Above, Kenneth McFadden gets dumped under the watchful eye of volunteers in the calf-riding event Monday at the Lil' Spurs Rodeo. Below, Holden Pezley and Cheyanna Turbin were named the 2018 Tri-State Rodeo’s All-Around Cowboy and Lil’ Miss Rodeo during Monday night’s ceremonies.

Little spurs have day at rodeo

Morning showers and humidity that followed does little to dampen spirits of Lil’ Spurs Rodeo

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - Scott Fedler can remember riding a sheep out a chute and onto the soft dirt of C.E. “Eddie” Richards Arena when he was a boy. Now, as chairman of the Tri-State Rodeo’s wildly popular Lil’ Spurs Rodeo, he gets to keep reliving the event through other area children.

But Fedler, standing at about 6’-6”, a far cry from the eight-year-old boy laying across the back of a running sheep decades ago, says the event is totally about the kids.

“Not just Lil’ Spurs, but the Special Kids Rodeo too. It’s a scenario where you see the community pull together for the pre-rodeo for all the families and kids that may not have the ability to do those things themselves,” he said. “You see the community pull together for that, and that to me is rodeo - aside from the actual rodeo.”

A rain shower that rolled in just after the day’s events got rolling sent a lot of people looking for cover, and the rain kinda killed off about an average year. Fedler said that may have hurt attendance just a little.

“IT was a great day overall,” Fedler said. “For mutton bustin’ we’ve always a full unit and that’s to be expected. For calf riders we were probably about an average year. The rain kinda killed off people that would normally come, both spectators and participants.”

He said it packed the house before the short-lived rain entered the area, and then the humidity sent in.

See YOUTH, page 8
WYMAN EARL LOREY

Wyman Earl Lorey, 71 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Sunday, September 2, 2018 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison. He was born November 3, 1946 at Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Wyman E. and Julia C. (Fields) Bernhardt. His adopted parents were Charles H. and Julia E. (Hiscocks) Lorey.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Marines serving in the Vietnam War. He worked for various factories and later worked in the restaurant business. He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing and camping. He also was a caretaker at the Indian Lake Park for a season.

He is survived by two brothers: George (wife Donna) Bernhardt, of Fort Madison, Iowa; Warren E. Lorey, of Iowa; one sister, Dixie Lee (husband Chuck) Geseck, of Colorado and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his adoptive parents.

Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. A graveside service and burial with full military rites will be held at 10:00 am Thursday, September 6, 2018 at the Oakland Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa. Pastor Les Featheringill will officiate. A memorial has been established, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Online condolences to the family may be made from the Barr Memorial Chapel, www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

JOSE “JOE” S. DIAZ, JR.

Jose “Joe” S. Diaz, Jr., 45, of New London, IA and formerly of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 1:56 a.m. on Thursday, August 30, 2018 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines, IA. He was born on October 13, 1972 in Fort Madison, IA to Jose S. & Shirley A. Crull Diaz, Sr. He was a 1991 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He married Jessica L. Andrews on September 19, 2016 on the riverfront in Fort Madison, IA. He was a diesel mechanic for Wal Mart Transportation in Mt. Pleasant, IA for 21 years. He was a member of Tri-State Gun Club for 17 years and was an NRA Pistol Instructor. He enjoyed the Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Bulls, vintage 1980’s comic books and was a Superman fanatic.

Jose is survived by: his wife; Jessica Diaz of New London, IA; 2-sons: Jordan (Kelsey Skender) Diaz of Mt. Pleasant, IA & Jonah Diaz of New London, IA; 1-grandson: James Diaz of Mt. Pleasant, IA; 1-sister: Debra Ratzlaff of West Point, IA; 1-brother: Joshua (Stephanie Kisor) Andrews of Fort Madison, IA; numerous nieces & nephews who were like brothers & sisters and a child to Joe. He was preceded in death by: his parents, his grandparents: Carlos & Ejinia Diaz & Clifford & Mary Crull and his father in law: Randy Andrews.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 3, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Scott White officiating. Burial will be held at Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison, IA. A memorial has been established in Joe’s memory. Online condolences to Joe’s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.
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Obituaries

LAWRENCE EUGENE “LARRY” KNOCHE

Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Knoche, 89, of the Kensignton in Fort Madison, Iowa, formerly of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 2:25 p.m. Monday, September 3, 2018 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.


