



Pen City Current

Monday, January 14, 2019 | 14 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 25

RiverFest group building on 2018 successes

Alligators and 21-mile kayak sprint added for 2019

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – In just four years, it's become one of the biggest parties in southeast Iowa. The four-day event that's anchored with some of the best live entertainment around, is



CRAFT

gearing up for another go-round on the shores of the Mississippi River at Fort

Madison.

RiverFest 2019 is already taking shape for the first full weekend in August, which this year is Aug. 1-4.

Chairman Charles Craft and the RiverFest committee is once again going outside the box to bring innovative entertainment to Fort Madison's River-view Park.

In addition to the traditional carnival, vendors, dozens of food options, and a schedule that fills more than a half week, this year he's adding even more attractions.

What normally isn't found in the muddy waters of the Mississippi this far north, will make an appearance this year.... alligators.

Craft is bringing an American bushman, Kachunga, to RiverFest this year with daily shows and



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A festival goer watches Saving Abel perform through a cellphone at RiverFest 2018. Organizer and chairman Charles Craft said the 2019 version promises to be bigger and better.

he said got the idea from touring state fairs and festivals.

The shows will be free to the festival goers who will see an up-close, fun, and educational presentation as part of an edge-of-your-seat experience.

"I had an idea on the drawing board from the first year. It just wasn't in the budget the first year. They'll do up to three shows a day and they'll be free," Craft said. "A lot of people that have been to the State Fair will have seen this act before."

He said the show isn't the typical alligator wrestling show you might see traveling in the southeastern part of the country.

“
We put our thinking caps on and when we're thinking about things we saw at fairs and festivals that blew our minds, this was one of those things.”

-Charles Craft
RiverFest chairman

Craft said he wanted to bring something genuine that was informative and exciting.

"We put our thinking caps on and when we're thinking about things we saw at fairs and festivals that blew our mind, this was one of those things," he said. "There are lots of fun things going on at state fairs and festivals, but there's always a couple

things that stick in your mind and for me it was the alligator show. This is not an alligator wrestling show, but it's education and they provide a lot of educational details. There's some comedy thrown in, too. So it's funny and entertaining and educational," said Craft.

Another event new to
See **FESTIVAL**, page 5



Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,
Pen City Current - Editor

Faulkner's induction surprised him... not us

On Friday, the Fort Madison High School inducted four well-deserving men into the Bloodhound Hall of Fame.

Dick Burch, Jim Allen and Jay Skinner were brought into the Hall for their contributions to the athletic programs on what we call in the news business a first-person level.

Burch and Skinner talked about how grateful they were for the recognition. Allen wasn't in attendance at the ceremony. Burch deflected and said it was more of a testament to the athletes, but he was humbled by the designation.

The most interesting comment may have come from Fort Madison Daily Democrat Sports Editor Chris Faulkner, a 38-year veteran reporter who's followed students, their parents, and, in some cases, maybe even a grandparent or two who played sports at area high schools, in this case Fort Madison.

"I didn't think I could get in, but this is a dream of mine."

-Chris Faulkner, Hall of Fame Inductee

Faulkner is in two other state Halls for coverage of prep basketball and baseball, but thought the FMHS nominations required attending or working at the school.



FAULKNER

As a not-as-seasoned reporter myself, I found it very endearing that this man who's been the main chronicler of Fort Madison High School sports for nearly four decades – didn't think he was acceptable.

I've known Chris for about half his time at the Democrat and knew about him before that. Oh...I was indirectly his boss for a year or so. I say that only because I can recall many conversations with him about happenings in Fort Madison...only about half of which were sports.

I watch Chris work at sports events, not just at FMHS, but also at Holy Trinity, Central Lee, and all

See **FAULKNER**, page 6

Advertiser Index

Classifieds	P.4
Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis Family Dentistry	P.3
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups	P.4
Hope Associates Real Estate	P.5
Kempker's True Value Rental	Ps.1-8B
Lee County Health Department	P.2
Pen City Current	P.4
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	P.4
Professional Services	P.4
The Kensington	P.5

News Index

Area News	P.6
Current-Lee	P.6
Education News.....	P.3
Letter to the Editor.....	P.2
Local News	Ps.3,5
Obituaries	P.2
-Dustin Paul Clatt	
-Iris Darlene Jones	
Opinion	Ps.3,6
Weather	P.8

Scan the code to
Subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



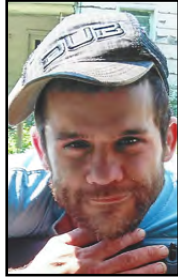
Obituaries/Letter to the Editor

OBITUARIES

DUSTIN PAUL CLATT

Dustin Paul Clatt, 34 of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, January 13, 2019 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born on February 26, 1984 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Paul and Sherry Lally Clatt.



