



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 | 9 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 244

Viking signs dock lease deal with Burlington

City officials say there's still room for Viking in Fort Madison

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison officials learned Tuesday that Burlington has signed an agreement with Viking Cruise Lines for docking rights once the cruise line is up and running on the Mississippi.

Burlington officials approved a two-year initial deal Monday night with the cruise company to start in 2022 with 30 projected stops.



RANDOLPH



MOHRFELD

The move puts into question efforts by Fort Madison city officials to have Viking dock in Fort Madison. The city and the cruise line have been in talks for more than three years to formalize an

agreement.

At a city council meeting in October, Mayor Brad Randolph said some misinformation about the depth of water needed for the ships to dock came to light and the cruise line could possibly use the current pier to dock, making the idea of having two cruise lines docking in Fort Madison a possibility.

American Cruise Lines uses the pier now. Initially the city was looking at about a \$1.7 million expense to extend the pier out to deeper water for Viking, but that water depth is now not an issue.

Mayor-elect Matt Mohrfeld said he'd had a conversation with Viking representative David Simmons about week ago.

"He said Fort Madison may not work out with the significant improvements that would be required," Mohrfeld said. "I'm coming in on this at the 11th hour, but that's the thumbnail of what I know."

Mohrfeld said if Viking ends up eventually with more boats on the river excursions and Fort Madison offers

See **CRUISE**, page 8

Holvoet finds 'calling' at young age

HTC senior executes business plan as a 16-year-old

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – He hasn't walked across the stage to get a diploma, or flip a tassel. But he's ahead of his class for sure.

Holy Trinity Catholic senior Mason Holvoet worked his way through auctions in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri, squirreled away some money and now, at just 17, owns his own auction and real estate company.

Without any funding help from family or loans, which he's too young for anyway, Holvoet paid an attorney, bought a truck, bought a topper to call from, built a website and now is a legitimate business owner.

Oh yeah...and he's also the president of the Fort Madison High School

Future Farmers of America and has been class president at Holy Trinity for the past four years.

He can't drink a beer, but he can hold a conversation with just about anyone in the room, and talks of his passion and excitement for auctioneering like a seasoned pro.

It would actually be kinda tough to prove he's not one.

Holvoet owns Premier Auction and Realty Services LLC, out of Wever, and has been building and promoting his business for the past three months. As a senior, he qualified for an internship program at HTC and works for Sharpless Auctions in Iowa City on Wednesdays. The auction is the largest weekly

See **AUCTION**, page 9



Courtesy Photo

HTC senior Mason Holvoet stands next to the truck and topper he purchased this year as part of his auction company, Premier Auction and Realty, LLC.

City to keep 8th Street blocked off downtown

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison city officials intend on keeping a portion of 8th Street blocked off for fear of further crumbling of a building downtown.

On Saturday a portion of a structural column on a building owned by Bryan Humphrey at 732 Avenue G, shifted causing the exterior brick to collapse and fall to the sidewalk on the east side of 8th Street between avenues G and H. Additional sagging and leaning can be seen from the west side of the property.

The debris was cleaned up over the weekend and Monday evening, but city officials aren't convinced the damage is abated.

City Manager David Varley said Tuesday morning the city will keep the street closed for now.

"It would be irresponsible for us to open that street back up at this point," he said.

He said a structural engineer did show up at City Hall on Friday per a deadline the city had put in place. He said the engineer indicated the damage in all likelihood was contained to the column that settled over the weekend.

A plan of action on the building is also expected at City Hall, but Varley stopped short of saying there was a deadline.

