

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

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SIRRC gets behind marina

\$1.5 million: Some contingencies in place for city to receive 5-year funding

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison marina project got a potential boost this week as another charitable grant organization committed up \$1.5 million in matching funds.

The Fort Madison Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission's nine-member board voted to infuse \$1.5 million over the next five years, if the project can secure an additional \$3 million from investors.

SIRRC Board president Steve Link said the commission had a in-depth discussion about the project and



MOHRFELD

decided to support the effort if the other working parts come together.

"Our contingencies are that the city due exactly what they told SIRRC and the public they intend to do, which included the \$1.5 million from the city and another \$3 million from other investors," Link said.

"If they deviate from that, the city would have to come back to SIRRC before we allocate any funds."

Link said SIRRC is engaged in funding other projects in the community and spreading the commitment to

See **SIRRC**, page 8

COUNCIL MEETING

Council OKs increases for city projects

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Two changes to current city projects were approved Tuesday night increasing costs to the city by about \$18,000.

At Tuesday's regular City Council meeting, City Public Works Director Mark Bousselot outlined the two change orders to the council.

The first change order adds \$3,664 to the Hwy. 61 reconstruction project from 6th to 10th Street due to an unforeseen resin shortage from manufacturing plants on the gulf coast.

A recent cold snap forced the closure of some chemical plants that produce the resin causing a shortage in the supply chain. Subcontractors for Jones Contracting Corp, out of West Point were able to identify a different supplier, but costs were higher from that supplier for the piping.

"The industries shut down and jacked their prices up which has forced orders to be cancelled. We are looking at additional costs of \$3,664 for the same product from a different supplier that meets our specs," Bousselot said.

Bousselot said the new pipe has been ordered by the subcontractor prior to the change order approval to prevent incurring additional costs as prices continue to rise.

Councilman Tom Schulz said since the city has signed a contract and the resin shortage wasn't foreseen, the city's probably on the hook for the increased costs.

"I like change orders almost as much as the mayor does and Mark and I had a good conversation about this," Schulz said. "I did some research on this and as far as I'm concerned I think we're contractually obligated on this change order. It's a price increase outside the realm of the contractor or subcontractor."

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld disagreed.

See **COSTS**, page 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Volunteers continue work on new playground equipment in Pollmiller Park on Tuesday morning. Work started Tuesday in the short-lived morning snow flurries. Work is expected to be wrapped up Friday.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

Chamber ready for annual city clean-up Saturday

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is coordinating a volunteer community effort designed to remove litter and debris from parks, recreational areas, shorelines and waterways, while inspiring generations of environmental

stewards. In past years, Community Clean Up volunteers bagged litter, swept sidewalks, and cleared weeds in an effort to make Fort Madison more presentable to visitors and the general population.

The 2021 clean up date is scheduled

for Saturday, April 24, rain or shine, with registration in Central Park starting at 10:00am. Gloves, trash bags, and maps highlighted with targeted clean up areas will be distributed to partici-

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WEATHER

THU 22 Apr Sunny and Clear, 55° F/ 30° F
FRI 23 Apr Rain, 45° F/ 42° F
SAT 24 Apr Light Rain, 58° F/ 44° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 04/20 6 23 43 49 52, Mega Ball: 5 Megaplier: 3
PICK 3 04/20 MIDDAY 769
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PICK 4 04/20 MIDDAY 3395
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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

ROGER L. SPARROW

Roger Lee Sparrow, 81, of Keokuk (formerly of Warsaw, Illinois), went home to be with our Lord and Savior on Sunday, April 18, 2021, at 12:45 pm surrounded by his family and his beloved dog, Shayna.



SPARROW

Roger was born the son of Chester and Cleta (Gardener) Sparrow on October 18, 1939, in Warsaw Township, Illinois. He married Levonda Vickers on November 18, 1978 in Keokuk. Together they had seven children.

Roger was employed at Keokuk Electro-Metals before retiring from The Dial Corporation after 25 years of service. He was an excellent electrician and mechanic and was very knowledgeable about most anything that needed worked on. Roger was always there to lend a hand or a tool – always leaving his toolbox open, trusting his peers would return what they borrowed.