CLATT

Dustin loved the outdoors and spent as much time as he could fishing. He enjoyed to cook and spend time with his family and friends and with his four legged companion, his dog.

He is survived by his daughter, Paizley Dutton of Cushing, OK, his mother Sherry Hall (Randy) of Hamilton, IL, his father, Paul Clatt of Keokuk, his girlfriend, Sarah Cooper of Keokuk, one sister, Dana Clatt of Cedar Rapids, IA, one grandmother, Glenda Dochterman of Keokuk and several uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, John Dochterman and paternal grandparents, Noah and Charlene Clatt.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor David Turner officiating.

Visitation for family and friends will be held prior to the service, from 5-7 p.m., Friday, at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association.

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.

Letter to the Editor

Food pantry president offers thanks

Now that the dust has settled on the holidays and I'm almost comfortable writing "2019", I wanted to thank the Fort Madison community for the incredible support shown to the Fort Madison Food Pantry this past year! On an average, the Pantry monthly assists 350 families (1100+ individuals) with putting food on their tables at a cost of around \$5000. Historically the problem has been the increasing numbers of families served while donations decreased — until this holiday season. On a daily basis our volunteers, Board of Directors and I were surprised by either a more-than-generous monetary gift or a ginormous food drive. The entire Fort Madison community, in so many selfless ways, participated in reaching out in an effort to solve the problem of food insecurity in our area. Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do to help Fort Madison. What an awesome example of neighbors helping neighbors!

— Lin Cramer,
Board President
Fort Madison Food Pantry

LEE CHD
#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
(319) 372-5225 . www.leecountyhd.org

OBITUARIES

IRIS DARLENE JONES

Iris Darlene Jones, 85 of Keokuk, IA died Friday, January 11, 2019 at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, IA.

She was born May 21, 1933 in Ethel, MO, the daughter of Pete and Barbara Speak Mead. On July 25, 1952 she was united in marriage to Herbert Jones. He preceded her in death on March 16, 2004.

Iris graduated from Montrose High School in Montrose, IA with the Class of 1951. She had been employed by Lee County Health Department until her retirement. Iris enjoyed reading books, especially books about health. She liked to work crossword puzzles and word searches. Above all, she loved to spend time with her family.

Iris is survived by two daughters, Barbara Beaird (Terry) of Keokuk and Amy Savage (Chris) of Keokuk, one son, John Jones (Gigi) of Keokuk, five grandchildren, Debbie Hendrickson (Jared), John and Scott Jones, Ryan Jones and Colbee Savage, eight great-grandchildren, Richard Campbell, Nathan Skinner, Stephanie Skinner, Avayah Jones, Isabell Jones, Maxton Jones, Teagen Chaknine and Reece Jones, six great-great-grandchildren, one sister, Betty Jones of Keokuk, two brothers, Gerald Mead (Sue) of Montrose, IA and Bobby Dean Mead of Ft. Madison, IA and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Everett "Weiner" Mead, one sister Rosie Mead and one brother-in-law, Don Jones. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, at the Sandusky Cemetery in Sandusky, IA. The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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

1/12
14 17 19 32 52
Star Ball: 7
All Star Bonus: 5

1/12
7 36 48 57 58
Powerball: 24
Power Play: 2

1/12 MID-DAY
9 2 0
1/12 EVENING
6 6 8

1/12 MID-DAY
1 9 3 6
1/12 EVENING
1 6 8 7

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

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current
All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

Pen City Current
Founded in 2016

P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member LION Publishers
www.lionpublishers.com



Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Opinion/Education News

House cat has no room for extra strays from the field

I thought Barney's food was disappearing awfully fast.

