

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, July 9, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 136



www.pencitycurrent.com

Rock Docks takes over Marina



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Quinlan Lozano touches up some painting at the Fort Madison Marina on Wednesday afternoon.

BARKERS: Iowa City property management firm enters lease agreement with city

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Barker Financial has taken another step to help Fort Madison's economy.

The property management company out of Iowa City has already picked up and completed an abandoned historic upper apartment restoration, rehabbed a library, and taken over operations of an historic hotel. Now they want to provide a little summer fun.

The group has negotiated a lease agreement with the city to use the part of the Riverview Marina for food and beverage service, and is renovating the boater services area as well.

Kyle Galloway, the Chief Financial Officer of Barker said one of the first things he remembers of Fort Madison is the marina and the beautiful vista of the riverfront in the city.

"I remember the first time I went down there to Fort Madison with the whole apartment renovation. I stopped down and thought it would be really cool if there was something out there," he said. "The river is so beautiful down there."

Barker Financial owns the Kingsley Inn, the Old Lee County Bank building, the former Cattermole Library, the Sears Building and the building where the YMCA will be soon be

See **MARINA**, page 8

SHAMPOOCHES

Another pet groomer opens downtown

BY KATIE SCOVILLE
PEN CITY CURRENT

FORT MADISON – Melissa Monroe has always loved animals. This love for animals eventually led her to the grooming business.

She began grooming after her troublesome shih tzu became a nightmare for groomers. "Many places don't take misbehaved animals and I took it upon myself to learn how to groom," Monroe said.

After working for other groomers, she decided to venture out and start her own grooming business. Shampooches, located at 707 9th Street in Fort Madison is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The business is located on the west side of 9th Street between Avenues G and H.

See **PETS**, page 5

CARES FUNDING

Gov. Reynolds puts \$50M into mental health

DES MOINES - On Tuesday, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that \$50,000,000 in federal funds allocated through the CARES Act will be invested in Iowa's mental health care system. Watch Governor Reynolds' announcement on Facebook here.

"We are making meaningful investments into Iowa's mental health services to help vulnerable Iowans and their families," said Gov. Reynolds. "Today's investment is not only about adapting to the challenges we face today, but sustaining a compassionate and coordinated system for the future. I also want to commend Flora Schmidt with the Iowa Behavioral Health Association and Andrew Allen, CEO of Youth and Shelter Services for

See **CARES**, page 4

KEOKUK

Connection Bank breaks ground in Keokuk

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – With a 20-foot hole about 60 feet across and earth movers as a back drop, the Connection Bank Board of Directors and dignitaries broke ceremonial ground Wednesday

morning on a new state-of-the-art banking center in Keokuk.

The bank is creating the new space and will be deeding their old location in the 500 block of Main Street Keokuk over to the city, which lost its facility in fire in February of 2019.

The new site has been a fill hole for

many years and construction crews are having to dig up some of the fill to get to start over on the site.

"As you'll see, we're digging a big hole, said Connection CEO Matt Morris through a red, white and blue

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap

THU 09 Jul	Moderate Rain, 83.7° F / 67.2° F
FRI 10 Jul	Clear, Sunny, 82.3° F / 69.4° F
SAT 11 Jul	Light Rain, 77.3° F / 68.5° F

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MEGA MILLIONS 07/07	16 20 25 30 43, Mega Ball: 18	Megaplier: 3
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PICK 3 07/07 EVENING	929	
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/06/20 – 8:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested William Vahle, 25, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance and interference. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/06/20 – 8:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Crystal Kline, 36, of Fort Madison in the 1500 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for interference. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/07/20 – 2:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in

the 300 block of 12th Street. 07/07/20 – 4:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2800 block of Avenue P.

07/07/20 – 6:46 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/05/20 – 12:13 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to the 3300 block of Old Quarry Road for a two-vehicle accident. According to the report, an unidentified black truck traveling southbound struck

a parked. Deputies were unable to locate the truck and are investigating the incident.

07/06/20 – 2:45 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawnette Celeste Ammons, 19, of Davenport, at the Jasper County Jail in Newton, on a warrant for forgery. She was held in custody.

07/06/20 – 5:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Karlie Rae Charbonneau, 20, of Wever, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for robbery-assault. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/07/20 – 12:18 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Adrian Raul Garcia, 42, of Fort Madison, at 48th Street and Avenue L in Fort Madison on charge of eluding with injury, OWI, interference with official acts and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/07/20 – 5:45 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Richard Wayne Davis, 42, of Keokuk, on Hwy. 61, on a charge of contempt. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on bond.

