Tourism board gives Riverfest $10K boost

Craft says marketing national acts properly could fill up city’s hotels, campgrounds

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Tourism board granted Fort Madison’s resurgent summer festival Riverfest $10,000 to help the organization build on its momentum.

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph told RiverFest co-founder Charles Craft that request was a big ask, but the first two-years of the event has shown organizers are bringing in thousands of people to the event and they are doing the right things to warrant the grant.

“It’s a big ask, no question about it,” Randolph told Craft. “I do think that people appreciate the ability to be able to come, even locally, to participate in an event, as people always say there’s nothing to do. And you stepping up and doing that is huge, and we appreciate that. But we have to weigh the ask and how it’s justified to how we award other grants.”

Craft updated the board on the progress and planning of the 2018 event including entertainment and issues with parking, accommodations and the group’s charitable efforts in conjunction with the event. This is Buddy Jewell entertained fans during the 2017 Riverfest. This year the festival board has gone with four days of national rock acts. To help promote this year’s event, the Fort Madison Tourism Commission gave the group $10,000 to help promote the event and bring people to town.

Craft’s third year spearheading the event. Board member Kim Engle voted, after about a 30-minute discussion, to give Riverfest the $10,000 they had requested to help aid in the marketing efforts of the event. Last year Craft requested $5,000 and was given $2,500.

See TOURISM, page 2

Throngs show up for Chamber’s clean up

Good weather, good turnout helps effort

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Once again they descended on the streets of Fort Madison with big white and orange bags, in groups as small as one and as many as 10, to give a few hours to spruce up their community.

More than 80 people met at Central Park Saturday morning as part of the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce’s annual Citywide Clean Up. Groups took maps and dispersed across the city to take on city blocks, parks, creeks, and ditches to pick up what others thought was OK to leave for others.

Fort Madison Chamber Coordinator Savanna Collier was all smiles at the number of people who showed up to volunteer three hours for the city.

“I think we had about 85 people and our largest groups were from Holy Trinity, Fort Madison High School, and Hy-Vee, which is really cool,” she said. “This has been going on for many years, but the weather is great. I was so worried about that.”

The day was organized by the Fort Madison Chamber, but several local companies stepped up to provide supplies and resources for the event including Scotts Miracle Gro, Mid American Energy, and Thomas Klaas State Farm Insurance. Hy-Vee donated a hot-dog lunch for all the participants at Central Park when the clean up ended at noon.

Collier said the annual event continues to be a source of pride for the community.

“Everyone kept saying the turnout was better than the past and the weather is almost perfect,” Collier said. “Even if we just had 10 people we’d be happy, but close to 80 is great.”

See CLEANUP, page 9

Woman wanted on prostitution charge grabbed in Mason City

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - An Indianola woman charged with prostitution in 2017 after an investigation into the Avenue L Day Spa in Fort Madison is now facing similar charges in Mason City.

Yu Hong, 37, of Indianola, was wanted by Fort Madison police after a November 2016 undercover sting operation revealed sexual services were allegedly being offered at the salon as an extension to massage services.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig, the business was shuttered in December of 2016. According to court documents, an undercover officer went into the business to conduct a "sting" on the
Riverfest expenditures will pass $120K in 2018

TOURISM - Continued from Page 1

Randolph, who sits on the board, hesitated slightly before voting in favor of the grant from city tourism funds. Board member Mark Lair, who also sits on the Fort Madison City Council meeting, voted against the expenditure.

Prior to voting, Randolph asked Craft how he would justify $10,000.

“Dollars for dollars we're going to bring people into town,” Craft said. “Other than rodeo, there's definitely not another event in Fort Madison that has the capability to bring thousands of people to town and fill up all the hotels. And hopefully have those people descend like a plague of locusts on our local businesses.”

The Riverfest committee has a full slate of rock bands from the 70s through contemporary rock, including 80s superband Firehouse, Saving Abel, Hinder, and chart-topping Pop Evil. Local favorites like The Brandon Gibbs Band, and Chaz and the Channelcats, regional favorites Stumptown and the NATU Band are also scheduled. Cover groups X-Crush, Deception, and Jive Radio, and Headfirst, rounding out the entertainment. Craft said there will be another group announced later in addition to the winner of the May 27th Battle of the Bands at Vinnie's Lounge, which will get to perform on the Main Stage prior to Saving Abel.