Barney is the cat that adopted us, and Ginnie and I love him. We took him to the vet and had him fixed and given shots. He didn't seem to mind. He's less than a year old and splits time between indoors and out, although he prefers outdoors by far. Every farm needs a farm cat. On Ginnie's insistence, I got Barney a litter box, but he ignored it, so I moved it to the garage. Consequently, Barney spends most of his time outdoors. He loves doing chores with me, and follows me around from feeding Blossom, our heifer, to gathering eggs. Blossom seems quite interested in Barney, which is a funny sight—a 800 pound heifer following a three pound cat.

At first I kept Barney's food and water out in the barn, after all, he was "Barney the Barn Cat." Taking care of him was just another chore on my morning-and-evening chore route. I watched Barney snare a mouse in the barn, and knew he was a keeper.

But his food seemed to disappear awfully fast, so I moved it to the garage. Ginnie made him a little bed, which he utilized with much purring and bath taking.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



We kept the garage door open a crack so he could get in and out. Life was good for Barney the Barn Cat.

Then Barney's food in the garage also began disappearing. Raccoon? Another cat? I happened to catch a movement out of the corner of my eye. Yep, there was another cat. It was a black cat. No, it was gray. There were two extra cats! They were a little younger than Barney—kittens really, and awfully shy.

Barney began complaining a lot. He wasn't getting enough to eat because the other cats were snarfing it. This wasn't good. Something needed to be done. I should have known—you never have just one farm cat. But what to do?

I noticed with chagrin that the stray cats were using the litter box I had left in the garage, like they were trying to demonstrate that they could be good house

cats. Hmm.

I remembered the live animal trap we had. I had used it to catch a marauding mink that was killing our hens. I set the trap in the garage and placed cat food in it. While I did chores, I kept Barney in the house so that I wouldn't catch him. When I returned from doing chores, sure 'nuff, I had caught the two stray cats, one black, one gray. I couldn't believe I had caught both of the strays at once. I figured it was going to be a one-at-a-time process. But nope.

Now what to do? I put a notice on social media asking if anyone wanted a couple of kittens. There were a couple of nibbles, but no takers. So, the two stray kittens got a free ride to the Henry County Veterinary Hospital. There, they will be put up for adoption. Ginnie and I hope they find a nice home—they are pretty cute. And litter trained!

Maybe, just maybe, the stray cats have taught Barney something—how to use the litter box. We can always hope.

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's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.

FMCH announces high school scholarship opportunities

Scholarships offered in conjunction with Hospital Auxiliary, FMCH Foundation

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Community Hospital Auxiliary is now accepting applications for the Health Career scholarship sponsored by the organization. This scholarship provides funds to students pursuing a career in any medical field. It is available for high school seniors or recent high school graduates from Fort Madison High School, Central Lee High School, Holy Trinity Catholic High School or Keokuk High School. Non-traditional students and dependents of FMCH employees are also eligible to apply.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on grades, leadership, character, community and school activity and financial need.

Applicants can apply online by going to www.fmchosp.com/community-wellness/scholarships. Applications are also available at all four schools. Transcripts, FAFSA and ACT scores can be mailed to:

Fort Madison Community Hospital
Attn: Auxiliary President
P.O. Box 174
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Completed applications must be received at FMCH by April 1, 2019. Please encourage students to read the directions carefully as incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Please direct additional questions to Carrie Green at (319) 376-2747.

Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship

The Kathleen Canella Family, in conjunction with the Fort Madison Commu-

nity Hospital Foundation, is now accepting applications for the Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship. The Kathleen Canella Family Scholarship was established in memory of Kathleen Canella, a dedicated FMCH Auxiliary member and hospital volunteer.

This scholarship provides funds to students pursuing a career in a medical field, with the exception of physician.

This scholarship is open to high school seniors or recent high school graduates of any high school within the FMCH market area. It is also available to non-traditional college students. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need. College graduates may also apply for the scholarship to pursue continuing education.

Applications are available may be requested by contacting the FMCH Foundation at 319-376-2747 or can be filled out online at <http://www.fmchosp.com/community-wellness/scholarships/>.

Completed applications must be received at FMCH by April 1, 2019.

The Tracey Howe Family Scholarship

The Tracey Howe Family, in conjunction with the Fort Madison Community Hospital Foundation, is now accepting applications for the Tracey Howe Scholarship. The Tracey Howe Scholarship was established in memory of Tracey Howe, a dedicated nurse in the FMCH Birthplace.

