



Pen City Current

Monday, August 26, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 180

Winegard pops open PointsBet facility Friday

BY CHUCK
VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – Catfish Bend Casino Principal Owner Randy Winegard placed a \$100 bet on the Iowa Hawkeyes to win the Big Ten football championship this year, the commemorative first bet at PointsBet Sportsbook at Catfish Bend Casino on Friday.

Winegard, dressed in shorts and a pull over, panned the rest of the Catfish Bend and PointsBet officials in suits for the grand opening of the sportsbook Friday afternoon.

“I think you’re all a bit overdressed for the occasion,” Winegard quipped to laughs from the room.

“We look forward to a very long and successful partnership and I would like to thank Rob (Higgins, senior vice president of Iowa Operations for Great River



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Johnny Aitken, PointsBet USA CEO, and Randy Winegard, of Great River Entertainment, cut the ribbon at the new PointsBet Sportsbook at Catfish Bend Casino Friday afternoon.

Entertainment) and everybody involved in the construction effort. This was a very short time frame. I think they did it in like six weeks, and it’s a pretty amazing transformation. The whole group involved has done a remarkable job in getting this place ready.”

But the new digs worthy of suits, sit on 5,600 square feet of Catfish Bend resort property just across the hallway from the Boogaloo Cafe and resort check-in desks with an east side entrance.

The space has 26 slot machines, 13 video pokers screens embedding in the

sports bar, three black jack tables, 37 televisions, including a mammoth 137” beast that sits like a theater screen above some luxury chairs along with about half of the other televisions.

There are also three betting kiosks staffed with PointsBet operators from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily.

Great River Entertainment CEO Gary Hoyer said Friday, there was concerted effort to mesh the casino and the sportsbook to provide something for all Catfish Bend players.

“In terms of our vision here, we wanted to combine the book with the casino, so we created a smoke-free space consistent with a bar operation in Iowa that also has black jack, video poker and slot machine components. We’re trying to marry the two and make it exciting for all

See **SPORTSBOOK**, page 7

Golf cart, ATV talk may get pulled from special meeting

Pen City Current Facebook poll has more than 1,000 votes cast with 64% opposing the ordinance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Almost as quickly as it was put on an agenda for Tuesday’s special meeting, city officials now say discussion on an ordinance to allow golf carts and ATVs on most city streets may get nixed.

On Friday Fort Madison City Clerk Melinda Blind published an agenda for a special meeting Tuesday that included a public hearing on the 2nd to 6th street

reconstruction of Old Hwy. 61, and a second reading of an ordinance to allow the special vehicles on city streets.

The first ordinance was passed 4-2 at Tuesday’s regular city council meeting after about 20 minutes of debate. Councilman Mark Lair and Bob Morawitz voted against the addition to city code, while Councilman Chad Cangas abstained from casting a vote saying he wanted further deliberation.

All changes to city code require a minimum of two readings of new ordinances with the a third required, if not waived by a majority vote of the board, after approving the second reading.

Councilman Matt Mohrfeld, who re-introduced the idea of allowing the vehicles on city streets, calls the idea “Americana” and says past safety issues shouldn’t stop the ordinance from passing.

Mohrfeld contends that safety issues in golf carts and

See **ORDINANCE**, page 4

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Only one team came close to scoring. Fairfield made it to Mt. Pleasant’s one yard line. Legendary Coach Bob Evans sent in Big Jon Anderson and told him to hit the center as hard as he could. Big Jon did as he was told. The ball popped loose and Mt. Pleasant pounced on it to maintain a perfect undefeated, untied, unscored upon season. Final score? Mt. Pleasant 40, Fairfield 0.

Recently, seven members of that famed team of ’63 met to renew friendships, tell stories and sniff the Atomic Balm. (One story is that they liked to put Atomic Balm in the athletic supporter of ornery teammates.) The seven members were Don Kinney (guard), Dennis Lamm (halfback), Bill Smith (guard), Kent White (center), Tim Proctor (quarterback), Kent Thomson (left halfback and safety), and

See **SWARM**, page 2

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Opinion/Lottery Numbers

Perfect “vootball” team looks back on season

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

Bill Calloway (right halfback).

