



Pen City Current

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2018 | 21 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 266

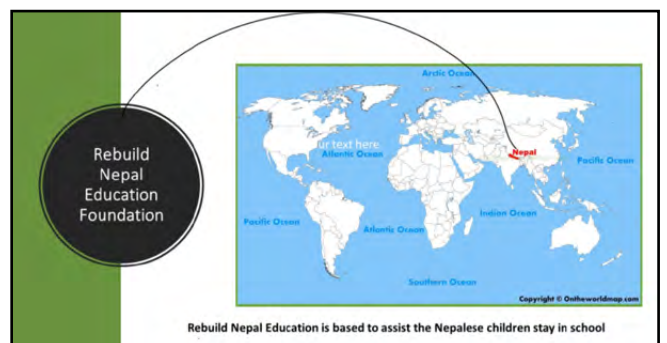


Clean up on Hwy. 2

Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A property owner works with a snowblower on his drive about three miles east of Hwy. 218 on Hwy 2 while a state Department of Transportation truck does the heavy lifting Monday morning. Lee County residents were digging out of about six inches of snow after a winter storm blew through the area Sunday evening beginning at about 4 p.m. At left, Chris Swed and Tina Faeth pair up to remove the snow from in front of Faeth's Cigar Store.

Teachers join Schiller in Nepal education efforts



BY ERNIE SCHILLER
Special to the Current



SCHILLER

LEE COUNTY - Plans are to leave mid-May of 2019. We plan to leave and again do volunteering missions to the remote villages of Nepal that were totally devastated by the massive earthquake of 2015. This earthquake was so massive that Mt. Everest receded 8 inches, while the largest city, Kathmandu-a city of over seven million raised up 10 feet in 30 seconds.

There was amazing structural damage to the country, but all the relief never got outside the city of Kathmandu. So volunteers concentrated time in those rural regions where no support has been received. Volunteers go into the schools, teaching and delivering much needed supplies as well as providing scholarships to the neediest students and their families who simply lost everything and cannot afford to send their children to school.

In 2019, the fourth Education Mission to Nepal will include several people that want to go to volunteer including a partnership with The University of Iowa and the Science Education Department. Dr. Ted Neal and several of his Pre-Service Science Teachers are joining forces with Rebuild Nepal Education Foundation and sending 10 science teachers and a university faculty member to Nepal with me and our volunteer team in May of 2019.

They will spend two weeks in Nepal, teaching, delivering educational supplies, helping our foundation deliver scholarships. They will be living with Nepali

See **NEPAL**, page 4

Riverfest brings in hard-rocking Puddle of Mudd

Ticket sales off and running with Black Friday event

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It was a bit ironic that the Fort Madison Riverfest 2019 committee unveiled Puddle of Mudd as their opening act on a rainy Friday after the downtown Lighted Christmas Parade.

At a spaghetti dinner put on the Fort Madison Elks Club, RiverFest Chairman Charles Craft announced the headline act for the first night of the 2019 Festival, which kicks off Aug. 1 and runs through the 4th next year.

On Monday Craft said ticket sales have already started strong and the excitement generated from the 2018 lineup, which included heavy rock bands Hinder, Firehouse and Pop Evil, is helping the festival become one of largest music festivals in the tri-states area.

With last week's announcement that the annual Steamboat Days music festival in Burlington is being postponed in 2019, the Fort Madison four-day festival becomes an even bigger draw. Craft said VIP tickets and general admission tickets are on sale now and there are accommodations for 1,000 people in the VIP section nightly. He said people interested in VIP tickets for this year's show should get them early.

See **RIVERFEST**, page 8

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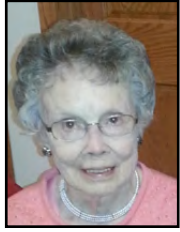


Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

BERNICE E. MERSCHMAN

Bernice E. Merschman, 91 years, of West Point, Iowa died at 12:20 a.m. Sunday, November 25, 2018 at Great River Klein Center, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born May 16, 1927, the daughter of Joseph H. and Mildred D. (Holtkamp) Mettenburg. On April 23, 1949, she married William F. Merschman in Houghton, Iowa.



