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INSIDE:

School lock down drills at FMCSD keep protocols sharp.

See page 2

Pen City Current

Monday, March 12, 2018 | 6 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 74

Pop Evil, Hinder, and Colt Ford lead RiverFest lineup

Local favorites Chaz & the Channel Cats, Stump Town, and The Brandon Gibbs Band also on tap for 2018 event

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - RiverFest fans that packed South Kinnick on Saturday night had to play guessing-games with Riverfest co-organizer Charles Craft on Saturday night to find out who would be taking the stage at the 2018 summer festival.

In its second year, after a reboot in 2017 from the late 80s and 90s RiverFest, festival goes will get to see some big time names this year. In 2017 Craft brought in mostly-country themed headliners with some local rock bands in the mix.

This year he's transitioned into more of a rock



theme, but Sunday will still have the country flare. But Craft said festival goes will be impressed with this year's lineup.

"This is going to be something that Fort Madison can be proud of," Craft said Saturday night. "This is a lineup full of national acts and we're bringing something for everyone."

Thursday night will feature a winner of the first ever Battle of the Bands, which is a charitable event where attendees will donate to the bucket of their favorite of three charities including Elliott Test Kitchen of Fort Madison, Puppy Jake Foundation of Urbandale, or P.A.W. Animal Shelter in Fort Madison. The winning charity will get an extra \$500. Attendees will also hear local and regional bands and choose their favorite to open RiverFest's main stage entertainment on Thursday night.

The band will open for Saving Abel, who hit fame in 2008 with "Addicted", which hit number two on the charts that year.

On April 20, 2013, Saving Abel performed in Waterloo, Iowa to raise funds for a community healing project to raise funds for the creation of Angel's Park in Evansdale, Iowa. The park was inspired by Elizabeth Collins and Lyric Cook. The girls vanished in July 2012 and were found deceased in December. Jive Radio will wrap up the entertainment on Thursday night

Friday will feature a local flare with Chaz & The Channel Catz and the Brandon Gibbs Band. Accord-

See RIVERFEST, page 6

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



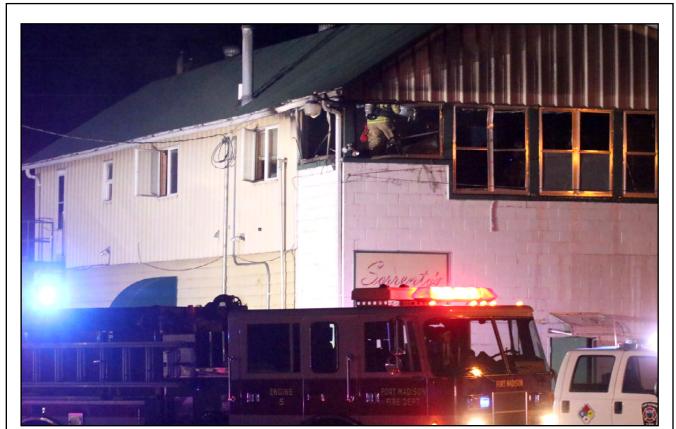
A little culture away from the nest

Ginnie and I may be entering our second child-hood. We actually went out after dark three nights in a row. Can you believe it?!

The first night, a Thursday, we went to a stand-up comedy act in Wapello. I read a review about it in the newspaper and decided to give it a shot. I had never been to a stand-up comedy act—life holding enough humor for me, and Ginnie had been to only one. Knowing that our pastor was going to have shoulder surgery the next morning, I double-dawg-dared him to join us, pointing out that laughter had well-known healing power. He bit.

This comedy act was going to be in a bar and, being an ex-drunk, I normally shy away from such surroundings. However, figuring my wife and pastor would both be with me (one on each side of me to be exact), I would be safe. I was correct. My pastor drank

See **SWARM**, page 4



Ph

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison firefighters investigate the upper apartment on the backside of the building that houses Sorrento's Pizza in the 2500 block of Avenue L Sunday evening. Firefighters were called to scene of the fire at around 7:30 p.m. and quickly had the fire under control. No information was available as to the cause of the fire Sunday evening.

Sunday fire

News Index

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Education News/Current-Lee

Lockdown drills keeping staff, students on toes

BY ANIAH ROSS

FORT MADISON - In the wake of the recent school shootings that have taken the lives of many students, local officials continue to drill lock-down procedures at Fort Madison schools. On Thursday, Fort Madison High School conducted its third lock down of the year.

An email was sent out on March 1st to the parents in the Fort Madison Community School District stating in the coming weeks they will be performing lock down drills in each of their buildings. So far this year the drills have gone well, but they are constantly looking to improve the process. The district protocol is four drills per year per building. The drills are a way to be sure the students and staff are aware of what to do during an actual lock down.

Members of the district's threat assessment team and the administrative council are always talking in meetings about how they can change things up and make things more efficient. Right now they have been practicing lock down.