Right from the get-go in junior high, under the tutelage of Coach Don Taft, they became used to winning. Mt. Pleasant News' sports writer Jim Rose was with them all the way to record their success.

With nearly 100 young men out for Mt. Pleasant's high school football team, these seven members were adamant that their toughest games often happened on Tuesday and Wednesday nights during practice. Their second and third team squads could have been starters on most SE Conference teams. With second and third team members vying for first team positions, the competition between team members was intense. When they played on Friday nights, they felt they were ahead by two touchdowns because their opponents often thought Mt. Pleasant couldn't be beat.

But it was never good enough for Coach Bob Evans, even if they had pounded some team 35-0. Keeping them from having a slump, there was always room for improvement. He instilled in them a determination to work harder, perform at 110%, and never give up. He was an innovator, always on the cusp of what was new, installing a pro-style defense. Bob Evans may have been the first to use, if not the designer of, the draw. So much respect did they have for Coach Evans that they carried his life lessons into adulthood, and to this day. One member used what

he had learned to make it through Viet Nam—“Give it your all, never give up.”

They were not a team of stiff-necked jocks. The grade point average for the offense was 3.4, for the entire team, 3.1, and this was before the time of emphasis on grades. Four from that junior-senior team went on to become lawyers. Twelve played collegiate sports, and four or more became high school coaches, remembering what Evans taught, “design the offense for the talent you have.”

There were no stars on the team of '63, and Coach Evans did not coddle the top players. They were a bunch of guys inspired to perform at their peak. Anyone could have been missing from the team and they would still have been undefeated. Any third stringer could have and did step in and was trusted to do his part. It was a total team effort, “Next man up!”

They practiced on Mt. Pleasant's Old Thresher's grounds. There were wild car races down Walnut Street from the high school, with the guys trying to be first on the practice field. Everyone on Walnut Street knew to get out of the way of the crazy football players! An Amish man wandered across the practice field and stuck his head in the huddle. In his black hat and dark beard, he asked, “So dis is the game of vootball?”

When the team of '63 were freshmen, they had

a 40 game winning streak. When they were sophomores, they broke that string by going 7-2, winning the conference, but considered the season to be kind of a failure. They were determined to correct that for their junior/senior year. And they did!

Coach Evans insisted on the team using a football that was like a rugby ball. It was almost as wide as it was long. He didn't like passing and wanted a ball that was big enough that nobody fumbled. However, it was a fake run/pass play that beat Cedar Rapids Jefferson, 7-0, in Cedar Rapids—little Mt. Pleasant beating the likes of a huge metropolitan team. Mt. Pleasant fans went wild and flooded the field, asking the players for autographs. What a surreal finish!

There were no high school football playoffs in 1963. Cedar Rapids Jefferson went on to beat Davenport Central, thought to be the top team in the state. With Mt. Pleasant beating Cedar Rapids, Mt. Pleasant was considered by many to be the mythical state football champions.

These seven former team members, still fit in their early seventies, look like they can still play. Anyone for a little pick-up game of “vootball?”

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

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Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm




8/24
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Sports/Weather

Champions crowned Friday at Speedway

BY BRIAN NEAL
PEPSI LEE COUNTY SPEEDWAY

DONNELLSON – It's hard to believe that it is that time of the year, but Friday, August 23rd was Season Championship Night at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway in Donnellson, Iowa. KILJ Radio and Golden Eagle Distributing Company (Budweiser) would help to bring the packed house some great racing action to end the 2019 points season at the track. At the end of the night two driver's found their way to victory lane for the first time this year at the speedway, while four others earned multiple wins. There was also five new champions crowned for the 2019 season, with another earning back-to-back titles.