07/07/20 – 12:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric Troy Beckman, 45, of Fort Madison, no location given, on a

warrant for contempt of court. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/07/20 – 10:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kadya Aubry Mason, 21, of Keokuk, in the 2700 block of 340th Street on a warrant for violation of a no-contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/07/20 – 1:49 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on 303rd Avenue near 180th Street. According to a sheriff's report, a vehicle driven by Lauriebeth Hunter, 40, of Keokuk failed to yield northbound on a left turn into

a private drive and was struck by a vehicle driven by Nicholas Vaughn of Rushville, Ill. Hunter was cited for failure to yield. Both vehicles suffered heavy damage and there was no indication of medical transport on the report. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

07/06/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.

07/07/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical calls, one motor vehicle accident and false alarm.

Do Your Part!

Great River Regional Waste Authority encourages you to wear gloves when moving bins for residential trash pick-up.

Those workers can touch over 2000 bins a day before even touching your bin. Don't forget to wash your hands after bringing in your bin!!



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 Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

BETTY M. MEIEROTTO

Our beloved Mom, Grandma, and Great-Grandma, Betty Mary Meierotto



MEIEROTTO

Wilkins, received her wings at 6:24 p.m. Monday, July 6, 2020 at her home at Savannah Heights in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Our hearts ache to say goodbye to this wonderful lady.

Mom was born on August 24, 1925, in St. Paul, Iowa. Our family was looking forward to celebrating her 95th birthday next month and she was looking forward to becoming a Great-Great-Grandma in November.

Mom was the daughter of Frank and Anna (Umthum) Bentler. She was a child of the depression so nothing was ever thrown away and family was always a working, loving unit. All of her siblings have

passed away: Marietta Benjamin, Rose Switenski, Emma Schwartz, Hank Bentler, Hilda Lampe, Ethelreda Nichting, and Norbert Bentler.

She is survived by her son, Michael Meierotto of Burlington, Iowa and three daughters: Mary Jo (Ben) Menke of Davenport, Iowa, Diane (Dennis) Dietzman of Burlington, Iowa and Kaye Lynn (Dirk) Jacobs of Danville, Iowa. She also has dearly loved grandchildren Tracy (Chad) Buhman, George (Carrie Menke) Erin Menke, Meredith (Michael) Ortega, David (Lyndsey) Dietzman, Daniel Dietzman, Nora Meierotto, Nathan Johnson, Jason (Darcy) Johnson, and Jill (Chris) Loter. She has 16 precious great-grandchildren. She also is survived by three sisters-in-law: Anna Mae Bentler of West Point, Iowa, RoseAnn Bentler of Burlington, Iowa, and Rose Marie Boner of Bella Vista, Arkansas

and one brother-in-law: Charles (Barb) Wilkens of Fort Madison, Iowa. Also surviving are several cherished nieces and nephews.

Mom was lucky to find love twice in her life. She married our Dad, Linus Meierotto in St. Paul, Iowa on January 4, 1947. He passed away on May 31, 1964. She later married our Stepdad, Paul Wilkens on September 9, 1972 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa. He passed away last year on October 9, 2019. Throughout her life with our Dads she was always the "right-hand man" on the farms.

Mom was a member of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church of Nauvoo, Illinois where she sang in the choir for 34 years. There was always

song in our home as we were growing up. Songs we sang to our children and now our grandchildren.

Mom was a crossword puzzle solver and a faithful watcher of "Wheel of Fortune" and "The Lawrence Welk Show". She was also a quilter. As a member of the Piecemaker Quilt Club of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church she helped make many quilts for her home and club.

Even though she picked up the skill later in life, quilting is a perfect metaphor for a life well-lived

Mom was always able to take the scraps and patterns that were given her and make a beautiful life for her family and loved ones. She made quilts for all of us: her children, her grandchildren, and her great

grandchildren. Woven into those quilts was love pure and simple.

When asked how she would like to be remembered she said as someone who was always true to herself, grateful, and happy.

Above all else, Mom had and gave joy. She had an infectious laugh and a twinkle in her eye. For all the hardships that were thrown her way, she would gather the pieces and, like her quilts, make something beautiful.

Mom was one-of-a-kind. A beautiful, creative, loving work of art who to this day and from now on wraps us in the comfort of her memory.