MERSCHMAN

Bernice was a 1945 graduate of St. John's High School, Houghton. She was a homemaker. She and her husband Bill were co-founders and she was secretary of Merschman Seed Company, now known as Merschman Seeds, Inc. She was a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in West Point, Iowa, serving as President of St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society. She helped with many school projects at the Holy Trinity Elementary and Early Childhood Center.

Bernice enjoyed her family. She also found time to sew and make quilts.

Besides her husband, Bill, she is survived by two daughters: Kathleen (John) McKillip, of Fort Madison, Iowa and Jean (Greg) Humphrey, of Fort Madison, Iowa; three sons: Joseph (Barb) Merschman, of Fort Madison, Iowa, Henry (Katherine) Merschman, of Fort Madison, Iowa and George (Linda) Merschman, of Springfield, Illinois; eight grandchildren: Megan (Jason) Glass, Brian (Dawna) McKillip, Julie (Eric) Duplessis, Jeff Merschman, Alex Stewart, Adam Stewart, Ashley (Collin) Bartels and Kaitlyn Merschman (Chris Rude, fiancé); seven great grandchildren: Samantha and Madison Glass, Peyton and Jayden Duplessis, Avery Rude, and Austyn and Haiden Bartels; one brother, Clarence (wife Mary) Mettenburg; one sister-in-law, Charlotte Mettenburg, many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Robert Mettenburg, several nieces and nephews.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated. Friends are invited to join the family for a Rosary at 4:00 pm Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, West Point. Following the Rosary her family will greet friends until 6:30 pm Wednesday evening at the church. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, November 29, 2018 at St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, with Reverends Dennis Hoffman, Apo Mpanda, and Robert McAleer as concelebrants. Burial will be at the Calvary Cemetery, West Point. A memorial has been established for St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, Holy Trinity Catholic School and P.A.W. Animal Shelter, contributions may be made at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home, P.O. Box 247, West Point, Iowa 52656 or at the church during the time of services. Online condolences to the Merschman Family may be made at the Barr-Holtkamp Funeral Home website, www.barrholtkampfuneralhome.com.

LCHD offering holiday coping sessions

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Health Department Hospice Tree of Love Gatherings will focus on relaxing, connecting, and listening during the holiday season. The gatherings will take place the Wednesdays in December - 5th, 12th, and 19th - from 2:00-3:00pm around the LCHD Tree of Love in the lobby of LCHD (#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison). The gatherings are free and open to the public.

"This is a new program that LCHD has created with our staff, hospice chaplain, and music therapist," states Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator. "Many have had to learn new holiday traditions after a loss of loved one, and we would love for people to take advantage of these events to learn and share about coping with the holidays."

In the December 5th "Relax" session the focus will be on relaxation and comfort skills lead by LCHD Massage Therapist Julie Schneidet, and a short candlelight ceremony will be held. For the "Connect" session on December 12th, LCHD Hospice Chaplain Larry Wallingford will share information connecting with loss loved ones and coping during the holidays. There will also be time for individuals to share their own experiences, and place pictures on the Tree of Love with the ornament for their loved one. Lastly, on December 19th, during the "Listen" session LCHD Music Therapist Denise Coovert will share how music heals, and will share holiday music.

The sessions take place in conjunction with the LHCD-Hospice Tree of Love which allows people to support hospice through ornaments in honor/memory of loved ones. Purchase of an ornament is not required to participate in the Tree of Love Gatherings. "We hope to bring people together to share and support each other during the holiday season," adds Ross.

The public can attend one or all the sessions. A RSVP is not necessary, but appreciated. If you have any questions about the Tree of Love Gatherings please call LCHD at (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.



May your holidays be merry and bright.