The 15 lap Discount Tire & Service IMCA Sport Compact feature was the first to take to the track on the night, with David Prim and TJ Weyls leading the field to green after Ricky Miller Jr. choose to go to the rear. But it was seventh place starter Jason Ash who quickly shot to the front to lead lap 1 over Kimberly Abbott, who started 5th, and Cody Bowman. While Ash paced the field out front, Trent Orwig, who started 6th, was working his way up to challenge for the top spot. On lap 5 Orwig was able to slip past Ash to take over the top spot, and would then start to pull away from the battles going on behind him. Just when it looked like the 15 lap event would go caution free, Brandon Reu dropped fluids on the track coming off turn 4 when he lost an engine on lap 12 to bring out the first caution. On the restart Orwig jumped back out front, with Ash and Abbott glued to his back bumper. Another lap scored complete would produce

another caution, as Ashton Blain slowed to a stop down the middle of the backstretch to bring out the yellow and set up a green-white-checked overtime finish. Orwig once again grabbed the lead on the restart, with Ash and Abbott still close behind. But just after the lap was scored complete, Jared Heule spun in turn 4 to bring out the yellow and setting up another green-white-checked overtime finish. On the final restart Orwig jumped back out front, with Ash and Abbott following. Orwig would hold on over the final lap to score his second win in a row and fourth of the season at the track. Ash settled for 2nd, Abbott was 3rd, Bowman was 4th, with Ashley Reuman coming from 10th to round out the top 5. Despite Reu's engine troubles, his 12th place finish was enough to earn him his second track title in the past three years at the track.

Up next was the 18 Lap 305 Sprint feature, with Tanner Gebhardt and Mason Campbell drawing the front row. Gebhardt took advantage of his draw by grabbing the lead on lap 1 over Campbell and Harold Pohren. Just like the Sport Compact feature, it looked like the 305 Sprint feature would go green to checked without a caution. But when Jeff Wilke got into the guardrail in turn 4 and then pounded the concrete wall coming off turn 4, this would bring out the red. Wilke would climb from his car okay. On the restart Gebhardt jumped back out front, with Campbell and Pohren trying to keep pace. But without another caution to slow the pace, Gebhardt would pull away to pick up the win and the first ever 305 track championship awarded at the Pepsi Lee

See **SPEEDWAY**, page 8

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 26 Aug



Heavy Rain
High – 75.9° F | Low – 65.4° F

TUE 27 Aug



Clear Skies
High – 76.3° F | Low – 58.4° F

WED 28 Aug



Overcast
High – 72.0° F | Low – 57.9° F

THU 29 Aug



Rain
High – 77.1° F | Low – 69.9° F

FRI 30 Aug



Overcast
High – 74.9° F | Low – 59.5° F

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Lee County News/Classifieds

Embury Church celebrating 150 years

DONNELSON - The Embury United Methodist Church in rural Donnellson, will celebrate 150 years as a church during the month of September. Each Sunday we will set aside time for sharing of memories. If you cannot join us we would like any pictures or stories mailed to us.

Sunday, Sept. 1 starting at 9am we will celebrate church history and the United Methodist Women.

Sept. 8th at 9am is Family Day, drive your tractor to church. We will also recognize those couples married at Embury UMC. Wedding photos would be appreciated. At 4pm we will have games and bean bag contest at Embury followed by a meal. Each family to bring covered dish and we will eat at 5 pm. Meat and beverages will be provided.

Sept. 15 at 9am we will be honoring the past and current missions of Embury.

Sept. 22 at 9am we will be honoring Sunday school teachers, vacation bible school, Methodist youth Fellowship and confirmation classes. All teachers will be honored.

Sept. 29th 9 am District Superintendent, Reverend Doug Cue will be our guest speaker. Musicians and past pastors will be honored. Vince Garza will join us with his piano talent as well the EMCees. Attendees are invited to join us for brunch and fellowship following the service. We would love to have pictures, stories, etc. during the service or sent to us if you are unable to attend.

Voters oppose new code in poll

ORDINANCE - Continued from Page 1

ATVs are no different than safety issues facing motorcyclists and bicyclists and they are allowed on public streets.

Mohrfeld also cites recent approvals of the use of the special vehicles by Lee County and West Point. He said Tuesday more than half of the state is now allowing the vehicles on public streets.