"It's tricky, because if we start testing our systems, especially in light of what has happened recently, and we kind of go away from normal, then it could

See FMCSD, page 4

CURRENT-LEE

HTC TAPS 8th Annual Bunny Hop Event – March 31st, 2018

WEST POINT - HTC Bunny Hop 5K Run/Walk or 10K Run event. Saturday, March 31st beginning at the West Point Library. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. The race begins at 9 a.m. Pre-registration before March 23rd is \$20 & includes t-shirt. Registration on or after March 23rd is \$25. Drinks and light snacks will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2

will be provided for participants. Medals will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers in each age group. Registration forms can be found here or www.holytrinityschools.org. Click here to download & print your registration form.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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Lotto America [™]	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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Scene Around Town







YMCA Nerf Wars

The YMCA opened the gym on Sunday for an afternoon of sponge warfare. Youth from around the area donned protective glasses and played "Capture the Flag". At far left Brae Hill advances down the right flank with his Rival nerf gun. Above and at right, youngsters find cover to clear out the opponents.



Education News/ Classifieds

Writer is "enjoying life on life's terms"

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

bottled water, and Ginnie and I had Cokes.

There was a packed house in the bar—a pool tournament was going on (the pastor, being a former Marine, pointed out a couple of custom pool cues) and we had to walk through this crowd of trick-shot artists to get to the comedy stage. A particularly large, long-haired, bearded fellow at the bar—a person I mistook for a local drunk—turned out to be the comedian. And he was excellent. He reminded me a lot of George Carlin. He kept the three of us, as well as the room full of comedy goers, in stitches for a good hour. The pastor aced his shoulder surgery the next morning. Then, he played poker that night, his surgeon being one of the players. Told ya, life is full of humor.

The second night, a Friday night, there was an art reception in Washington for four local artists, my daughter one of them. This was a must-attend function for us. With Cafe Dodici's, a fine Italian restaurant being right next door to the art gallery, this was an excellent opportunity for Ginnie

and me to enjoy a nice dinner out. We were not disappointed. The first problem I had was figuring out which fork to use. My second problem was trying to choose one piece of art to bring home (we like to support the arts). I wound up with a nice pastel of the dam at Oakland Mills, by John Evans of Richland. He has a nice way of making the water going over the spillway look 3D.

Saturday night found us under the water tower in Donnellson for live music. I guess we can't use the title "Under the Water Tower" anymore because of a trademark dust-up. So be it. We were at the American Legion Hall in Donnellson. If you haven't been to this venue, they have some incredible music—top-drawer stuff. Then, to cotton to locals such as us, people bring their own food and drink to share for a potluckish feed. Good music plus good food equals satisfied souls and palates. A group called the "Sanctified Grumblers" from Chicago was playing. The three-piece band consisted of an acoustic guitar, bass, and "warshboard." I had never seen a "war-



shboard" played, nor did I have any idea how rhythmic and pretty sounding it is. I think I could listen to it all night, and actually did, as it was going through my head on the way home and while I was shutting up the chickens.

That's three nights in a row for us—comedy, art, and music. We didn't get home until, mercy!, 8:30, going-on 9:00 o'clock! And Ginnie had to work the next morning! I'm not sure there are enough hours in the day to do all the things we want to do. Second childhood? Maybe. I'm pushing 70. Enjoying life on life's terms is more like it.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Curt Stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farming-

Lamb gives last drill a "10"

FMCSD - Continued from Page 2

create panic," says Patrick Lamb, assistant principal at Fort Madison High School.

During the lock down drills the students and staff are quick and silent. When the alarm is made, teachers and staff move quickly to shut and lock all doors, block the windows and secure the students. During this latest lock down Lamb would rate it a 10. Everything went smooth, every door was locked, and no sounds were heard in any hall. The more drills are done, the better the students and staff can execute procedures.

Lamb has said sometimes they would send a police officer dressed in plain clothes through the school and test to see how quickly the students and staff will turn them in. Each time the officer is usually turned in fairly quickly.

The U.S. House of Representatives is currently consider the STOP School Violence Act of 2018, which would create a \$50 million pool of federal funding that school districts could apply for to help increase the safety and security of the nation's schools, including funding threat assessments teams, create anonymous support systems and fund training and technical assistance. The bill is scheduled for vote in the House this coming week.

The bill does not provide any language pertaining to handguns. The U.S. Senate is also considering a similar measure.

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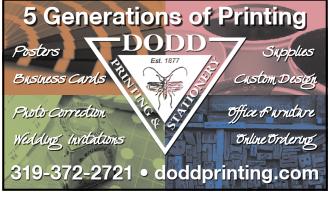
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Great River Regional Waste Authority Is accepting bids for the mowing of its properties located at 2092 303rd ave in Fort Madison and 111 Carbide lane in Keokuk.

Bids must be received by April 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

It is recommended that all bidders look at the properties before submitting their bids.