Roger was an avid boater in his younger years. Later in life he enjoyed traveling in his RV camper. While on a trip, they fell in love with Palmview, Texas. They decided to make Palmview their permanent home. During their 23 years there they met many friends who became like family. Roger and Levonda found a wonderful church home called The New Life Church pastored by Pastor Jesse Hernandez. Pastor Hernandez was instrumental in leading Roger to give his life to the Lord. Roger and Levonda were both known for their trustworthiness and for the fact that they would do anything for you.

Roger is survived by his wife Levonda of Keokuk; his children: Eugene (Theresa) Davidson of Oxford, Iowa, Teresa (Harvey) Hoskins of Keokuk, Charlotte (Kevin) Yoder of Wellman, Iowa, Jeffery Davidson of Wellman, Iowa, Curtis (Edythe) Davidson of Findlay, Barbara Sparrow Burton of Georgia and Rolonda (John) Jordan of Medill, Missouri; his favorite daughter, his dog Shayna; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Lenard Sparrow; three sisters at birth and one granddaughter, Leslie Berry.

Roger will be greatly missed by his wife, children, great- and great-great-grandchildren, friends and most of all, his dog Shayna. We will always remember his great advice, love and photogenic smile. We now have an empty chair that there is no way to fill, but we rejoice that Roger is now in Heaven with a new body and the everlasting crown of life.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to New Life Church in Palmview, Texas or Anchor of Hope in Keokuk.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

Volunteers wanted for Chamber's annual community clean-up

SATURDAY - Continued from Page 1

pants.

“Whether you have 30 minutes or 2 hours available to help, I encourage you to join in this city-wide effort. Come alone or get your friends and family together and meet us in Central Park on April 24th. If you're unable to join us, try and clean up the area around your home or work. Every effort helps” says Savanna Collier, Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce.

This event is made possible with the support of many generous sponsors and participating organizations: Climax Molybdenum, McDonald's and MidAmerican Energy.

The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate organization of Fort Madison Partners. Fort Madison Partners is the umbrella organization which oversees the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, Fort Madison Main Street, Fort Madison Economic Development and Fort Madison SIRRC. It serves to facilitate and coordinate efforts, services and resources of each individual organization as well as share strategic goals, working towards the common goal of making Fort Madison a great place to visit, live and work.

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for your community



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

BERNICE W. POMBERG

Bernice W. Pomberg, 92, of West Point, Iowa, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Wednesday, April, 21, 2021.

She was born July 26, 1928 in St. Paul, Iowa to AC and Agnes (Klesner) Merschman. Bernice was married to Lester Pomberg on April 10, 1948 at St. James Catholic Church. They made their home in St. Paul, Iowa, where they farmed and raised their family and retired 41 years later in West Point, Iowa. Lester and Bernice were married for 63 years.

Bernice was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and never missed an opportunity to spend time with her family. Bernice loved gardening, tending to her flowers, playing cards, and square dancing (Bernice and Lester were members of the Circle Eight Square Dancing Club for 40 years!). Bernice was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society at St. James the Less Catholic Church and St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church.

Bernice is survived by her three daughters: Carleen (Ray) Krogmeier of West Point, Iowa, Shirley (Jim) Evans of Maple Valley, Washington, and Christine Pomberg of Ankeny, Iowa; her three sisters: LaVerne Cox, Helen Moeller, and JoAnn (Ronnie) Herold; her three sisters-in-law: Ina Merschman, Laverne Merschman, and Betty Merschman; her three grandchildren: Michelle (Spencer) Sawyer, Jennifer (Carlos) Clements, and Matthew Krogmeier; and her four great-grandchildren: Jack, Henry, Olivia, and Andrew.

Bernice was preceded in death by her parents: AC and Agnes Merschman; her husband: Lester Pomberg; her infant son: Michael Pomberg; and her three brothers: Carl Merschman, James Merschman and Marvin Merschman.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Sunday, April 25, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, where the family will receive friends from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A parish rosary will be recited at 2:30 p.m. and a Christian wake service will be held at 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 26, 2021, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point with Father Dennis Hoffman as celebrant. Mass will be live streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on her obituary "Tribute Wall" on our website following the service at: www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

Memorials have been established in her memory for West Point Fire and Rescue or Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.