See **STREET**, page 8

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For the Record/Weather

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/18/19 – 8:22 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Robert Lavern Keith, 25, of St. Paul, Iowa in the 1500 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 11/18/19 – 9:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Ronald Dean Ough, 60, of Fort Madison, in the 1000 block of 34th Street on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released upon citation.
 11/19/19 – 12:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jillian Marie Bryant, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2500 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/19/19 – 5:46 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested

Marcus Richard Weiler, 35, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 22nd Street on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/18/19 – 6:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joseph Cash Kelly Lancaster, 22, of Revere, Mo., on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

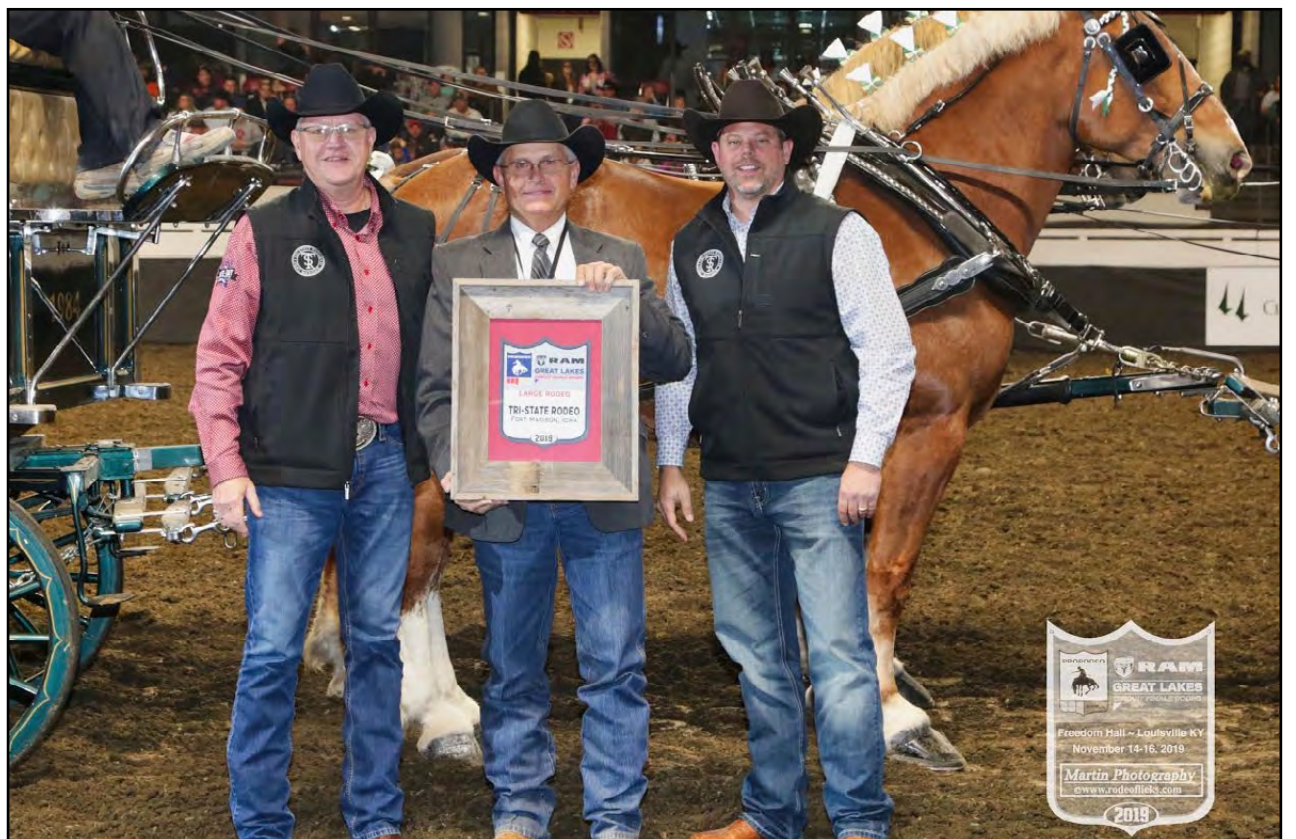
Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/18/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls and one assist call.