This scholarship provides funds to new or continuing students pursuing a nursing career at Southeastern Community College. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on grades, leadership, character, community activity and financial need.

Applications may be requested by contacting the FMCH Foundation at 319-376-2747 or can be filled out online at <http://www.fmchosp.com/community-wellness/scholarships/>.

Completed applications must be received at FMCH by April 1, 2019.

**NEW YEAR. NEW YOU.
NEW SMILE.**

**Call Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Family Dentistry now
to schedule your
6-month checkup
or click anywhere on this ad.**

Now accepting new patients.



Fort Madison Family Dentistry East
319-372-3614

Burlington Dental Associates
319-753-2515

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West
319-372-4882

Mediapolis Dental Care
319-394-3255

Burlington Family Dentistry
319-752-7993

New London Dental Care
319-367-2311



**Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Family Dentistry**
www.drmarkdds.com

Classifieds

the classifieds

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Griffin's Full Service Auto Repair
Experience the Difference

Every Day is Ladies Day

535 Avenue G
 Fort Madison, IA 52627
 319-372-2478
 griffinmuffler@gmail.com
 www.griffinmuffler.com

Unlock more savings — with [auto + renters]

Contact me to schedule a SuperCheck® and see how simple combining your auto and renters insurance can be!

Larry Holtkamp
 1301 37th St
 Fort Madison
 (319) 372-9145
 (319) 470-1927 Cell
 LARYHOLTkamp.COM

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES
 Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services FC114 (8-17)

ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICE BUSINESS

1 month • Only \$25⁰⁰

2x2 Business Card Size Ad

Place your ad online 24/7 www.pencitycurrent.com
 Email your ad classifieds@pencitycurrent.com
 Call (319)371.4125

Shopping for a mortgage?

Thomas Klann RICP LTCF LUTCF, Agent
 State Farm Agent
 2623 Avenue L
 Fort Madison, IA 52627
 Bus: 319-372-5982
 NMLS #139716, NMLS MLO #1359992
 MLO License #24290

We have a great selection.
 As life changes, so do your needs. Let State Farm Bank® help with a mortgage that fits your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move. Bank with a Good Neighbor®. **CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

State Farm Bank®

Some products and services not available in all areas.
 1001306.1 State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL

Open Mic Night

Wednesdays 7:00pm

Hill Side Inn

1135 Ave. E • Wednesday ~ Saturday 5:00pm

Intimate and Meaningful

Bridal & Baby Showers
Anniversary & Birthday Parties
Receptions & Retreats

Unforgettable Celebrations

BOULDERS INN & SUITES

4901 AVE O FT MADISON IOWA 319-246-1401
 EVENTS@BOULDERSINNFORTMADISON

REHABILITATION & SKILLED NURSING WHEN GOING HOME AFTER A HOSPITAL STAY ISN'T AN OPTION.

YOUR LOVED ONES DESERVE THE BEST

Call to schedule your personal tour
319-372-8021

THE MADISON
 EXPERTISE IN SIGNIFICANCE
 Short-term Rehabilitation – Long-term Care
 Memory Care – Ventilator Support

1701 41st Street Fort Madison, IA 52627

Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance, and Private Pay Accepted

Like us on Facebook

5 Generations of Printing

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
 Est. 1877

Posters, Business Cards, Photo Correction, Wedding Invitations, Supplies, Custom Design, Office Furniture, Online Ordering

319-372-2721 • doddprinting.com

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2006 Pontiac Grand Prix

Clean, one owner, remote start, sunroof, leather heated front seats. 122,000 miles. \$4,500. 319-470-0347.

CLICK HERE TO PLACE YOUR AD NOW

Subscribe to #PCC today

Free and Paid Options Available.

Pen City

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent

Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.

TWO BEDROOM
 Forced Air Heat
 Central Air Conditioning

TWO BEDROOM
 Gas Hot Water Heat (Paid)

Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!

CAUTION
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

From the Front

Committee still balancing music with family events

FESTIVAL - Continued from Page 1

the festival in 2019, and one that continues to feature the natural beauty, power, and excitement of the Mississippi River, will be a 21-mile kayak race from Burlington to the shores of RiverFest.

This race will feature professional, hobbyist, and local racers and will take place right in the channel of the river. Craft said the event will be another spectator driven event, but anyone can register to participate in the event.