Friends may call after 12:00 noon Friday, July 10 at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point, Iowa, where the family will receive friends

from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and a rosary will be recited at 6:00 p.m.

Masks and social distancing will follow CDC guidelines.

The funeral will be held for the immediate family on Saturday, July 11 at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Nauvoo, Illinois with Father Tony Trosley as celebrant. Inurnment will immediately follow at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her name for Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church and Schools.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitz-funeralhome.com. The Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point is assisting the family with the arrangements.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Health News/Sports

Mental Health Services regions get \$30M

CARES - Continued from Page 1

making a difference in the lives of so many Iowans.” \$50,000,000 in CARES Act will be allocated through the providers:

Mental Health Providers - \$10M

Will go to Medicaid providers of non-hospital based inpatient and outpatient services to cover increased costs associated with pandemic.

Substance Use Disorder Providers - \$10M

Will go to Medicaid providers of non-hospital based residential and outpatient services to cover increased costs associated with pandemic.

Mental Health and Disability Services Regions - \$30M

State will distribute an equal per capita amount to each MHDS region to support ongoing adult and children’s mental health services, including to cover increased service need due to the stressors and isolation associated with pandemic.

With \$98-99M of property tax levy dollars going to MHDS regional services, the additional \$30M investment brings the overall system funding to nearly \$130M.

Gov. Reynolds was joined at her press conference by Flora A. Schmidt, the Executive Director for the Iowa Behavioral Health Association, Andrew Allen, President & CEO of Youth and Shelter Services, Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, and DHS Director Kelly Garcia.

Hawks knock off ND in conference clash

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON – Jadon Hawk sparkled throwing 6 2/3 innings of shut out baseball as the Central Lee boys outgunned Burlington Notre Dame Tuesday night at Central Lee High School.

Hawk gave up just two hits and allowed three walks while striking out nine Nikes in the win. Dylan Stueker came on in the seventh with two outs and got the final out with a strikeout.

Notre Dame was 10-1 coming into the contest with a perfect 5-0 mark in Southeast Iowa Superconference South Division. Central Lee had just suffered its first loss of the season Monday at home to Cardinal of Eldon.

The Nikes Mitchell Brent was equal to the task scattering two hits over four innings but gave up six walks. Jackson Brent would come in and pitch the final two innings for Notre Dame allowing two runs on two hits while walking two and striking out two.

Central Lee got all the runs it would need in the bottom of the first inning.

After TJ Stutes ground out to open the frame, Stueker, Hawk and Luke Simmons all drew walks to load the bases. Adam Boeck would then single on a line drive to right scoring Stueker and Hawk. Taylor Eschman, pinch running for Simmons got all the way to third on the play for a 2-0 Central lead.

Evan Pohren would ground out to second scoring Eschman and moving Boeck to second. After Boeck stole third, Brent got a strike out to retire the side.

Notre Dame had something cooking in the top half of the fifth when Kaden Westlake singled to left. Hawk would fan Jackson Brent and then issue a walk to Carson Chiprez to put runners at 1st and third after a passed ball. Chiprez would swipe second, but a Jeron Conner line out to center would hold everyone in place.

Hawk would issue another walk to load the bases, but Drew Chiprez would strike out swinging to strand all three runners.

Central Lee would get a double from Simmons to start the bottom half. Boeck would line out to center holding pinch runner Eschman at second for the time being. After he stole third, Pohren would walk to put runners on the corners. Eschman scored on a passed ball and Pohren would move to second, but Brent would get a strikeout out of Jonny Snider.

After Brent walked Kade Myhre, Stutes would fly out to center to end the scoring and the inning.

Hawk worked a perfect sixth and then got two outs in the top of the seventh before Carson Chiprez reached on a throwing error and Conner walked, prompting Central Lee coach Shane Weirather to bring in Stueker to button things up.

Stueker would get a five-pitch strikeout to end the game.

Stutes, Simmons, Boeck and Alex Sandoval had the hits for the Hawks. Boeck had two RBI. Pohren and Sandoval had one RBI each in the win.

Central Lee wraps up the regular season Tuesday with home game against Keokuk.

HTC girls give into Mediapolis in 7th inning

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – Holy Trinity Catholic gave up a game-winning two-out RBI single in the top of the seventh in a 4-3 loss to Mediapolis Tuesday night at South Park.