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OBITUARIES

ELIZABETH A. DERR

Elizabeth A. Derr, 87, of Croton, Iowa, passed away at 2:10 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at Van Buren Community Hospital in Keosauqua.

She was born on February 28, 1934, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of William and Violet (Inman) Biddenstadt. On December 25, 1949, she married Darius "Junior" Lewis Derr. in Donnellson, Iowa He preceded her in death on November 14, 2013.

Survivors include one son: Terry (Rhonda) Derr of Keosauqua, Iowa; one daughter: Rebecca (Charles) Smith of Farmington, Iowa; one daughter: Mary Mapes of Arizona; seven grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; thirteen great grandchildren; five step-great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; step-grandson: Jeff and seven siblings.

Elizabeth was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Farmington. She worked at Sheller-Globe and retired after forty years. She enjoyed going to farmers' markets, yard sales, Dollar General and participating in the Farmington Jamboree.

A graveside service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 24, 2021, at Charleston Cemetery, rural Charleston, Iowa, with Father Dennis Hoffman officiating.

Burial will be at Charleston Cemetery.

Memorials have been established in her memory for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements.



DERR

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence

Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in 2020 and again in 2021.



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 P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Local News/Sports

Hounds win; ranked 13th

BY PCC STAFF

MT. PLEASANT – Fort Madison’s boys soccer team moved to 5-1 on the year and 4-0 in Southeast Conference action with an 8-0 win over Mt. Pleasant and windy, chilly Tuesday night.

Jacob Pothitakis went off for the No. 13 Bloodhounds scoring five goals and an assist in the match. The Hounds jumped into the top 15 in the state in Class 2A with Tuesday’s rankings release. The Hounds had received votes last week but didn’t place in the top 15.

Pothitakis scored at the 14-, 24- and 27-minute marks of the first half with two assists coming from Mitchell Pothitakis. Mt. Pleasant accidentally scored in their own goal with about 7 minutes left in the first period. Then Leif Boeding scored on a break away unassisted with two minutes remaining for a 5-0 lead at the half. Jacob Pothitakis would get two more goals in the second half on assists by Mitchell Pothitakis and Will Gager. Mitchell Pothitakis had the other Fort Madison goal.

Tate Settles had a slow day in the net for the Hounds recording one save in the shutout.

The Hounds take on Burlington on the road Thursday.

Clay Crushers place at Panther Invite

MT. PLEASANT – The Fort Madison Clay Crushers trap shooting team placed 3rd and 4th place Saturday at the Mt. Pleasant Panther Invitational.

The rookie squad brought home the 3rd-place finish with an overall score of 135, an 46-target improvement over last week’s effort. Cade Blind, Tyler Carson, Gabe Keppel, Luke Kruse and Konnar McFadden shot for the rookie squad.

The IA squad finished in 4th place with a score of 182 behind the efforts of Albert Kruse, Owen Krogmeier, JJ Hasenclever, Jake Ehlers and Cruz Hunold.

The junior varsity squad improved by one target over last week with a score of 221. Brett Azinger, Drew Davis, Edward Schroeder, Trevor Edwards and Trey Edwards shot for the jayvee squad.

Albert Kruse took fifth place individually with a 44. Schroeder took 3rd in singles junior varsity with a 48 and Abram Lorence was first with a 49 in singles varsity. Kiley Bohnenkamp brought home a 5th place medal in ladies junior varsity with a 42.

Eagles Club holding Special Olympics event

FORT MADISON – The 1287 chapter of the Iowa Fraternal Order of the Eagles will hold their Charity Event benefiting Special Olympics Iowa on Friday, April 23rd from 4:30 – 7:30 pm.

This fun evening of raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Iowa will include a fish and shrimp fry and a raffle at 4821 Avenue O. Dinner will kick off at 4:30 pm with the raffle at 8:00 pm, need not be present to win.