Harvestville Farm Christmas Season

Nov. 17 - Dec. 23

Mondays - Saturdays 9am - 5pm

Sundays 11am - 4pm

The Pitchfork Café

Mondays - Saturdays 11am - 2pm

beginning Nov. 26

Pictures with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10am - 2pm

Harvestville Farm

1977 Hwy. 2, Donnellson • 319-470-1558
info@harvestvillefarm.com • www.harvestvillefarm.com

Snowy days are right around the corner



... so now's the time to plan ahead!

Sure, it's hot now. But the days are already getting shorter. Are you ready for the shoveling, the shivering and the social limitations of winter?

You won't have to worry about dark, icy roads or feeling cooped up this winter if you're safe, warm and enjoying life at **The Kensington**. Choose your apartment now and move in any time before November 1. You'll get one month's free rent to redeem any time after the third month. We'll even pay for a professional to move your furniture!

Just don't wait too long - availability is limited.

For more information about this hot deal please call Victoria at (319) 372-4233, or send an email to: VMatlock@Kensington-Evergreen.com.



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www.tkef.org

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES TODAY!

fortmadisonny.org **the Y**
220 26th Street • 319.372.2403

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Griffin's Diaper Drive



Did you know that November is National Diaper Drive Month and 1,200 infants to toddlers 3 years of age in Lee County are in need of diapers. 1 in 3 American families don't have enough diapers to keep their babies (and toddlers) clean, dry, and healthy? That is a staggering number of struggling families. With your help and the help of our community, we can make a difference for our Lee County families today!

RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL \$10 OFF any service at Griffins when you donate a package of diapers during the month of November!

Mention this coupon at time of service!

\$25 OFF

Any Repair or Maintenance
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\$50 OFF

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8:00am - 5:00pm**



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Current-Lee/From the Front

CURRENT-LEE

Caregivers Connection at The Kensington

The Kensington hosts this monthly gathering to help educate attendees about all dementia types. Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of every month in The Kensington's private dining room, 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. Call 319-372-4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Customer Appreciation Party

Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be holding a Customer Appreciation event on Dec. 1, 2018 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with complimentary food, keg beer, and soda. HUGE SAVINGS on annual passes and punch cards for the 2019 season and great offers for first-time pass holders and cart leasers! [Visit them online.](#)



Enchanted Forest

The forest is back and will feature locally created Christmas trees sponsored by area businesses. The forest will be held at the old Lee County Bank building on Avenue G Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22nd from 1 to 4 p.m.

Community Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be holding a blood drive on Dec. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic's Shottenkirk Gymnasium.

Coats for Hope 5K

The annual Coats for Hope 5K Fun Run will take place at the St. Paul Shelter House 2020 Locust St. on Dec. 1 beginning at 9 a.m. rain or shine. \$20 entry fee or donating a children's coat in good shape. Click here for registration and additional details <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Coats-4-Hope-2018.pdf>

Senior Community BINGO at The Kensington

Each month on the second Wednesday of the month, The Kensington hosts Senior Community BINGO at 2:00 p.m. in their dining room at 2210 Avenue H in Fort Madison. All seniors are welcome and cash prizes are awarded.

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.

Efforts underway to bring art into Nepalese efforts

NEPAL - Continued from Page 1

families on a distant mountain. They will interact with the culture of the Nepali's, working in the fields in evenings, networking with the locals, etc.

In addition...RNEF is planning on sponsoring a Nepal Art Festival. Our foundation has been observing numerous students creating their own individual art pieces. So, this year, our foundation will sponsor an Art Festival in Kathmandu in conjunction with our volunteer mission dates. I have been working numerous teachers in Nepal since 2016 and we will invite students from all of Nepal to create their art pieces: drawings, paintings, jewelry, textiles, pottery, etc.

We will have an open display where the art can be viewed by the Nepalese. Our foundation will provide Participation Awards and prizes. Then, if students want we will bring art back to the United States to exhibit in Iowa or to other areas in the U.S. to exhibit and

sell. 100% of money will go back to that student to be used for their continued Education back in Nepal. We have two local ladies in Ft. Madison who are helping me organize the Nepal Art Festival creating a form for the teachers of Nepal to invite their students to the festival.