Survivors include one son: Donald (Sheila) Knoche of Arcadia, Florida; one daughter: Barbara (Donald) Schafer of Nauvoo, Illi- nois; four grandchildren: Brad Schafer, Brenda Schafer, Katherine McGuigan and Donnie Knoche; nine great grandchildren: Walden, Owen and Alexander Schafer, Chloe and Adaan Knoche, Tori Mc- Guigan, Camden Knoche and Meghan and Michael McGuigan. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews, special Knoche cousins and special friend: Betty Mead. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife: Lois and one infant grandchild.

Larry had an infectious laugh and smile and his ornery streak was known by all. When Larry was not teasing others, he was always willing to lend a hand if anyone needed it. Larry and Lois celebrated sixty-five years of marriage and their love for one another was well known. He was a devoted member of the Nauvoo First Presbyterian Church and served as Elder and Trustee. Larry was proud to be a member of the Nauvoo Fire Department for twenty-nine years and served as Trustee and Trea- surer. Larry also served on the Nauvoo-Coluna School Board and was a 4-H Leader.

Larry attended Western Illinois University and began life as a dairy farmer in Peoria, before moving to Nauvoo where he farmed with his father-in-law Joyce Gerhardt. Larry loved growing flowers in his yard for passerbyers to enjoy. For many years he shared his love for woodworking with everyone and especially to visit their grand- children. They square danced with the Circle Square Bs, were members of a local card club and Larry was an official “Charter” member of the Dottie’s Coffee Gang. He started the yearly tradition of the Knoche cousin reunion and loved spending time with them.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 6, 2018 at the Nauvoo Pres- byterian Church in Nauvoo, Illinois where the family will receive visitors from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 7, 2018 at the Nau- voo Presbyterian Church with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating.

Burial will be at Nauvoo City Cemetery. A memorial has been established in his memory to Nauvoo Fire and Rescue.

Schmitz-Banks and Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.sbbfuneral-home.com.

GARY RISK

Gary Risk, 79, of Keokuk, IA, died Friday, August 31, 2018 at his home.

He was born on May 9, 1939 in Quincy, IL, the son of Robert and Margaret Grau- ber Risk. He graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1957.

Gary enlisted in the United States Air Force in October of 1957 and proudly served his country for twenty years, five months and 30 days. He always said that during his time in the service he was a scope draper and flew computers. Gary retired in 1978 with the rank of Tech Sergeant.

On November 2, 1980, Gary was united in marriage to Linnie Martinez in Yuba City, CA. She survives. He is also survived by three sons, Christopher Risk and wife Re- becca of Albuquerque, NM, Timothy Risk and wife Herdie of Omaha NE, Joe Risk and wife Michelle of Kearney, NE, three daughters, Mary Shipler and husband Robert of Keokuk, Lin Fiorentine of Youngstown, OH and Katie Cook and husband Michael of Roanoke, TX, thirteen grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one sister, Bobbi Jo Uyemura of Keokuk and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, Alexi Ques.

Gary enjoyed playing computer games and working on jigsaw puzzles. He loved his rescue dog, Bert, who was his faithful companion and friend. Above all, Gary loved his family and spending time with them was his greatest joy.

Services will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to the Lee County Hospice. Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

EDWARD KRAMER

Edward Kramer, 73, of Missouri and formerly of Ft. Madison passed away on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 in Elsberry, Mo.

He was born on March 24, 1945 in Ft. Madison to Louis and Rose Fraise Kramer. He served in the US Navy during the Vietnam Conflict. He was a member of the VFW.

