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

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.

On April 20, 2013, Saving Abel performed in Wapello, 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 Collins and Lyric Cook. The girls vanished in July 2012 and were found deceased in December.

Pop Evil, Hinder, and Colt Ford lead RiverFest lineup

Sunday fire
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.

Don’t forget Social Media!
Check us out on the following sites
@ pencitycurrent:

INSIDE:
School lock down drills at FMCSD keep protocols sharp.

See page 2

A little culture away from the nest

Ginnie and I may be entering our second childhood. 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...
Lockdown drills keeping staff, students on toes

BY ANIAH ROSS
PCC FMHS Intern

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..."
Scene Around Town

This year, do your part to keep our environment clean, too! Here are just a few of the ways you can help:

- Properly dispose of your household hazardous waste materials, construction debris, & electronic waste
- Use environmentally-safe cleaning products
- Reduce • Reuse • Recycle
- Check our website for proper disposal methods, acceptable materials, & more

Spring Cleaning
Keep it green!

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.
 bottled water, and Ginnie and I had Cookes. 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. 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-eyed 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.

This was a must-attend function in Washington for four local surgeons being one of the players. 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 Dodich, 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 “washboard” 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 and life’s terms is more like it. Have a good story? Call or text Cart Swarm at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Facebook. Cart Stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington. 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 considering 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 assessment 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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HELP WANTED

BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM

New Dimensions is looking for motivated team members to add to our friendly and professional team. We are looking for a full-time stylist who is looking for a new place to call home.

With a 35 year proven track record, quality products, and an easygoing, relaxed atmosphere, New Dimensions is the perfect place to express your creativity and be part of a winning team.

In this role you will be working in a positive environment with professional staff who have expansive knowledge in the industry.

If you have the essential requirements and would like to seize this great opportunity, please call 319-372-6291 or stop in at 1736 Ave. G in Fort Madison.

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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Marketing Director

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.

Send resume to: Michael Sheerin 2600 Ave A Fort Madison, IA 52627

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First. Fresh. Local.
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.

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 Ticketfly.com) and $30 at the gate each day.

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

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

| MON 12 Mar | Light Snow | High – 38.1º F | Low – 25.6º F |
| TUE 13 Mar | Partly Cloudy | High– 34.1º F | Low – 21.2º F |
| WED 14 Mar | Clear Skies | High– 36.5º F | Low – 22.9º F |
| THU 15 Mar | Clear Skies | High – 47.3º F | Low – 34.8º F |
| FRI 16 Mar | Light Rain | High – 53.1º F | Low – 55.1º F |

OpenWeatherMap