Retired teachers, Linda Heitz and Angie Sodey have taken the lead in this effort. They are working with other artists in our community putting together a flier for the Nepalese. They are also working with the FMAA (Not sure of the acronym) for the Ft. Madison Art Association to display the art work locally and to try to sell their art. They are also reaching out to churches and other organizations that might be interested in supporting this cooperative venture between RNEF and the teachers in Nepal.

But I need your help. Our foundation board of directors are sponsoring over 320 students in Nepalese schools. From kindergarten up to and in college. We are needing much needed funds to continue our work. I am pleading for support



from any of you or your churches, or your organizations or your community groups. We want to continue our work in this badly devastated regions and areas. We need badly needed funds to help the children for our 2019 mission trip.

Can you help? Send a check to: Rebuild Nepal Education, 2224 204th Avenue, Donnellson, Iowa 52625. Or drop by any Pilot Grove Savings Bank and ask for a Special Account under the name of Ernest Schiller and make your deposit there. Online donations can be made for the GoFundMe Site for the Nepalese children at: <https://www.gofundme.com/2f2mgsek>.

Remember all donations go directly to Nepal. No middle man skimming. Come and support the kids of Nepal-they will greatly appreciate your support.

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Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays, 8am-5pm
726 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-3614

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 27 Nov	Light Snow High – 21.9 ° F Low – 17.6° F
WED 28 Nov	Light Snow High– 30.2° F Low – 18.7° F
THU 29 Nov	Clear Skies High– 31.1° F Low – 30.5° F
FRI 30 Nov	Clear Skies High – 32.2° F Low – 28.0° F
SAT 01 Dec	Clear Skies High– 34.5 F Low – 34.3 F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

Lottery Numbers/Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda

DATE: TUESDAY,
November 27, 2018
MEETING

CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.

LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Consider Approval of
November 20, 2018 Board
Minutes

Consider Approval of
Claims

Public Input
Consider Approval of
Support to Keokuk Parks
Foundation for Pickle Ball
Courts Consider Third
Reading of Engine Braking
Ordinance

Discussion of Proposed
ATV Ordinance

Consider Approval of
Adding Volunteer Emer-
gency Providers Section to
Personnel Policy Consider
Approval of Class C Liquor
License for Mt Hamill Tap,
Inc, Donnellson Consider
Approval of Taxable and
Assessed Value of Utilities
for FY18

Consider Approval of Tax
Abatement Resolutions (3)

Personnel Actions:

A. Step Increase - Health
Department

B. Step Increase -Second-
ary Roads

C. Step Increase- Treasur-
er's Office

Reports:

A. Commission of Vet-
erans Affairs Minutes of
Meeting

B. Manure Management
Annual Update for Henry
Pieper Corp in Green Bay
Township

Commission or Commit-
tee Reports

Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING -
CITIZENS WELCOME

Workshop to follow

Vision and hearing
assistance available
upon request

Contact Title VI
Administrator
319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

HELP WANTED

PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATE

Holy Trinity Catholic Early
Childhood Center has an
opening for a Preschool As-
sociate. This is a full time
position during the school year,
benefits eligible; background
check required. Stop by the
office from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm
to complete an application,
2213 Ave J Fort Madison IA.
319-372-6428



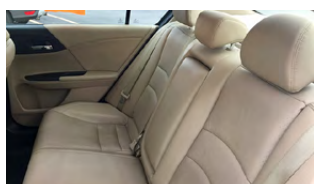
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Tuesday & Thursday 4:00
pm - 6:30 pm



