Riverfest returns with bigger bang for the local buck

FMHS grad Moss to play Saturday after Buddy Jewell

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The effort continues to grow as a group of Fort Madison volunteers try to resurrect the Riverfest of old along the Mississippi River in Fort Madison. The group, spearheaded by Charles and Jenny Craft of Fort Madison, is building on the event which came back to the riverfront in 2016 for the first time since the summer of 1997.

This year’s event will take place Aug. 3-6 along Fort Madison’s Riverview Park and for the first time in almost 20 years, the event will feature a national entertainer. Craft, an 18-year veteran of the U.S. Army and National Guard, brought the festival back in 2016 with the help of the city and many sponsors.

"Everyone kept talking how great Riverfest was. We’d been promoting mixed martial arts fights with sometimes as many as 30 fighters. So my wife and I started talking, ‘how hard can it be’. I mean, we’re dealing with six or seven bands and some vendors. This should be easier,” Craft said.

Craft said the 2016 event was a huge learning experience and one of the main things he learned was that he can’t manage everything himself.

"Last year I planned and managed the event and didn’t have a committee. I even did sound for our second stage to keep costs down. This year, I reached out and asked for help from people who expressed interest last year. We were able to form a committee and we meet at the Elks. I’m really thankful to them for allowing us to do that,” he said.

Growing up in Bushnell Ill., Craft said he was exposed to festivals a couple times a year. The community had a spring and fall festival and his memories of those days, coupled with his wife’s memories of Riverfest of the ‘90s, sparked a fire that has resulted in the festival returning.

The first weekend in August, is the best time to hold the event, Craft said. Because of all the other local festivals including the Dry Creek Festival put on by Vinnie’s Santa Fe Tap and the Iowa State Fair in the middle of August, he said the festival was held on the weekend.

The carnival, which co-organizer Charles Craft says is the “key-stone” to the annual Riverfest weekend, will be back in 2017. Above Lauren Andrews smiles while she rides the cars last year.

It gives people who budget for one festival, to have the opportunity to attend two, if we spread it out from Steamboat Days.”

-Charles Craft, Riverfest co-organizer

LCHD cancels upcoming clinics

The Lee County Health Department TB (Tuberculous) clinic for Monday, April 24, and immunization clinic scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at the LCHD office have been cancelled.

The next regularly scheduled immunization clinic will be held on Thursday, May 11 from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Trinity Methodist Church in Keokuk. For more information on future clinic times and locations please check the LCHD Facebook page and website at www.leeceountyvhd.org.

The health department staff was relocated on Thursday to the North Lee County offices in Fort Madison after a concern arose that prompted Lee County Attorney Ross Braden to advise the move.
Rung’s first half goal isn’t enough for Hounds

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - A first half goal by Brody Rung wasn’t enough to hold off Washington in boys high school soccer action at Baxter Sports Complex Friday night.

Rung scored at the 18-minute mark in the first half off assists from Austin Sexton and AJ Nolting, according to head coach Kevin Wellman.

The Demons got on the board at the 39:45 mark in the 2nd half and again at the 16-minute mark to break the tie and the Hounds couldn’t manage another goal.

Carson Donaldson had nine saves in the contest for the Hounds who fall to 3-4 overall and 0-3 in the Southeast Conference. They travel to Fairfield on Tuesday.

The junior varsity squad fell 2-0 with Washington scoring at the 4:09 mark in the first half and at 11:00 in the 2nd half.

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OBITUARIES

IRENE MAE YEAGER

Irene Mae Yeager, 91 years, Wever, Iowa died at 12:47 p.m. Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the West Point Clinic, West Point, Iowa. She was born November 19, 1925 at Niota, Illinois, a daughter of Roy D and Grace (Charles) Siegfried. On May 10, 1958 at Carthage, Illinois, she married Robert L. Yeager Sr. He preceded her in death on April 14, 2008.

Mrs. Yeager was a wife, mother, and homemaker. She had been a resident of the rural Wever, Lee County area since 1961. She worked many seasons at Bee Bee’s Greenhouses in Wever. She volunteered at the Salvation Army for several years. She was of the Christian faith. She enjoyed swimming at the YMCA, gardening, mushroom hunting, and jigsaw puzzles. She especially loved spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by three sons: Robert L. (Susan) Yeager Jr., of Lowell, Iowa; Randy J. (Janet) Yeager, of Waxahachie, Texas; and Russell T. Yeager, of Wever, Iowa; one daughter, Roene C. (Karen) Yeager, of Grand Prairie, Texas; one daughter-in-law Rosie Upton Ossont, of Lecanto, Florida; numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers Lee and Carl Siegfried, and two sisters, Gladys Huston and Margaret Wylie, one brother, K.J. and Kurt Upton.

