



Pen City Current

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018 | 8 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 180

Reynolds touts rural Iowa initiative at ribbon-cutting

Governor says wiki-weapons issue needs to have measured response - page 4

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - While helping cut the ribbon on the new upper floor apartments in downtown Fort Madison, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds talked to members of the Fort Madison Rotary Club and those at the ceremony about her initiative focusing on rural Iowa.

Reynolds made stops at the Fort Madison Rotary noon lunch and then headed to tour the 18 newly renovated apartments at the Old Lee County Bank Building and the former Cattermole Library rehabbed by Barker Financial Inc., of Iowa City.

Reynolds said the Empower Rural Iowa initiative, which will be headed by Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, will include three task forces and she said nothing is off the table.

"As we travel the state there really are some communities that are doing some great things and there's no reason we can't see that in every single corner of the state," Reynolds said. "We're talking about investing in rural Iowa and housing is always an issue, so it's really great what I'm seeing here today."

She said the initiative will include three task forces: The Investing in Rural Iowa Task Force will focus its recommendations on improving access to quality housing in rural Iowa. The Growing Rural Iowa Task Force will focus on identifying ways to encourage leadership development and strategic development in rural communities. The Connecting Rural Iowa Task Force will look into effectively and sustainably financing broadband connectivity.

"I'm really excited. They are going to look at what it takes, whether it's legislation, funding, incentives, and they're going to report back to me so they'll put their suggestions together and we should get that in Decem-



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Iowa Gov. Reynolds, speaks with David Barker and Mark Schickedanz before Tuesday's ribbon cutting in Fort Madison. Reynolds said housing in rural Iowa is an on-going issue and the new Empower Rural Iowa initiative could help bring best practices to the forefront.

"We're talking about investing in rural Iowa, and housing is always an issue. So it's really great what I'm seeing here today."

-Kim Reynolds
Iowa Governor

ber."

She compared the program to the comprehensive mental health reform that was executed last year.

"This is much like what we did with the comprehensive mental health reform," she said. "That was a group of people who really had a compassion and commitment to doing what was right and we took their recommendations, and that was the right thing to do. Hopefully I'll be able to do that with the recommendations that come out of Empower Rural Iowa."

See BARKERS, page 8

Teams still needed for RiverFest's Dragon Boats on the Mississippi

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - There's a saying in the summer "Suns out - Guns out", which means show off your biceps.

Well RiverFest 2018 has a chance to show the guns with the return of Dragon Boat Racing on the Mississippi River.

This high-energy competitive paddling race has 20 people in boats carved with dragonheads and

tails. Eighteen paddlers get in the boats with two paddlers side by side in nine rows with a flag catcher and a drummer in front. An oarsman is provided by the American Dragon Boats Association and steers the

boat from the tail.

Nick Bauswell, who's heading the Dragon Boat racing, for the RiverFest 2018 committee said there is still room for more teams to sign up.

"We still have some

See RACES, page 6



Advertiser Index

ClassifiedsPs.6-7	Pilot Grove Savings Bank..... P.6
Fort Madison Neighborhood Watch Groups P.2	Professional Services P.7
Great River Regional Waste Authority P.8	The Kensington P.4
Lee County Health Department P.2	Tony Fullenkamp Edward Jones..... P.2
Mobile Nursing Services, LTD. P.6	Trailways Travel..... P.3
Pen City Current Ps.2,7	Tri-State Rodeo P.5

News Index

Area News P.3
For the Record..... P.3
From the front..... Ps.6,8
Local News Ps.2,4
Lottery Numbers P.3
Obituaries P.2
-Larry R. Spees
Scene Around Town.... P.3
Sports P.4
Weather P.4

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LARRY R. SPEES

Larry R. Spees, 73, of Keokuk died Saturday, July 28, 2018, in Keokuk. He was born June 22, 1945, in Macomb, Ill., to Richard and Thelma (Hall) Spees. The family moved to Keokuk when Larry was six months old.