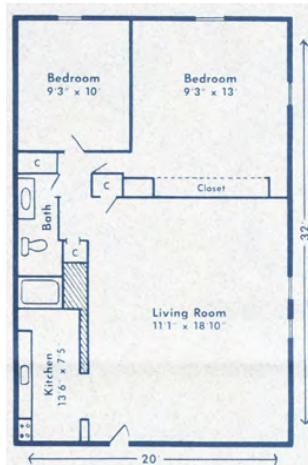
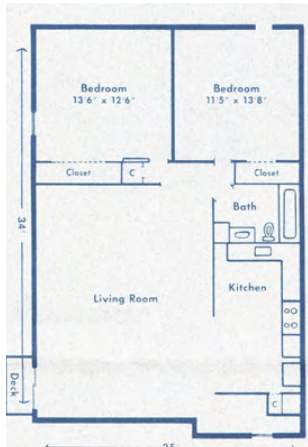
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trash furnished. 650 sq.
ft. units. Water, heat, sewer,
gas, trash furnished. Laundry
rooms have new coin-operat-
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ed in all buildings). On-site
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or 319-750-3115 for appoint-
ment to view. Owned by Alli-
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Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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



11/25 MID-DAY
7 2 9
11/24 EVENING
2 4 6

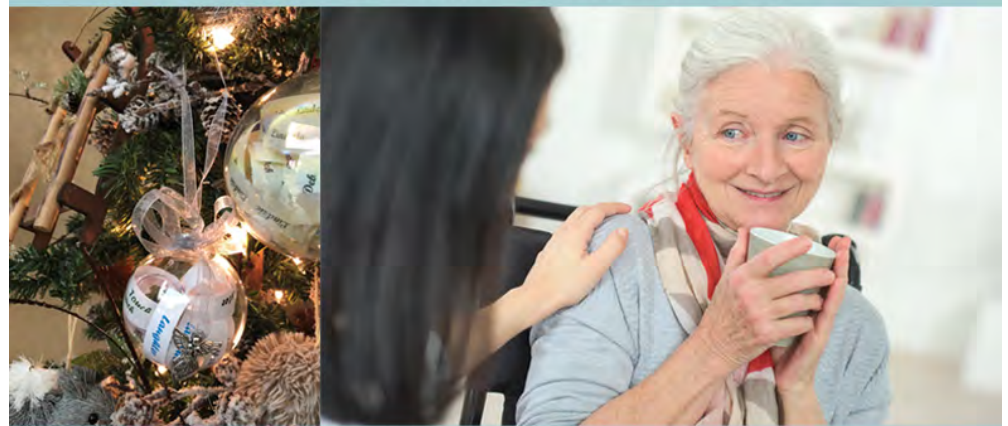


11/25 MID-DAY
8 6 5 4
11/25 EVENING
7 5 4 6

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE Through the Journey of Life & Death ONE PERSON AT A TIME

FMCH Home Health is now providing Hospice services. The same people you trust to keep you safely in your home after illness or surgery will now be there to provide support and care for you and your family during the end of life journey.



Grief & the Holidays

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 ♦ 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
FMCH Business Center Conference Rooms

We understand the holidays are an especially difficult time after experiencing the loss of a loved one.

We invite you to join us for a special session where we will provide tools to deal with your grief and create a special remembrance project for your loved one.

R.S.V.P by calling 319-376-2166

Light refreshments will be provided.



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Jason Runge,
owner

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Saturday December 1
8pm-11pm

Hill Side Inn

1135 Ave. E | Wednesday-Saturday | 5:00pm

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Bus: 319-372-5982

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MLO License #24290

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Local News/From the Front

Audition dates set for OFP's "Harvey"

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - Sure, you're a respectable citizen now, holding down a job and taking care of a family, but seriously, you know you've been longing for the spotlight ever since that third grade Christmas pageant. Whether you played the Angel Gabriel or were the third shepherd from the left, you will never forget the sound of the applause as the curtain came down. Old Fort Players can bring back that excitement! (They won't ask you wear your dad's bathrobe and carry a stuffed sheep, but you will be expected to show up to 3 or 4 rehearsals a week and make a lot of new friends.)

Fort Madison's community theater is looking for actors to fill the cast of their February 2019 production of "Harvey." Stop by the downtown Fort Madison location (725 Ave. G) on December 9 & 10 at 6pm to audition for this classic, family-friendly show. You will be asked to read



from the script provided. There's nothing to memorize for the audition and no previous experience is required.