Bob Morawitz, the most outspoken against the ordinance, said golf carts and ATVs are specifically labeled as not for street use. He said the use of the vehicles on city streets is against the wishes of a majority in town.

A recent Pen City Current Facebook poll posted Saturday evening has more than 950 votes cast with 609 not in favor of allowing the vehicles on public streets and 356 in favor of the ordinance.

The poll also garnered 60 comments in addition to the votes cast.

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15. Ability to maintain a large filing system of current and closed files.

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The deadline for submitting a resume is September 6, at 4:30 p.m.

Please send resume to Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney at P. O. 824, Keokuk, IA 52632 or e-mail to rbraden@leecounty.org

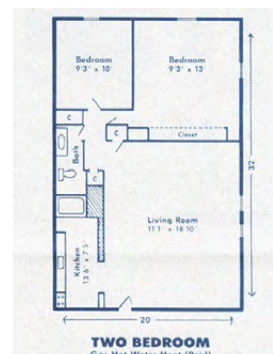
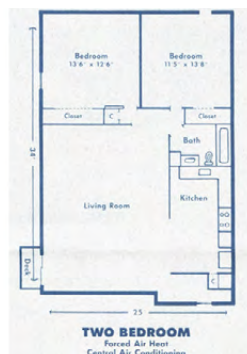


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From the Front

Sportsbook facility comes together quickly

SPORTSBOOK - Continued from Page 1

our players.”
Hoyer said the quick turn around required a lot of focus from staff at both operations.

“It’s been drinking out of a firehouse,” Hoyer said “We’ve been working hard developing the internal controls, developing the procedures, establishing the bets. We’re not quite ready to go mobile, but that should be in the next few weeks. Right now we’re a retail sportsbook.”

The mobile app owned by PointsBet has to go through testing procedures which are delaying the live release, but Johnny Aitken, PointsBet’s USA CEO said the app will be released shortly.

PointsBet currently has mobile sportsbook operations active in New Jersey, but doesn’t have a retail outlet aside from the Burlington facility.

“We’re going through the final stages of testing. As soon as we get that final

tick of approval we’ll go live,” Aitken said.

“I will add that right now we’re collecting names and emails and when the mobile app goes live a message will be sent out to make that as seamless as possible.”

Aitken said the Sportsbook facility is one of the finest he’s seen in the country and was impressed with the speed in which it was brought together.

“Three months ago when I first walked the space with Gary and Rob, it was a Chinese restaurant that hadn’t been used in a year,” he said in heavy Australian dialect.

“In just three months time they’ve turned into a premiere facility. Not just for Iowa – I’ve been to every sportsbook in America, and this is in the top echelon.”

Hoyer said the testing is critical to help protect the industry in Burlington and for the state.

“
It’s been like drinking from a fire hose. We’ve been working hard developing the internal controls, developing the procedures, establishing the bets.”

-Gary Hoyer, Great River Ent. CEO

“Iowa and Catfish Bend are all about protecting the integrity of gaming. While they’re operating in New Jersey, we still have the testing to go through here to make sure that everything is just perfect for our facility. As soon as it’s released from testing we’ll be going live.”

