Fiesta group still looking at canceling event

By Chuck Vandenberg

FORT MADISON - Organizers with Fort Madison's iconic and cultural celebration of Mexican heritage and history in the city are still saying this year's festival is cancelled.

The Mexican Fiesta, which typically takes place the weekend after the Tri-States Rodeo which would be Sept. 14 and 15th this year, has fallen on hard times weekend after the Tri-States Rodeo which would be Sept. 14 and 15th this year, has fallen on hard times.

"The crowds have been really small the past three years," Prado said. "They've been getting smaller and smaller. When we did our grand entrance and had our dancers perform, it used to be you couldn't even see in front of you it was so crowded. It was really a big deal."

Prado said he doesn't know if it's the economy or culture or weather that's resulting in smaller attendance. "Last year I got up to speak and I looked around and there were gaps in people and not nearly the crowd we used to get. Weather and things effect it, and we did have some rain showers, but not to the point that everything was drenched."

He said the reduced crowds obviously result in reduced revenues that are used for operating expenses. The 2017 event just barely left any money in the bank and Prado said the festival didn't break even.

However, as word has gotten out that organizers are considering canceling the festival, Prado said people have been calling to offer assistance. "If we were able to get some people to offer to serve on the committee, and we could get some needed funding, we could hold a public meeting at a later date and see where we're at. We could do something drastic.

FM man arrested on Missouri rape, sodomy charges

By PCC Staff

HAMILTON - A 33-year-old Fort Madison man has been arrested in Hamilton for multiple sex-related crimes.

According to a release from Hamilton Police Chief Nick Jamerson, Adam C. Tucker, of Fort Madison was arrested on several warrants out of Clark County, Missouri, including first-degree rape and first-degree sodomy.

Jamerson said Hamilton police received information that Tucker may be in the area and with the assistance of the Hancock County Sheriff’s office, the Nauvoo Police Department and the Hancock County State's Attorney's office.

Officials aren't releasing any details of the alleged incidents, but the investigation is on-going.

Keep lawn clippings off streets

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Police Chief Tim Sittig is reminding residents that Fort Madison code prohibits lawn clippings on the street. Sittig asks that residents keep clippings up on the lawns to prevent harm to city drainage systems.

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Sheriff gets a grand donation

BY PCC STAFF
MONTROSE - The Lee County Sheriff’s courthouse security detail will soon be able to wear bulletproof vests thanks to a very timely donation from a local charity.

Sheriff Stacy Weber said Tuesday that he was down at the south Lee County Courthouse and noticed a security officer without a vest on.

“I asked him where his vest was and he said he hadn’t been provided with one,” Weber said. “So Will and I decided that was unacceptable and we met to find some money in our remaining budget to purchase the vests.”

According to the department’s Facebook page, fate intervened in the form of the Order of the Eastern Star.

“Then my phone rang and it was Cynthia Hagmeier of the Order of the Eastern Star and her organization had sold challenge coins to raise money for local chapters to give to perspective needs in their area,” Weber wrote. “Ms. Hagmeier then said they had decided to donate money to the Lee County Sheriff’s Office for equipment needs. The check was for $1,000 and that will cover almost all the cost to outfit the three men who stand guard at our courthouses. The timing was awesome and we cannot thank Ms. Hagmeier and her mother enough for the donation!!!!! It will be used to protect a few of us!!!! (and maybe buy a few bags of dog food as well).”

FM police take part in July traffic campaign

Submitted article
FORT MADISON - The month of July is a National Picnic Day with the celebration of summer activities, warm weather and outdoor barbeques in the United States. Families get together for fun and laughter in local parks or backyards, which require traveling long or short distances for many. With increased road use and the possibility of increased alcohol consumption, the risk of traffic crashes rise.

An analysis by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety showed that on average, more people die in motor vehicle crashes in July than any other month of the year. The study found that alcohol and speeding were big contributors.

To combat the impaired driving problem in the month of July, there will be increased law enforcement officers on all of Iowa’s roadways to spread the message that drunk driving will not be tolerated. It is NEVER okay to drive after drinking. Have a plan to get home safely if you will be drinking. Call a family, friend, cab, or Uber to pick you up. Everyone wants you to be safe.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety and the Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau and the Fort Madison Police Department want to remind you that the best way to protect yourself in any crash is to be wearing your seat belt, and don’t drive drunk or buzzed.