Survivors include one sister, Donna Rehm of Lake Kiowa, TX; four brothers, Kenneth (Noma) Kramer of West Point, Gary (Deb) Kramer of Ft. Madison, Keith (Sheryl) Kramer of Jensen Beach, FL and Kurt Kramer of Ft. Madison, IA; several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 1:30 PM at Soldiers’ Circle, Oakland Cemetery. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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Above, Korbin Wilson gets thrown from a calf in the Lil' Spurs Rodeo Monday morning at the Tri-State Rodeo's pre-rodeo event. Below Barret Speck corrals a goat, looking to remove the tie from its tail as part of the goat-tail tie event. #trsfamilytradition

jacket. I pulled it on, got out of the car and, in blinding rain, fumbled with the key to unlock a door. A booming flash of thunder and lightening nearly cowered me, but I got the door open. I pulled the trip-cord on the garage door, and manually raised it. Rain nearly blew me over, but I got the car pulled in. We were safe in a dark home. Buddy was buried in a closet. I found flashlights and, in a break in the rain, headed out to check on Blossom, our heifer calf, and the chickens. Blossom was out! She was standing outside her pen, in the dark, seemingly confused. Fortunately, I was able to get her back in and secure for the night. In the mayhem, she somehow managed to get a gate unchained and pushed open. I would fix those gates in the morning. The chickens were all accounted for and safe up high in their hen house, roosting, but full of burring warnings. Whitey, our brood hen, was sitting tight on her dozen fertilized eggs. All was safe on the Empty Nest Farm. Now it was just a matter of waiting out the storm and dark night.

Sometimes later the power flickered a couple of times, but came back on. In the morning there was 3.5 inches of rain in the rain gauge. I have never seen that much rain in the gauge. It characteristically reads low. Official reports indicated six inches of rain. Facebook was full of storm-disaster pictures and stories. Fortunately, no one was killed at the Old Thresher's Campground in Mt. Pleasant.

Ginnie has brought a calming of the storms in my life. But weather-wise, it was some birthday celebration, one we will both remember. "When was that storm? Oh, yes. Ginnie's birthday."

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:01 p.m. Director’s Hope, Ross, DiPrima and Young were present. Also present were Superintendent Slater, Director of Curriculum and Student Services Hammon and Secretary Elmore. Director Hotop was absent.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. The Board read and reviewed the Foundation documents consisting of the Vision, Mission and Belief statements and the Goals for the Fort Madison Community School District.

IV. Monthly communications
A. Curriculum Corner. Greg Smith addressed the Board regarding a new program available at the High School through a partnership with SCC and Silgan entities.
B. Classifieds/Public Notices

V. Consent Agenda
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the July 16, 2018 regular meeting, the July 24, 2018 special meeting; financial reports for the monthly balance sheet, revenue summary sheet, expenditure report and activity report, accounts payable for the July weekly warrants, August computer warrants, activity warrants and nutrition fund; resignations from Melissa Spoores, associate at Lincoln Elementary, Christian Dunn, associate at Richardson Elementary, Bobbi Zemlicka, associate at Lincoln Elementary, Christian Dunn, associate at Richardson Elementary, Fletcher Taylor, director of curriculum and student services.

VI. Consent Agenda
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
B. Superintendent. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
C. Board Secretary/Business Manager. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
D. Board member attendance.

VII. Action Items
A. Curriculum Corner. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy #710.4 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
B. Unit 1 Bus Drivers. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve the Unit 1 Bus Drivers salary list as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
C. Summer season extracurricular coaching salary list. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve the summer season extracurricular coaching contract salary list as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
D. Substitute teachers. The Oath of Office was administered and Director Steffensmeier responded to the oath with “I will”. Enter Steffensmeier: 6:41 p.m.