“As entertainment grows we want show that we’re bringing in family events. This is a 21-mile race from Burlington to Fort Madison. These are serious races with boats designed for that kind of race and will attract racers who do this all summer. We’d love to see plenty of people sign up for that,” Craft said.

There will be more details to come on the exact route, including starting and finishing locations, but Craft said it’s a sprint race in the channel and there will be some racers that will finish in close to two hours.

“We do it in the channel because we need a definable path. That race will take place on Saturday and it will be highly competitive. The guys who are serious competitors will knock it out in about two hours and the schedule will have them coming in right before the Dragon Boat’s start,” Craft said.

The Dragon Boat races were a hit with spectators in 2018 and Craft said they will be back this year again. Spectators lined the shores on the backside of the festival on the Riverview Park walkway for several hours and teams of 20 in traditional dragon boats raced down the mighty Mississippi trying to earn the best time of the day.

Another event that high-

lights Pool 19 of the Mississippi will be the kayak and canoe float. Craft said they moved the float to a northern location where it can finish at the festival instead of downriver. And the RiverFest games will be in full swing again with competitive events like sand volleyball, bags, and a 5K run/walk, just to name a few.

He said 2018’s festival was the most successful yet with national rock bands playing all three of the four days, and Sunday being a wild card slate of performances. But he said he didn’t want to use the growth from 2018 just to increase the music entertainment, but wanted to increase family events, as well. He said most of the acts for this year’s festival have already been booked.

“We didn’t slough off on entertainment. Puddle of Mudd is the big act for Thursday. I will say we’re bringing in some classical rock for the weekend and Sunday is the wild card,” he said. We have some really good opening acts and after-tent acts. There’s plenty of things to keep everybody interested.”

– Charles Craft, Chairman

This year music fans will also have the added visual experience of two 20-foot digital screens – one on either side of the stage. Craft said he added those to put the musical part of the festival on par with other large music venues in the area.

The committee has also integrated new VIP experiences. This year he will have four VIP tents that can be reserved in advance for the four-day event. The exclusive tents are being offered at \$2,500 for all four days and will include tickets, special VIP accommodations for food and beverages, VIP

restroom access, and even pre-show visits from some of the artists. He said two of the tents are already spoken for.

“This will be a one-of-a-kind experience for groups, families, or employers who want to entertain guests or employees in top-shelf fashion. We’re really excited to be able to offer that option this year,” Craft said.

When the 2018 festival wrapped, he said there wasn’t a whole lot of negativity about the festival or comments for things that needed fixed.

Craft employs what he calls an “after-action” plan gleaned from his years of service to the U.S. Army.

“There wasn’t a whole lot of negative comments for us to fix. I use what’s called an “After-Action” review and we analyze the plan, what happened, what were the bad things and how can we fix the bad things,” he said. “I’ve been in the Army for so many years, it’s in my head and I carry that to RiverFest. The one thing that stuck out last year was our process failed to account for the larger crowds we had last year.”

He said feedback is showing that people just really appreciate the vibe of the festival. And he doesn’t want to sit on that success, but rather build on it.

“We actually want to increase the feel and vibe of this event,” he said. “That’s the thing that everyone liked. It really wasn’t anything specific, but just a fun time. It was safe and fun environment. Our security team did a very good job being present but not overly present. People felt safe, but not pressed,” Craft said.

Currently there are 18 bands scheduled for this year and most of those will be revealed at the announcement party on March 2 at Kinnick South. Craft again will bring an area band, this year Ghost of Judas out of Burlington, who will tease those at the party by playing songs of the signed bands before the announcement. As always, the party will be full of surprises and giveaways.

Craft said the committee is also bringing back the Battle of the Bands, on Memorial Day weekend with the winner opening for Puddle of Mudd on



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The RiverFest Games will be returning this year with competitive action scheduled for most of the weekend. The festival’s website www.riverfestfm.com has a complete list of events.

Thursday night on the Main Stage.

The committee is also planning a pre-event in Burlington on June 29th with locations and times to be determined later.

With the announcement in the fall that Steamboat Days has been shuttered for 2019, Craft said he hopes people look south to help fill that void, but said he hoped that those associated with the American Music Festival can find a way to bring that festival back to life.

