Riverfest Games to have new look for 2018

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - For the first time since the rejuvenation of Riverfest in 2016, and more than a decade in Fort Madison, Dragon Boat racing is back on the riverfront as part of Riverfest 2018. The river races which are widely popular, drawing large crowds throughout the country, pit two boats against each other in timed heats against the current of the mighty Mississippi River. The races are just part of the 2018 lineup that Riverfest games co-ordinator Shanna Krogmeier said is being scheduled this year to allow participants to enter multiple events and transitioning into some of the best live music in the area. “We’re doing things a little bit different this year,” Krogmeier said. “We’ve moved the bags to Sunday because we thought that event coupled with Colt Ford would make for a great Sunday afternoon and evening of fun and entertainment.” Krogmeier said everyone can register for any of the RiverFest games prior to July 27th on the Riverfest webpage at www.riverfestfm.com under the Riverfest Games link at the top menu bar. “The volleyball tournament, which was a huge hit last year, and KanJam will be on Saturday and we really want to push those two events for Saturday,” she said. “The KanJam tournament sees growth every year and we’re hoping this year with the musical lineup that event draws more interest.” She said there are good discounts for registering early on the website and that allows the games committee to better prepare for each day’s events. “But if they show up on the day of we will do our best to get them in and registered,” she said. With Riverfest games happening from Thursday evening through Sunday, Krogmeier said scheduling has been set up to allow people to participate in more than one event including the dragon boat racing. “We’re hoping for a good draw from that. It’s a popular event and we’ve set our schedules to allow people to compete in that as well as the other games,” she said. She said all the registration money is paid back in the form of prize money and the Riverfest games makes no money, but is all part of providing a fun and friendly experience that has something for the whole family. A complete list of the Riverfest games is below: Dragon Boat Racing - Saturday, Aug. 4th (Practice Friday, Aug. 3) For the first time in more than a decade Dragon Boat Racing will be returning to the riverfront. Registration is open so Sand volleyball is one of the bigger draws to the annual Riverfest Games. This year the tournament is back in addition to other events including bags, KanJam, Beer Pong, a 5K run/walk, and in a return to the Mississippi River - Dragon Boat Races.

Hidden bones create frenzy at Empty Nest farm

I’ve known for a long time that there were bones under our hen house. A year ago this spring, when I was patching up the floor of the shed, getting ready to turn the shed into a hen house, I spied an old bone through a hole in the floor. There was a long bone attached to a knuckle with some cartilage and tissue still clinging to it. I pulled the bone out and threw it into the adjacent field. I figured it was an old cow bone. Is the bone bovine, equine, deer or human? Since then, when I’ve been looking for a missing hen under the hen house, I couldn’t help but notice odds and ends of old bones. Once again, I figured they were cow bones. After all, this was a farm. But when a cold-case murder trial came to Mt. Pleasant, things changed. A man was brought to trial for the unsolved murder of his wife 17 years ago. He was found guilty on circumstantial evidence. The body, murder weapon, and crime scene had never been found. The trial drew national attention. Police were still advising hunters and hikers to be on the lookout for crime-scene evidence immemorial. I started wondering about those old bones. What little history I knew about our two-and-a-half-acre Empty Nest Farm was sketchy. The previous owners had moved the shed, now a hen house, onto the property and used it for storage. Before that, there was a trailer house, and before that, a farm house with farm buildings. Carcass bones of cattle and hogs aren’t anything unusual on a farmstead. But if this shed had recently been moved onto the property, why were the bones under it? My mind flew to all sorts of wild places, like a lost blackbird searching for its home. I mentioned the bones to Ginnie, reminding her of the missing woman’s body. She freaked. Whenever she starts wringing her hands, I know I’m in for it. Ginnie’s a city gal (from Missouri) and doesn’t understand the ins-and-outs of farm life, although to her credit, she has...
OBITUARIES

NEIL L. PHILP

Neil L. Philp, Sr., 64, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 8:45 a.m. Friday, July 6, 2018 at his home.