DOT uncovers used car frauds

ANKENY - The Iowa Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Investigation and Identity Protection is warning Iowa residents looking to buy a used vehicle of a recent fraud trend involving businesses licensed as motor vehicle “wholesalers” in other states. These businesses have the potential to engage in title, tax, and odometer fraud.

The Bureau of Investigation has identified a trend in which individuals in neighboring states, like Illinois, obtain a “wholesale” motor vehicle dealer license from a different state such as Montana or Texas. A wholesale license from any state restricts the licensee to selling only to retailers, not directly to the public.

In the fraud scheme, the wholesaler advertises the vehicle for sale to the public on a website such as Craigslist, Facebook, Offer-Up, etc. They often hide the fact that the vehicle is owned by a “wholesaler” business by using a business address in another state.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 19 July Moderate Rain
High – 70.7°F | Low – 68.8°F

FRI 20 July Clear Skies
High – 82.8°F | Low – 75.4°F

SAT 21 July Light Rain
High – 76.5°F | Low – 71.1°F

SUN 22 July Clear Skies
High – 81.5°F | Low – 73.6°F

MON 23 July Light Rain
High – 81.6°F | Low – 69.2°F

Pen City Current

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ISU Extension honors Lee County for 100 years

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bob Dodds, center, presents Tina Loges and the Lee County Extension Council including from left Tricia Knipper, Rick Tebbs, Chris Lindner, Steve Newberry, Vicki Kokjohn, Dave Lowenberg, Tom Mohrfeld, and Brad Vandenberg a plaque recognizing the county’s 100 year partnership with the Iowa State Extension Office.

Dr. Rafuls joins FMCH’s Women’s Center

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - The Women’s Center at Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Dr. Yadira Rafuls. Dr. Rafuls is a Board Certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist and has been practicing at Kaldas Center for Surgery, Fertility and Pregnancy in Appleton, Wisconsin for the past three years. Dr. Rafuls completed her Residency at Medstar Franklin Square Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Rafuls knew from a young age she wanted to pursue a career in health care. “I felt a calling to medicine since high school because I loved the sciences. After reading Ben Carson’s book Gifted Hands, I not only knew I wanted to pursue a career in medicine but I also knew I wanted to pursue a surgical specialty. My number one driving force is service and compassion. I was given a special place as a healer to guide patients through one of the most vulnerable times of their life. The most rewarding aspect of healthcare is improving the quality of life of patients. I love the trust my patients place in me. Compassion is my biggest driving force.”

Dr. Rafuls will see women of all ages in the clinic. She focuses on providing minimally invasive surgery, which decreases recovery time for her patients. She is also passionate about treating patients with infertility to help them become parents. Dr. Rafuls is looking forward to being part of the FMCH team of providers.

“It chose FMCH because the culture of the organization aligns with the way I would want my family to be treated as a patient. From the moment I walked into FMCH I felt welcomed. When I think about FMCH a quote comes to mind from Albert Einstein: ‘only a life lived for others is worth living’. "

Dr. Rafuls will join Dr. Timothy Staudte, Dr. Kaichun Wei and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner, Alisa Kindig Staudte, in the care of women of all ages.

Our faculty and staff are leading critical issues at the state and national levels, including water quality and community revitalization.

We collaborate with communities to support local food systems, including urban farms, food hubs, and public market feasibility studies.

Our education, research, and job training support Iowa’s $420 million grape and wine industry.

We provide skills training for community leaders, local government officials, business owners, entrepreneurs, and volunteers to help sustain Iowa communities for the future.

We help farmers connect through peer networks, increasing the success of farm businesses.

We teach foodservice workers how to handle food safely, so Iowans do not get sick.

The Lee County Extension Council represents county residents and acts on behalf of ISU Extension and Outreach locally. The Lee County Extension Council includes Chairperson Chris Lindner of Keokuk, Vice Chairperson Vicki Kokjohn of West Point, Treasurer Rick Tebbs of Fort Madison, Secretary Tricia Knipper of Donnellson, Tina Loges of Farmington, Tom Mohrfeld of West Point, Steve Newberry of Argyle, Dave Lowenberg of West Point, and Brad Vandenberg of Donnellson.