HTC hurler Mary Hellige gave up a single to start the seventh, but then got two outs with the Crusaders trying to keep the game tied at 3. Jenna Parrott’s infield single was misplayed allowing MacKenna Bandy to move to third base. Josie Wolter then singled to short scoring Bandy for what would amount to be the game-winning run.

Hellige would get the next hitter to pop out in the infield to end the inning. Holy Trinity then suffered three infield pop-ups on four pitches to end the game.

The Crusaders got on the board first when Jordan Mueller tripled to right field and came around to score on an error at second with no outs. Sobczak would strike out for the first out. Raquel Schneider would draw

a walk before Brook Mueller grounded out and Hellige flew out to center to end the inning.

Mepo tied it up in the top of the fourth. Olivia Moehle singled to short to lead things off. Kayla Frank would courtesy run and take second on a passed ball. Bandy would stroke an RBI single to left to score Frank with no outs. Hellige would get the next three hitters to retire the side.

A Haile Cain walk with two outs loaded the bases for Holy Trinity in the fourth, but a strike out ended the threat.

Mediapolis would get a two-run single from Mackenzie Springsteen with no outs in the top of the fifth to give the Bulldogs a 3-1 lead. HTC would get a double play on short fly out to Jenna DePrima who doubled off the runner at first, and Hellige got a ground out to strand one.

Laura Mehmert would tie things up in the bottom of the fifth. Schneider led things off with a no-out single. After Brooke Mueller popped out to short, Hellige walked to put two on. Kayla Box would fly out in

foul territory off third base for the second out, but Mehmert delivered a liner to center field scoring Schneider and Hellige.

Neither team scored in the sixth inning to set up the seventh inning dramatics.

Mehmert had a hit and 2 RBI to lead the Crusaders (1-9). Schneider and Jordan Mueller each had a hit and a run scored.

Mary Hellige (1-9) went the seven innings giving up four runs, one earned on seven hits and two walks. She struck out five in the loss.

HTC travels to Winfield Mt. Union on Thursday to wrap up the regular season. Class 1A Region 6 post-season action gets underway Monday with HTC taking on New London at 6 p.m. in New London. The winner will face Winfield-Mt. Union on Wednesday July 15 at 7 p.m.

Also on the bottom of the Region 6 bracket is Seymour, Moulton-Udell and North Mahaska. The top of the bracket is Tri-County, Keota, Sigourney, Moravia, English Valleys, Montezuma, and Lynnville-Sully.

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Sports/From the Front

Hounds use big innings to get by Warriors

Reichelt has nine RBI in last three games for Fort Madison

BY PCC STAFF

KEOSAUQUA – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds took advantage of two big innings as they downed Van Buren on the road 13-5 Tuesday night.

Brandon Reichelt led the Hounds at the plate again going 2 for 5 with 3 RBI. Reichelt has nine RBIs in the last three games. Vasin Thurman also had 3 RBI on the night for Fort Madison.

Reiburn Turnbull (2-1) got the win and combined with Thurman to give up five runs, just one earned, on three hits, while the two struck out four. Ryan Wolf suffered the loss for Van Buren.

Fort Madison led 1-0 through the first three innings. A Thurman single to right scored Landes Williams from second in the top of the first.

In the fourth, the Bloodhounds put up five runs highlighted by a Reichelt two-run single to right with the bases loaded. Thurman would follow up with a infield RBI ground-out to short scoring Jason Thurman. Reichelt would come in on a wild pitch to make it 6-0 before Van Buren got out of the inning.

Van Buren would score three in the bottom half. Jonah Heckenberg tripled to deep center to open the half and was driven in by a Wolf single to right.

With one out, Tony Davison reached on a fielding error at third loading the bases. Then Jackson Manning fielder's choice plated another run. Taylor Sprouse would reach on another Hound error at third allowing Treyton Bainbridge to come in and score to make it a 6-3 Fort Madison lead.

Both teams would go scoreless in the fifth, but the Hounds would get things going again in the sixth with a lead off walk and single. Tate Johnson laid down a sacrifice to move the runners over, but a fielding error

allowed Aiden Pennock to come around to score from second courtesy running for Vasin Thurman.

Another Van Buren error allowed Turnbull and Johnson to both score from second and third for a 9-3 lead still with no outs. Jace Burgher would ground into the first out, but Garrett Hannum and Landes Williams would both draw walks to load the bases again.

