

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 | 10 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 117



www.pencitycurrent.com

Rail Yard mixes old, new



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bobby Holtkamp, center right, and Scott Meller, on ladder, work to get the new Rail Yard open and ready for a re-opening on Friday, July 1.

RE-OPENING: New owners are old friends with new concept for old bar

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – This won't be the folksy thing you're used to with the Old E, or Kinnick South, but you can plan on the same fun environment when the joint opens up again this Friday.

Bobby Holtkamp, Scott Meller, and Brock Umthun are bringing a fresh new look to the business that includes a more open floor plan and a sports bar feel with about 14 big screen televisions at 72 and 81 inches lining the walls.

Holtkamp said about a year ago, former owners including

Shane Carter, approached Umthun, who had joked around with his friend about buying the place.

"Brock reached out to me and we got together and looked at everything Shane shared with us and it all made sense," Holtkamp said.

The two then thought it would be a good option to add a third partner in the ownership.

The group purchased the bar last fall and kept operations in place until Memorial Day when they closed the place and local

See RAIL YARD, page 8

CONFERENCE CHAMPS!

Fort Madison girls earn share of conference title

Monday sweep of Keokuk on senior night gives at least a share of title

JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Logan Johnson got her conference championship.

Johnson, the only senior on Fort Madison's roster, got

to celebrate two wins and the Southeast Conference title on Monday night, when the Bloodhounds swept Keokuk 4-3 and 13-1 on Senior Night at Hoskins Field.

It's the first conference championship for Fort Madison (19-11, 16-2) since 2010.

"That's crazy," Johnson said. "I always thought we would (win a conference championship) while I was in high school. So it's achieving a goal."

See SWEEP, page 5

COUNTY NEWS

ARPA panel aims \$3.7M at new LCHD

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After a short discussion on where the county stands on funding for a new Lee County Health Department, a panel overseeing allocations of the county's funds recommended all remaining funds go toward building the new structure.

Currently the cost of the new building, according to a preliminary analysis from Carl A. Nelson Co., ranges in the \$5 million to \$5.4 million range in the current construction environment.

The panel recommended putting \$3.7 million that has to be spent or allocated under U.S. Treasury guidelines for qualifying America Rescue Plan Act expenses, toward the building.

The move is a recommendation to the Lee County Board of Supervisors. Two the three county supervisors, Garry Seyb and Ron Fedler, serve on the ARPA committee.

The group is also moving forward with the

See LCHD, page 8

BREAKING

Amtrak train headed for FM derails in Mo.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – An Amtrak passenger train headed for Fort Madison on the Los Angeles to Chicago route derailed today near Mendon, Missouri.

According to a statement from Amtrak, the Southwest Chief Train 4, traveling on BNSF tracks from LA to Chicago, derailed eight cars and two locomotives after striking a truck that was allegedly obstructing a public crossing near Mendon.

There were 243 passengers and 12 crew members onboard and there have been early reports of injuries. Mendon is northeast of Kansas City about three hours southwest of Fort Madison.

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WEATHER

TUE 28 Jun..... Sunny & Warm, 79° F/ 58° F
WED 29 Jun..... Sunny & Warm, 86° F/ 63° F
THU 30 Jun..... Sunny & Warm, 85° F/ 65° F

OpenWeatherMap

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/26..... 6 21 24 35 48, Lucky Ball: 3
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PICK 4 06/26 EVENING..... 3745

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DARIN L. CALE

Darin Leon Cale, 56, of Montrose died Saturday, June 25, 2022 at his home in Montrose, IA.



CALE

He was born August 28, 1965 in Keokuk, IA the son of George and Rozeltha Smith Cale.

Darin graduated from Central Lee High School with the class of 1983. He was a member of the Church of the Nazarene in Montrose.

He had been employed with ServiceMaster in Kansas City and Ft. Madison, Scotts Miracle-Gro in Ft. Madison and also pressure washed homes. Most recently he was the caretaker for his mother.