Born March 6, 1954, in Keokuk, Iowa the son of Lloyd and Margaret (Gallup) Philp. On November 26, 1971, he married Jan Lamborn in Kahoka, Missouri. They later divorced.

Survivors include his three children: Sam (Karen) Philp of Farmington, Neil (Michelle) Philp, Jr. of Farmington and Rena Philp of Mt. Pleasant; four grandchildren: Hunter, Logan, Kaylyn and Cooper; four sisters: Marilyn Ekle of Farmington, Barb (Duane) Munford of Croton, Jean (Jose) Lobo of Costa Rica and Joan (Ed) Rohdy of Primrose. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother: Charles; one brother-in-law: Robert Ekle and two nephews: Eric and Robbie Ekle.

Neil was a 1972 graduate of Central Lee High School. Earlier in life, Neil owned and operated a service station in Farmington and worked for Lamborn Construction. He was a retired bus mechanic/transportation director at Harmo.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at Embury United Methodist Church rural Donnellson with Pastor Michael Elrod officiating.

Memorials may be made in his memory.

OBITUARIES

GARY A. KRUSE

Gary A. Kruse, 69, of rural Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 1:42 p.m. Thursday, July 5, 2018 at the Donnellson Health Center.

Born June 2, 1949, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Ernest and Marietta (Mueller) Kruse. On April 21, 1974, he married Christie A. Nichting.

Survivors include his wife: Chris of Donnellson, Iowa; two daughters: Shelley (Scott) Boeding of O’Fallon, Missouri, and Jill (Pat) Flannery of Robins, Iowa; three sons: Klint Kruse of Monroe Center, Illinois, Kent (Emily) Kruse of Tipp City, Iowa and Kasey Kruse of Donnellson, Iowa; six grandchildren: Ella and Ethan Boeding, Dylan and Haylee Flannery, Piper Ebert and Ryder Kruse; five sisters: Mary Lou Sanders of West Point, Iowa, Donna Remick of Altona, Illinois, Kate Doyle of Creston, Iowa, Nancy Hartley of Kingsland, Texas and Sue Wolfe of Fort Madison, Iowa. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Ernie and Marietta Kruse; one brother: Clifford and one sister: Betty Jean.

Gary was a member of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point. He served in the United States Navy. He worked for J.I. Case for thirty-one years and a half years. Gary was a hard worker and instilled good work ethics in his kids. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, his 1978 Ford pickup, playing with his grandchildren and spending time with his family.

Friends may called Sunday, July 8, 2018 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point where the family received friends from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. A Parish Rosary will be recited at 2:30 p.m. and a Christian Wake Service will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 9, 2018 at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church with Father Bruce DeRammelaere as celebrant.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory for the Farmington EMT’s. Online condolences may be made at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.
We’ll be happy to help you polish up your smile so you can share it with the world.

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West
Appointments with Dr. Pothitakis available Wednesdays & Thursdays, 8am-5pm
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Fort Madison Family Dentistry East
Appointments with Dr. Dingeldein available Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays, 8am-5pm
726 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-3614

Both offices are open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm and are now accepting new patients.

Dr. Mark C. Pothitakis
Family Dentistry

www.drmarkdds.com
BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - The Old Fort Players are proud to announce the cast for the Upcoming Children’s Production of their Summer Theater.

Commonly referred to as ‘The Young Fort Players’ they will present a one-act comedy entitled “Homework Eats Dog and Other Woeful Tales” written by Alan Haehnel and produced by permission of Playscripts, Inc. of New York, NY.

This production is made possible by a grant from The United Way of Great River Region serving Lee County. The production will be presented at the Old Fort Players Theater at 725 Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison, IA. The Young Fort Players is open to all area youth between the ages of 10 and 14 years and under the direction of Richar Abel with assistance from Angela Sanford.

The actors participating in the production are Xandra Abel, Sylvia Jerden, Jaden Tabor, Kerrington Wardlow, Zephan Abel, Mallory Troutman, CJ Tabor, Roni Vowels, Oliver Tackett, Lauren Otte and Ellington Karriker. Some actors will be playing multiple parts which makes this production even more interesting.