Funds raised during the Charity Night will go towards Special Olympics Iowa Unified Champion Schools® programing. Unified Champion Schools brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities through education, sports and youth leadership to provide them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance and respect.

“We are grateful for the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the work they are doing through their Charity Event. They are raising funds and spreading the mission and work of Special Olympics,” said Stuart Steffy Vice President of Development at Special Olympics Iowa.

Special Olympics Iowa is the 2020-2021 charity of choice for the Iowa State Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Special Olympics Iowa provides high-quality training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in all 99 counties of Iowa. Twenty-three Olympic-style sports are offered to more than 14,500 athletes and Unified partners year-round.

Through Special Olympics’ athletic, health, school, and leadership programs, individuals with intellectual disabilities reach their full potential and experience inclusion in their communities every day. Engage with us on: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Learn more at www.soiowa.org.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/20/21 – 3:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue M. 04/21/21 – 8:40 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Lacey Raye Jenkins, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue F, on a charge of driving while suspended.

County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jace Canyon Prado, 21, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

04/20/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical call and one false alarm.

Lee County Sheriff’s Report

04/20/21 – 11:46 p.m. – Lee

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Sports/From the Front

Fort Madison girls take 4th at Hounds Invitational

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison earned four 2nd-place finishes enroute to four points and a 4th place at Saturday's Fort Madison Invitational.

At No. 3 singles, Rachel Hellman scored an 8-3 win over Notre Dames Quinlan Kirk in the opening round and faced Ottumwa's Josie Young in the title match, falling 8-5.

The Lady Hounds then got runner-up finishes at No. 5 and 6 singles with Camille Kruse falling to Ottumwa's Josie Vonderhaar 8-1. Kruse knocked off Fairfield Maharishi's Evelyn Ding 8-6 to open the bracket. Vonderhaar won three matches coming from the play-in match as the No. 5 seed in the

bracket.

The Fort Madison's doubles team of Malarie Ross and Camille Kruse knocked off Elizabeth Hamma and Shelby Ryan from Notre Dame in the first round of No. 2 doubles. Ross and Kruse then fell in ten games to Camanche's Hannah Dorsey and Emma Holstein.

Ottumwa won the invitational with 10 points taking the title at Nos. 2, 3, 5, and 6 singles and No. 3 doubles. Camanche earned 2nd place with 7 points and Maharishi was 3rd with 6 points.

No. 2 seed Lily Fenton of Maharishi won the No. 1 singles bracket knocking off Fort Madison's Molly Knipe 8-3 and then Camanche's Maci Sloan 8-6 in the finals.

Ross lost in the play-in match at No. 2 singles to eventual champion Kiley Heller of Ottumwa, 8-1. Kayla Kruse won her play-in game with Nike Shelby Ruan 8-1, but then fell to Maharishi's Sara Valls, 8-2.

Sky Lawson downed Naudia Ruston of Notre Dame, but then fell in a tough tiebreaker to Camanche's Grace Evers, 9-8 (7-4).

Knipe and Hellman lost in the first round of No. 1 doubles 8-2 to Fenton and Ishita Madakaram 8-2. Kayla Kruse and Lawson won their play-in match 8-6 over Notre Dame, but then fell 8-3 to Camanche's Grace Evans and Elle Davidson in the semis.

Camanche was second with seven total points and Maharishi was 3rd with six points. Notre Dame rounded out the field with 0 points for 5th place.

Council, mayor spar over new round of change orders

COSTS - Continued from Page 1

"Back at the end of the year, when I set my prices for the spring, diesel was \$1 a gallon cheaper than it is now. I didn't get to raise the prices on my plants."

Schulz countered that if he had signed a contract to purchase Mohrfeld's plants that included a possible price increase due to fuel prices, he'd be obligated to buy the plants.

Mohrfeld said there was nothing stopping the contractors from getting the pipe earlier when the contracts were awarded.

"I'm not with ya on this one. And they could blend it throughout the project... rock goes up and down all

the time.

