically, the name of the facility I was instructed to take Buddy to is, "Bright Eyes and Bushy Tails." Buddy's eyes were not bright and his tail, although bushy (his breed is nicknamed Saber Tail), was droopy. Bright Eyes and Bushy Tails is a wonderful emergency animal facility, and Buddy had the pleasure of spending the night. And the next night. I just handed over my credit card and didn't whine.

Meanwhile, back at the Empty Nest Farm, we had a wingding of a birthday party for my 70th birthday. Seventy! Who would have "thunked" it? Both of my kids were in attendance, with their kids, along with Ginnie's sister.

We had 24 oz t-bones on the grill, sweetcorn, "mush-mellon," sliced garden tomatoes, cucumber salsa, hot-dogs and macaroni-and-cheese for the kids, "pink fluff" and, for the grand finale, zucchini-chocolate birthday cake. Yippee! It was delicious! The only thing missing was Buddy.

"Papa Swarm" got to give his grandkids rides on the Gator, and help them roast ginormous marshmallows over a bonfire for s'mores. Then it was the special treat of throwing sweetcorn cobs in for the chickens—they go nuts—and petting Blossom. Those ornery grandkids even enticed "Papa Swarm" into a game of tag. It was the best birthday I've ever had.

As I was catching my breath, I thought, "Ha! Buddy might have been doing me a favor by eating that chocolate. He knew I didn't need all those calories." I have been losing weight on the E&E Diet (Eggs & Exercise). To date, I've lost 43 pounds and am down to 191—shooting for 180. Ginnie has joined me and is the slimmest I've ever seen her. Woo Woo!

Buddy came home after the second day and was bright eyed and bushy tailed. I want to thank all of Buddy's Facebook Friends for their prayers and kind words.

Next week, details of the E&E Diet. Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at [curtswarm@yahoo.com](mailto:curtswarm@yahoo.com) or find him on Facebook. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.



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Moderate Rain  
High— 82.3° F | Low – 68.9° F