The Battle of the Bands will also feature a charity arm, where those in attendance can vote for their favorite charity out of the following: Puppy Jake Foundation of Urbandale, Fort Madison's Eliott Test Kitchen or PAW animal shelter. Puppy Jake prepares service dogs for wounded veterans.

“One of the reasons we increased our advertising is our lineup. We want to reach as far as we can to let bands from the 70s through contemporary rock, into the live music area. “We've partnered with Pritchard Broadcasting so we're going to do a lot of radio to reach those rock markets,” Craft said. Craft said the city should be expecting to have all the hotel rooms taken up for the weekend which will benefit the city's hotel/motel tax funds. He said he's also working with city staff to be able to provide reserved camping.

He said his committee has tailored the music the way they did so people would come into town on Thursday and stay through the weekend to take advantage of more of the same type of music they saw on Thursday, all at one price.

Tickets are currently on sale through Ticketfly. A 4-day general pass for all music is $35, with VIP tickets which grant access to up front stage seating is $55 for all four days. Single day tickets are $25 each.

Craft said one hurdle is people who want to camp in the area for the weekend.

“The biggest hiccup is that they won't pay for the whole weekend if they can't reserve a camping spot. The Rodeo has first right of refusal so we're working on that with the city. I've volunteered to handle that, but if we can get some of these camping sites with online reservations we can fill those up, too.”

Board member Julie Hellman suggested the open fields near the prison or even inside the prison walls as a venue. Board member Julianne Killory, who has offered to create marketing videos for the city that could be played on hotel or restaurant televisions and monitors, or other locations that have televisions. Killory said he wasn't looking for any funding, but was willing to put the videos together. Said hotels could play the videos so people staying in the area could see what other attractions and history are available during their stays.

Killory said the videos could be uploaded to jump drives and installed directly on the television and could be loaded with several different videos that the locations could control and would give people, even in waiting rooms at hotels, an opportunity to plan to explore the area.

City Tourism director Peiton also informed the board of a new app and website service that she wanted to integrate city tourism with, which would allow visitors or those looking at visiting the area to download and have at their fingertips on their phones. Said the city's site still isn't smartphone compatible and this would give the city a more user-friendly tool to market the area. She said the company called TourBurst out of Nauvoo is charging around $4,000 per year for the app and website management. They are looking to get 25 more area communities involved to give it a regional impact.

Board members Kim Engle and Julie Hellman questioned the value of the app and what the incentive would be to download the app. Peiton said the cost is about the same as one print ad and website presence in the Chicago area and City Manager David Varley said this is something the city should try and see what value comes from it and if it doesn't deliver or goes belly up, the city can opt out next year. Peiton said ultimately city businesses, who would be included in the first year at no cost to them, would in following years be asked to pay a fee to be included in the app program, to offset the annual costs.
OBITUARIES

LAWRENCE “LARRY” LOWARY

Lawrence “Larry” Lowary, 77, of Argyle, Iowa, passed away at 4:40 p.m., Friday, April 20, 2018 at the Parkview Manor in Wellman, Iowa.

Born on April 13, 1941, in West Point, Illinois, the son of Virgil Edward and Bertha Mary (Daman) Lowary. On October 12, 1991, he married Arlene Helmick in Keokuk, Iowa. She preceded him in death on December 7, 2012.

Survivors include two sons: Carl (Elizabeth) Lowary of Atlanta, Georgia and Richard (Claudette) Lowary of Fernandina Beach, Florida; one daughter: Sheryl Appleget of Jacksonville, Florida; five grandchildren; three great grandchildren; four sisters: Charlotte Galant of Shelby Township, Michigan, Darlene (Arnie) Becerra of Fort Madison, Iowa, Betty Simmons of Keokuk, Iowa and Lillian Graber of Carthage, Illinois; three brothers: Clarence (Joyce) Lowary of Ft Myers, Florida, Leland (Mary) Lowary of Astoria, Illinois and Lester Lowary of Keokuk, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Arlene; three sisters: Shirley Kay, Sharon Lowary and Ruth Porter and two brothers: Jerry Lowary and Terry Lowary.

Larry was a United States Army Veteran. He worked as a construction supervisor.

Larry enjoyed country music, hunting, fishing, gardening, cooking and canning. He loved his kids, grandchildren and family. Most of all he loved his dog “Lady Bug”.

Everyone called Larry “Smiley” because he always had a big smile on his face at all times.

Friends may call after 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 26, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Chaplain David Grimm officiating.

Burial will be at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, Iowa with full military rites.