Bousselot said the when the contract was awarded, the contractor notified the subcontractor, but he couldn't say how long the subcontractor waited to order the pipe.

Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker again pointed to the city's responsibility in wording future contracts so that the vendor could be responsible for price increases after contracts are agreed upon.

The council approved the change order 6-1 with Kevin Rink voting against the measure. The council also approved an increase in the contract for the

PORT trail.

According to report Bousselot prepared for the council, the change order requires lowering a water service line, adding a culvert, replacing a waterline, water run-off by the FMHS tennis courts, and additional costs for cold-weather concrete. The change order will result in an additional \$65,135, of which approximately \$50,000 will be covered by funds from the Fort Madison Hospital Community Foundation and Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission.

"I just want you to be aware that \$52,000 of this

is for additional trail going down 18th Street from the newly designed trail to the (FMHS) parking lot," Bousselot said. "That is being funded by additional money from the hospital foundation and SIRRC."

Schulz said the \$52,000 amounts to an addition to the contract more than a change order.

He said the rest covers an aging water line that was discovered and he said it would better to replace that now than have to dig up the trail if it were to fail.

Councilwoman Donna Amandus said this isn't the type of change order than

can just be ignored

"It would be nice to be able to say no to spending extra money every time a change order comes around, but what happens if we get to do that. It's really convenient for one or two councilman to say no, but what if the rest of say no, then what happens?"

Councilman Kevin Rink said the issue then comes back on the city to the contractor or the engineer.

"I hate change orders," Rink said.

Schulz said a city staff member potentially saved the city money down the road. The change was ap-

proved with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

In other action, the council:

- approved a resolution to amend the urban revitalization plan to include multi-residential classifications.

- approved a resolution updating rezoning fees and setting a construction board of appeals hearing application fee.

- approved a one year agreement with Sanchez Boxing to lease city facilities for \$1 per year. Utilities and regular maintenance are also the responsibility of the boxing club.

State refinances tobacco bonds saving \$167M

DES MOINES, Iowa – State Treasurer Michael Fitzgerald announced that Iowa received an overwhelming response to the refunding of its tobacco settlement bonds, resulting in over \$167 million savings for the State of Iowa over the life of the bonds. "A bond refunding is similar to an individual refinancing their home," Fitzgerald explained. "The State was able to take advantage of low interest rates, just as a homeowner would. The long term savings is big."

"We refinanced \$668 million in bonds on April 6, 2021, at an average cost of 3.29%,

down from the previous 5.65%," Fitzgerald stated. "With some of the lowest interest rates ever and a positive market for tobacco bonds, it just made sense to do the refunding and save Iowans the extra money."

When the original bonds were issued back in 2001, the funds raised were used for issues related to health care; substance abuse treatment and enforcement; tobacco use prevention and control; and other related needs. Each year the State receives an annual payment from the tobacco industry. A large portion of that payment is dedicated to paying existing bonds.

Be Prepared To Get Vaccinated



When you are given the opportunity to get the COVID vaccine, know if this is what you want to do or not – do your research. The opportunity will quickly pass as agencies move onto the next levels.

If you sign up to get vaccinated, be sure to show up during your scheduled time. Once a vial is open, 10 doses must be used within 6 hours – the goal is not to waste any vaccine.

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300 miles

>> How a silver lining forms

- >> It starts at sea.
- >> Tropical waters heat up.
- >> Warm air soars skyward.
- >> Cold air rushes to the void.
- >> Cold air warms up.
- >> Cycle repeats.
- >> Faster and faster—a 50,000 foot engine of air.
- >> At seventy four miles per hour it earns a name.
- >> Harvey, Irma, Katrina.
- >> Then landfall.
- >> Roads rendered useless.
- >> Buildings destroyed.
- >> Families stranded.
- >> But for a brief moment,
- >> A silver lining appears.
- >> People see neighbors instead of strangers.
- >> And labels that divide are forgotten.

>> But when rains ease,

- >> when clouds part,
- >> silver linings need not fade.