SPEES

Larry graduated from Keokuk High School in 1963. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., as a company clerk. He attained the rank of specialist E-5 before he was honorably discharged.



He married Nancy Hon May 28, 1983, at Melrose United Methodist Church in Argyle.

Larry's career included 21 years as a delivery driver for Pepsi-Cola Memphis Bottling Co. in Keokuk. He then worked for 23 years as an over-the-road truck driver – first for DOT Foods in Mount Sterling, Ill., then for Walmart Transportation in Mount Pleasant. He retired in January.

Larry was a member of Evangelical Free Church of Keokuk. A strong faith in the Lord guided Larry and Nancy throughout their marriage. He loved serving his church family, especially in the kitchen, and had a heart full of care and concern for those around him.

He enjoyed cooking, gardening, working in his yard, having coffee with friends, traveling, mushroom hunting and fishing. He was a history buff who enjoyed reading about a variety of subjects.

Survivors include his wife; mother; son, Joshua Spees (Julia Sapir) of Waynesboro, Va.; daughter, Megan (Jared) McNeill of Urbandale; grandson, Nico Spees of Waynesboro; granddaughter, Willa Spees of Waynesboro; sisters, Trudy (David) Hannah of Ludington, Mich., and Kathy (Brian) Sorenson of Buffalo Valley, Tenn.; uncle, Donald (Grace) Hall of Keokuk; and many nephews, nieces and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father and a son, Jonathan Spees.

A celebration of life service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Evangelical Free Church of Keokuk.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to E-Free's kitchen renovation project or the Keokuk Public Library Foundation. Larry's friends are encouraged to share memories and thoughts with the family; condolences can be left at www.vigenmemorialhome.com or mailed to 3005 Decatur St., Keokuk, IA 52632.

Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



FORT MADISON - Riverfest 2018 kicks off Thursday, Aug. 2. Below is a full schedule of events slated for this year. For tickets or additional information on this year's event, visit the Riverfest website at www.riverfest-fm.com.

Thursday, Aug. 2:

Carnival Open: 4pm - Close
 Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm
 Beer Pong Open Play: 4pm - 6pm
 Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close
 Entertainment Area Open: 4:00pm - Close
 Carnival Wristband Hours: 5pm - 8pm
 Beer Pong Tournament: 6pm - 10pm
 The Memphis Dives: 6:30pm
 Saving Abel: 8:30pm
 Jive Radio: 10pm

Friday, Aug. 3:

Volleyball Practice: 3pm - 6pm
 Dragon Boat Practice: 3pm - 7pm
 Pickleball Open Play: 4pm - 6pm
 Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm
 Carnival Open: 4pm - Close
 Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close
 Entertainment Area Open: 4pm - Close
 Motorcycle Stunt Show: 5pm - 5:15pm
 Chaz & the Channel Catz: 5:30pm
 Carnival Wristband Hours: 6pm - 9pm
 Brandon Gibbs Band: 7:30pm
 TEEN STREET DANCE (Live DJ): 9:30pm - 11pm
 FireHouse: 9:30pm
 Decade of Decadence: 11pm

Saturday, Aug. 4:

5k Fun Run/Walk: 6:30am - 8:30am
 Commercial & Craft Open: 8am -

5pm
 Food Vendors Open: 11am - Close
 Dragon Boat Races: 9am - Close
 Kan-Jam Tournament: 10am - 2pm
 Pickleball Tournament: 10am - 2pm
 Volleyball Tournament: 10am - 2pm
 Motorcycle Stunt Show: 12pm - 12:15pm
 Kids Day Carnival Wristband Hours: Noon - 3pm
 Chainsaw Carving Show: 4pm - 4:45pm
 Carnival Open: Noon 4pm & 5pm - Close
 Pickleball Open Play: 1pm - 4pm
 Entertainment Area Open: 3pm - Close
 HeadFirst: 4pm
 Motorcycle Stunt Show: 4:45pm - 5pm
 Hinder: 6pm
 Pop Evil: 9pm
 X-Krush: 11:30pm