Darin was an avid NASCAR and Iowa Hawkeye fan. He enjoyed racing RC cars, fishing and listening to country music. He will be greatly missed and continually loved and remembered by all who knew him.

He is survived by his mother, Rozeltha Cale Heidbreder of Montrose, three brothers, Arlo "Randy" Cale (Roger DeCamp Cale) of Ft. Madison, George Michael Cale (Sherri) of Gardner, KS and Kevin David Cale (Tina) of Donnellson, three nephews, Bryon Heidbreder, Jason Cale, Tyler Cale and Dylon Cale and a niece, Courtney Keazer, his step mother, Julie Cale of Burlington, IA and a step sister, Shelly Paul of Wisconsin, along with great nieces, great nephews, aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his father, George Cale.

A funeral service will be held 3 p.m. Friday, July 1 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose with Pastor Preston Smith officiating. Burial will be in the Montrose Cemetery at a later date.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

RANDALL L. CHUMBLEY

Randall Leonard Chumbley, 67, of Wayland, MO died Saturday, June 25, 2022 at his home in Wayland, MO.



CHUMBLEY

He was born October 6, 1954 in Keokuk, IA the son of Letha May Gilmore Davis.

Following his graduation from Clark County High School he enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War.

On January 11, 1975 he was united in marriage to Wanda Guymon. They later divorced.

Randy was a refrigeration technician for Randy's Refrigeration for thirty-five years before his retirement in 2017.

Fishing was his one of his favorite pastimes and the Mississippi river was his favorite place to throw a line. He enjoyed playing horseshoes, hunting and collecting rare gems. He was always on the lookout for things to add to his collections.

He will long be remembered for his joyous personality and his gift of never meeting a stranger. He was a people person by nature and could strike up a conversation with anyone. Most of all he loved spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Gosnell (Josh) of Montrose, IA, three grandchildren, Kelsey Miller (Justin), Trenton Gosnell, and Cole Courtney (Taylor) all of Montrose, IA, and one great granddaughter, Ellie Mae Miller. He is also survived by his step-mother, Barb Davis of Wayland, MO, one sister, Letha Davis of Wayland, MO, three brothers, Albert Davis of Keokuk, Bob Davis of Branson, MO, and Keith Davis (Sabina) of Kahoka, several aunts and uncles including a special aunt and uncle Carl and Sue Davis of Alexandria, along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Letha May Gilmore Burke Davis, step dad, Robert E. Davis, grandparents, Albert Raymond Smoking Davis and Mary Ellen Bird Davis, and two brothers, Robert Eugene "Broadway" Davis and Johnny Burke.

A memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 1 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating. Burial with military rites will be held in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. Following the burial, food and fellowship will be held at Fat Boys in Wayland.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m. Thursday, June 30 at the funeral home with the family meeting with friend from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



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As we remember and celebrate all who fought for our independence, Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Monday & Tuesday, July 4th & 5th. The e-Edition will resume Wednesday, July 6th.

Please celebrate safely and responsibly. We care about all of you.

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“Iowa Republican policies are making the Reynolds Workforce Crisis substantially worse, in four specific ways:

- (1) Attacking public schools and false accusations of having a "sinister agenda."
- (2) Continued attacks on Labor rights and unemployment benefits.
- (3) Refusing to fix our state's worst-in-the-nation childcare crisis.
- (4) Driving people out of the state with their relentless culture war.

Iowa Republicans have spent 2022 pouring gasoline on the flames of the culture war and made many of these challenges much worse.

”
Senator Zach Wahls, Iowa Senate Minority Leader

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

ROBERT K. HARVEY

Robert K. Harvey, 90, of Keokuk, passed away on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at his home in Keokuk.



HARVEY

Robert was born on May 4, 1932, in Luray, Missouri, the son of Leonard P.D. and Helen I. (Frank) Harvey. On August 27, 1988, he was united in marriage to Helen Rowlett in Keokuk. She survives. He was employed at Sheller-Globe for thirty-seven years, retiring at the age of sixty-two. Robert was a member of the American Motorcycle Association for seventeen years and was a motorcycle enthusiast since 1948. He collected Harley-Davidson memorabilia and collected die-cast cars. He enjoyed gardening and yardwork. Robert proudly served his country in the United States Army as part of the 25th Division, serving during the Korean Conflict.



