

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Thursday, October 1, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 180



www.pencitycurrent.com

Morawitz leaves legacy of service

COUNCILMAN: 2nd Ward councilman loses vigilant battle with cancer Wednesday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison City Councilman Bob Morawitz died this morning after a prolonged battle with cancer.

The 64-year-old veteran of the U.S. Navy and retired electrician died at 8:23 a.m. Wednesday at Great River Hospice House in West Burlington.

A recurring theme in condolences from his peers on the City Council and with city staff was his independence of thought and passion for service.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said Morawitz sought out service and that's not an easy thing anymore.



"Especially in today's world, it takes a special kind of person to want to do that," Mohrfeld said.

"It's really kinda tough right now. There's not a lot of gratitude, but he knew that and still fought to serve people. God bless him for wanting to do that."

Morawitz was very active in Lee County Democratic Party and received the Steve Ireland Award, The Eppers-O'Malley Award and the Democrat of Distinction Award from the Lee County Democrats. He was also named 2019 Fort Madison Citizen of the Year by the Fort Madison Daily Democrat.

He had unsuccessful bids for state senator in 2012 and state representative in 2018. He also ran in 2013 for the Fort

See **MORAWITZ**, page 8

BOO-ATHLON

Annual PORT fundraiser goes virtual for 2020

This year's event will be a race alone from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – PORT (Promoting Outdoor Recreational Trails) of Fort Madison will be holding their seventh annual Spooktakular Boo-athlon fundraiser for recreational trails in Fort Madison. The Spooktakular Boo-athlon will take on a new format to accommodate for the COVID-19 pandemic. The event will be a 'race alone, succeed together' where individuals are encouraged to choose their own route, time and event to participate between the dates of Wednesday, October 28 and Sunday, November 1, 2020.

Whether participants choose to use the PORT trails and follow the route used in past years starting at the Baxter Sports Complex and using Phase I and Phase II of the PORT trail; a treadmill or stationary bike; or choose another one of the great trails in the area, the event details are the same. Events include a Kid's Run; 5K Run/Walk; 10 mile Bike Ride; Duathlon (Run/Bike Event). Participants are encouraged to wear costumes and post their pictures to Facebook tagging PORT of Fort Madison.

Registration forms can be found online at www.fortmadison-ia.com under the Community tab/PORT; on the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page; or by contacting Kathy Benda at 319-470-7848. The registration form can also be accessed by clicking here: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-Virtual-Spooktakular-Registration-Form-1.pdf>.

Paid registrations include a long-sleeve t-shirt. The Spooktakular Boo-athlon is a community focused fundraising event for trails in Fort Madison.

Matt's Greenhouse will once again be our premiere sponsor and the exclusive sponsor of the kids t-shirts. Many other corporate sponsors support this fundrais-

See **PORT**, page 3

Art in the Park

The rain held off for most of the day at Sunday's Art-in-Central Park annual event. Art vendors from around the area set up shop in the parks for demonstrations, competition, and sales. Music, food, and a beer garden were also part of the festivities.



Courtesy Photo

UNITED WAY

Restaurant days kicks off at FM's 10th Street Station

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – United Way of the Great River Region is excited to announce the return of Restaurant Days! During the month of October, a variety of area restaurants have graciously agreed to donate a portion of their day's

receipts to United Way of the Great River Region to go directly to our Fall 2020 Campaign. More restaurants are signing up every day!

This year's event starts Thursday at 10th Street Station in Fort Madison from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

How can you help? Support the

restaurant of the day by choosing to get your meal there. Check the most updated calendar on the United Way of the Great River Region's Facebook page. Check back often as more restaurants are joining the cause.

See **FUNDRAISER**, page 3

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WEATHER

THU 01 Oct.....Mostly Sunny, 57° F/ 46° F
FRI 02 Oct.....Broken Clouds, 56° F/ 37° F
SAT 03 Oct.....Light Rain, 57° F/ 44° F

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 09/29.....14 39 43 44 67, Mega Ball: 19 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 09/29 MIDDAY.....193
PICK 3 09/29 EVENING.....465
PICK 4 09/29 MIDDAY.....0565
PICK 4 09/29 EVENING.....1373

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Obituaries/Business News

Bergman gets FMCH July honor

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Kelly Bergman as their July Employee of the Month. Kelly is a Nuclear Medicine Technologist in the FMCH Diagnostic Imaging Department. She has been with FMCH for twelve years. She was recognized with this nomination:

This employee arrives each day with a smile and a greeting! She steps up to help with just about anything needed. She is always nice to patients as she brings them into our department. This is very comforting to our patients as sometimes the “unknown” is scary. She makes them feel very much at ease as she takes them to their tests and back. There is usually a laugh and a smile as they leave our department. She always makes sure they get with their party in the waiting area, and assures them



Courtesy photo

Pictured above, Tim Torgler, VP of Ancillary Services, Fort Madison Community Hospital July Employee of the Month Kelly Bergman, and Aron West, Diagnostic Imaging Director.

they will be contacted with results. She jumps in when needed in various positions in our department and always lends a hand for those having a hectic day. We are fortunate to work with such a nice co-worker each day. She always shows respect to those who visits our facility and to those she

works with. “My favorite part about working at FMCH is my co workers, here at FMCH we are one big family taking care of our family, friends, and community,” expressed Bergman.

When not at work, Kelly loves Iowa Hawkeye football, watching her boys do what they

love, boating, and bonfires with her family and friends.

The Employee of the Month is an initiative developed by the Reward & Recognition team. Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above, and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT C. MORAWITZ

Robert C. Morawitz, 64, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 8:23 a.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA.

He was born on May 2, 1956, in Burlington, IA, to Harold C. & Bettie Lowe Morawitz. On November 24, 1994, he married Beverly Owens Gobble in Fort Madison, IA. He had served in the US Navy for 6 years during the Vietnam era. He was an electrician with the IBEW Local #13.



MORAWITZ

He had many interests in his years, including National Insulator Association, City Preservation Commission, Old Settlers Association, North Lee County Historical Society, Second Ward Councilman for the City of Fort Madison and was heavily involved in the Lee County Democratic Party, receiving the Steve Ireland Award, the Eppers-O'Malley Award and the Democrat of Distinction Award from the Lee County Democrats. He was the Fort Madison 2019 Citizen of the Year and was a collector of everything.

Survivors include his wife, Bev Gobble of Fort Madison, IA; 5 stepsons: Gregory (Janice) Gobble of West Point, IA, Jeffery (Elizabeth) Gobble of Buena Vista, CO, Kevin (Jayne) Gobble of Wever, IA, Eric (Cheryl) Gobble of Lutz, FL & Timothy (Kriisti) Gobble of Fort Madison, IA; 13-grandchildren; 11-great grandchildren; 1-brother: Roy “Skip” (Elora) Morawitz of Plattesmith, NE; 2 sisters: Joyce (Kenny) Johnson of Burlington, IA, & Beverly Heath of Web City, MO and several nieces & nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Bob's body has been donated to science at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. No services are planned at this time. A memorial has been established for the North Lee County Historical Society-Old Fort Madison Battlefield Site and contributions may be mailed to: Tim Gobble, 1114 Avenue F, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to Bob's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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For the Record/From the Front

Restaurants still encouraged to join United Way drive

FUNDRAISER - Continued from Page 1

“It’s been a tough year for everyone, especially small businesses like restaurants. We are so grateful to have the support of these wonderful establishments in each of our three-county service area,” says Karen Siefken, Executive Director. “What a great way to raise money for a great cause. Get together with your family or a few friends to enjoy a meal and help others at the same time! Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and reminders.”

Restaurants who are already signed up included: Hawkeye Restaurant, McDonald’s and Happy Joe’s in Keokuk; Fat Jimmy’s in Montrose; 10th Street Station, River Rocks and Palms Restaurant in Fort Madison. They are joined by The Red Front in Nauvoo, El Camino Real and Dairy Queen in Hamilton representing Hancock County and Papa’s Pizza in Kahoka representing Clark County. But there is room for more!

If you are interested in having your restaurant participate and it’s located in Clark, Hancock or Lee county please contact Karen Siefken at United Way of the Great River Region at 319-524-4504 or by email at director@unitedwaygrr.org.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

Gov. says state will close FY 2020 with \$305.5M surplus

DES MOINES - Gov. Kim Reynolds announced today that the State of Iowa will end Fiscal Year 2020 with a balance of \$305.5 million in its General Fund.