Sunday, Aug. 5:

Legion Charity Breakfast (benefiting area veterans): 8am - Noon
 Motorcycle Stunt Show: 8am - Noon
 Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 3pm
 Pickleball Open Play: 10am - 1pm
 RiverFest Float Trip (Kayak, Canoe, SUP Float): 9am - Noon
 Harmony Sunday Services: 10:30am - Noon
 Captives Set Free (Christian Rock Band): Noon - 1pm
 Food Vendors Open: 11am - 7pm
 Carnival Open: Noon - Close
 Bags Tournament: 2pm - 6pm
 Entertainment Area Open: 3:00pm - Close
 StumpTown: 4pm
 The Natu Band: 5:30pm
 Radio Romance: 7pm
 Colt Ford: 8:30pm

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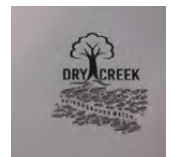
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Pen City Current

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For the Record/Scene Around Town



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

It ain't stuck

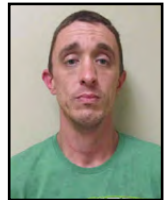
Fort Madison Strongman Dave Swafford pulls this Ford Bronco from curb to curb as practice for September's Strongman Competition in Monmouth. Swafford and Ian Hauck were at the park on Saturday working many drills including a keg toss and tire flips.

Keokuk man nabbed on meth charge

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk, Iowa man on a felony drug charge.

Casey Davis, 35, of Keokuk, Iowa was arrested on July 31st, 2018 on a felony drug charge. Davis is charged with delivery of less than five grams of methamphetamine, a class C felony. If convicted, Davis faces up to 10 years in a state correctional facility.



DAVIS

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

The Lee County Attorney's Office, Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Keokuk Police Department, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, 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.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

7/27/2018 - 8:16 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3900 block of Bluff Rd.
 7/27/2018 - 9:59 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 2600 block of Ave. L.
 7/27/2018 - 2:43 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 800 block of Ave. G.
 7/27/2018 - 5:41 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Ave. F.
 7/28/2018 - 1:28 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 4600 block of Ave. J.
 7/28/2018 - 11:52 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 100 block of Richards Dr.
 7/29/2018 - 9:02 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off

in the 5000 block of Ave. O.
 7/29/2018 - 9:09 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 3100 block of Ave. N.
 7/29/2018 - 7:37 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 1500 block of 27th St.
 7/30/2018 - 4:07 p.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Abigail Margaret Noel, 23, of Mount Pleasant, in the 5400 block of Ave. O, on a warrant of voluntary absence from custody. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/30/2018 - 4:46 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of Ave. I.
 7/30/2018 - 5:01 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 200 block of 23rd St.
 7/30/2018 - 5:10 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4500 block of Ave. O.
 7/30/2018 - 6:19 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a hit and run in the 1400 block of Ave. F.
 7/31/2018 - 12:06 a.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Troy William James, 48, of Fort Madison, in the 4400 block of Ave. O, on charges of public intoxication, possession of controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

7/31/2018 - 12:02 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sara Ann Pauly, 34, of Fort Madison, at the Sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

07/30/18 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls.