Martha Hawes, Digital Media Sales Consultant
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Tri-State Rodeo win GLC Large Rodeo of the Year

Courtesy photo

Tri State Rodeo's Chuck Kempker and General Chairman Tony Johnson were on hand in Louisville this past weekend at the Great Lakes Pro Rodeo Circuit Finals and received the Great Lakes Circuit Large Rodeo of the Year for 2019. Johnson said it was the first time since about 2012 that the rodeo won the award. Pictured with Kempker and Johnson is GLC President Wayne Knutson.

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W-2319018

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 20 Nov



Moderate Rain
 High- 55.9° F | Low - 50.3° F

THU 21 Nov



Light Rain
 High- 51.4° F | Low - 32.4° F

FRI 22 Nov



Overcast
 High- 39.2° F | Low - 35.6° F

SAT 23 Nov



Overcast
 High- 39.3° F | Low - 38.4° F

SUN 24 Nov



Overcast
 High- 40.2° F | Low - 33.0° F

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Obituaries/Lottery Numbers

DOVETTA HELMERS

Dovetta Helmers, 48, of LaHarpe, Illinois passed away Sunday, November 17, 2019 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital.

She was born December 31, 1970 in Fort Madison, the daughter of Robert F. And Dorothea Parker Cochran. On September 6, 1997 she married Derek Helmers.

Dovetta was a graduate of Central Lee High School in Donnellson, Iowa. She worked as a CNA and cook in the LaHarpe area. She always enjoyed seeing and visiting with her co-workers and customers.

She loved animals, sewing, collecting wolf figurines and rocks. She enjoyed nature, observing clouds, riding motorcycles with her husband and spending time with her family and friends. She was a very caring and giving person and continued that after her death by being an organ donor.

She is survived by her husband; three children, Breanne Helmers of Detroit, Michigan, Rick (Sloan Kirkenslager) Blumer of Knightdale, North Carolina and John D. Helmers of Warrensburg, Missouri; her parents, Robert and Dorothea Cochran of Argyle, Iowa; two sisters, Bonita Cass of Bonaparte, Iowa and Mary (Dave) Eid of Wever, Iowa; two brothers, John (Angie) Cochran of Argyle and Tom (Vicki) Cochran of Danville, Iowa; her mother-in-law, Sharon (Tate) Lindahl of Macomb, Illinois; one brother-in-law, Doug (Amanda McColpin) Helmers of Rothville, Missouri; one sister-in-law, Debbie (Tim) Canfield of Ada, Oklahoma and several nieces and nephews. Dovetta was preceded in death by grandparents.

Friends may call after 3:00 p.m. Thursday, November 21, 2019 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe where the family will receive friends from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday at Banks & Beals with Jerry Brown officiating. Cremation will be accorded following the service. A memorial fund has been established for the LaHarpe Fire Department or the LaHarpe Ambulance Service. To leave a condolence or sign the guest book please visit Dovetta's obituary at banksandbeals.com.



HELMERS

JANET ANN ROONEY

Janet Ann Rooney, 81, passed away at 12:29 p.m. Monday, November 18, 2019, at Sunnybrook in Fort Madison, Iowa.

She was born November 11, 1938, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Wayne Douglas and Virginia Belle (Jones) Watkins. On August 28, 1957, she married Lawrence "Mouse" Rooney at the Donnellson Presbyterian Church, in Donnellson, Iowa. He preceded her in death on January 13, 2010.

Survivors include her two daughters: Gini (Doug) McAdams of Montrose, Iowa and Jill (Lyle) Thompson of Donnellson, Iowa; two sons: Pat (Patty) Rooney of Donnellson, Iowa and Jon (Jocelyn) Rooney of Donnellson, Iowa; fourteen grandchildren: Scott, Katelyn, Mark, Joseph, Jena, Kara, Christine, Jon, Brandon, Benjamin, Adam, Raina, Sharraden and Dustin; fourteen great grandchildren: Emili, Elizabeth, Holden, Heath, Emorie, Joseph, Leah, Greyson, Riley, Brooklyn, Liam, Ainslee, Scarlett and Rosealie; two sisters: Phyllis Thatcher and Charlotte Appledorn. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Janet was a 1957 graduate of Donnellson High School. She enjoyed playing euchre, horses and basketball.