A memorial has been established in his memory for the Keokuk American Legion.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

OBITUARIES

MARGIE FERN DENT

Margie Fern Dent, 86, of Rochester, MO and formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:03 a.m. on Friday, April 20, 2018 at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia, MO. She was born on September 13, 1931 in Knox County, MO to Mason H. & Eula Baskett Edwards. She married Everett Allen Dent on January 17, 1952 in Newton, KS.

He preceded her in death on August 28, 2013. She worked for the AT & SF Railroad and co-owned Dent’s Parkview Memorials with her husband in Fort Madison for many years. She was a member of the First Christian Church.

Margie is survived by: 2-daughters: Deborah (Roger) Pederson of Columbia, MO & Brenda (Terry) Dietsch of Boonville, MO; 4-grandchildren: Heather Pederson, Danielle (Garry) Rees, Caleb (Devon) Bohlmeier & Cullen Bohlmeier; 2-step grandchildren: Heather (Matt) Newland & Amy Dietsch; 10 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by: her parents, husband, 1-daughter: Kathy Jo Dent, 3-sisters: Betty Partridge, Leta Madden, Lola Garrett and 2-brothers: Wesley and Wayne Edwards.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison, IA.

The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. John Simpson officiating.

Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery. A memorial has been established for the American Cancer Society.

Online condolences to Margie’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

DOROTHY ANN DAWSON

Dorothy Ann Dawson, 96, of Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly of Bonaparte, Iowa, passed away at 2:48 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2018 at her home in Las Vegas.

Born November 4, 1921 in Farmington, Iowa, the daughter of Frank and Faye (Miller) Dawson. Survivors include her cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents. She grew up in the Bonaparte area and later moved to Las Vegas where she worked as a teacher until her retirement.

A graveside service will be held 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at White Cemetery, near Bonaparte, Iowa with Pastor Michael Elrod officiating.

Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Spring Cleaning

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Pen City Current - Sunday, April 22, 2018 - 3
FMHS girls boot Liberty

BY PCC STAFF
FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison girls soccer team continued its winning ways Thursday night with a 2-1 win over visiting Iowa City Liberty at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Sophomore Sarah Bernhardt had two assists on the night feeding senior Taylor Shannan and junior Dezire Kline for goals as the Hounds moved to 2-1 on the season. The girls only loss so far this year was to Burlington in the first game of the season. The girls soccer team continued its winning ways Thursday night with a 2-1 win over visiting Iowa City Liberty at the Baxter Sports Complex.

Head Coach Sebastian Seifert credited some stingy defense for keeping the Lightning at bay.

Alyssa Fincher and Nadia Leveling stood out tonight, both are also listed on the varsity roster but have not gotten much playing time on varsity. “Braxtyn McGhghy and Anna Kester stood out tonight, both are also listed on the varsity roster but have not gotten much playing time on varsity. “Braxtyn McGhghy and Anna Kester stood out tonight, both are also listed on the varsity roster but have not gotten much playing time on varsity.

Shannan and junior Dezire Kline for goals as the Hounds moved to 2-1 on the season. The girls only loss so far this year was to Burlington in the first game of the season. The girls only loss so far this year was to Burlington in the first game of the season.

DID YOU KNOW?

FMHS Senior Taylor Shannan gets inadvertently physically close to the goal in the first half of Thursday’s 2-1 win over Iowa City Liberty.

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is holding around 44 degrees, just need some warm days to get it going up to normal. Very little angler activity because of the weather.

Lake Belva Deer

Cold, windy weather with a little snow is keeping most anglers away. Largemouth Bass - Slow: A few are getting picked up in the deeper water. Try on the upper end of the lake around the mounds.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is holding in the low 40’s. Water clarity is pretty good, except when the wind stirs the lake bottom up. Black Crappie - Slow: A few anglers have been catching some crappies on deeper water over the habitat.

Lost Grove Lake

A few anglers have been out. Cold, windy weather doesn’t make for the best fishing weather. Large-mouth Bass - Slow: Most anglers trips are pretty short, but they are picking up some bass out around the deeper habitat.

Lost Grove Lake

A few anglers have been out. Cold, windy weather doesn’t make for the best fishing weather. Large-mouth Bass - Slow: Most anglers trips are pretty short, but they are picking up some bass out around the deeper habitat.

For more information on the above lakes, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Central Park Lake

The lake is currently drained as a renovation project is finishing up this spring.

Coravil Reservoir

The lake is at normal spring pool of 679.4 feet. Boating above Lake Macbride Park is not recommended at this water level. Channel Catfish - Slow, White Crappie - Slow.