Per her wishes her body has been cremated. Arrangements are pending for a future date. A memorial service will be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel website, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Sue Astheimer of Fort Madison waits as Paul and Aidan, 2, come off the Santa Fe Caboose at the Fort Madison Train Museum. The family was down visiting the train museum as part of the weekend’s train expo and swap and meet on the riverfront. Paul said Aidan, “just loves trains.”

VOTE
ROSS BRADEN
Lee County Attorney
May 2nd, 2017

“Looking to the future of Lee County”

Lee County Attorney, Ross Braden, is dedicated to protect and serve Lee County, Iowa to make it a safer place for our children and community as a whole!

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Department report

04/20/17 - 7:43 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of 23rd Street.
04/20/17 - 9:56 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Michael Graham Donaldson, 33, of LaHarpe, Ill., at the intersection of 9th Street and Avenue F, on a warrant for failure to appear on a burglary charge. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
04/20/17 - 2:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of Avenue H.
04/20/17 - 3:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 500 block of Avenue G.
04/20/17 - 4:00 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3100 block of Avenue O.
04/20/17 - 10:08 p.m. - Lee County sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle rollover accident in the 2800 block of 320th Street. A vehicle driven by Claire Rene Smith, 17, of Montrose lost control and entered a ditch striking a tree and then rolling over onto its top. Smith and a 15-year-old passenger were able to exit the vehicle and refused medical treatment at the scene. No citations were issued at the scene.

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Classifieds

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• Mechanical—Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
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• Production and Processing—Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.
• English Language—Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
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Contact Information: Kevin Mehaffy, 1311 Pilot Grove Road, Pilot Grove, Iowa, 52648, 319-469-3961

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3684 Argyle Road, Keokuk
Listing #20164982 • $191,500

4BR • 2BA • 2 car garage
1,260 sq. ft. • 4.59 acres
Custom Designed, Energy Efficient home with an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, on a hard surface road. Includes large deck extends the entire back length of the house, master bedroom that opens up to the back deck, jack and jill master bath and second bedroom. The property also includes an oversized 2 car garage with a heated workshop attached.

1703 Avenue L
Listing #20165151 • $55,900

3BR • 1BA • 2 car garage
1,488 sq. ft. • 16,247 sq. ft. lot
Has been owned by this seller since 1960!!! Large eat-in kitchen with newly tiled floor includes stove, microwave, washer and dryer, main floor laundry (in bedroom), formal dining room with built-in hutch, and spacious living room. The house sits on a HUGE lot and has a nice 2 car garage in back. Home has Gas Heat and central air with maintenance-free siding on house and garage.

3098 County Road 103
Listing #20164991 • $129,900

2BR • 2BA • 3 car garage
1,404 sq. ft. • 1.42 acres
Upgrades, improvements, updates...call it what you like, this home has had MANY in the last 2 plus years. This seller has completely refurbished the hill to the north of the home with new landscaping finishes. This is a must see property!!! It has enough room for your family and then some!!!

4911 Bluff Road
Listing #20164861 • $157,500

3BR • 1.75BA • 2 car garage
1,772 sq. ft. • 0.57 acres
Great family home with LOTS OF NEW! New kitchen, bathroom, windows, most flooring, wrap around deck, ceiling fans, light fixtures, furnace and central air! Beautiful neutral decor and window treatments make this a must see! All this and a 2 car heated garage.

1712 Avenue E
Listing #20164725 • $92,000

4BR • 1.50BA
1,706 sq. ft. • 7,250 sq. ft. lot
This spacious home has it all, the character of a turn of the century home; beautiful woodwork, beamed ceilings, window seat, columns, and large covered front porch, yet also includes MANY updates. Call today for your private viewing!

1708 Avenue G
Listing #20165237 • $92,500

3BR • 1BA
1,432 sq. ft. • 5,500 sq. ft. lot
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BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - Keokuk hosted its annual tournament Friday the Elk’s Fairview, in a makeup date from March. Keokuk won the tournament carding a 311, while Holy Trinity shot a 348 for second place. Ft. Madison finished third with a 353.

The format had each teams No. 1 and No. 2 golfers playing their own ball. The Nos. 3 and 4 played better ball, and 5s & 6s played best shot (scramble). Brett Wrieden and Jake Cook tied with an 81 with Wreiden winning the first playoff hole with a birdie.

