



Pen City Current

Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 269

Tourism board may audit groups' finances

Commission wants cleaner financial docs for Jan. meeting

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - Two local groups that receive funding from the city's Hotel/Motel tax funds, may have their books audited by the city's tourism commission, who doles out the monies.

At Thursday night's meeting of the Fort Madison Tourism Commission, which is chaired by Mayor Brad Randolph, the commission was frustrated in figures turned in by Andy Andrews of the North Lee County Historical Society.

During the two-hour meeting, at several times, Andrews, who's the president of the NLCHS, had to go up to the commission table and look and try to explain the finances to Randolph and the other commission members.

Commissioner Julie Hellman said she couldn't understand the numbers and asked that Andrews bring back a cleaner version of the funds and where they were going.

"I'm not an accountant, but I just don't understand this balance sheet," Hellman told Andrews.

Hellman said she didn't believe that the tourism dollars should just be going into the historical society's operating funds because they are supposed to be earmarked for promotional and tourism-oriented projects. Hellman said those funds shouldn't be used for operations.

Andrews said the money did go into the organization's general fund. Hellman asked about any savings or other



HELLMAN

assets the historical district has on hand. "There's no balance sheet here and if we don't have the right to ask these questions, someone tell me."

Andrews said funds come into the historical society specifically earmarked for projects like Brush College school, the battlefield project, and even maintenance projects and all those funds go into those accounts. He said the group also gets interest of funds with the Lee County Community Foundation.

But Randolph agreed the financial documents were confusing and don't show the true picture of the society's financial standing.

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Into the Woods

At top, "Witch" Dalyn Wondra, creeps out Bella Baier, far left, and Corrine Keenan as the "Baker's Wife" and "The Baker" in the Saturday afternoon performance of The FMHS Drama Clubs' Into the Woods. At left, the ensemble performs.



GRHS may soon have news on plans for FM

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A decision may be coming in the next several weeks from Great River Health Systems on their plans in Fort Madison.

According to Melissa Jones, director of marketing and communications, the time frame for a decision on what presence GRHS will have in Fort Madison has been moved again.

"Unfortunately, the time frame continues to get changed and it is now my understanding that a decision is to be made at the beginning of December. I have no further information at this time," Jones wrote in an email Friday morning.

The company has been tight-lipped on plans for Fort Madison after announcing in August they were considering purchasing property on the city's west side, on the southeast corner of the intersection at Ortho Road and Hwy. 61.

At that time, Jim Kammerer, vice president of support services, said GRHS was in the process of purchasing the property for an outreach clinic. City officials then received a request by the owners of the property, S&D Development, for a waiver of subdivision requirements for that property. But no further announcements on the purchase have been made and the announcements on the property have been delayed twice since

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LINDA JEAN HOLMES

Linda Jean Holmes, 67, of rural Montrose, IA, began her journey to Heaven on Friday, November 17, 2017 at 5:05 p.m. surrounded by her family and dear friends at her home. She was born on August 3, 1950 in Charleston, MO to Betty Louise Robinson, who later married J.W. Johnson. She married Larry L. Holmes on September 16, 1967 in Fort Madison, IA. They later divorced. She was a homemaker most of her life and enjoyed children, especially babies. She enjoyed scrapbooking and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Her faith was very strong and she loved to spread God's word. She always saw the good in people, never judged anyone and always gave and helped anyone in need.



Linda is survived by: 1-son: Jeffrey Holmes of Montrose, IA; 2-daughters: Jennifer (Shane) Hall of Fort Madison, IA & Jill (Darin) Cordray of Fort Madison, IA; a niece: Tina (Jeff) Finley of Clear Lake, IA whom Jeff, Jen & Jill consider a sister; 2-grandsons: Damon & Dayne Cordray of Fort Madison, IA; her mother: Betty Johnson of Dallas City, IL; 1-sister: Vicki (William) Clark of Fort Madison, IA; 4-brothers: Stanley (Shelley) Johnson of Dallas City, IL, Randy (Melinda) Johnson of Fort Madison, IA, Lonnie Johnson of Dallas City, IL & Darin (Shirley) Johnson of LaHarpe, IL and her very special friends who stood by her faithfully for the last 50 years of her life. She was preceded in death by: her father, 1-infant brother: Martin Johnson & 1-nephew: Ryan C. Johnson, her dear cousins, grandmother and her father & mother in law: Lloyd & Opal Holmes.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and a private family memorial service will be held at a later date at her home. A memorial has been established for Great River Hospice and contributions may be sent to Jeff Holmes, 2573 245th Avenue, Montrose, IA 52639. Online condolences to Linda's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Fort Madison man hits \$10,000 scratch off win

CLIVE, Iowa – A southeast Iowa man made a last minute decision to buy a lottery ticket while shopping for groceries last week and his decision ended up paying off for him.

Curtis Little of Fort Madison claimed the fifth of eight top prizes of \$10,000 available in the Iowa Lottery's "Winner's Circle" scratch game.

The 29-year-old said he bought his winning ticket Nov. 10 at Fareway, 1820 Ave. H in Fort Madison.

