



Pen City Current

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Saving Abel opens RiverFest 2018

Record ticket sales bring throngs to Riverview Park for festival

Saving Abel front man Scotty Austin got up close and personal with Fort Madison fans as part of the opening night of RiverFest 2018. Memphis Dives, out of Galesburg, opened the night on the Pen City Current Main Stage and local band Jive Radio wrapped up the night in the Entertainment tent.

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



No tax on shoes, clothes

No state or local sales tax on items under \$100 on Friday and Saturday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - This year's annual sales tax holiday Friday, August 3, and Saturday, August 4th. The holiday does not include Sunday. No sales tax (including local taxes) is collected on sales of any clothing or footwear that has a sales price of less than \$100. The holiday applies to each article that is priced at less than \$100, no matter how many items are sold to any customer. The holiday does not apply to any item that is sold for \$100 or more.

Any business that is open during the sales tax holiday will participate. The exemption period: from 12:01 a.m. Friday through midnight Saturday. No sales tax, including local option sales tax, will be collected on sales of an article of clothing or footwear having a selling price less than \$100.00. The exemption does not apply in any way to the price of an item selling for \$100.00 or more. The exemption applies to each article priced under \$100.00 regardless of how many items are sold on the same invoice to a customer.

The sales tax holiday does not apply to watches, jewelry, sporting equipment, handbags, or wallets. Store coupons and discounts can reduce the sales price below \$100 to qualify for the Sales Tax Holiday, but manufacturer coupons cannot. If items are usually sold as a unit, those items cannot be split up so that each piece qualifies for the \$100 requirement. Coupons that bring an item under the \$100 limit do not qualify the item(s) to be tax free.

Additional information on the Sales Tax Holiday can be found at <https://tax.iowa.gov/iowas-annual-sales-tax-holiday>.

Mexican Fiesta is back in village for 2018

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - After recent publicity that the Mexican Fiesta was officially being canceled for 2018, a group of people in and around the village have put things back together and the festival will go on.

According to the Mexican Fiesta board secretary Maggie Guzman, the historical event will take place again in the Mexican Village on Avenue Q on Sept. 14 and 15th.

"As a board we've reached out through

our partners in the Mexican community and the community as a whole, and we've come together to make sure this thing happens for 2018. People have really stepped up to take the reigns and make sure this tradition continues in our neighborhood," she said Thursday evening from the village shelterhouse.

Guzman said food vendors will once again be part of the tradition as well as a band. Food will start being served at 4 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. on Saturday. The band will play from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The traditional crowning of the princess, ages 5-13, and the queen, ages 14-18, will also be taking place on Friday. Candidates can reach out to the board by emailing fortmadison-fiesta@gmail.com. The princess and queen contest has its own Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/921689104636967/about/>. There is also a Mexican Fiesta Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Madison-Mexican-Fiesta-258997857452131/>.

See FIESTA, page 4

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Kiwanis, along with other volunteers, helped stuff backpacks for Saturday's Back-to-School Fair at FMHS from 10 a.m. to noon.

School health fair Saturday

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Back-to-School Health Fair will take place on Saturday at the Fort Madison High School.

Students and families who have registered in advance to receive backpacks can pick them up at the fair from 10 a.m. to noon. The students and families will be required to visit seven of the 28 informational booths that will be set up in the Multi-Purpose Room that morning, prior to receiving their backpacks.

Students will also be able to get a vision check and are also eligible to get

a free haircut provided by local area hairdressers.

Due to the generous response of individual donors and sponsors of this year's event, there will be some backpacks that will be given on a first-come, serve basis to those attending the fair.

The event, in its second year, is sponsored by Fort Madison Kiwanis and is coordinated by a group of area teachers and educators to help families who are in need of assistance getting children ready to go back to school, by providing school supplies, vision checks, hair cuts, and other information.

Letter to the Editor

Fight back on Labor Center closure

To Pen City Current Readers:

It has recently been announced that the University of Iowa intends to dissolve their Labor Center. For almost seventy years the University of Iowa Labor Center has been built up, expanded, and sustained by dedicated individuals from all walks of life across the entire state. Our grandparents, parents, peers, and children have given much of their time, money, and resources to enable the Labor Center to provide specialized knowledge and materials to thousands of working Iowa families every year.

I've been a part of organized labor for fifteen years. But I didn't become an active member until six years ago. With the solid educational foundation, I received from the Labor Center, I went from an apathetic Union member, to a Union Steward, to an Officer on my Union Local's Executive Board, to my current position as a Vice President and the Chief Steward. I could not possibly have accomplished any of this, could not possibly have become the resource to my coworkers and community that I now can be, without the expertly delivered educational courses provided by the experienced, intelligent, and extremely committed educators who have dedicated their very lives to the University of Iowa and the Labor Center.

I was absolutely stunned to hear of the impending betrayal by the University of Iowa administrators; not only the betrayal of their loyal staff of educators and historians, but their betrayal of every member of the state of Iowa's working class. This decision was made completely absent any consultation whatsoever from those actually involved in the Labor Center's work. Even if you aren't aware of it, it is extremely likely that you have personally benefitted in some way from the Labor Center and their mission. We all need to do what we can to ensure the Labor Center remains in place as an indispensable resource for ourselves and for the generations of Iowans to follow. To that end, we all need to make our voices heard by calling the University of Iowa Dean, Kevin Washburn at 319-384-4658, and the University President, Bruce Harreld at 319-335-3549. Remind them that the core purpose of the entire University of Iowa is to create successful employees through their graduate programs and their continuing education courses. Cutting Iowa workers off at the knees by destroying the Labor Center is contrary to everything the University of Iowa is supposed to stand for.