The family will receive friends from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, November 22, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A private family graveside service will be held at Argyle Memorial Gardens.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.



ROONEY

ERMA WOLGEMUTH

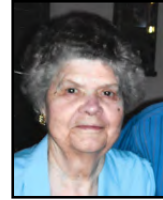
Erma R. Wolgemuth, 93, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Monday, November 18, 2019 at 8:04 AM at the Great River Klein Center.

She was born on March 10, 1926 in Ft. Madison to Arthur and Margaret Sherwood Marlette. On March 30, 1949 she married Charley "Dale" Wolgemuth in Ft. Madison and he passed away on April 17, 2016. Erma was a homemaker. She enjoyed square dancing and making crafts, especially dolls.

Survivors include one son, Gary (Genila) Wolgemuth of Burlington; three grandchildren, Brian Wolgemuth, Dustin Wolgemuth and Kelly Johnson; twelve great grandchildren; one step grandchild, Hillary Wolgemuth; three step great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son Randy and three brothers.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 1 PM at Oakland Cemetery.

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



WOLGEMUTH

Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.



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Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



11/18
15 22 28 35 37
Lucky Ball: 17



11/18 MID-DAY
6 2 4
11/18 EVENING
6 7 3



11/18 MID-DAY
1 0 6 5
11/18 EVENING
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Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Current-Lee

CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk

Glasses go on sale this Friday at River Rocks from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$10. The event will be held in downtown Fort Madison on Friday, Nov. 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Backyard Birds

The Lee County Conservation will host a free birdwatching program on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the Heron Bend Conservation Center in Montrose. A naturalist will start the program at 9:30 a.m. and then bird watching and counting will be held. LCCB will provide binoculars. No pre-registration is required.

Memorial Turkey Shuffle

The annual Alice and Leo Schiller Memorial Turkey Shuffle will take place Nov. 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Ernie and Cheryl Schiller's house 2224 204th Avenue just east of Donnellson off Hwy. 2. Visit the following link for registration <http://livehealthyleecounty.org/index.php/community-events>

Community Thanksgiving

The annual Community Thanksgiving will be held Nov. 28th beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Fort Madison High School. Dine in is available and carryouts are available after 12:30 p.m. Call 319-371-5706 between Nov. 18th and 25 for deliveries or to volunteer. You can also contact the chamber at 372-5471 or by email at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Holiday Window competition

Businesses are being encouraged to take part in the Fort Madison Partner's Holiday Window Display Competition. Decorate a window, send a picture, get likes on Facebook and the business with the most hits wins. Deadline to sign up is Nov. 27. Windows will go on Facebook starting Dec. 4 with voting from Dec. 4-11th. The winner will be announced Dec. 13.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Lighted Parade Float Work Nights

Float work nights for the annual holiday lighted parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Mistletoe on Main

This year's event will be held on Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in downtown Fort Madison. Shop local, and enjoy a day of Christmas cheer. Special treats, carriage rides, the North Pole Express and Santa!

PORT Ugly Sweater Fun Run

The annual fundraiser for the P.O.R.T. committee will be held on Dec. 1, 2019 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at noon.

Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Enchanted Forest will be held in the Lee County Bank building following the Lighted Parade, and on Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Santa expected from 10 a.m. noon. The Forest will also be open on Saturdays Dec. 7, 14, and 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Businesses are encouraged to bring and decorate a tree for \$25.

Christmas Lighted Parade

The annual lighted parade will be held on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Food Drive

The Keokuk Salvation Army is looking for donations to stock the Food and Soap Pantry from Nov. 1 -18th. Drop off locations locally include American Eyecare

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.