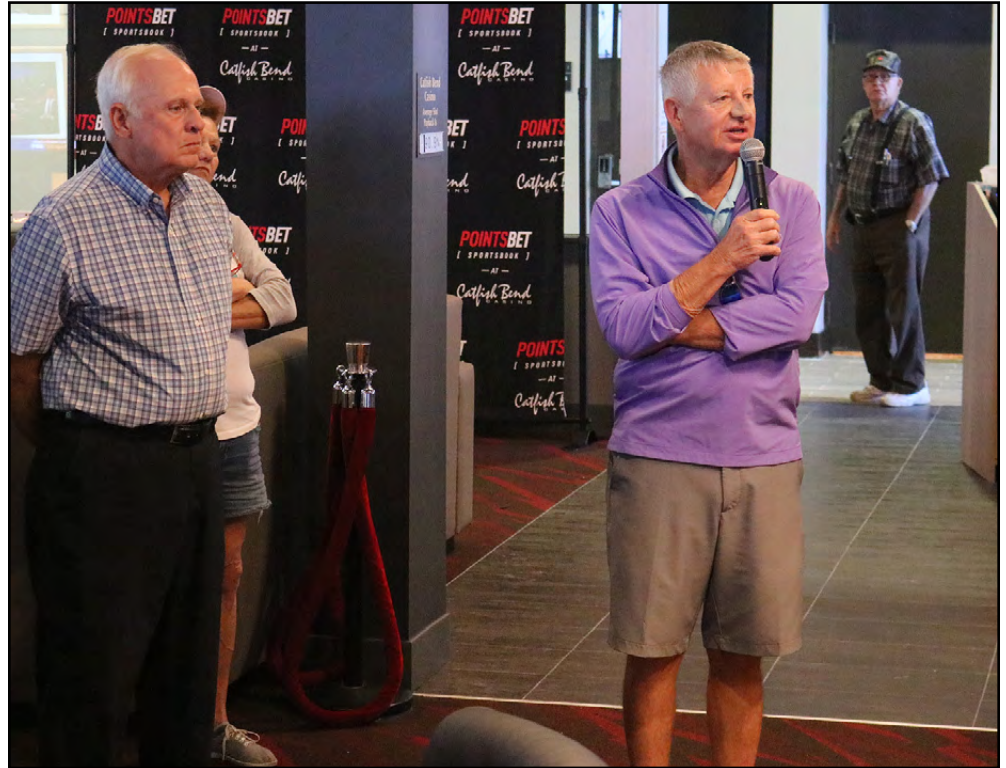


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Randy Winegard, Catfish Bend Casino’s principal owner and board chairman, welcomed dignitaries and guests to the PointsBet Sportsbook facility at the Casino Friday during a grand opening celebration.

PointsBet originated in Australia and launched in the United States in January. PointsBet is a rapidly growing sportsbook with unique offerings and a bettor-friendly approach.

PointsBet has introduced a slew of well-received, bettor-first initiatives, including: Good Karma Payouts, which provides bettors relief in the event of unlikely circumstances that

sway the fate of the game, Early Payouts, and an exclusive \$10,000 gameday guarantee for all NBA and NHL playoff games, as well as the entire MLB and NFL seasons.



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Sports

Elston claims 2nd straight in late models

SPEEDWAY - Continued from Page 4

County Speedway. Campbell held on for 2nd, Brayden Gaylord got past Pohren on the final lap to come home in 3rd, with Daniel Bergquist recovering from engine troubles in hot laps to come from 9th to finish 5th.

Jim Powell and Joe Roller led the field to the drop of the green flag in the 18 lap Roberts Tire Center IMCA SportMod feature, with Powell edging out Brandon Dale at the line by inches to lead lap 1. Just after lap 1 was scored complete the first caution of the race appeared, as contact from Austen Becerra sent Steven Berry spinning in turn 4 to bring out the yellow. On the restart Blaine Webster, who started 7th, used the top of the track to grab the top spot away, with Adam Birck moving into the runner up spot. While Webster used the top of the track, Birck went low, as the two raced the next 5 laps side-by-side. Birck would edge out in front of Webster on lap 5, with the side-by-side battle for the lead being slowed on lap 7. Brian Bergheger would spin down the front stretch to bring out the yellow. On the restart Bob Cowman slowed to a stop in turn 3 to bring the yellow light back on. A third attempt of a restart resulted in Powell spinning down the front stretch to bring the yellow back out. Birck finally jumped back out front on the fourth restart, with Webster and Jim Gillenwater, who was making his 2019 season debut and started 10th, following close behind. Then just after the lap was scored complete, Kyle Hamelton and Bergheger spun in turn 3 to bring out the yellow. Once again Birck grabbed the lead on the restart, with Webster, Brandon Dale

and Gillenwater battling for the runner up spot. While those three driver's battled for second, this allowed Birck to start to pull away. But when Dale spun in turn 3 on lap 11 to bring out the final caution of the race, this would bring the field back to Birck's back bumper. On the restart Birck moved back out front, with Webster and Gillenwater battling side-by-side for the runner up spot. With Webster and Gillenwater battling for the second spot, this would allow Birck to hold on over the final laps to score his first win of the season at the track. Gillenwater won the battle for 2nd, Webster was 3rd, Becerra recovered from his involvement in the lap 1 caution to come back up to finish 4th, with Daniel Fellows coming home in 5th and earning his first career track championship.