The curtain will open on July 19th and run through July 22nd. Admission for adults will be $7 for adults and $5 for children 17 and under. A $2 discount will be given at the door for each person that brings in a non perishable food item which will in turn be donated to Fort Madison Food Pantry. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. except for Sunday which is 2 p.m.

Anyone desiring more information about this production or The Old Fort Players are encouraged to call 372-9559 or check out our website at www.oldfortplayers.com.
Veterinarian solves mystery of bones under hen house

**SWARM - Continued from Page 1**

come a long way since we’ve lived here—which is going on three years. She couldn’t understand, either, why, if the shed was recently moved onto the property, the bones were under it. It was almost like they were being concealed. “You’ve got to get out there and check those bones out,” she told me in no uncertain terms, waving her hand like a tomahawk. “If it’s human bones, we have to report it!”

So, the next morning, when I was doing chores, I laid down on the ground (this is not a pleasant task in a hen yard) and, using the long hook I use to snag chickens, I was able to drag a bone out from under the hen house. Now what do I do? The bone didn’t really look like a human bone to me, but I’m no boneologist. I took a picture of the bone and emailed it to my veterinarian, asking him to identify. “Is it bovine, equine, swine, or human?” I asked. I got no immediate reply. The last thing I wanted to do was call the police and tell them about the bones. I could just imagine the hen house and hens being torn apart only to find out it was a cow bone. But then, if it was human, well, I had no choice. I put the picture of the bone on Facebook asking if anyone could identify it. Of course, I got plenty of snarky answers like, “Not human,” “Mastodon,” and “definitely Neanderthal.”

Ginnie came home from work, took one look at the bone and said, “Wow. Get that thing outta my house. It doesn’t look human to me, but I dunno.” Finally, my veterinarian repli ed by email with one word. “Bovine.” We can relax now. Just

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CURRENT-LEE

**Fort Madison Depot Farmer’s Market**
Every Monday more 10 local vendors have farmer’s market options available at the Old Santa Fe Depot on the Riverfront in Fort Madison. The farmer’s market runs from until Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Monday.

**Kidtek University at SCC**
Kidtek U, Southeastern Community Colleges, Summer Youth Camps are ready to keep your children engaged, learning, and having fun all summer long. Camps take place on June and July meeting Monday- Friday from 9am - noon or 1 - 4pm. Camps are designed for kids of all ages: standard camps for students grades 4 - 6, and advanced camps for grades 7 - 9. Each week-long camp cost $179. For information about Kidtek U, call (319) 208-5375 or email kidtek@scceowa.edu.

**Lee County Fair**
The 177th annual Lee County fair will get underway on July 11 through the 17th. A complete list of events can be found at the Lee County Fair website at www.lee-countyfairwa.com.

**Old Settler’s Summer Concert Series**
“Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50’s on Friday, July 27th when the Pork Producers will be ready to serve you at 5 pm at the Old Settler’s Park in Fort Madison.

**Old Fort Players**
The summer “Youth Fort Players” production of “Homework Eats Dog and Other Woeful Tales will run July 19-22. Admission is $7 for adults and $5 for children 17 and under. A $2 discount will be given at the door for each person that brings in a non-perishable food item which will in turn be donated to Fort Madison Food Pantry. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. except for Sunday which is 2 p.m.

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.

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**Backyard Composting**
improves soil quality & makes for healthier plants!

These backyard compost bins were made by students at the Keokuk Christian Academy & are now available for purchase. Contact the administration building at 1-800-216-2370 to purchase one today!
The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, at City Hall.

Mayor Randolph declared the meeting open.

The Council adopted Resolution No. 2018-8, accepting the Professional Improvement Project 2018-12, City Hall Roof Replacement.