Robert is survived by his wife Helen Harvey of Keokuk; his son Merlyn "Keith" (Janet) Harvey of Atlantic, Iowa; two grandsons: Michael (Tiffina) Harvey and Anthony (Donna) Harvey; his brother Leonard (Sylvia) Harvey, Jr. of Denmark, Iowa; his sisters-in-law Jean Lawson and Louise Harvey; and several great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Robert is preceded in death by his parents, his brother Glenn Harvey, his sister Laretta Harvey, his niece Cindy Carson and his nephew Russ McClain.

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk, with burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. Military Honors will be rendered by the American Legion Post #41 and the United States Army. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday from 11 am until 1 pm directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to Lee County Hospice.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

DOUGLAS K. BRIGGS

Douglas Keith Briggs, age 68 of Wayland, MO, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

He was born January 14, 1954 at Keokuk, IA, the son of Vincent and June Phillips Briggs.

He graduated from Clark County R-1 High School in Kahoka with the Class of 1971.

Survivors include two sisters, Vickie Nolte of Fort Madison, IA and Laura Childers of Middleton, IN; a brother, Glen (Donna) Briggs of St. Francisville, MO; an aunt, Lois McCollister of Kahoka, MO; two nieces, Caitlin Sterling and Raven Spight; four great nieces, Charlotte, Makia, Sophia and Tatyana; several cousins; as well as other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his step-mother, Nancy Briggs; and brother-in-law, John Nolte.

Doug was retired from the U. S. Army, proudly serving for over 21 years with a specialty in Topographic Engineering.

Following his discharge he owned a logging business in Virginia until returning to Clark County in 2011. He helped his father some on the farm and he shared in his father's love of all things Farmall.

He enjoyed movies and books and articles about military history.

Doug was a member of the NRA, a life member of Ayer-Boatman Post # 4342, V.F.W. and of Herman Blum Post # 192 of the American Legion.

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 27, 2022 at 2 p.m. at Wilson & Triplett Funeral Home in Kahoka with Pastor Shelby Whitney officiating. Burial and full military honors will follow in the Frazee Cemetery at Alexandria.

Friends may call at Wilson & Triplett Funeral Home after noon on Sunday with family receiving friends from 4-6 p.m.

Memorials are suggested to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/22/22 - 9:35 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.

06/22/22 - 5:15 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of 48th Street.

06/22/22 - 5:42 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 600 block of 5th Street.

06/22/22 - 6:47 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 900 block of Old Denmark Hill.

06/22/22 - 9:09 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Jalen Keith Kutcher, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of Avenue F, on a charge of carrying a weapon while intoxicated. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/23/22 - 4:07 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Stephen Edward Winn, 44, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of

Avenue M, on 2 charges of possession of a controlled substance and a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/24/22 - 10:30 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue L.

06/24/22 - 1:21 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 5100 block of Avenue O.

06/24/22 - 4:10 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jayme

Thomasa Jenkins, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of city trespassing.

06/24/22 - 8:23 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Troy William James, 52, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 39th Street and Avenue O, on a charge of driving under suspension.

06/24/22 - 8:56 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jeffery Dean Baldwin, 44, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of

18th Street and Avenue J, on a charge of driving under suspension.

06/24/22 - 9:55 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Jennifer R. Bolen, 38, of Niota, in the 2400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

06/25/22 - 12:38 a.m. - Fort Madison police cited Patricia Dee Frost, 75, of Fort Madison, in the 1000 block of Old Denmark Hill, on a charge of city: discharging a firearm.

06/26/22 - 8:04 p.m. - Fort Madison police cited Chris Ann Turner, 38, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 19th Street and Avenue H, on a charge of driving while barred.

06/26/22 - 10:32 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 9th Street.