“We’re poorer in this area without it,” he said. “I didn’t set out to do anything competitive with them. That thought never really entered my mind. I just wanted to make the best festival I could make in Fort Madison.”

– Charles Craft, Chairman

Craft also said the quality of bands this year will be such that all acts from the openers to the tent bands after the main acts, will be crowd favorites.

“Sometimes people have the mindset that they will skip the opening acts and come down for the main acts,” he said. “They aren’t going to want to do that this year. This is going to be a sensory overload,” he said.

To keep informed of all that is RiverFest 2019, check the festival’s website at www.riverfestfm.com or the group’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/riverfestfm/>

(319) 372-4040
Click here for our listings.

HOPE ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE

REALTOR® **MLS** EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Turning Hope into Reality

CAREGIVERS CONNECTION

Dedicated to learning about all dementia types



Held at noon the 4th Tuesday of each month in our private dining room.

Call 319•372•4233 to RSVP or for more information.

Click this ad to visit our website.

The Kensington
Senior Living Community
and Primrose Path Memory Care

2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243



Carnival rides will be once again be a part of RiverFest. The festival remains committed to bringing in family fun to the 4-day event.

From the Front/Current-Lee

Even students know the value of reporter

FAULKNER - Continued from Page 1

the places these great programs take us every season. I sometimes rely on him for background on past coaches, players, even officials. There's very few that have the walking knowledge that he has about not just sports, but Fort Madison in general.

He can start up a conversation with anyone, literally, anyone, because he either knows them, their parents, a brother, a sister, aunt, uncle, or neighbor. He works his way through a crowd as though he's running for office. Occasionally he can be caught, maybe rooting?...for the Bloodhounds and Crusaders.

Journalism 101 tells us to remain objective at every corner...when possible. But sports is a different animal. In covering sports for the past two years myself, you

tend to take ownership. These are our athletes, too. We want the best for them. Chris has seen the best in them, and the worst, and has spent many, many years chasing those stories...capturing images...and filling in the gaps.

For the first time ever in my life, I saw, and continue to see, students chant Chris' name as part of their in-game cheering. The first time I heard this, I was perplexed. What? Cheering for the reporter. I'm not naive, people have their favorite reporters. I put Bob Costas in my column, Chris Berman, people who have given much of their lives filling in the gaps of my sports world.

The second time I heard "Chriiii Faulkner...clap..



clap...clap,clap,clap" I realized even these young students realized the important role he played in telling their story.

I smile now when I hear that cheer. So does he....and that's really the great part.

Congratulations, Chris. Not only were you qualified for the award, you were, and are, deserving.

Oh...and sometimes he gets free popcorn. I pay... and then share with him...but that's Beside the Point.

CURRENT-LEE

Comedy Night at the FM Elks Club

Fort Madison Elks Lodge will host two comedians Saturday, January 19 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance/\$20 the day of the show. Limited seating is available. Call 319.372.3724 or stop by the lodge for tickets today. Food available 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Fatal deer disease confirmed in Iowa

DES MOINES - Fourteen tissue samples from wild Iowa deer tested positive for chronic wasting disease, bringing the total deer testing positive to chronic wasting disease in Iowa to 44. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is waiting for results on follow up tests for two suspect samples that could raise the total positives for the year to 16. The deer tissue was collected primarily during the fall from hunter harvested and road killed deer.

"The way that this disease moves, these results were not unexpected," said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Bureau.

Eight positive deer were confirmed in Allamakee County, four in Clayton County, one (plus two suspects) in Wayne County and, for the first time, one in Dubuque County. The Dubuque County deer was a roadkill, 2-1/2 miles southeast of the city limits.

The Iowa DNR has more information about CWD and other infectious disease online at www.iowadnr.gov/cwd.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 14 Jan	Light Snow High- 24.2° F Low - 22.7° F
TUE 15 Jan	Partly Cloudy High- 31.7° F Low - 29.4° F
WED 16 Jan	Sunny High- 18.2° F Low - 13.3° F
THU 17 Jan	Sunny High- 26.2° F Low - 15.6° F
FRI 18 Jan	Sunny High- 21.1° F Low - 15.3° F

OpenWeatherMap

Convenience



*Anytime Anywhere Access
to Your Checking Account*

*Apply for a
Debit Card today!*

Pilot Grove Savings Bank

www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com