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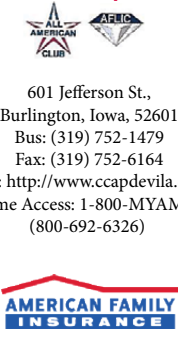
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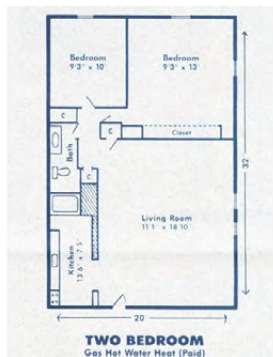
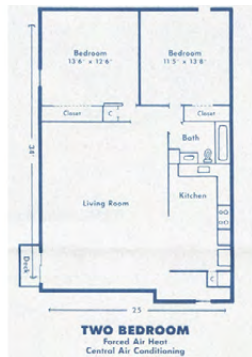
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From the Front

American Cruises changed dynamic of talks with Viking

CRUISE - Continued from Page 1

valuable tours, a deal could possibly be worked out in the future.

Randolph said Tuesday morning that the Viking was trying to shore up Letters of Intent with docking cities so they could release information about the stops this winter. Viking plans on having ships on the Mississippi in 2022.

But he said lines of communication with Viking are still open and he's seen the schedule of stops for 2022-2023 and none of the dates would have been concurrent with any American Cruise Lines stops in the city.

"The American Cruise Line agreement changed the dynamic with Viking," Randolph said.

"If we'd known in April that we didn't need the depth of water we were told we would need, we might have pushed

through the Letter of Intent with Viking and that could have hurt our chances of getting ACL. So we're happy with how things have worked out," Randolph said.

"That being said, we're still looking at how we can work with Viking Cruise Lines in the future. We just weren't in a position to share in any costs of improvements, and were not at the point where we could have signed a letter of intent with them."

Randolph said he would updating the Fort Madison City council at tonight's meeting. City staff is also planning a budget workshop following the meeting.

City Manager David Varley said he has looked at the schedule of both cruise lines and agreed that there aren't any conflicting docking dates.

"I think they had some concerns about the improvements that would be required and they decided to go to Burlington," Varley said.

"They wanted exclusive rights to the dock, too, But we're still working with them and hope we work something out because there are no schedule conflicts at this point."

City keeping eye on building downtown

STREET - Continued from Page 1

"We're hoping to get that this week," he said. "But there is no firm deadline."

Last week, City Building Director Doug Krogmeier said the building would fall into the category of an "emergency abatement", but he said the city was working with Humphrey's attorney to get corrective action in place.


Mayor-elect Matt Mohrfeld, who campaigned on ramping up beautification efforts in the city, and has been spearheading efforts to get dilapidated property off city streets and run down properties cleaned up, said he city is keeping a close eye on the situation.

"I'm going to speak just observationally about this, but there was supposed to have been an engineer in that building to look at the safety and feasibility of the structure," Mohrfeld said.


Humphrey also owns property at 609 9th Street where barricades are up in the alley between avenues F and G and 9th and 10th Streets. A blue tarp covers a hole in a wall on the second story that partially collapsed last year.

According to the Lee County Assessors website, taxes on the properties were current through March 2019.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

From the Front/Local News

Senior credits mentors, family, and friends with success

AUCTION - Continued from Page 1

auCTION in the state.

But he got his start calling one item at God's Portion Day when he was in fourth grade. The next year he was able to call a couple more items and this year, as a senior, he had his own time slot from noon to 6 p.m.

Holvoet said he doesn't even consider what has become his passion, work.

"I'll never work a day in my life because I enjoy what I'm doing. I truly do mean that. Some people hate going into work, but I love it," he said.

"Others in my class, who have jobs here or there, complain and moan about going in. I never complain about going to work and it's a joyous thing when you can say that. It really is."

With auctions becoming more scarce with the advent of computers and online auctions, he said that auctioneers are becoming a dying breed.