For more information about ISU Extension and Outreach contact the Lee County office at 319-835-5116, or visit www.extension.iastate.edu/lee.
Tri-State Rodeo
71st Annual
September 5-8, 2018
Fort Madison, IA

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Wed., Sept. 5
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The best cowboys
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in prize money

Thur., Sept. 6
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Jake McVey
Country Artist

Fri., Sept. 7
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Randy Houser
Country Singer Songwriter

Sat., Sept. 8
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Jake Owen
AMA Award Winner

Don't miss
Stumptown
every night in the Coors Party Pavilion
following the rodeo competition & national music acts
the classifieds

City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is
Meeting is scheduled to be
ing Dennis McGregor as the
Randy Welding recommend-
Motion by Board Member
prepared by Utility Super-
Board Members in detail.
delinquent accounts was
by consensus. Status of
ative agenda was approved
Vonderhaar was present.
Welding presided and called

MOTION

resolved, meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m., July 10th, 2018.

EXPENDITURES FOR
MAY 2018
3rd GENERATION ELECTRIC - TRENCHING
ABOLT, RON - REBATE
AGRI-CENTRAL - LAWN MIX / HERBICIDE
ALTEC - INSPECTION & SUPPLIES
AMAZON - CREDIT CARD
DAILY DEMOCRAT- LEGAL PUBLICATION
DELTA DENTAL - INSURANCE
DRAKE HARDWARE & SOFTWARE - WEBSITE
EFTPS - FED/FICA TAX
FLETCHER-REINHARDT - SUPPLIES
FLOYDS Ezway - TRASH PICK UP
GLOBAL RENTALS CO. - 2012 ALTEC AM55
HUFFMAN WELDING - CHAINSAW VENT - 13.49
IOWA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION - BUCKET TRUCK - 4,550.00
IOWA LEAGUE OF CIT-}

Meetings

Skarsauge Testing

LAB - LAB FEES - 70.00
Sonny’s Supermarket

Batteries - 4.55
State Hygienic Lab - LAB FEES - Previous (13.00)
The Hawk Eye - Advertising - 213.80
TASCO - PAGER SERVICE - 110.65
Treasurer State of Iowa - Sales Tax - 3,775.40
Union Security Ins. - Life Ins. - 72.15
UPS - Delivery - 10.39
US Postal Service - Stamps - 246.20
Vonderhaar, Ted

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Thurs., July 26 – 10am-2pm, IowaWORKS, 1000 N Rosevelt Ave, Suite #9, Burlington
Regrouping could help ensure future FM fiestas

a bit more watered down and then regroup and see where we’re at for next year, but as it is right now, it’s still canceled.”

He said over the past week people have offered to step in to help and the group is getting bigger, but for the past three of four years, the committee has just been six people.

“That’s hard on us not having the manpower to pull it off. And when we didn’t get enough money last year, or for this year, it was like well, we’re gonna have to do something,” Prado said.

The festival committee had contracts that needed to be signed with entertainment providers and due to lack of funding couldn’t get those contract signed. So they had to make a decision.

Prado said it’s an emotional issue for his family who has at least three generations involved in putting on the festival. The Festival committee became an official organization with non-profit status in the 1980s.

He said the festival has been held in the same neighborhood, in the area of 34th Street and Avenue Q, since 1922 in celebration of Mexico’s independence. However Mexican immigrants were in Fort Madison before the Mexican Revolution, and as early as the turn of the century. A suggestion was made to move the festival to downtown to have more access to people and business, but Prado said the committee was against taking the festival out of the area.

“It was very strongly agreed that we keep it where it is,” he said. “That’s the main area all the people from Mexico moved to when they came. That area down there is where all the meaning of it is. If we did move it downtown, it would take away the history of it from starting down there. No one really wants to see it moved.”

Prado said with the recent offerings of help to keep the festival going, even in the event this year’s gets cancelled, he wants to try to regroup for next year.

“We’ll end up holding a more public meeting and anyone who is interested in helping we’ll be more than happy to have them down here and assign them some tasks or they can make donations. We’re a non-profit organization so any donations are tax-deductible,” he said.

“If we can build the committee back up and get enough money to hold the event, I’m hoping next year we can look at really reorganizing things and make things better. But we’ll have to get some things squared away.”

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