Lee County Sheriff Report

See RECORD, page 5

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record - Continued from Page 3

06/22/22 - 10:45 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Christine Michelle Pennington, 42, of Hamilton, in the 3500 block of Hwy. 61, Keokuk, on charges of driving while barred and speeding. She was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

06/22/22 - 12:53 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Michael Lee Jefferson, 24, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for sex offender registry - other offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/22/22 - 6:49 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Nashondra Chenay Mimbs, 39, of Missouri, in the 1700 block of Hwy. 218, Donnellson, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/22/22 - 10:16 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Tyler Christopher Padilla, 37, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

06/23/22 - 7:45 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident in the 700 block of Avenue D, West Point. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Vivian Stuekerjuergen, 91, of West Point, was pulling into a parking spot and drove over the curb, hitting a building. No injuries were reported. Stuekerjuergen's vehicle sustained minor front end damage, but was able to be driven from the scene. The building also sustained damages to its wall. No citations were reported.

06/25/22 - 12:14 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies cited Leroy John Kent, 50, of Donnellson, in the 2500 block of 199th Avenue, Donnellson, on a charge of simple assault. He was cited and released.

06/25/22 - 1:05 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested

ed a 17-year-old male juvenile, of Donnellson, in the 2500 block of 199th Avenue, on a charge of simple assault. He was referred to juvenile court.

06/25/22 - 7:40 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Jace Andrew Wade, 20, of Keokuk, at the intersection of Hwy. 61 and 255th Street, Montrose, on a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on a promise to appear.

06/26/22 - 12:56 a.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Rod Wayne Knustrom, 59, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 155th Street and 255th Avenue, West Point, on charges of 2nd offense OWI, driving while barred, failure to maintain control, and failure to provide proof of financial liability. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on bond.

06/26/22 - 1:12 p.m. - Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Xavier Addison Hutchcroft, 20, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse, on a warrant for failure to appear/contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff Report

06/22/2022 - WALKER, BRADLEY A (22 of Plymouth, IL) Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid Crash

06/24/2022 - LEE, NATHAN A (35 of Warsaw, IL) Driving While License Revoked

06/24/2022 - YATES, DONNIE R (61 of Bowen, IL) No Valid Registration

06/25/2022 - CAMERON, NORMAN M (56 of West Burlington, IA) Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol

Those listed above are charged with a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Team now sets sights on post season

SWEEP - Continued from Page 1

"Oh, it's huge. Go look at that thing up there," Fort Madison coach Jared Rehm said, pointing to the sign hanging from the press box commemorating all of the conference championships for the program.

Rehm pointed out that most of the players were four or five years old when the Bloodhounds last won the championship.

"So ... huge," he said.

Clinching wasn't easy, though. The first game went extra innings as the Chiefs (7-20, 4-13) tied the game at 2 with a run in the seventh inning, and took the lead with a run in the eighth.

Johnson started Fort Madison's rally in the bottom of the inning with a double. She scored the tying run on Erika Kruse's double. Lauryn Helmick's two-out single with the bases loaded scored Jaycee Fullenkamp with the winning run.

The Bloodhounds needed nine innings to defeat the Chiefs, 8-7, in the first game of a June 9 doubleheader, then won 16-1 in the second game.

"This was a lot like that - we beat them in extra innings in the first game and run-ruled them in the second," Johnson said. "I knew we could pull it off. We just had to get the bats going."

They kept going in the second game.

Fort Madison scored two runs in the first inning. Lexi Whaley's single scored Fullenkamp with the first run, then Whaley scored on Helmick's single.

Taylor Johnson hit a solo home run in the second inning for a 3-1 lead. Helmick had an RBI double and scored on McKenna Cashman's single in the third inning for a 5-1 lead.

The Bloodhounds put the game away with an eight-run fourth inning. Emily Steffensmeier had an RBI double, Kruse hit a two-run home run, and Elle Ruble drove in a run with a double as the Bloodhounds kept the traffic going on the bases.