VIII. Discussion Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy #710.4 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-0 voice vote.
B. Superintendent. It was moved by Young and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy #700 – 704.2. These policies will be brought back to a future meeting for final approval.
C. Board member attendance. The Board reviewed and discussed the board member attendance report.
D. Board Self-Evaluation. This item was deleted and will be brought back at a later date.
E. Competitive Wages.
F. Excellent Benefits.
G. Advertisements.

IX. Comments from the audience. There were none.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a legislative update and reviewed the Legislative Priorities that were submitted to the Iowa Association of School Boards.

XI. Announcements.
A. September 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Regular board meeting at Central Office
B. October 1, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Work session at Central Office
C. September 17, 2018, 6:00 p.m. – Regular board meeting at Central Office
D. September 17th.

XII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President
Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary
CINCH kicks off big action

YOUTH - Continued from Page 1

But neither the precipitation or the lingering effects in the 88 degree heat dampened the spirits of area children falling off sheep and getting bucked off calves, pulling ties off goat-tails, riding stick horses around barrels, or chasing greased pigs.

Fedler said the Lil’ Spurs committee and the radio are using a hashtag #familytradition to corral marketing for events associated with Tri-State Rodeo.

The online registration caused a few problems for the committee. Fedler said registrations for Lil’ Spurs events are made through the rodeo’s online site at www.tristaterodeo.org and this year things were a little more troublesome than previous years, but the committee is looking hard at rectifying those issues for next year’s events.

He said the volunteers helped pull everything together to put on another great event for 2018.

“This was one of the smoothest shows we’ve put on in a while,” he said. “We had outstanding participation for kids and from the volunteers,” Fedler said. “You cannot thank enough these volunteers and our sponsors. There are a lot of people behind the scenes that are just there and just not enough thank yous for everyone involved.”

Lil’ Spurs has been a jumping off point for many rodeo participants at many levels. Fedler said it’s not uncommon for individuals who participate by riding rodeo participants at many levels. Fedler said it’s not uncommon for individuals who participate by riding the sheep or a calf, to be seen at other events as they get older, including riding in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

“We’ve had kids that start in Lil’ Spurs and come back as part of the PRCA,” Fedler said. “It’s our 26th year and we’ve seen riders from the time they start until the professional circuit.

“We’ve seen them have their first ride here on a lamb, come back as part of the high school rodeo, win it, and then go to the PRCA and come back here as a part of that and ride.”

Fedler said all the facets of the rodeo are a result of community efforts and he’s happy to help continue to bring this to the area.

“This is just about having the kids here, the families here, and the volunteers, and then getting everyone into the arena for the rodeo itself,” Fedler said. “And it’s not just the Lil’ Spurs, it’s the Special Kids...it’s the faces in the arena and the rodeo itself. This brings you back to the reality that it’s community that kicks in and gets out here to make sure the kids have fun.”

Monday night wrapped up with the annual Lil’ Miss Rodeo and All-Around Cowboy contest on the south end of the grand stand.

Holden Pezley, 6, son of Travis & Katelyn Pezley of Montrose was named All-Around Cowboy out of a field of three, while Cheyanna Turbin, 6, daughter of Jason & Tiffany Turpin of Columbus, Mo was named Lil’ Miss Rodeo.

After Tuesday night’s Pee Wee Barrel Races, full professional rodeo action kicks off in a big way Wednesday night with the all-in Cinch Shootout where cowboys, on an invitation-only basis, come to the arena to battle for more than $100,000 in prize money, one of the highest purses in the midwest.

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From the Front/Weather

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 05 Sep
Moderate Rain
High– 83.9º F | Low – 70.5º F

THU 06 Sep
Very Heavy Rain
High– 68.0º F | Low – 61.1º F

FRI 07 Sep
Moderate Rain
High– 69.7º F | Low – 65.0º F

SAT 08 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 72.3º F | Low – 56.9º F

SUN 09 Sep
Clear Skies
High – 79.3º F | Low – 57.1º F
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PRCA Rodeo Action
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