**TUE 07 Aug** \_\_\_\_\_

Moderate Rain  
High— 72.5° F | Low – 64.7° F

**WED 08 Aug** \_\_\_\_\_

Clear Skies  
High— 83.2° F | Low – 68.5° F

**THU 09 Aug** \_\_\_\_\_

Light Rain  
High— 87.6° F | Low – 73.7° F

**FRI 10 Aug** \_\_\_\_\_

Light Rain  
High— 88.5° F | Low – 72.9° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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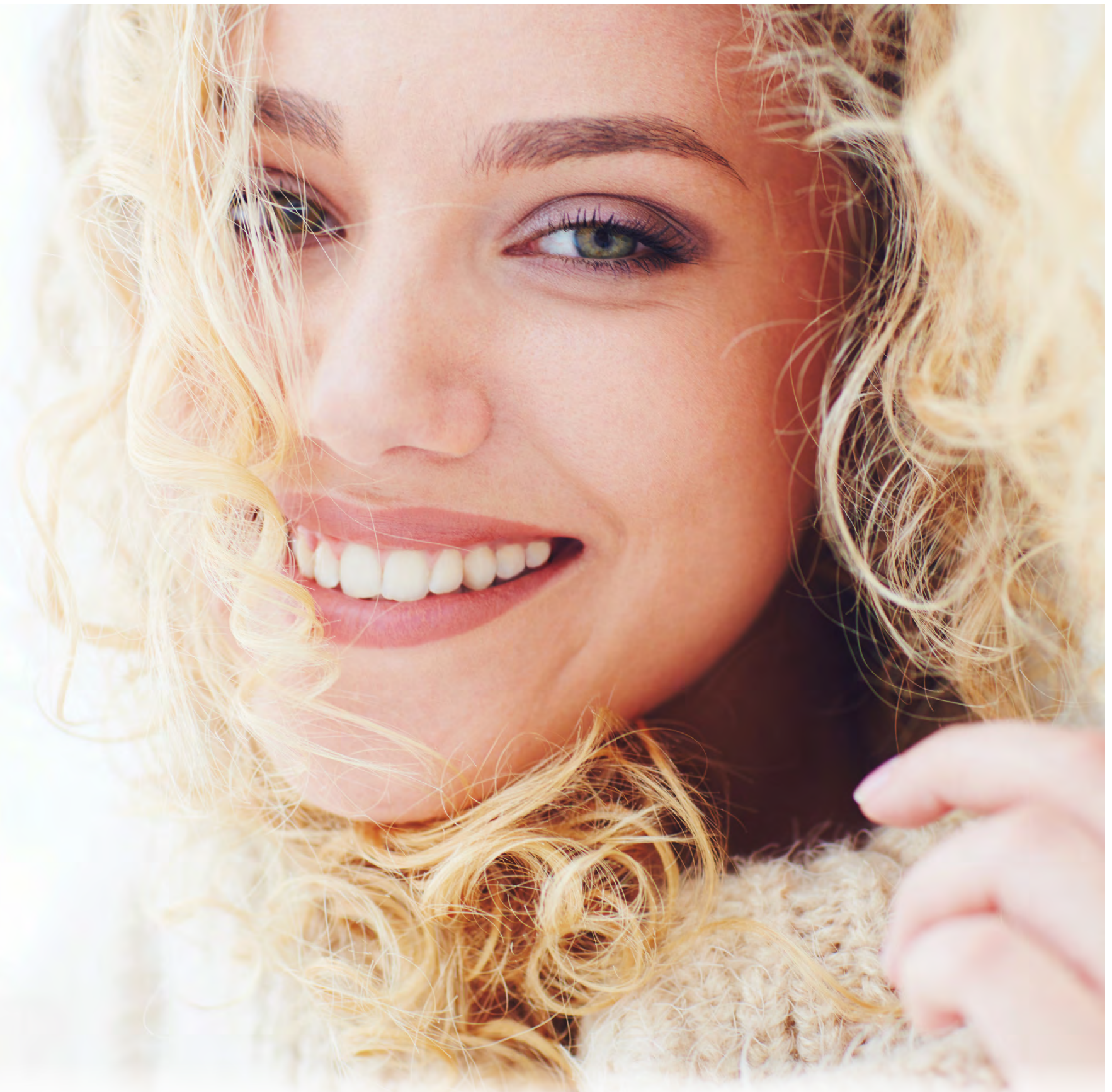


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## From the Front/Lottery Numbers

# Victim ID'd but cause of death not released

**BODY** - Continued from Page 1

"Investigators are keenly aware of the Mollie Tibbetts investigation and have no reason to believe that the decedent is that of Mollie Tibbetts," a DCI release said Sunday.

When asked what information was used in making the determination, Rahn said investigators believe they have identified the girl, but would provide no additional information as to the cause of death or condition of the body. He said an autopsy on the body is pending.

"We believe we've identified her, but we won't be releasing that information pending family notification," Rahn said.

He said the body has been transported to the state medical examiner's office.

The Lee County Sheriff's Department, Iowa State Patrol, West Point Fire & Rescue, staff from the Lee County Attorney's office, and Iowa DCI investigators were all on the scene until about 3 p.m.

The DCI release also stated there would be no additional comments or statements made at this time in reference to the Lee County death investigation or the Mollie Tibbetts investigation.

**Got a news tip?  
Call Chuck [319]371.1670**

# More than 5,000 tickets sold through gate

**FESTIVAL** - Continued from Page 1

come up with next year," he said.

The announcement of next year's lineup will take place in March at Kinnick South.

Shawna Ross, marketing director, said it was the community that made the event great, with more than 5,000 tickets sold through the gates in four days. She didn't have figures from additional online sales readily available.