“Fiscal responsibility has put the state of Iowa in a strong position despite some significant challenges ranging from a global pandemic to trade disruption,” said Gov. Reynolds. “In Iowa, we have turned those obstacles into opportunities, making significant investments in education, agriculture, workforce,

technology, and health care. The actions we have taken this year will help Iowa emerge from this unprecedented pandemic stronger than ever before. Going forward, we will continue to invest responsibly in Iowans’ priorities and remain mindful of the potential challenges that still lie ahead.”

“Iowa is in a strong financial position due to responsible spending practices and our strong cash reserves of over \$770 million,” said Dave Roederer, Director of the Iowa Department of Man-

agement. “I commend Governor Reynolds and the Iowa legislature for their efforts to maintain a strong ending balance. We will continue to monitor the impact COVID19 has on our state budget for the coming fiscal year.”

FY 2020 closed on June 30th, but the accrual period officially ends on September 30th. During this time, Iowa closes the books and pays out and receives outstanding obligations. Last year’s budget surplus was \$289 million dollars.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
09/28/20 – 9:57 a.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue J.
09/28/20 – 12:51 p.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of 34th Street.
09/28/20 – 5:09 p.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1000 block of Avenue H.
09/29/20 – 12:58 p.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of Avenue H.
09/29/20 – 2:29 p.m.
– Fort Madison Police arrested Taylor William Scott, 28, of Fort Madison in the 1200 block of 33rd Street on a charge of assault while displaying

a dangerous weapon, and harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
09/29/20 – 3:31 p.m.
– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident at the intersection of Oak Drive and Richards Drive.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report
09/29/20 – 12:03 a.m.
– Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Larry Leroy Dawson, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Hwy. 61, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
09/23/20 – 10:45 a.m.
– Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Michael Lee Vanlaningham, 40, of Keosauqua, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for contempt of court.

09/23/20 – 2:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Brittany Marie, Goldie, 26, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office, on a warrant for parole violation. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
09/23/20 – 6:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Linda Danielle Gaudino, 52, of Montrose, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for 3rd-degree harassment. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
09/30/20 – 7:51 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Delana Ann Crow, 29, of Keokuk, no location provided, on a court ordered hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

PORT committee continues work to build path around FM

PORT - Continued from Page 1

ing event for recreational trails.

PORT of Fort Madison received multiple grants and donations to fund the first two phases of the trail. Preparations for Phase III have been completed with construction starting Spring of 2021. Phase III will connect the Baxter Sports Complex to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

PORT of Fort Madison operates as a subcommittee under the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Fort Madison with the mission to improve and promote the walkability, run-ability and bike-ability of Fort Madison. The committee is made up of a volunteer group of community members. For more information or to make a donation go to the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page.

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HOUNDS PREVIEW

Hounds face 'Big' test Friday vs. Mt. Pleasant

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Mt. Pleasant Panthers will be a 'big' test for the Bloodhounds on Friday.

Coming off a big 55-7 win Friday in Burlington, the Hounds meet up with the Panthers in a 'big' Class 3A District 5 clash... possibly a 'big' turning point in the Bloodhounds program... and a couple of 'big' Panther lineman.

And the Hounds, aside from 29-7 loss to Class 3A No. 5 Washington three weeks ago, are having a BIG year.

Big kick returns for touchdowns, big blocked punts for touchdowns, big interceptions for touchdowns... well, you get the 'big' picture.

Head Coach Derek Doherty said his squad is preparing to take the full brunt of a Mt. Pleasant team that pulled out of last week's game with Keokuk late in the week due to some coronavirus issues.

"We haven't heard anything," Doherty said Wednesday. "And to be honest I'm not listening. We want to prepare for the best no matter what."

He said they don't have any idea of what's happening to the north, but said his focus all week, was playing a solid Mt. Pleasant squad.

The Panthers are 2-2 on the year with wins over a strong Clear Creek -Amana team and Fairfield, with losses to Washington and Tipton.

Mt. Pleasant is very similar offensively to Washington where the quarterback is dominating the total yardage. The Panther's come in with senior Jack Johnson who has 1,224 yards in four games evenly spread with 605 through the air and 619 on the ground.

Doherty said Johnson's a special athlete and the Hounds will have to contain him.

"He's like the Willis kid in Washington. I feel like we've been dealing with these guys for years in a lot of sports," Doherty said.