"Actually I just went in there for groceries and I saw the lottery tickets and I took one of each of the \$2 tickets and just happened to win," Little told lottery employees Tuesday as he claimed his prize at the lottery's regional office in Cedar Rapids.

Little said he expected to win a much smaller prize when he saw that he had a winning match on his ticket.

"I scratched the 'Yes' and I figured it would just be like another \$2 or something like that and I scratched the '\$10,000' and I didn't believe it and I read the instructions like three or four times," he said.

Little said he called his Mom right away and she suggested that he go to a gas station to confirm his prize and that's what he did.

He said he plans to use his winnings to pay bills.

Winner's Circle is a \$2 scratch game. More details about how to play this game, and number of prizes still up for grabs in it can be found on the Iowa Lottery's website, www.ialottery.com.



Curtis Little, of Fort Madison won \$10,000 on a scratch off ticket in the Iowa Lotterires "Winner's Circle" game. Little purchased the tickets at the Fort Madison Fareway Grocery on Nov. 10

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Opinion/Local News

Letter to the Editor

Relay For Life chair thanks community for 2017 support

Dear Editor;

The 2017 Relay For Life of North Lee County successfully reached their goal of \$65,000 for the American Cancer Society. This annual event was held on Friday, September 29th and brought together the community to celebrate our cancer survivors, remember those we lost to cancer and fight back through the support of our corporate sponsors and Relay For Life teams.

The money raised through the Relay For Life event will be used to fund cancer research and support programs for people diagnosed with cancer. The theme for this year's event was, WE ARE HOPE, emphasizing the belief that by coming together in our fight against cancer, we will one day see a world without cancer.

The continued success of the Relay For Life of North Lee County is due in great part to our Relay teams who collectively raised over \$40,000 and our corporate sponsors who contributed over \$25,000.

The planning committee meets monthly to bring this event to life-through their creative ideas and dedicated time leading up to and during the event, we are able to enjoy an evening of fun, music, reflection and good food. The planning has already begun for next year as we continue our fight against cancer.

Angie Budnik

Chairperson, Relay For Life of North Lee County

Iowa Lottery WINNING NUMBERS

Woo Hoo for You™

Lotto Drawings

Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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

LOTTO AMERICA

ALL STAR BONDS

11/18
4 25 26 41 47
Star Ball: 6
All Star Bonus: 2

Iowa's MEGA MILLIONS

WITH MEGAPLIER

11/17
3 26 55 58 70
Mega Ball: 15
Megaplier: 4

IOWA POWERBALL

POWERPLAY

11/18
17 28 31 32 39
Powerball: 26
Power Play: 3

Pick 3 Iowa

11/17 MID-DAY
7 2 6
11/17 EVENING
9 2 6

11/18 MID-DAY
8 8 1
11/18 EVENING
0 0 9

Pick 4 Iowa

11/17 MID-DAY
7 1 4 6
11/17 EVENING
5 4 5 1

11/18 MID-DAY
8 2 8 6
11/18 EVENING
7 1 0 6

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

City releases schedule for holiday week

The following is the schedule for the week of the Thanksgiving holiday for the City of Fort Madison

- Mon. Nov. 20 – Tuesday trash route will be picked up today along with Monday trash route.
- Tue. Nov. 21 – Wednesday Route B recycling will be picked up today.
- Wed. Nov. 22 – Thursday trash route will be picked up today.
- Thu. Nov. 23 – City Hall offices and Fort Madison Public Library will be closed today.
- Fri. Nov. 24 – City Hall offices will be closed Friday, November 24. Friday trash route will be picked up on Monday, November 27.

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MP man hits \$30K on scratch off

CLIVE, Iowa – A southeast Iowa man said he decided to buy a different scratch game since his local lottery retailer was sold out of his favorite one and that made all the difference.

Tommie “Tom” Best of Mount Pleasant claimed the seventh of 19 top prizes of \$30,000 available in the Iowa Lottery’s “Jolly Holiday Crossword” game. He said his first choice was a similar \$5 version of the lottery’s popular Crossword scratch game, but his local BP, 2120 E. Washington St. was sold out of that game Wednesday.

Best, 73, said he took his ticket home and scratched it off later that night.

“I kept scratching and scratching and all of a sudden my heart rate started going pretty fast,” Best told lottery employees Thursday as he claimed his prize at the lottery’s regional office in Cedar Rapids.

He called his wife, Connie, over to double-check his work with him.

“We double-checked it and I said, ‘That’s 10.’ And she says, ‘Yeah.’ I said, ‘Oh my gosh, that’s \$30,000, dear!’” he said.

The couple then returned to BP to have the winning ticket verified. Once it was confirmed that Best had indeed won \$30,000, he said he sent a text message to his son.

Best, who is retired, said he plans to use a portion of his winnings to pay bills and invest the rest.

Jolly Holiday Crossword is a \$3 scratch game. More details about how to play this game, and number of prizes still up for grabs in it can be found on the Iowa Lottery’s website, www.ialottery.com.

GRHS pushes announcement on FM plans to December

GHRHS - Continued from Page 1

that time.