Diamond Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Fishing had been slow, but it should pick up as the weather warms. Try small jigs fished around the rock jetties or brush piles. Most fish are 8-9 inches.

Kent Park Lake

The lake is currently drained for a lake renovation project. It is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2019.

Lake Macbride

Water temperatures are in the mid 40’s. All boat docks are in. All motor sizes may be used at docks are in. All motor sizes may be used at no-wake speed (5 mph). Black Crappie - Slow: Try fishing jigs or minnows over deeper brush. There are lots of 10-12 inch crappies. Walleye - Slow: A few fish are being caught. A shallow water bite should improve as things warm up. Cast jigs or stick baits to wind-blown banks.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still 7-8 inches low from the restoration project. The main ramp is usable, but it is shallow; use caution. There is a boat dock in on the east lane. Be cautious when boating as new structures have started to be submerged.

Prairie Park Fishery

500 additional trout will be stocked here this Saturday, April 21 at 10:30. There will be a family fishing event held in conjunction with the stocking. 1500 trout had previously been stocked here on March 31. Iowa residents and nonresidents who are required to have a fishing license must pay the Trout Fee to fish for or possess trout. Exception: Anglers under 16 years old may possess or fish for trout without having paid the Trout Fee if they fish with a properly licensed adult who has paid the Trout Fee and together their combined limit is 5. Rainbow Trout - Excellent: Try small jigs, spinners, live bait or artifical.

See REPORT, page 5
**REPORT - Continued from Page 4**

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**Tout report good in area ponds**

**REPORT**

March 30th. Try small tube and twister jigs, in-line spinners or casting spoons.  
Rathbun Reservoir  
The current lake level is 903.66 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebras muskies, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. The water temperature is in the low 40’s. Channel Catfish - Fair: Use shad sides or cut bait on the windblown shorelines.  
Red Haw Lake  
Try cut bait near shorelines with the wind blowing in for channel catfish.  
The district includes Mahaska, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.  
Mississippi River  
Pool 19  
Tailwater stage is 6.39 feet at Lock and Dam 19 above Burlington and is rising. River stage is forecast to reach 8.2 feet over the weekend. Flood stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 10 feet. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. River stages have been on the rise the past few days. Main channel water temperature dropped to 41 degrees; water clarity has been fair. We have not received much for fishing reports this week. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-6062.

**HTC falls to VB in dual**

FORT MADISON - The Holy Trinity Catholic boys golf team fell to Van Buren in a dual meet on Thursday at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course in Fort Madison.  
Cole Thornton shot an 8-over par 44 to lead the Crusaders in the 9-hole meet.

Eon Heckenberg took medal honors with a 41 for the Van Buren, who finished with a 74, to HTCs 188. Scoring for the Crusaders in addition to Thornton's 44 was Collin Thornton with a 46, Kyle Birdeneyer shot an 89 and Josh Barcardi a 50. Van Buren got 44s from Austin Giberson and Luke Baker and a 45 from Jacob Flecker to win the meet.

Mason Holvoet shot a 51, Ali Robu shot a 57 in the girls portion of the meet for HTC, and Conrad Holman fired a 63 to round out the scoring for HTC. The team travels to Flint Hills in Burlington for a Monday matchup with Burlington Notre Dame.
CAREGIVERS NEEDED

The Kensington in Fort Madison is seeking part-time caregivers for all shifts. The Kensington is a vibrant, welcoming environment that offers personalized care in an active, supportive community. Must enjoy working with seniors, possess excellent organizational skills, and work well as a team. Flexibility needed. Will work every other weekend and some holidays.

Go to www.agemark.com/careers/ and click on the link for positions in Fort Madison or send resume to ebrown@kensington-evergreen.com. You can also stop in The Kensington at 2210 Avenue H, Fort Madison, IA.

Volunteer Services Program Director

United Way of the Great River Region which serves Lee, Hancock, and Clark counties is seeking a full-time Volunteer Services Program Director to manage all aspects of a newly formed Volunteer Services Program. Director will oversee a long-standing Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Ideal candidate will have excellent leadership and interpersonal relationship skills; grant management and writing skills; fundraising experience; strong office, computer, and bookkeeping skills; and ability to work with and manage volunteers and the organizations and businesses who utilize volunteers. The ability to multi-task is a must. Some travel required. To be considered, please send cover letter and resume with three references to: director@unitedwaygrr.org or mail to: United Way of the Great River Region, P.O. Box 251, Keokuk, IA 52632 on or before April 23, 2018.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Nice, friendly atmosphere, all utilities included. Three offices to pick from. Rent ranges from $300 to $500, depending on the size. New paint and carpet. Located at the corner of 15th street and Avenue E (large white building – the old St Claiir Chiropractic office). Call 319-470-8711.