Logan Johnson's single scored Ruble with the clinching run.



Courtesy photo

Fort Madison's Elle Ruble fouls off a pitch in the first game of the Bloodhounds' sweep of Keokuk Monday night on senior night.

Johnson admitted it was an emotional night.

"It's really sad," she said after helping take in some of the equipment from the game.

Then Johnson smiled.

"I just got to take third base out for the last time," she said with a laugh. "It means a lot to be able to win on Senior Night. It's great I got to leave on a (win)."

Johnson, who will be attending Princeton in the fall, is appreciating her final games with the Bloodhounds.

"I'm just trying to have fun, enjoy my time with the girls," she said. "I'm going to miss them a lot next year."

There's another sign on the press box Johnson would like to see updated - the one with the list of Fort Madison's state tournament appearances.

"And I want to get to state," she said. "I want to at least make it to the state tournament."

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Minutes for the Lee County Conservation Board Meeting
May 10, 2022
Lee County Conservation Center
2652 Hwy 61
Montrose, IA 52639

1. Called to Order at 4:00 p.m.
 Roll Call: Present: Alton, Pollpeter, Moore, Patrick, VanPelt.
 Staff Present: Huebner, Veihl, Pawling, Oldfield, Steele, Risser, Davis, Jacobs Supervisor: Matt Pflug
 2. Approve Agenda
 Motion by Alton to approve the agenda
 2nd: VanPelt
 Motion Carried
 3. Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2022 and April 20, 2022
 Alton requested that the April 12, 2022 minutes be amended to state that the board met virtually for this meeting.
 Motion by VanPelt to approve the April 12, 2022 minutes
 2nd: Moore
 Motion Carried
 Motion by Patrick to approve the April 20, 2022 minutes with the amendment to state that the board met virtually
 2nd: Alton
 Motion Carried
 4. Public Input
 None
 5. Approval of the Bills
 Discussion was had on the MyCountyParks.com reservation refunds.
 Pawling asked about the bill from the Railroad Management Company. Huebner stated that she would look into it.
 Motion by Alton to approve the bills
 2nd: Moore
 Motion Carried
 6. Approval of the Financial Report

The budget amendment for the shed will occur at the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 23. Motion by Alton to approve the financial report
 2nd: Moore
 Motion Carried
 7. Review Pollmiller Beach Project Proposal
 Huebner presented the final master plan from Shive-Hattery for the Pollmiller Beach. She broke it down into seven phases, which prioritized the concession building, beach remodel, and bridge from the campground. Huebner stated that phases do not have to go in order and may change due to different funding opportunities. The staff and Board were in agreement that the numbers provided by Shive-Hattery seemed inflated, but gives them a starting point for funding.
 Discussion was had on whether the terraces on the beach were necessary and about the runoff from the parking lot.
 Huebner will work on applying for grants for this project with Chuck Vandenberg.
 8. Review Current Projects
 Huebner gave the board updates on all of the current projects -
 Four campsites at Chatfield and six at Pollmiller, along with the road into the campground on the left have all been completed with concrete
 Pawling and Jacobs have been working on cleaning up the Denning property and plan to replace the benches around playground. A plan for removing the sand from the playground and replacing it with mulch is being worked on. Andy Robbins of the IDNR approved of various updates to current structures on the property,

but denied the ask for putting a new foot bridge at the back of the property after the disc golf course. The south side barn has been secured from break-ins and the board still plans to explore ideas on restoring it.
 Huebner and Pawling lined out the new parking lot on the Clark property. No mowing can occur on the property during nesting season -the wetland reserve program this property is in greatly limits the work that can be done on the property. Huebner to meet with NRCS on property to find out exactly what work can be done.
 Huebner has been working with French-Reneker engineers on permitting for the new large pond at Wilson Lake. She will nominate Jack Davis for the Fish Habitat Advisory Committee, which helps select who receives a fish habitat grant each year. Huebner will apply for this grant in the fall, which would cover 90% of the project cost.
 Staff has been re-searching a new location for an access to the Des Moines River. There is a possible property already owned by Lee County between the Hwy 136 and railroad bridges. Pflug asked what the difference between this location and the previous access location at Red Wing.
 Pawling responded that the river is straight here and the soil is not degrading. Huebner will look into the next steps for possibly establishing a river access here.
 The seedlings for the prairie seed production plot will arrive next Monday. Volunteers, possibly from Holy Trinity High School, will be planting