Holy Trinity’s Cameron Bahl and Collin Thornton shot a 170 at No. 1 and No. 2. Bahl shot an 84 and Thornton an 86. The Hounds went with Fort Madison’s Tristan Reida and Bill Young at 1 and 2. They shot a combined 189 on the 18-hole course with Young shooting an 88 and Reida 101. Keokuk won the better ball bracket with a 76, with Ft. Madison’s Tommy Wade and Tyler O’tool taking second with an 82 and Holy Trinity’s Kyle Bredemeyer and Josh Barr shot a 95 to finish third.

On Thursday night Holy Trinity hosted New London in a dual meet at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course. New London won the meet 176-196 with the Tigers’ Alex Dentlinger winning medalist honors with a 40 on the par-36, 9-hole event.

Collin Thornton paced the Crusaders with a 47 followed by Kyle Bredemeyer with a 48 and Cameron Bahl shot a 49. Alex Benlet carded a 52, while Nathan Bredemeyer shot a 55 and Josh Barr rounded out the scoring with a 60.

Cameron Bahl watches his putt on Hole No. 6 at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Thursday night. The Crusaders lost to New London that night and finished 2nd at a makeup triangular in Keokuk on Friday.

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From the Front

FMHS grad Moss to play in front of home crowd

SUMMER - Continued from Page 1

will stay right in that first week of August. ”It gives people who budget for one festival, to have the opportunity to attend two if we spread it out from Steamboat Days,” Craft said. “Plus, we don’t want to pull people away from those other festivals. They have good music at those other places and we wouldn’t want to compete with that.”

He said he was on active duty in the 90s and wasn’t able to attend Riverfest in those days, but Craft said he is striving to recapture the feel of Riverfest, even the higher end music. Thursday night’s music will be headlined by local favorite Cap’n Geech and the Shrimp Shack Shooters, a party band covering everything from the mid-70s to today, followed by a tent band to be named later. Craft said when the music is transitioned to the tent, it becomes a 21- and over show. The main stage music is for the whole family. Thursday night is also wristband night at the carnival with the help of Rusty Anderson to find a carnival with the disc into the kan with ‘kan’. Your partner can hit horseshoes but with a disk that’s thrown toward a ‘kan’. Your partner can hit the disc into the kan with extra points for hitting the Kan or going in the Kan slot on the fly with assistance. Tourney is set up for most of the events with some prize money returned, but pickleball will be just open only this year.

SUNDAY CHARITY BREAKFAST
The charity breakfast will be on again on Sunday from 7:30 to about noon. Funds raised will go to the American Legion Honor Flight program. Craft said it is important to him to see what he called “America’s Greatest Generation” honored for their service and hopes to send six or seven local veterans to Washington D.C. as part of the Honor Flight program.

“I’m really hoping people come down for that breakfast and shake the hands of one of these guys. When people see us in uniform today they’re pretty good about thanking us and these guys deserve the same,” Craft said. “And it’s a pretty ambitious breakfast - all inclusive pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy. Had a good turnout last year and looking for a great turnout this year.”

A donation of $7 is suggested for the breakfast. In the afternoon on Sunday the pro-jam to Riverfront will go to the Ozone Ramblers, and local musicians who live downtown, with some serious skills can go up and jam with the band.

Craft said he logged last year’s event in the success column. “In my mind, it was successful,” he said. “Ticketing and getting people to the gate was slower than we anticipated. Everyone showed up en mass at around 7 pm and we weren’t really prepared for that but we’re adjusting to that this year.”

* * *

The 2017 Riverfest is set to feature local regional favorite Ozone Ramblers, and country recording star Buddy Jewell. Jewell will be opening for local Garth Brooks cover star Shawn Moss, who typically performs under the stage name Shawn Gerhard.

**STRONG COMMITTEE**
Committee member such as Doug and Shanna Krogmeier, Gena Simmons, Wes Holtkamp, Chris Summers, Jim Steffen, Andrews, and others have helped make this year’s planning much easier, Craft said. He also said support from the city, the police and fire departments and park board have also made continuing the event easier to manage this year. Holtkamp will be helping organize a 5K run that will take place on Saturday morning.

Tickets will be available at Hy-Vee and Fast Break locations about a month prior to the festival, so around the first of July.

“We’ll do this as long as the community continues to support it and grow, and hopefully it gets bigger each year,” Craft said.