"We've proven that when we want to we've done a pretty good job of containing quarterback power, but we have these mental lapses. We hope we've grown and fixed those."

Johnson makes up the 77% of the Panthers' run game, but he has a bevy of quick, tall receivers that he'll target if the run gets bottled up.

Seniors Chase Williamson and Brevin Wilson lead the way both averaging right at 17.4 yards per catch. Wilson has three touchdowns. Then senior Brennen Bender has 120 yards on just five catches and score.

And then there's Henry Lutovsky, a 6'6" 320lb Nebraska recruit who anchors a line that also includes a couple more 300 lb. kids.

"It should be an exciting opportunity for our kids. You getta go up against a guy like that," he said. "Let's get out and play him. I think our guys are excited about it."

He said the Hound offense found the right gear Friday. Junior QB Landes Williams threw three TDs and ran for another. Junior Tate Johnson caught two of the scoring tosses, while senior Will



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Tanner Settles (3) and Keaton Poe (25) close in on a BHS runner in last week's 55-7 win. The Hounds will face a stiffer test this week with Mt. Pleasant (2-2) coming to Richmond Stadium.

WHO TO WATCH BLOODHOUNDS

- #4 Landes Williams (Jr.) QB
- #13 Tate Johnson (Jr.) WR/DB
- #77 Ethan Deacon (Sr.) OL/DL
- #5 Brock Califf (Sr.) RB/DB/ST
- #25 Keaton Poe (Sr.) RB/LB
- #24 Calem Maclearn (Sr.) RB/DB

Mt. Pleasant

- #59 Henry Lutovsky (Sr.) OL/DL
- #7 Jack Johnson (Sr.) QB/DB
- #9 Brevin Wilson (Sr.) WR
- #4 Chase Williamson (Sr.) WR
- #20 Avery Scandridge (Sr.) RB

Larson caught the other from 40 yards out.

Johnson had a spectacular catch on ball out in front where he got completely horizontal hauling it in. Doherty said no one thought he would get hands on the throw.

"Tate's a special kid," Doherty said. "I was talking to Burlington's AD after the game and he said when the ball was released he thought there was no way... and then said that was one of the best catches he's ever seen."

Williams had some instinctive runs and senior Calem Maclearn had some extra yards with nifty moves carrying the ball. Doherty said the kids instincts with the ball are more of an art form.

"That's being an artist. These kids are artists of the game. You like to think our drills are taking hold, but the creativity of them this year is very impressive," he said. "Some of that might be watching YouTube's greatest juke videos, I don't know, but whatever is happening.. it's fun to watch."



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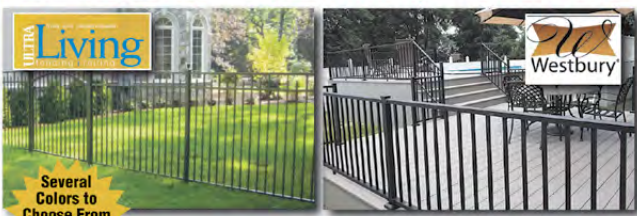


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The Hound offense sputtered during the first half of the season as the staff tried different personnel to find the best combination. But they seemed to have settled in the last six quarters of play.

Larson started the year at quarterback, but has been moved into the slot receiver spot, while Maclearn has emerged as the featured tailback. But Doherty and offensive coordinator Justin Menke are not shy about slipping other players into the mix.

"I felt like for two or three weeks in a row I was saying how close we were and our message to the kids after Burlington was that this is what our offense is capable of," he said.

"Obviously, were pretty high on them and believe in them fully. We know how they live Monday through Thursday and even on the weekends. It's a special group of kids. It's fun to watch their hard work and efforts pay off.

On defense the Hounds have three players with 30 tackles on the year led by Levi Lowney and Keaton Poe each with 31.5, and sophomore Tanner Settles at 30, all top 3 in District 5. Three other Hounds have 20 plus tackles.

Doherty said the squad breaks to "SWARM" and they live that philosophy on the field.

"There aren't just saying it. They take pride in getting as many hats to the football as possible. Sometimes we get aggressive because we want to get in on the party and we abandon our job and give up an edge. But we're getting better at it."

Doherty said this year's team is developing a cohesiveness and a bond and a trust in each other to get the job done.

He said last week's blocked punt by Poe and TD recovery by Johnson showed how much the kids are brothers on the field.