The 20 lap I-Smile Silver IMCA Late Model feature took to the track next, with Nick Marolf and Gunner Frank leading the field to green. Marolf took advantage of his draw to jump out front on lap 1 over Frank and Jay Johnson. While Johnson and Frank battled for the runner up spot, Marolf would start to pull away from the field. With Marolf setting a fast pace out front, all eyes were on Tommy Elston, who started 10th. Elston would use the top of the track to climb into fourth on lap 5, and then would take over third on lap 10. But going into turn 3 to complete lap 11 disaster would strike Elston. Something in the right front would break and cut the tire, as a result Elston ended up into the turn 3 guardrail to bring out the yellow. On the restart Marolf moved back out front, with Johnson and Frank resuming their battle for the runner up spot. With the battle for second going on, Marolf would pull away over the final laps to score his second win of the season at the track. Frank won the battle for 2nd, Johnson was 3rd, Matt Strassheim was 4th, with Sam Halstead finishing 5th. The 2019 IMCA Late Model points came to an end in July, with Elston claiming his second title in a row at the track.

Brandon Savage and Jerry Jansen led the field to green in the 18 lap Donnellson Tire & Service IMCA Stock Car feature, with Savage grabbing the lead on lap 1 over Jeremy Pundt and Abe Huls. The lead for Savage lasted until lap 3, when Pundt got under him to take the top spot away. One lap later, lap 4, Abe Huls moved into the runner up spot and then went to work on Pundt for the

lead. Huls tried the middle to top grooves to try and get the lead away from Pundt. But when he couldn't make those lines work, he would try to get under Pundt. These two drivers would race side-by-side over the final 10 plus laps. But Pundt was able to hold off Huls on the final lap to score his fourth win of the season, as a result it would give him his first career Stock Car track title. Huls settled for a close 2nd, Chad Krogmeier came from 7th to finish 3rd, Kyle Boyd was 4th, with Louis Lynch making his season debut at the track bringing it home in 5th.

The final feature to take to the track on the night was the 18 lap Budweiser IMCA Modified feature, with Dean McGee electing to go to the rear on the start this would move Jeff Waterman and Bill Roberts Jr. to the front row. Waterman used his front row start to jump out into the lead on lap 1 over Roberts Jr. and John Oliver Jr. While Waterman paced the field out front, Oliver Jr. moved into the runner up spot on lap 4 and then went to work on battling Waterman for the top spot. On lap 11 Oliver Jr. had momentum coming off the top of the track in turn 2, but when Waterman slid up the track this would cause Oliver Jr. to get into the guardrail and loose some ground. But Oliver Jr. got back up on the wheel and would chase Waterman back down with two laps to go. Coming off turn 4 to get the white flag Oliver Jr. used the momentum off the top to race Waterman side-by-side down the front stretch. Oliver Jr. would emerge off turn 2 with the lead and then held off Waterman coming off turn 4 to claim his third win of the season at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway. The win also secured Oliver Jr.'s first Modified track title in his rookie year in the class. Waterman was 2nd, Roberts Jr. was 3rd, Dennis LaVeine was 4th, with McGee coming up to finish 5th.

The next event at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway will be on Saturday, September 14th. The second and final visit of the year by the Iowa Sprint League Non-Wing Sprints will take place. Plus the make-up for the rained out 305 Wing Nationals earlier in the year. The Midgets and maybe a few other classes will be in support.


For more information about this event and the remaining 2019 fall schedule at the Pepsi Lee County Speedway, please like their Facebook page or visit the tracks website at www.leecountyspeedway.com.

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