the seedlings next Tuesday.
 Huebner applied for the Lee County Charitable Fund Impact grant for \$25,000 for an outdoor classroom with a shelter house and amphitheater seating at Heron Bend. Money left over from the DuPont Grant that foundation had received will go towards educational signage at Heron Bend.
 The archaeological survey for the Pollmiller Trail came back clear and the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant should be secured for the project to be completed next fiscal year.
 9. Take Possible Action on Starting Bid Process for Farm Leases
 Huebner asked the board to start this bid process a little earlier than typical to give herself and Veihl time to complete it, as they are both new to the process. Alton reminded them to send certified mailings to each current renter to notify them of the termination of their leases at this end of this year. Turkey Run and Denning are the only properties with farm leases.
 Motion by Alton to have Veihl send out the notification of the end of farm leases and to begin the

bid process for new farm leases
 2nd: Patrick
 Motion Carried
 10. Staff and Director Reports
 Steele gave the update on environmental education, highlighting making nearly 1500 contacts in April. The Prairie Egg Hunt had a record number of attendees and Steele and Risser participated in a couple of school STEAM nights.
 Oldfield gave a parks update, highlighting the recent volunteer tree planting and a total of 144 camping nights and 26 cabin rental nights.
 Huebner gave her director report, highlighting having a great full staff, completing several presentations in Fort Madison and Keokuk, updating the logo on apparel, vehicles, and signs, soon.
 The new yoga event in the park has been a nice partnership with 9 participants and another one coming up.
 11. Board Member Comments
 VanPelt asked again about the refunding policy.
 Discussion was had on when the part-time staff would start - one next week, one beginning in June, and the conces-

sionaire on Memorial Day weekend when the beach opens.
 12. Adjournment
 Motion by Moore to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m.
 2nd: VanPelt
 Motion Carried
 Tom Pollpeter
 LCCB President
 Caroline Veihl
 LCCB Secretary

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 6PM - BAGS TOURNAMENT

JULY 16TH
 9AM - SIGN-IN
 10AM - SHOTGUN START
 4:30PM - FISH FRY
 6PM - AUCTION
 7PM-10PM - BAND
 9PM SHARP - RAFFLE

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From the Front

Local friends set to re-open Rail Yard with all new look

RAIL YARD - Continued from Page 1

contractor Pat Scott and the ownership group went to work on resetting the bar with a new vision.

They had previously closed off the area where the bands usually play on the north side of the bar and did some preliminary work on the building in May and built the new bar and did some construction. But since the end of May, they closed the rest down and are now just four days away from a Friday reopening.

"We didn't know how soon we were going to do it. We wanted to make sure we could make some money first. Turns out things were going well and we decided to pull the trigger," Holtkamp said.

Meller said he had to sell the idea to his wife, so the three couples went out for dinner and talked about the business model and future visions for the location.

"We knew we wanted to move the bar. We didn't know how, but we knew it had to be moved. We had some good ideas and taped it out on the floor and looked at it and went back forth on it," Meller said.

"Then we went to Nashville on a rodeo trip and noticed all the bars had an island set up. This one was too, but it wasn't workable and we came back and said, 'We gotta do something like that. Your line of sight is better and you can converse with anyone at the bar.'"

Now the bar is set up on the north side in a square that seats about 30 people in an open floor plan.

"This building's been around since 1900 at least. We got a picture from 1905 that's a panoramic and it shows one Model T Ford and then horse and buggies were pulled up to the businesses that used to be in this building."

Meller said the building was originally used by the railroad to observe track activity. Which is part of the reason for the new name. Umthun's family were railroad workers, as well. So Rail Yard seemed to stick.