"Thing I love most about that is that in the video you can see Tate trying to slip the ball to Keaton to give him the credit. That's how much our guys love each other. It gives me the chills thinking about that. That's culture.. and that's our dudes."

The Hounds and Panthers kick off at 7 p.m. Friday on Youel Field in Richmond Stadium. Restrictions have been lifted so there will be full admission at the game. Face coverings are required if social distancing isn't possible.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Sports

It's been a quite summer at Community Field

The breaking point, Kim Parker said, came when she was driving home on the day the Minor League Baseball season was canceled.

Parker, the general manager of the Burlington Bees, realized there was a strong possibility that the last Major League Baseball-affiliated game had been played at Community Field.

"I started crying in my car," she said, remembering the thought that when the final out was made in the 6-3 loss to the Clinton LumberKings on August 30, 2019, no one knew that might be the last Midwest League game played in Burlington.

Major League Baseball ran out the clock on Minor League Baseball on Wednesday. The Professional Baseball Agreement between the two sides was expiring, and what comes next is going to be a reconstruction of the minors, and communities like Burlington could be left out.

MLB's plan is to reduce the number of affiliates from 160 to 120. Every reported list of the 40 eliminated franchises has had the Bees on it.

Already, there have been changes around the minors. The Appalachian League, once a 10-team Rookie League, has been converted to a college summer wood-bat league. Other organizations in the short-season summer leagues may face a similar fate.

But there are teams in full-season leagues who could be contracted as well. The Class A Midwest League is not immune to changes, with teams like the Bees and the Clinton LumberKings on the list for possible contraction.

And even teams who do survive and are on the final list for saving may not be able to afford the changes that Major League Baseball wants in terms of facility and franchise standards.

The Burlington Baseball Association, which runs the Bees, was made aware of the possibility of contraction last winter. The plan was, if 2020 was going to be the last season of affiliated baseball, it was going to be a grand, if sad, goodbye.

"Minor league baseball or not, we've always been focused on how can we keep baseball in Burlington," Parker said. "Community Field is such a beautiful place, and so it's like, what can we do to fill it?"

"So when we found out what was going on, it was like, 'OK, if this is our last year, let's make it big, let's do more stuff.'"

But once the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there was no chance of there being minor league baseball anywhere, and in the summer the season was finally canceled.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh,'" Parker said of that drive home on June 30, when the season was officially shut down. "I have a good relationship with everyone with the (Los Angeles Angels, the Bees' MLB affiliate), the players, the coaches ..."

"I feel like we got cheated out of a possibility of a last affiliated season."

Parker said that since Community Field isn't landlocked, there was room for expansion of facilities that were going to be required by MLB — such things as a kitchen for a chef to cook meals for players, and expanded clubhouse space for



more coaches.

"There is plenty of room to go up and go out," Parker said. "Everything has a cost. If cost wasn't an issue, absolutely we have the space to do that."

There were other standards as well for travel — the Bees were going to have two buses for road

trips this season because of added staff and equipment.

The pandemic also was going to lead to other expenses, including the expansion of dugouts for more space for social distancing.

All of that would have meant more expenses for the organization.

If the Bees are left off the MLB list, there are plenty of options for baseball here, everything from an independent professional league to college wood-bat summer leagues like the Northwoods League or the Prospect League, which feature Midwest teams.

"I do know that regardless of what happens, the board of directors are committed to keeping base-

See BEES, page 8



Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING/
WORK SESSION
October 5, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

PM, Work Session, Board Room, Central Office
November 16, 2020
6:00 PM, Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
X. Adjourn

AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
 - II. Approve the agenda
 - III. Consider approval of Certified Annual Report for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020.
 - IV. Consider approval of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Allowable Cost request to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC).
 - V. Consider approval of Special Education Supplement for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020.
 - VI. Consider approval of the Annual Transportation Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020.
 - VII. Consider approval of additional PORT Trail easement agreement
 - VIII. Return to Learn discussion
 - IX. Announcements
- October 19, 2020 6:00 PM, Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
November 2, 2020 6:00

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- Graduation from high school, GED, or equivalency.

For additional information, please [click on this link to view the job description](#) ([Download PDF reader](#)).