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7/28	Cardinals vs. Cubs at Busch Stadium	\$140 pp

AUGUST

8/1	Mamma Mia! at Circa '21	\$98 pp
8/2	Chicago Museums	\$99 pp
8/4	Cubs vs. Padres at Wrigley	\$155 pp
8/7	Strolling Down Broadway	\$102 pp
8/11	Cubs vs. Nationals at Wrigley	\$155 pp
8/13-16	Quilter's Escape to Paducah, KY	\$495 pp double
8/14	Iowa State Fair	\$65 pp
8/15	Cubs vs. Brewers at Wrigley	\$128 pp
8/21	The Henry Ford & Rouge Factory Tour	\$450 pp double
8/29	Cubs vs. Mets at Wrigley	\$110 pp

SEPTEMBER

9/12	A Comedy of Tenors at Old Creamery	\$98 pp
9/12-15	Legends of Louisville, KY	\$550 pp double
9/15	Cubs vs. Reds at Wrigley	\$145 pp
9/21-30	The Gold of Colorado Trains	\$2790 pp double
9/26	Mama Won't Fly at Circa '21	\$98 pp
9/27	Dinner on the Boone Scenic Valley RR	\$120 pp
9/28	Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley	\$145 pp
9/29	Cubs vs. Cardinals at Wrigley	\$155 pp

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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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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



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 3 8 2
 7/30 EVENING
 8 4 9



7/30 MID-DAY
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 7/30 EVENING
 5 8 0 7

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Local News/Sports

Reynolds: 3D gun printing needs measured response

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - As Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller considers jumping into a lawsuit banning the release of documents that show how to print guns on 3D printers, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds said the issue falls back on mental health and must be monitored.

Reynolds was in Fort Madison on Tuesday as part of a day tour through Fort Madison with stops at the weekly Fort Madison Rotary Club meeting, the ribbon-cutting at the Old Lee County Bank and Cattermole Library upper apartments, and a tour of Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Reynolds also scheduled a tour of the new Catfish Bend Hampton Hotel and had a possible fundraiser dinner in Burlington.

After the tour of apartments Reynolds stopped for questions and addressed the gun issue.

"We have to be really careful with that. That's part of the opportunity and challenges with innovation and technology. You can use it for good and you can use it for bad," she said. "You have to find a balance with over-regulating and shutting down innovation and technology and the good that comes from it."

A Texas-based group known as Defense Distributed reached a settlement with the U.S. state department and is scheduled to begin downloading 3D printing instructions through its DEFCAD program beginning Wednesday. Skeptics of the program say it will be very difficult and dangerous to produce effective weapons. Critics say the guns could be untraceable.

According to CNN, Defense Distributed founder

Cody Wilson posted a video in 2013 showing the "wiki-weapon" and the U.S. State Department issued a three-page cease and desist order. Since that time, a settlement has been reached between the two and Wilson is offering the downloads at no charge.

Miller is joining a growing list of states filing suit in Washington D.C. and more than 20 attorneys general in signing a letter to President Donald Trump citing the dangerous precedent of allowing the downloads to go forward.

Trump tweeted this at 7:03 a.m. this morning, "I am looking into 3-D Plastic Guns being sold to the public. Already spoke to NRA, doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Reynolds said there is more work to be done on the mental health care front to get out in front of people who want to do harm.

"When there's evil and nefarious people out there that want to do bad things, they're gonna find a way to do it," she said.

"We need to take a look at it and find a balance," she said. "We have to look into it to make sure it's a measured approach to what we're doing."

She said its sad to say, but if someone is intent on doing something evil and horrific, it's hard to stop them.

"I don't care how much you do, there's mental health and we're trying to address that, there's drugs and we're trying to address that," Reynolds said. "So maybe the more we can get in front of some of those things - help mitigate that, and help people get healthy and have a healthy life, that will help us to anticipate some of those bad things."



From left to right Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph, Iowa Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, Gov. Kim Reynolds, David Barker, president of Barker Financial, Kyle Galloway, CFO Barker Financial, Jared Herschberger, representing U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack, Mark Schickendanz, President Schickedanz Construction and Tim Gobble, executive director of Fort Madison Partners, cut the ribbon for the new upper floor apartments at the Old Lee County Bank building.



BY PCC STAFF - The following is the fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for southeast Iowa.