"Harvey," the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy was also a hit movie starring Jimmy Stewart in 1950. The stage play by Mary Chase, is the story of a perfect gentleman, Elwood P. Dowd, and his best friend, Harvey -- a pooka, which is a six-foot tall, invisible rabbit. When Elwood begins introducing Harvey around town, his embarrassed sister, Veta Louise, and her daughter, Myrtle Mae,

determine to commit Elwood to a sanitarium. A mistake is made, however, and Veta is committed rather than Elwood! Once the mistake is realized, a frantic search begins for Elwood and the invisible pooka. Will Veta ever understand that she can love her brother and his invisible his best friend just as they are?

The cast calls for 6 men, 6 women of various ages and one 6 foot 3½ inch tall invisible white rabbit in the title role. (Director Shelley Dowling informed us that the part of Harvey has been cast, but she encourages all theatrically inclined rabbits to audition for his understudy.) If you can't make either evening of the auditions, OFP can still accommodate you. Just leave a message on the theater's voicemail or send a message on Facebook.

So, you're not quite the type who likes being in the spotlight? You can still be a part of the fun. OFP is always looking for hard-working, organized people to be stage managers, set crews, sound and light technicians as well as costume/prop stylists and makeup artists. There's even a spot for those who enjoy working with the public by selling concessions during performances. Stop by on audition nights to volunteer or send us a message on Facebook.

"Harvey" co-sponsored by Scotts Miracle-Gro will be presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services, Inc. Performances run February 15-17 & 22-24. Evening shows begin at 7:30 and the curtain rises on Sundays at 2:00 pm. Tickets for Adults are \$12, and Students are \$8. They are available on the theater website as well as at the door.

The Old Fort Players have been entertaining the community since 1981 and are located in downtown Fort Madison at 725 Avenue G. Call 319-372-9559 for more information. Like them on Facebook or visit www.oldfortplayers.com to keep up with everything that's going on at the theater.

Ticket sales brisk already for 2019 Riverfest lineup

RIVERFEST - Continued from Page 1

"Ticket sales are starting strong and the excitement is definitely there," Craft said. "VIP tickets will probably sell out in advance this year."

Puddle of Mudd is an alternative rock band that's had it's ups and downs forming in 1991 in Kansas City. Front man Wes Scantlin has been with the band since it's formation, but the band itself has gone through four transitions, but are putting out some of their best music ever in the past 11 months. A move that could put them back in the national spotlight.

Top singles for the band include "Blurry," "Control," "Psycho" and the 2001 relationship anthem "She Hates Me".

The band was one of the first to be signed to Limp Bizkit frontman Fred Durst's label "Flawless Records"

The remaining national acts for RiverFest will be revealed on March 2nd and the festival's annual release night, which packed Kinnick South last year for about four hours as Craft and members of The NATU Band revealed the 2018 acts throughout the night.

The summer event features family-friendly fun including food, games, events, and one of the best four-day festivals in the tri-state area.

More information, including ticket sales, can be found at www.riverfestfm.com.

Compensation board to meet

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - A meeting of the Lee County Compensation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 5:30 P.M., in the Board room at the North Lee Office Building located at 933 Avenue H in Fort Madison.

All elected officials are invited to make a presentation relating to any changes in duties during this past year.

The duty of the Compensation Board is to recommend Lee County elected official's salaries for fiscal year 2019/2020. Contact Denise Fraise at 319-372-3705 for further information.

Now is the Time to Start Preparing Our World for a Better Future

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Implement these simple steps to create a healthy footprint!

Create Space
Create an indoor space for all your recyclables. Recycling bins available at our Fort Madion & Keokuk facilities.

Go Paperless
Decrease your need for paper products. Choose paperless statements, use digital shopping lists & other documents.

Reuse
Instill new life into items you would normally throw away.

Compost
Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to build a healthy garden in the spring.

Go Waste Free
Make a conscious effort to stop using your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end-of-life solution.

Buy Recyclables
Only purchase what's made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

Backyard composting improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!



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