Jason Thurman walked scoring Burger and reloading the bases. Reichelt then smacked a two-run single to right scoring Hannum and moving Williams and Thurman up, with the bases still loaded on just one out. Vasin Thurman would hit a sacrifice fly to right plating Williams before Turnbull grounded out to end the inning with the Hounds on top 12-3.

The Warriors would put up two more in the bottom of the sixth, but would go down in order with Vasin Thurman on the mound in the seventh to end the game.

Reichelt was 2 for 5 on the night with 3 RBI and Vasin Thurman had a 3 RBI night. Landes Williams was 1 for 2 with three runs scored. Kane Williams went 1 for 3 with a run scored, Burgher was 1 for 4 with two runs, while Jason Thurman and Turnbull each had hits for Fort Madison

Turnbull (2-1) got the win going four innings giving up two hits and three walks against two strikeouts. Vasin Thurman threw three innings and gave up two unearned runs on a hit and two walks.

Jonah Heckenberg, Ryan Wolf and Tony Davison had hits for Van Buren. Treyton Bainbridge went 3 1/3 giving up three hits, four walks and five runs all earned. Wolfe went two innings giving up three hits, five walks and seven runs. Cory Bunnell pitched 1 2/3 allowing a run on two hits and four walks.

Fort Madison (10-5) travels to New London (10-3) tonight for a 7 p.m. game before wrapping up the regular season on senior night Thursday with a 7 p.m. game against Mediapolis at home.

Pet spa days two days a week at Shampoooches

PETS - Continued from Page 1

Her business grooms and trims nails of all animals, even rabbits. Passion is at the foundation of every successful business. Starting a business in the current state of the economy is a daunting task, yet Monroe is determined to succeed and take care of pets.

Monroe has been in the grooming business as a partner in several ventures but decided it was time to branch out on her own.

"I know that business is going to be a bit slower due to COVID-19, but I'm still seeing customers coming in; it's a priority to keep your pets groomed for their health and welfare," she said.

Perhaps the most defining element of Shampoooches is the acceptance of walk-ins. Stop in on Wednesdays or Saturdays, and your pet will be treated to a "spa day" receiving a full grooming treatment and nail trimming.

You can contact Melissa at (319)-470-2559 for further inquiries or visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/shampooochespg>.



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– Abraham Lincoln

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REGISTERED NURSE

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Registered Nurse to work in homecare and hospice programs. Two years of previous nursing experience preferred. Current physical assessment, strong problem solving and high-tech nursing skills are required. Duties include: home visits, case management in hospice and homecare, and community health programs in LCHD's service area. Regular work hours are 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with assigned on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and assigned evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Tammy Wilson at twilson@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 3, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.



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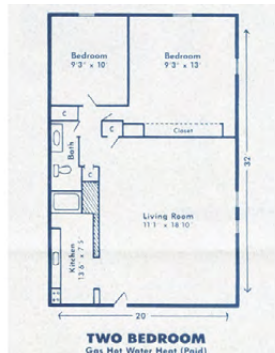
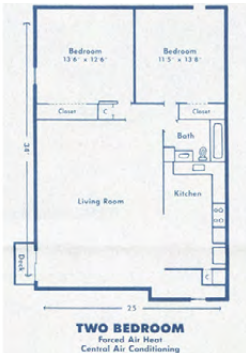
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LEE CHD

Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator. The successful applicant will assist in organizing a community coalition to complete a community needs assessment and long-term strategic plan to address child maltreatment issues in Lee County. This position also involves linking families/children to needed community resources in the agency's service area. Applicants must have strong organizational, communication skills, and the ability to prioritize activities to meet project timelines and deliverables. Competitive salary and benefits. Please send resumes to Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator, at mross@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 14, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.

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From the Front

Food, fun, spirits coming back to FM riverfront

MARINA - Continued from Page 1

offering services. They also now own the River Rocks Bar and Grille inside the Kingsley Inn.

Galloway said the company was initially leasing the restaurant and bar, but decided for convenience and accounting it would be better to just own both operations.

Brett Matlick is the General Manager of the River Rocks and will be overseeing operations at the Marina under the name Rocks Dock Outdoor Bar and Grill.

"This allows him to do what he does best, which is try new things and run a restaurant and not worry about where the profits land. In my mind he still runs it. It simplifies things," Galloway said.

Wes Holtkamp, the property manager for Barker in Fort Madison, said the new venture will be open starting Thursday July 16. Food and beverages will be sold from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

"Thursday and Friday night we'll start at 2 p.m. and go until 8 or 10 until people are gone. We'll have a grill station, a portable bar and a service table," he said.