Additional Qualification Requirements

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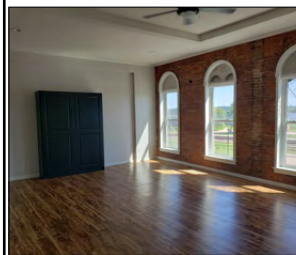
- Psychological tests
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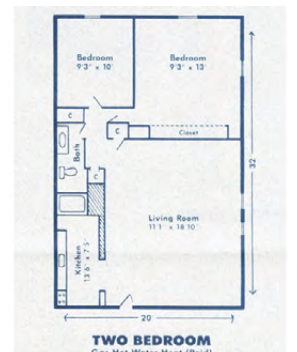
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From the Front

Bees park plans on hold

BEES - Continued from Page 5

ball here in Burlington,” Parker said. “There will be baseball in some form here. Once everything smooths out with Major League Baseball, and what’s going to happen, we’ll be able to announce where we’re at moving forward. We’re definitely going to have baseball in Burlington in 2021.

“Our biggest thing is, financially, what would be feasible, what’s the best fit for the community, that kind of thing. There are a few that could be ruled out pretty quickly, a few that we think would work well for Burlington.”

Parker and her staff would have already been preparing for a 2021 season, putting together sponsorships and advertising as well as getting ready to sell tickets for a Midwest League schedule that would have been in hand in the middle of the summer.

For now, that’s on hold.

“Our whole season has been ‘hurry up and wait,’” Parker said. “Wait for this, wait for that. When it comes to light what the final decision is, it will be quick for us to come to a final decision. Schedules have to be made, all of that other stuff.

“I’ve been talking to sponsors, letting them know there will be baseball in some form. ‘This is Option A, and then B, C and D’. ... That waiting is like a dark cloud over you. You don’t know what’s going to happen. At some point in time, you want a decision, so you can either pivot, or move on.”

Moving on isn’t going to be easy. It’s been a quiet summer at the ballpark.

“Every summer for the last 20 years has been centered on baseball,” Parker said. “It’s very desolate at the ballpark. When you walk around, there’s not the noises that you’re used to hearing. It’s just been a real trying year, for everybody.

“It’s not only baseball, it’s everything else. It’s been a mental battle all year long. My life has been centered around my career in baseball. If you don’t have it, you lose a piece of yourself.”

John Bohnenkamp is an award-winning sports writer/editor and contributes to the Pen City Current

Councilman remembered as independent thinker

MORAWITZ - Continued from Page 1

Madison City Council and then was elected in 2017 to represent the 2nd Ward.

Morawitz served in the U.S. Navy for six years during the Vietnam era. He was also an electrician with the IBEW Local #13. He volunteered for the City Preservation Commission, the Old Settlers Association and the North Lee County Historical Society.

City Manager David Varley said Morawitz was an engaged councilman who didn’t shy from questioning anything.

“I enjoyed working with Bob,” Varley said. “He had original thoughts and he would tell us what was on his mind. He was an independent thinker and brought new ideas to the table.”

Varley said it wasn’t uncommon for Morawitz to stop in to see Varley and discuss questions he had on issues facing the city.

“He was very good about doing that and talking with us. We’re going to miss him here, and we’re sorry to see him pass.”

Councilman Kevin Rink, the current longest serving council member, said Morawitz had great knowledge of city history and operations and made his opinions known.

Rink said he wished he’d been able to spend more time with Morawitz on the council.

“Bob did a little bit of everything and anything,” Rink said.

“And he had a vast amount of knowledge for the decisions that we had to make. That enabled him to questions things and I really appreciated that about him. He’s definitely going to be missed. My condolences go out to his entire family.”

Councilman Mark Lair said not only did Morawitz make substantial contributions to the city government, he was also ever-present in works with the city’s history including the new Battlefield site.

“I think he brought a lot of good things to the council and he was very level headed. His knowledge of his trade, as an electrician, also helped us in many decisions we had to make,” Lair said.

Mohrfeld said Morawitz sought out public service, sometimes even things as little as sweeping up sidewalks around town, but it was his challenge to the beaten path that sticks out with the Mayor.

“He was never afraid to challenge the status quo,” Mohrfeld said. “And that’s a good thing. He was very independent thinker and he’s going to be missed here.”

Morawitz is survived by his wife Bev Gobble of Fort Madison and five stepsons, 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, a brother and two sisters. His complete obituary appears inside today’s edition.

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