"If you look around, there's a need for auctioneers," Holvoet said. "I think there's a strong future in this. Auctioneers stand the test of the time. Even in an economic downfall, people still have to liquidate their merchandise, so we'll be here to sell it."

He spent time going to auctions with his father when he was little and thought it was something he could do even as a younger child. But now he speaks to the business like he's an older generation bibbed-up auction enthusiast.

Technology has changed the face of auctions, he said, comparing the craft to half a century ago - a time he could carry no reference.

"I always say the auction business has changed more in the past 10 years than it has in the last 50 with the new technology coming in," he said.

"Online auctions was a big curve for the older guys. They didn't want to convert from a live-chain auction to going completely online. We'll do both - onsite or online - whichever works best for the client."

Holvoet said he wanted to work with other people first to get an education about how other auction companies do things. He's sold in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri.

He gives credit to other auctioneers as well as family and friends for helping. He said the opportunities are what has set him up for success.

"It doesn't matter how good you are in the business, it all depends on who wants to give you an opportunity to take a chance. But that's just with anything. It's a risk. We're trying and I'm young enough that I can afford to take the risk."

Despite embarking on his own adventure rolling around the tri-state area helping people liquidate property and helping with fundraisers, which would seem to most to be a full-time gig, Holvoet still plans to attend Southeastern Community College after graduation and pursue a degree in business management.

The Premier Auction website can be found at <https://premierauctionandrealty.com/> or by calling 319-470-7372.

Holvoet said he's has a few hiccups because of his age, but nothing that wasn't overcome with some partnerships and guidance. As a 17-year old, he can't sign any real estate papers, but has partnered with a Quad Cities real estate company to help until he turns 18 and gets a real estate license.

He also thought he would have trouble getting insurance, but he said Two Rivers came through for him.

"I have so many people to thank for where I am right now. I couldn't have done it without them. Family, mentors, other auctioneers who gave me a chance to work. It's all come together at the right time."

PORT to hold Ugly Sweater Run at Baxter Sports Complex

5K Fundraiser set for Dec. 1 at 11 a.m.

FORT MADISON - P.O.R.T. (Promoting Outdoor Recreation Trails) of Fort Madison will host the third annual Ugly Sweater Run on Sunday, December 1, 2019. This is a fundraising event for the PORT Trails.

The Ugly Sweater Run is a non-timed, family fun event, great for walkers and runners of all levels. It will cover both Phase I and Phase II of the PORT trails for a 3-mile course. The event will start and finish at the Baxter Sports Complex.

All participants are encouraged to wear their best or worst holiday ugly sweater. Participants will then be invited back to the Baxter Sports Complex for

an afternoon of football and refreshments. Registration will start at 11 a.m. with participants taking off at 12 noon. To pre-register visit the PORT of Fort Madison Facebook page. All those who pre-register will receive a PORT stocking cap - great for the cold weather.

Phase III of the PORT trails will connect the Baxter Sports Complex with Fort Madison Community Hospital and should be complete early summer of 2020.

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. For more information, contact Rachel Benda 319-371-5804.

FM woman nabbed on felony drug possession charges

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Fort Madison woman on Felony and Misdemeanor drug charges.

Shaunna Lynn Ellingson, 25, of Fort Madison, Iowa was arrested on November 14th, 2019 in the 300 block of Ave G in Fort Madison. Ellingson is charged with three counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance, all class D Felonies, and Possession of Drug Parapherna-

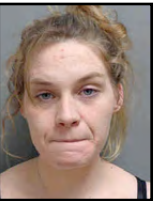
lia a Simple Misdemeanor. Ellingson also had a Felony warrant for Violation of Probation at the time of her arrest.

The arrest of Ellingson stems from an investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force into allegations that she was involved in the distribution of illegal drugs in the Lee County area.

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Fort Madison Police Department assisted

the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.



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