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is in the low to mid 80's. Expect an increase in fishing pressure with the forecasted cooler weather. Bluegill - Fair: Work the bluegills in about 6 feet of water in the flooded timber. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Early evening is best as bass move out of deeper water to feed on little bluegills and green sunfish.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The drop in the water level has slowed. Channel Catfish - Fair: Look for them to be around the brush piles in deeper water and around the edges of the sandbars as the water recedes.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature in low 80's. Bluegill - Fair: Anglers are picking up bluegills in the flooded timber between 10 and 12 feet of water. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are still finding crappies while slow trolling in the open water area between the beach and the dam; early morning before 10 am is best.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is between 82 and 83 degrees. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers are picking up bass around the deeper habitat. In the early and late parts of the day, look for them to be in shallow but not far from the deep water ledges. Bluegill - Fair: Look for bluegills out around the rock piles and brush in 6-8 feet of water.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is between 80 and 81 degrees. Planktonic algae bloom is turning the water green. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are picking up some crappies later in the evening as these fish come to shore to feed later in the day. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers are catching bass in the flooded brush on the north side of the lake in the early morning hours.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The water level in this area have stopped dropping. It should drop again as the South Skunk continues to drop where the North has stabilized. Channel Catfish - Fair: Still a lot of water in the Skunk; try around the edges of the brush piles and trees where there is a current break.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 7.88 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is falling. Flood stage is 10 feet. River level is 13.03 feet at Burlington and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. River level at Fort Madison is 526.89 feet and flood stage is 528 feet. Fishing has been slow with the high and muddy water conditions. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week. Channel Catfish - No Report: Try fishing above brush piles and snags along the side channels and main channel; use stinkbait or shad. Bluegill - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters around brush piles. Try fishing with worms under a bobber.

River stages rose slightly this past weekend, but are starting to fall. Main channel water temperature is around 78 degrees. Water clarity is fair. Fishing is being reported as slow. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

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WED 01 Aug _____

Clear Skies
High- 83.4° F | Low - 69.5° F

THU 02 Aug _____

Clear Skies
High- 81.8° F | Low - 66.8° F

FRI 03 Aug _____

Light Rain
High- 86.1° F | Low - 75.3° F

SAT 04 Aug _____

Light Rain
High- 86.9° F | Low - 80.4° F

SUN 05 Aug _____

Light Rain
High- 86.1° F | Low - 84.0° F

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From the Front/Classifieds



Spectators in for a treat with RiverFest races

RACES - Continued from Page 1

room for teams and we can also put individuals who are interested in participating on a team," Bauswell said.

Currently they're are four teams signed up to compete in the double elimination dual heats. Paddlers will start from a pontoon out in the Mis-

issippi River and race 300 meters downstream to a buoy with a flag in it. The flag catcher leans out and pulls the flag which stops the clock.

Bauswell said it's all based on timing and the best teams will be the ones with best cadence off the drum. Teams will be accepted with a minimum of 14 paddlers, and Bauswell said they can be accepted up until the last minute.

Flotation jackets are required and are provided by the ADBA. Personal life jackets are acceptable but they cannot be inflatable flotation devices.

The registration fee to put a team in a boat is still at \$500. Bauswell said since it was the first year and people were just getting used to the event again, that the fee wouldn't increase for teams that registered late.

"We ended up keeping the \$500 fee, but if you take \$500 and divide it by 20 people that's \$25 a person. This is a morning of fun competition and if you don't have a team, you should definitely come down and watch this event."

He said don't be worried about being a first timer, teams will be able to practice on Friday.

"We will be doing practicing on Friday evening

and then on Saturday we'll have a captains meeting at 9 a.m. with races beginning right around 9:30."

The races are great for companies, groups, clubs and families to come out and test their skills against other groups in the area.

"The weather is supposed to be awesome and the river is predicted to be really good for racing

This is the first time Dragon Boats have been on the Mississippi River in Fort Madison in more than a decade. Lake Geode and Seven Ponds are other areas that have hosted the races locally in the past including the river.