SALON SPACE FOR RENT

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Fellow citizens: the next time you are sitting at home wondering about things the city should be doing for you, please stop are read Chuck Vandenberg’s article “Close to 100 scatter to pick up city’s litter” and note that Mayor Randolph was out there today doing his part. He wasn’t standing around looking like he was in charge—he was doing the work. Picking up trash. The event brought back a memory for me of the famous speech of John Kennedy… “ask NOT what your country can do for YOU; ask what YOU can do for your country.”

Imagine for a moment what this town would be like if every able-bodied, able-minded citizen young and old contributed something they are good at even something like volunteering, something as small as picking up a piece of litter, keeping their property clean, or helping a neighbor when an opportunity presents itself. Thank you to all of those other fine people I saw today—teachers, students, neighbors, and strangers, who were out today helping the mayor, the Chamber of Commerce and others. We have a great town, and are all in this town together, so let’s show our pride in it!

Michael Killoren
Fort Madison

Op did not involve a FM police officer

STING - Continued from Page 1

business and paid $40 for a 30-minute massage in which Hong was alleged to have offered herself up as part of the massage, and attempted to engage in sexual activities with the undercover officer. Sittig said Friday the officer was not an officer with the Fort Madison Police Department, but was brought in from another area law enforcement agency. The complaint alleges that the undercover officer, after getting evidence outside of the business license, told Hong “No” and to stop, and then left the parlor. Sittig said the officer could have been in the parlor for the full 30 minutes, but didn’t engage in sexual activity with Hong, contrary to other news reports. “These are stings, and in a situation like this it may take 30 minutes to get the evidence we needed. But when she started to get feely he told her No... to stop, and then he got up and left the parlor. It was raised a short time later and we closed it down,” Sittig said.

A warrant for Hong’s arrest was put out after the criminal complaint was filed in June. He said the investigation was done in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation and investigators were also looking at a possible human trafficking link. Hong was scheduled for a jury trial in Lee County on April 25, but a continuance has moved that trial to Aug. 1. She is currently out on $3,000 combined bonds in Lee and Cerro Gordo counties.
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Almost 90 show up to help clean up

CLEANUP - Continued from Page 1

to 90. I’m very pleased. Just picking up our community gives us that sense of pride, that we’re doing something good. It’s unfortunate that it’s only one day.”

She said the event is a success every year and is done in conjunction with national Earth Day, but she said if she could improve on the project it would be to add a day.

“I think this has been going very well, but I’d like to see us do two a year - one in the spring and one in the fall just to keep the momentum going. It doesn’t take a whole lot to get organized,” she said.

A group of about 12 Hy-Vee employees and their families crawled around Dry Creek pulling all kinds of trash from the creek sides and bed. One girl in the group happily reported she had found a shoe. The bags filled up so quickly at that site, one member went over to the Hy-Vee store to get a roll of trash bags to continue the cleaning.

Mayor Brad Randolph pulled solo duty working 20th Street along Business 61. HTC Principal Michael Sheerin led a group of about 10 HTC students and parents at the intersection of 48th Street and Avenue O.

Collier said she divided the city into sections with maps from previous years and sent groups to different areas keeping younger students in the parks and away from highways. She said she also took some time driving around the community to find trouble spots.

The thing that impressed her the most about this year’s, was a couple people not associated with any group who came in to help.

“We had a couple people just come out and help set and register. They said they saw it in the paper and wanted to come out and help. ‘They said, ‘we’re just citizens and wanted to help’... and that’s just fantastic when we see that kind of thing.’”

Almost 90 show up to help clean up

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Draw Days</th>
<th>Sales Cut-off Time</th>
<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>Mon &amp; Thu</td>
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<td>9:30 pm</td>
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<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
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4/20 MIDDAY 3 9 6
4/20 EVENING 1 0 6
4/21 MIDDAY 2 3 5
4/21 EVENING 8 1 3

IOWA’s MEGA MILLIONS WITH MEGAPLIER

4/20
1 15 18 32 45
Mega Ball: 4
Megaplier: 2

4/21
40 50 54 62 69
Powerball: 19
Power Play: 2

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