Pool tables will be moved back in before Friday because the Rail Yard will still sponsor about four pool teams. Other table games will also be available.

Umthun said it's a full business venture despite the fact

that the three made the Old E and Kinnick South a regular stopping point.

He said he regularly flirted with the previous owners about selling the bar.

"Well, guess it all kinda started with me and Bobby joking with them about selling the place. And they finally approached us, I guess it was last summer," Umthun said.

"I knew he would be on board and then we had to talk Scott's wife into it. She saw the numbers and it made sense so here we are."

He said the group immediately began kicking around ideas on what the space could be and the sports bar theme.

"I always kinda had ideas. I never understood that wall there behind the bar. I just wanted it to be one big space like it is now," Umthun said.

Holtkamp and Meller both work and run family businesses, but Umthun works for Mohrfeld Solar and hasn't owned his own business before.

"Working with these guys, they know what to do and handle the books. They know that stuff, I'm just the bystander. A third of it's mine, but Bobby handles the books. I always thought it was a cool idea to own a bar with your buddies. We always kind of hung out here, but now it's a business at the end of the day," he said.

"And you can't be your best customer in the bar business."

Holtkamp said the majority of the renovations will be completed by this week and a re-opening celebration is in the works for Friday with specials and Coal Haus pizza will be on site prepping pizza for patrons.

There won't be an active kitchen on site for food service, however Holtkamp said there will be a convection oven for bar-type food and snacks.

Bands will also be a regular part of the business and they will now play on what was originally the stage on the elevated platform on the south end.

Hours will be from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday-Saturday will be 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Sunday noon to 11 p.m. Special hours will be scheduled for early Iowa football games and those kind of things.

Panel moves away from marina

LCHD - Continued from Page 1

potential for a Community Development Block Grant that would be in the \$570,000 range. Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission would assist with that grant application.

The county would also have some limited ability to bond for the remaining costs without going to vote for additional funding.

The property is being donated to the county by the Glen Meller family, with the caveat that it be used for public purposes. The county has also agreed to put the Meller name on the building.

But the property is in an urban renewal district, which would allow the county to bond for the remaining funding without going to a referendum. However the bonded amount would hit the county's debt service tax levy.

If the CDBG is successful, that would give the county \$4.27 million to build with an additional \$750,000 to \$1.2 million needed to complete the project.

The move means that all other applications for funding would be set back. The committee would keep the

applications on file, but short of the county securing additional funding for the project through grants or other debt service, all the funds would be allocated.

That includes leaving a \$250,000 contribution to the Fort Madison Marina project off the list of allocations.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, who serves on the ARPA committee, made a motion to not use any ARPA funds on the marina project which was approved 4-1 with Seyb voting against the measure.

Fraise and County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom, who also is a voting member of the committee, agreed that the county could find \$100,000 in the general fund over the next five years to commit to the marina project.

The county tabled the contribution at last week's Board of Supervisors' meeting where Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld updated the county on the project.

"We just can't put any more burden on the taxpayers. It's just too difficult for everyone right now," Fraise said.

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11:00-11:30

- **Ft Madison High School**
by pool 20th St. & Ave C
- **Victory Park**
23rd St & Ave G

11:30-12:00

- **Salvation Army**
1415 Ave M
(south side)

12:00-12:30

- **Lincoln Elementary**
14th St & Ave E
- **Richardson Elementary**
34th St & Ave L



July 1st – August 5th

(no meals July 4th)



Sit & Eat Service – Monday thru Friday

10:45-11:05

- **Lincoln Elem**
34th St & Ave E
(playground)

11:50-12:10

- **Victory Park**
23rd St & Ave F
(playground)

11:00-11:30

- **ECC**
23rd & Ave J
No meals July 4-8

1:00-1:20

- **Salvation Army**
1415 Ave M
(south side)

11:15-11:35

- **FM High School**
20th St & Ave C
(by pool)

12:30-12:50

- **Richardson Elem**
33rd St & Ave L
(playground)

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