"We've had people coming up to us all week-end, telling us how great it's been and I turn it around and tell them they're the reason for the success. We can bring it here, but there's nothing like looking out over the crowd and not being able to see the end of it," Ross said. "The fans are beyond happy. They're thrilled to have this back and experience this in their hometown. This is great for our town."

RiverFest Games

co-chairman Doug Krogmeier said the competition part of this year's event was on par with last year and competitors are happy with the events and the committee is now starting to see repeat contestants coming in from out of town.

"It certainly isn't going backwards," he said.

Saturday featured turn-of-the-century rockers Hinder with front man Marshall Dutton before the high-octane power rockers Pop Evil took the stage.

After close to an hour of pounding rock, front man Leigh Kakaty climbed out onto the fans and finished the final song standing literally on top of the VIP section.

"You were here for that, right?," Craft said Sunday morning at the Veteran's Breakfast. "You saw Pop Evil walk out onto the crowd. That was epic and that says it all right there."

Veteran's honored again For the second year, the American Legion will be able to send area veterans on an honor flight to Washington D.C. to see

memorials at no cost to them. As part of the now annual charity breakfast, funds raised go to help send veterans on the flight out of Quincy as part of an ongoing effort initiated by WGEM television station.

Dan Vice, the commander of American Legion Post 82 in Fort Madison said the breakfast was so brisk that volunteers had to run to area stores to pick up more supplies.

"We ran out of eggs, pancakes, hashbrowns, and biscuits, so that's a good thing. We were able to get more."

Vice said the group is not only trying to raise funds to help offset costs for area veterans to make the flight, but also is still trying to get information to some veterans who are still unaware of the program.

"We've handed out quite a few applications for the honor flight today," said post adjutant George Shields. "But we're trying to make more veterans aware of it so we can get their names in and send them. We want more guys to go."

Shields said there are about 3,600 veterans in Lee County alone. The Honor Flight for the veterans in this area typically goes out of Quincy, but there are other hubs, too, such as Cedar Rapids. Vice said the veterans in those areas are pretty in tune to the program, but those out in this part of Iowa aren't as informed.

"There's a lot of them out there that haven't applied yet," Vice said. "A lot of people, when we're out collecting donations say, 'Honor Flight for veterans?' they didn't even know that it was going on."

Craft said the beer vendors donated all their tips from Saturday night's sales to the Veterans' Breakfast, which was \$231.

"I think they're going to raise a ton of money and they said they were up about 50% from last year already," Craft said at about 10:45. The breakfast ran until noon.

For more information, veterans can go to [www.wgem.com/honorflight](http://www.wgem.com/honorflight) or they can send an email to [honorflight@wgem.com](mailto:honorflight@wgem.com).

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 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



**8/4**  
15 16 26 45 52  
Star Ball: 1  
All Star Bonus: 3



**8/4**  
3 11 38 44 58  
Powerball: 2  
Power Play: 4



**8/4 MID-DAY**  
6 6 6  
**8/4 EVENING**  
2 7 8



**8/4 MID-DAY**  
2 1 7 5  
**8/4 EVENING**  
3 9 3 5

*Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.*

# RiverFest2018



At far left, Hinder front man Marshall Dutton belts out one of the band's 2001 hits in the twilight act on Saturday. At right, a Head First fan gets a laugh as the band performs on the stage in front of her. At the bottom far right, Pop Evil lead singer Leigh Kakaty walks out onto the crowd as a beach ball zings by in the final number of the night.

Photos by Aniah Ross/PCC Intern, Shawna Ross/PCC and Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Above, RiverFest organizer Charles Craft whips the crowd up Saturday night before Pop Evil takes the stage. At right, Colt Ford and a bandmate work the third song of the set.



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# GONE FISHING!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday, August 12 through Monday, August 20 so our team can enjoy some time this summer. Breaking news will be published online when possible. Our free e-Edition will be back Tuesday, August 21.

Thank you for reading!

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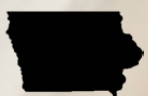
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