On motion, Council approved the professional services agreement with HR Green for Design and Construction Services for the Reconstruction of Old Highway 61 Between 2nd and 6th Streets. On motion, Council approved the Mayor’s signature on a one-year Contract for Transportation Services between the City and Southeast Iowa Rural Planning Commission, effective July 1, 2018. 

Mayor Greenwald declared the meeting adjourned until July 17, 2018, at 5:30 P.M.
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Bags, beer pong held in entertainment area in 2018

GAMES - Continued from Page 1

grab 20 of your closest friends and form a team today. Teams consist of 18 Pad-
dillys, 1 Flag Catcher and $500 per team until June 1st, $600 - After June 1st. Race
regulations and scheduling information is available at the Dragon Boat Race link
under RiverFest Games on the RiverFest website.

Beer Pong - Qualifier for the Las Vegas Beer Pong Championship takes place
Thursday, August 2nd in the Kinnick South Beer Pong Pavilion. Open play and
tournament action will take place from 4 p.m. to midnight or until completion at
the pavilion. Those interested in participating can do so.

5K Run/Walk - The RiverFest 5k Fun Run/Walk is along the Mississippi river in
Fort Madison, has absolutely beautiful views and is an ideal event for the entire
family. All participants will receive a race t-shirt. Awards will be given to the
overall male and female winners, as well as 1st and 2nd place male and female in
each age division. Registration information and release information are available now
through July 25 on the RiverFest website at www.riverfestfm.com. Registration
is $25 through July 25th and $35 after the 25th.

Sand Volleyball Saturday, Aug 4 - Online registration is $50.00 and closes July
27th. Day of registration is $60.00. $50.00 Entry fee is for a team of 6. Registration
begins at 8:30am. Games start at 9:00am and all participants must fill out a Riv-
erFest Sports Participant Waiver. All ages can play, under 18 must have a signed
permission form. This is a rain or shine recreational CO-ED 6-on-6 (two females
minimum on court) double elimination tournament that will be limited to the
first 24 teams. Matches will be best of 3 with a 100% Cash payback to 1st, 2nd, and
3rd place.

Bags Tournament, Sunday, Aug. 5 - The bag tournament has been changed to
Sunday to accommodate for the addition of the Dragon Boat Races on Saturday and
to add some competition to the day before The NATU Band and Colt Ford take the
Main Stage. Qualifier registration is $20.00 for a team of two and closes July
27th. Day of registration is $30.00. Registration begins at noon with games start-
ing at 2 p.m. in the entertainment area. Participants must have a concert ticket for
entry. The double-elimination tournament will be capped at 64 teams that can be
made up of a combination of male and/or female participants of all ages. There
will be a $500 cash payback for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Regulation boards were
created by Cabinetion and Dodd Printing of Fort Madison and all-weather bags
will be used in the rain or shine event. Play will stop for lightning or downpours.

KANJAM, Saturday, Aug. 4 - Online registration for a team of two is $20.00 and
closes July 27th. Day of registration is $30.00 with registration beginning at 9:30
a.m. and games at 10 a.m. Recreational double elimination tournament is limit-
ed to first 64 teams which can consist of any combination of male and/or female
contestants of any age and will be best of three, five, or seven depending on the
number of teams registered. 100% cash payback to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.
Hinder and Pop Evil will highlight the Main Stage entertainment after the Satur-
day games.

Canoe/Kayak Float, Saturday, August 5 - The float will start in front of the Old
Fort on the Mississippi River. Boats are to be unloaded at 8 a.m. with paddling at 9 a.m.
Safety boats from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and RiverFest
will be on site in addition to coordination with the US Coast Guard. This is a free,
all ages event. There will be limited boats and Stand up Paddle boards available for
rent. Once rentals are available use the reservation form that will be located here
under RiverFest Games on the Riverfest website.

All participants of RiverFest games must complete and sign a waiver form lo-
cated at the website. All ages can participate in all games except the 5K Run/Walk,
which is open to all ages. There will be cash paybacks for the winners in each age
division. Registration is $10.00. Race closes July 27th. Day of registration is $30.00.

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