Bids shall be for mowing services, weed eating every week (Unless not recommended by GRRWA) and also spraying weeds if needed.

Bids need to be sent to: Great River Regional Waste Authority, 2092 303rd Ave. Fort Madison Iowa 52627 and to the Attention of: Wade Hamm.

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Holy Trinity Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking an Assistant Director for their Ft. Madison Center.

This is a year round clerical and administrative role - full time during the school year, part time during the summer. Benefits eligible.

The position requires strong organizational and interpersonal skills. A college degree is preferred.

Please contact Stefanie Drollinger at stefanie.drollinger@holytrinityschools.org or 319-372-6428 for application information.



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We are in search of a candidate for a possible opening as Marketing Director for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools. This is a part-time position with full benefits, which may become full-time. Duties include all marketing for the school system including advertising, press releases, public relations, etc. Successful candidate will be responsible for social media, event planning, and helping with recruitment and retention. Facilitating the current International Student program is also part of the position.

Marketing Degree or several years of marketing experience is a plus. Necessary qualifications include excellent written, verbal, social media and interpersonal communication skills.

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RiverFest 2018/Weather

'80s glam rockers FireHouse to follow Brandon Gibbs Friday

RIVERFEST - Continued from Page 1

ing to Craft, Fort Madison police officer Brent Gibbs, who originally toured with his brother Brandon, will be playing the drums for the show. That will set the stage for late 80s, early 90s glam rock band FireHouse, and Decade of Decadence, a hair metal tribute band.

RiverFest co-organizer Charles Craft announces the Thursday music lineup that will open the 2018 version RiverFest. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Saturday brings a heavier rock flavor with Headfirst opening for Hinder, who formed in 2001 and became a household rock name with the release of "Lips of an Angel". The band originally formed in 2001 but just last month released their self-titled album. Craft said an additional band may be added at the front end of the Saturday and Sunday performances.

Then highly coveted Pop Evil comes to town. Pop Evil gained notoriety in 2013 with the hit single "Trenches", along with other hits including "100 in a 55" and "Last Man Standing.

On Sunday, another local favorite Stump Town will kick off the main stage entertainment, followed by the RiverFest reveal party host The Natu Band before national country singer and rapper Colt Ford wraps things up Sunday night.

Craft said one of the neat parallels for this year's event is that FireHouse played in 1994 at RiverFest, which was also the first time RiverFest featured dragon boat races.

"FireHouse is coming back this year and so are the dragon boats...and we're really excited about both of those coming back to Fort Madison," Craft said.

The RiverFest games will be similar to last year, highlighted by the Sand Volleyball tournament, the KanJam tournament, a Bags tournament, and the return of the World Series of Beer Pong with a qualifier taking place at Kinnick South again and the main event at RiverFest.

This year's event runs Aug. 2nd-5th and tickets for entertainment will feature 4-day admission passes for \$35, will available at area retailers soon until then they are available <u>Ticketfly.com</u>. Tickets will be \$40 at the gate.

There are 500 4-day VIP tickets, which includes front-stage access and VIP air conditioned restrooms for \$55 in advance and individual day a la carte VIP



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

RiverFest co-organizer Charles Craft teases a full house at Kinnick South with who will be performing at this year's RiverFest 2018. Thursday's headliner will be Saving Abel, while national acts, Pop Evil, Hinder, Firehouse, and Colt Ford compliment a bevy of local and regional talent during the summer festival set for Aug. 2-5.

2018 RiverFest music lineup

Thursday, August 2nd, 2018

Winner of the May 27th Battle of the Bands Saving Abel

Jive Radio (beer tent)

Friday, August 3rd, 2018

Chaz & The Channel Catz

The Brandon Gibbs Band

Firehouse

Decade of Decadence (beer tent)

Saturday, August 4th, 2018

Band to be Announced

Headfirst

Hinder Pop Evil

X-Krush (beer tent)

Sunday, August 5th, 2018

Band to be announced

Stumptown

The Natu Band

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Colt Ford

passes will be available for \$10 at the gate until the 500 are sold out. Single day tickets for any day are \$25 (available only at <u>Ticketfly.com</u>) and \$30 at the gate each day.

For the most up-to-date information regarding RiverFest visit <u>www.riverfestfm.com</u> or the event's <u>Facebook page</u>.

66

This is going to be something that Fort Madison can be proud of. This is a full lineup of national acts and we're bringing something for everyone."

-Charles Craft, Co-Organizer, FM Riverfest 2018

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 12 Mar



Light Snow High – 38.1° F | Low – 25.6° F

TUF 13 Mar



Partly Cloudy
High– 34.1° F | Low – 21.2° F

WED 14 Mar



Clear Skies High– 36.5° F | Low – 22.9° F

THU 15 Mar



High – 47.3° F | Low – 34.8° F

FRI 16 Mar



Light Rain High– 53.1° F | Low – 55.1° F

<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>



FRETAER SPECIAL 1/2 of 1/2 Page

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