The race is part of RiverFest 2018, the third consecutive year after organizer Charles Craft put the festival back on the schedule in 2016. Racers can then hangout and compete in more RiverFest Games on the east side of the park and then stick around for national music entertainment with Head First, Hinder and contemporary rock sensation Pop Evil rounding the Pen City Current Main Stage acts. X-Crush will keep the music going in the entertainment tent beginning at 11:30 p.m.

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From the Front

City thanks Barkers for picking up the project

BARKERS - Continued from Page 1

Fort Madison Partner Executive Director Tim Gobble opened the ceremony in the shadows of the three-story Old Lee County Bank building's east side. He said the project fell on hard times, but luckily the Barkers were still in the wings.

"Luckily we came across a group that saw the significance and value in these properties and Fort Madison. I want to congratulate the Barker group for taking on these projects," Gobble said.

David Barker, CEO and president of Barker Financial, said it really feels good to see it come together.

"When you first see a building like this you wonder what it will take to get it completed. We're not there yet, but we're close," he said. "When we first heard about the project and there were some issues with it, we did some research into Fort Madison and thought it's a good stable community and there's a need for housing here and we thought the projects

could be successful.

"We did have some issues and got good help from all of our federal representatives to intervene with the National Park Service that had legitimate concerns and we were able to get that speeded up."

Sarah Richardson, David's wife and partner at Barker's, said she was impressed with the coordination of the efforts.

"The wonderful thing about this is federal, state, and local support, government, non-government, commercial, private... you know, everyone was involved," she said.

Barker also said he is interested in looking at how to rehab the building across the street where Mark Schickedanz had set up the construction office. Barker said they will now use part of the space as a leasing office for the apartments and then will look for another tenant. The Fort Madison YMCA will be leasing the space where The Avenue was located to hold some downtown classes.

"I would love to do something upstairs," Barker said. "It's a huge space up there and I think we could do a lot. We also own the Sears building and we'd love to look at doing something there, too."

Jared Herschberger spoke on behalf of U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack who couldn't make the event. In a prepared statement the Congressman wrote that Community Development Block Grants and federal and state historical tax credits were financial instruments used to help finance the project.

"CDBG is the centerpiece of the federal government's efforts to help more than 1,200 cities, counties, and states meet the needs of their low and moderate income residents," Loebsack wrote. "It revitalizes communities and has proven results. Also utilized were federal historical tax credits. In Iowa the credit has helped finance 257 commercial rehabilitation projects from 2002 to 2018 resulting in more than one

billion dollars in development and investment and more than 9,000 jobs last year alone."

Barker said financing also included state tax credits that are being utilized.

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph said the project was touch-and-go for a while, but it's good to see it finally come to fruition.

"It takes some out-of-the-box thinking sometimes to get things done and this is exactly one of the cases," Randolph said. "In 2011 when we started the downtown revitalization project, we started seeing some old buildings come to life again and when we had the opportunity to take a stab at some of these bigger buildings in 2013 we thought, 'Boy, we're really going places.'"

"To see the new life coming back to these older buildings almost get dashed in 2015 by circumstances out of our control, it was fortunate for Fort Madison that David Barker



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds talks up her Empower Rural Iowa Initiative to the Fort Madison Rotary Club and guests on Tuesday afternoon.

and Barker Financial and the state IEDA stepped back up to the plate to make this thing happen - and they are."

Reynolds told the group gathered at the ribbon-cutting that Barkers are doing an incredible job of revitalizing communities through a diversity of restoration projects.

"These restoration projects bring energy to the area and help with the revitalization and

everything we're trying to grow," she said. "The public-private partnerships are the key, the CDBG, the historic credits with local investment as well as the state. And these aren't easy projects. The perseverance and dedication to keep the historic integrity of the building while keeping the project cost efficient isn't an easy thing to do. But keep going. You have a lot of beautiful buildings so I challenge you."

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