"This will be very simple, and will be one of those environments where you come down and hang out. It's not going to be elaborate - not going to be five- and six-course meals. Hamburgers, brats, ribeye sandwiches

- which are delicious - and then beer and liquor."

He said individual cold sides and chips will also be available, and then staffing will be on hand to serve boaters coming off the river. Beer, pop and ice will be available in the service area in the back of the marina for boaters as well.

The inside of that service area has been improved including the restrooms and kitchen area. Area contractors were at the Marina Wednesday afternoon working on painting and other improvements.

The front inside seating won't be allowed due to flood plain issues so seating will be outside on picnic tables. Holtkamp said anything Barkers bring onto the Marina property has to be removable if flooding occurs.

Music will be playing during service hours and live bands will be performing during the weekends.

"We're excited. We've been working our butts off down here for the past two weeks getting things cleaned up," Holtkamp said.

Galloway said the venture is low risk right now because Holtkamp and Matlick know the area and what will work. He said outdoor eating in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic is very popular right now.

"What's working right now is outdoor eating. To me it seems like something that ought to work. Even if it just breaks even, we're gonna let the market and cus-

tomers tell us what they think and see where it goes," Galloway said.

City Manager David Varley said at a recent city council meeting that recreational boating may be waning, but Galloway disagrees.

He said he was at Lake Okoboji last weekend and it was busier than ever.

"So anecdotally, boating in general is way up," he said.

"Forms of recreation that are outdoors, that were getting squeezed out by youth sports programs are seeing participation levels go back up. Maybe that's a pandemic effect and it will go back down... or maybe people will see the fun in it again."

The city is looking at options to make the entire Marina viable again, but Galloway said doing a complete overhaul makes him a little nervous with the amount of money in up front costs that would be needed.

Flooding is always a concern for the Marina and it would have to be pulled out of the flood plain, but also the road to the Marina would need to be lifted out of the floodplain as well.

"This doesn't feel super risky," he said. "There's no doubt there's bigger issues if we were going to do something larger. I've peaked my head in their on a couple trips down and flooding is a problem, but the existing facilities can be utilized."

Bank hopes to be in new Keokuk facility by February 2021

CONNECTION - Continued from Page 1

face covering.

"We're diggin' that hole 20 feet deep so we can hit good soil and start the process of filling that hole back in."

Morris said he wanted to be sure everyone was aware that the bank is spending a lot of time making sure the 9,000 square foot bank building can be put on the site.

In December of 2015 Fort Madison Bank and Trust closed on the acquisition of Keokuk State Bank and leveraged the two operations into Connection Bank and Insurance Services.

"The entire Keokuk community and our customers have made this decision to make this investment an easy one. They've supported

us from day one and we've never been happier to be part of the Keokuk community."

Morris said the Keokuk building will be similar in architecture and style to the Burlington Connection Bank facility Baxter Construction built several years ago. Baxter is also overseeing the construction of the new Keokuk facility.

Morris said of lot of southeast Iowa contractors and subcontractors will be used for the project.

"It's nice to be able to put those dollars back into communities that also support us, especially in a time now where there is uncertainty and unrest, not only in our

communities, but also in the country in general."

Morris said he hopes to have the project completed after the year end holidays. He said the pandemic forced the project to slow down with the uncertainty of the virus progression. But now things seemed to have eased to the point where work can begin on the project again.

Mike Hickey one of the Connection Bank directors and a resident of Keokuk, said the town has a history of community banks and at one time they had five.

Hickey said when Keokuk State Bank sold he was concerned about the future of the hometown connection to a bank, but after meeting



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

One of Connection Bank's owners, Jim Baier, talks with about 30 individuals on hand for the bank's groundbreaking ceremony in the 2100 block of Main Street in Keokuk Wednesday. The bank is hoping to be in the new state-of-the-art facility by February of 2021.

with Connection owners knew the hometown bank would be preserved.

Keokuk Mayor Tom Richardson thanked the board for putting up the bank, and also for the partnership between the

bank and the city.

"Through this whole process your gonna get a brand new state-of-the-art facility something you can be proud of," Richardson said.

"And when you vacate your structure, the City

of Keokuk is going to renovate the building at 501 Main Street and we're going to have a state-of-the-art City Hall and also a state-of-the-art Council Chambers - something we can all be proud of."



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