In heartfelt solidarity,

Gunther W. Anderson

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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!

Pen City
current

From the Front/Area News

Festival on for Sept. 14-15

FIESTA - Continued from Page 1

Christina St. Clair is in charge of the traditional dancing and the crowning and said she hopes to have enough candidates this year to do Mexican and American winners. She said the contest is a dollar per vote and canisters will be put out at locations in town and the candidates with the most funds raised wins the crown. The Festival Queen gets the funds as a scholarship.

She said the grand entry dances are open to any child that wants to learn the traditions.

"It's open to any child that wants to learn the dances. We try to keep the girls in the traditional dresses. We do have a few here, but parents usually just buy a dress. Boys are also welcome to participate," she said. "I'm thrilled this is happening. The kids will be so happy."

Practice will be held Sunday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the village.

Guzman said there will not be a carnival this year, but organizers are bringing in some more traditional games for the

kids as part of a two-hour Kids' Day afternoon on Saturday.

She said many people in the Mexican Village found out that Fiesta wasn't taking place and energy built from there.

"We started meeting about three weeks ago and raised some funds. We still need more to make it happen, but we have a lot of people in the community that want to see it go on. We all started pulling together and worked hard and diligently to make sure this goes on," Guzman said.

Scott Huffman, Jr., the president of the board, said he was happy that things could get back together. He said it was very close to not happening in 2018.

"It wasn't going to until they put it out in the paper," Huffman said Thursday. "Everyone got together and here you go. It's gonna happen."

Guzman said anyone who is interested in donating to help keep the Fiesta up and running and help offset some of the costs this year may contact the board via the email listing above.

DNR asking for comment on proposed fee structure

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is accepting comments on its proposed menu of hunting and fishing license fee increases, through Aug. 21.

The proposal would set the cost of an annual resident hunting or fishing license at \$20; an increase of \$3. The proposed license fees do not include the vendor or convenience fee that pays license sales vendors and for the license sales system that is added to the transaction.

The proposed fee schedule for all hunting, fishing and trapping licenses and habitat fee is available online at www.iowadnr.gov/hunting. This would be the first increase in the price of an annual resi-

dent hunting license since 2002 and of an annual fishing license since 2004. If approved, the new fee schedule would be effective when 2019 licenses go on sale on Dec. 15.

Revenue from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses is deposited into the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, which is state constitutionally protected fund supported by hunting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes paid on ammunition, fishing tackle and other hunting and fishing supplies. The fund receives no tax payer money from the state general fund and is used to promote and improve areas to hunt and fish in Iowa.

The authority to set hunting and fishing

license fees had rested with the Iowa Legislature until 2018, when the Legislature passed a bill, signed by Governor Kim Reynolds, that shifted the authority to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resource Commission. Any proposed fee increase would be subject to review by the five member bipartisan Administrative Rules Review Committee before enactment.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted through Aug. 21 via email to wildlife@dnr.iowa.gov, or by mail to Joe Larscheid, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50319-0034.



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Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



8/1
5 22 32 38 58
Powerball: 26
Power Play: 2



8/1
3 8 24 25 50
Star Ball: 5
All Star Bonus: 3



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



8/1 MID-DAY
5 0 1 7
8/1 EVENING
6 0 1 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125

sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Pen City Current

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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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Current-Lee/Scene Around Town

CURRENT-LEE

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

Riverfest 2018

Riverfest 2018 returns to the Fort Madison riverfront on Aug. 2-5 with live national entertainment, games, dragonboat racing, carnival rides, food and many other activities. See www.riverfestfm.com for full details.

American Legion

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.

YMCA Youth Soccer Clinic

The free "Just for Kicks" clinic will be held at the Baxter Sports Complex in Fort Madison on Thursday, Aug. 23. 1st and 2nd grade will be from 5-5:45 p.m. 3rd and 4th grade from 6-6:45 p.m., and 5th and 6th graders from 7-7:45 p.m.

Veteran's Breakfast at

Each month on the third Tuesday of the month, Sunnybrook Assisted Living hosts a Veteran's Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at 5025 River Valley Road in Fort Madison. The next breakfast will be Aug. 21 in the dining room. Call 372-8611 for additional details.

Corporate Games

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Corporate Games will be held Oct. 5. This fun and competitive afternoon pits local manufacturing and industry teams against each other in a battle of wits and skills at the Baxter Sports Complex.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

RiverFest crews work on putting up the final banners on the Main Stage in Riverview Park in Fort Madison. The festival kicked off Thursday night with a carnival, crafts and vendors, food and music including area band Memphis Dive and national rockers Saving Abel.

Relay for Life benefit set for Wednesday at Kinnick in Montrose

BY PCC STAFF

MONTROSE - 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

Kinnick on the River will be serving their chicken dinner while contributing to the North Lee County Relay for Life efforts.

Relay for Life/American Cancer Society information will be available along with an opportunity to enter the 50/50 raffle. All proceeds go to the Relay For Life.



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SUN 05 Aug



Light Rain
High— 89.0° F | Low – 78.7° F

MON 06 Aug



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