An announcement was expected on GRHS’s plans for Fort Madison originally on Sept. 26, but that was put off til the end of October, which then was delayed again until November, and now officials say an announcement won’t come until the beginning of December.

The regional health system is just days away from breaking ground on a \$5.75 million specialty clinic on Keokuk’s northside. The health system also recently acquired the services of Hometown Medical in West Point.



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From the Front/Weather

Commission tables funding requests until January

TOURISM - Continued from Page 1

"I think you're on track," Randolph told Hellman, "If someone accepts public money they are subject to public scrutiny."

"But my concern is that you're doing a lot of projects and throwing all the money in the same pot," Randolph said. "And that's a problem because we don't know where that money is going. And you're accepting donations and other funds and that's all going into the same till."

Andrews said the NLCHS has a non-profit arm called Friends of The Old Fort, which he said is a subcommittee operating under the NLCHS umbrella.

"You've accepted money as a committee, but it's actually NLCHS? Is that what you're saying?" Randolph asked.

"Yes," Andrews said.

Hellman said she wasn't in favor of continuing at the current rate if that money isn't going to anything new.

"When I looked at this, and I'm not an accountant, but I didn't understand why there is no balance sheet. If we keep giving you the 9% we're not investing in anything else new and we're not trying to generate any new business at all. So we need to decide if that money is going to the right place."

"It's going into the general fund of the historical society," Andrews said. "So what I'm hearing is that you don't think we deserve anything at all."

Hellman replied that wasn't the case but she wanted a better accounting of the funds.

"I personally feel we should have a better accounting of the funds that are going to NLCHS. If nobody agrees with me we'll move on and decide how much we'll do again. But I think we need a better understanding. If Brush College is just going to sit there, we should do something with it."

Randolph involved City Manager David Varley in the discussion by asking if a 7-year snapshot would help clear up the financial picture.

Varley said if the same documents for the seven years were provided in the same format, it wouldn't help.

"If the numbers cover the same time period no, because you're getting the same numbers for the same time period," Varley said.

"By dumping them all in one till, you can say this is going there and that's going there but the bottom line is you made \$10,000 and that's half of what the city gave. And you have \$58,000 in the bank that could carry a non-profit

for quite a few years. So you have to decide if you want to help their fund balance so they can take it and move it and maybe spend it on the battlefield, because they do have some large projects they're working on."

Hellman asked how much he had in the savings account and Andrews said he didn't have that with him.

Randolph also had audit language put on the agenda because he would like the commission to have the authority to request, and pay for, audits on entities that receive more than \$5,000 for two years or more during any three year period. The commission usually caps contributions to entities at \$2,500 per year and reduces the amount they get each year they come back with hopes that the events become self-sustaining. The NLCHS and Fort Madison Area Artists Association each get 9% of the hotel/motel tax, which would make them the most vulnerable to an audit by the commission.

The commission did not ask for any audits, but did table both groups' funding request until January when both groups were asked to bring back more clearly defined sheets.

Brian Riggs, director of the FMAAA, also presented to the board



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

North Lee County Historical Society President Andy Andrews tries to help Fort Madison Mayor and Tourism Commission Chairman, Brad Randolph, understand the group's financial statement at Thursday's City Tourism commission.

on his funding request. The board seemed to be more comfortable with his financial documents, but when Riggs brought up that the FMAAA's rent payments are going towards the purchase of the building, Hellman balked.

"So you're saying that we're helping you buy that building," she asked.

Riggs said he could show the hotel/motel tax wasn't being used for that purpose, to which Hellman said she'd like to see a better accounting of his documents including what savings the FMAAA had on hand.

Riggs said the FMAAA has had great successes with lots of media coverage over the past year and asked the commission

why the FMAAA and the NLCHS each get the same percentage. He said the commission's funding of its history cumulatively, which is close to \$122,000 per year, including the fort, the arts doesn't get the same attention.

The commission gives the Old Fort \$100,000 per year to the Fort and then 9% to the historical society. Riggs said if the commission were to quantify the results they would see the FMAAA is doing better than the historical groups.

"We're the only entity that's been transparent with their money and some of the other entities haven't been so transparent."

Randolph said he is

not looking at going over 9% for either group and is probably looking at lowering it or capping the amount because he feels the fund is going to diminish in the near future.

Varley said the city is looking at its first quarter in 10 years where revenues will be down and is projecting close to a \$51,000 reduction in the hotel/motel money, if that carried through to the 22% decline in the last reporting period.

In other action, - the commission voted to appoint Julie Hellman as vice chairman of the commission. The vice-chair would preside over any meetings the chairman wouldn't be able to attend.

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SUN 19 Nov Partly Cloudy
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MON 20 Nov Partly Cloudy
High - 47.1° F | Low - 45.8° F

TUE 21 Nov Clear Skies
High - 53.3° F | Low - 28.8° F

WED 22 Nov Clear Skies
High - 31.6° F | Low - 19.7° F

THU 23 Nov Clear Skies
High - 38.3° F | Low - 23.6° F

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