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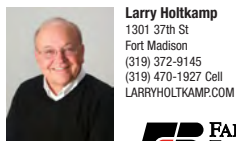
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Education News/From the Front

SCC, Capitol Theater ink 1-year lease agreement

WEST BURLINGTON - Southeastern Community College and the Capitol Theater entered into a one-year lease agreement beginning July 1, 2021.

The agreement will allow the college increased access and use of the building, as well as opportunities for student learning in the business of running an event facility. This agreement coincides with the college's initiative to broaden performing arts programming.

The college is expanding its music offerings in the upcoming fall semester, introducing digital music production courses to coincide with its traditional offerings. Music instructor Dr. Daniel Pappas looks forward to the opportunities that the space will lend to the program.

"I am excited about the real-world experiences our students will get by performing at the Capitol," he says. "The opportunity for students to take what they learn in a studio environment and use it for a large performance space will be invaluable."

As COVID restrictions are lifted, the Capitol Theater will continue to host its popular events, including the annual Snake Alley Festival of Film, regular showings of classic films, and live music by touring artists.

The 355-seat venue was built in 1937 and closed in 1977. After the creation of the Capitol Theater Foundation in 2005, the building was renovated and re-opened to the public nearly 10 years ago.

The one-year timeframe is intended to give both organizations an opportunity to refine their offerings. In 2022, the agreement will be revisited for discussions on how to best move forward.

"We have students from all over the region with incredible talent," says SCC President Dr. Michael Ash. "We are eager to expand our opportunities to meet their needs beyond the classroom with practical experiences. What they learn here will open doors for their goals beyond SCC."

SCC's music program has held performances at the Capitol Theater each spring for several years, and the college looks forward to presenting more events.

"Our goal is to continue to provide meaningful cultural contributions to the area in a central location," Pappas adds. "We hope the community will support the events we stage at the theater and enjoy our talented students."

For more news or to learn about Southeastern Community College, visit scciowa.edu.



SIRRC head says project could be a win-win

SIRRC - Continued from Page 1

the marina over five years helps the commission stay engaged with those other requests.

SIRRC has been receiving riverboat gambling revenue since the early 2000s, which is now a revenue share with Catfish Bend Casino, as part of the Great River Entertainment complex in Burlington.

The commission has been integral in helping fund projects such as the Baxter Sports Complex, the Fort Madison Public Library, the Tri-State Rodeo VIP sections, Fort Madison Food Pantry, Fort Madison Area Arts Association, and Sheaffer Golf Course to name a few.

The group was also involved in the economic development package for Siemens when that company moved into the former Fruehauf facility.

Link said the commission looks at the value of the project and its ability to use SIRRC funds to leverage other investment from within and outside the community as criteria for grant funding.

"We don't just look at the rosy side of things. We also look hard at what can fall apart," Link said. "This is not our money and we don't want to make a

mistake."

He said the city's commitment, coupled with the increased commitment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in mitigating past and future flood damage to the marina area, a potential for additional federal monies from Congressional grants, and other potential funding streams, made the marina project intriguing to the SIRRC board.

"If the city can hit those contingencies and we help fund the marina project as intended, it's a win-win for everyone."

The commitment is just the second in almost two decades that has surpassed the \$1 million mark. The commission put close to \$1.5 million into the construction of the Baxter Sports Complex.

"We're always interested in economic development and quality of life and how SIRRC money can be used as seed money to draw in other investment in Fort Madison," Link said.

"A big component of what we do is how we can leverage other moneys and that's key to where SIRRC comes from."

He said SIRRC got involved in helping fund new cart paths at Sheaffer Golf Course because of the fundraising events it hosts with organizations like Fort Madison Community Hospital, the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Great River Region, Fort Madison Football and the Holy Trinity Athletic Board.

"These are very good investments because they help generate investments in these other groups and that's what we want to be a part of."

The SIRRC board is made up of three members of the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce, three members of the Fort Madison Economic Development Corp and three members from the city of Fort Madison.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld told the City Council at Tuesday's meeting about the commitment from SIRRC to applause from the council members in attendance.

Mohrfeld said the SIRRC board was impressed with the city's commitment, but the money would be contingent upon securing other matching funds.



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