

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 | 6 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 183



www.pencitycurrent.com

HTC girls advance



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Senior Natalie Randolph leads a rally session with the Crusaders in the second set Tuesday in the Class 1A quarterfinals of the IGHS AU State Volleyball Tournament in Coralville.

BOYDEN-HULL NEXT: HTC advances to semis with three-set sweep of Don Bosco

JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

CORALVILLE — Xstream Arena's bright lights can even affect the most experienced team.

But Holy Trinity has been built for this big stage, and the Crusaders shook off some early nerves to advance in the Class 1A state volleyball tournament.

The third-seeded Crusaders swept Don Bosco 25-21, 25-17, 25-21 in Tuesday's quarterfinal.

Holy Trinity (32-10) will play second seed Boyden-Hull (22-11)

in Wednesday's 6:25 p.m. semifinal.

The Crusaders are making their third consecutive state tournament appearance, but they showed some early jitters, falling behind 10-2 in the first set.

"You never know how we're going to respond to things when we step on the court here," Holy Trinity coach Melissa Freesmeier said. "It was nerves. We made a lot of mistakes."

"It's a new stage, a bigger stage," senior Mary Kate Bendlage said. "So the nerves got to us the first couple of points."

But the Crusaders didn't get this far by being a team that stays

See STATE, page 4

MARINA UPDATE

Green Oak gives glimpse at new marina hospitality center

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A drive eastbound on Avenue H on the east end of Fort Madison has provided an exterior look at what's happening with the city's \$14 million marina renovation.

But last week stakeholders in the project, including Mayor Matt Mohrfeld and Green Oak Development CEO Michael Mohrfeld, gave an up-close look at the project that's just about six months from completion.

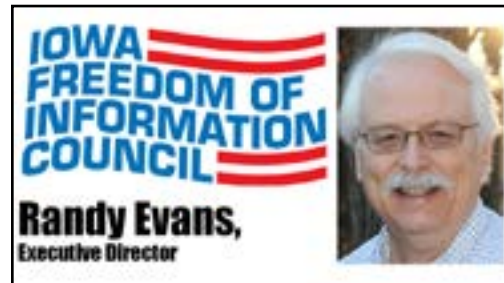
Green Oak Development of Fort Madison is the general contractor on the hospitality center project.

The for-profit venture that includes the hospitality center currently under construction is planned to open when boating season kicks off in the spring of 2024, Michael Mohrfeld said.

Mayor Mohrfeld touted the success of

See MARINA, page 6

EDITORIAL



Inconvenience in the way of the right thing

Veterans Day is around the corner. For John and Bob, the day will be for remembering the men and women who serve in the United States military — and for two service members, in particular.

For John, it will be his son, Robert, a Marine lieutenant who will forever be 29 years old. For Bob, it will be his father, Karl, forever the face on treasured family photographs of a handsome 26-year-old Army captain.

John and Bob are patriots through and through. They are not big-government fanatics. They have something else in common, too. They both believe the American people should never forget the ultimate sacrifice paid by members of the U.S. military, and that is a reason they are disappointed with a decision made by the government they love.

They believe the federal government has made a terrible, insensitive mistake by walking away from a pledge to the families of our war dead after World War II — to make it convenient for Gold Star families to remember their 234,000 loved ones who are interred or commemorated in 26 military cemeteries and memorials in more than a dozen foreign countries.

In the years after World War II — until 2015, that is — the families of those Americans could mail a check to a government office in Washington, D.C., to pay for flowers that would be placed at the graves of veterans like Bob Holliday's father.

Karl Holliday, a farm kid from Wayne County, was killed by German gunfire

See EVANS, page 2

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WEATHER

WED 01 Nov.....Mostly sunny, chilly, 42° F/ 30° F ☀️
THU 02 Nov.....Mostly sunny, cool, 52° F/ 35° F ☀️
FRI 03 Nov.....Partly sunny, cool, 57° F/ 45° F ☀️

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 11/30.....11 28 43 49 50, Star Ball: 4 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 11/30.....3 6 12 14 17, Lucky Ball: 18
PICK 3 MIDDAY 11/30.....4 2 3
PICK 3 EVENING 11/30.....6 1 7
PICK 4 MIDDAY 11/30.....0 2 8 5
PICK 4 EVENING 11/30.....6 7 0 4
POWERBALL 11/30.....19 22 34 66 69, Powerball: 5 Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL R. BEALL

Michael R. Beall, 46, of Keokuk, IA, passed away on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 6:15 PM at Blessing Hospital and Clinic in Quincy, IL.

He was born on September 8, 1977 in Ft. Madison to Marion "Mike" and Sherri Miller Beall. Mike was a cook at several places in the area including Fat Jimmy's. He was also a bounty hunter in Tennessee and a caregiver for his brother, Aaron and his girlfriend Rachel. Mike enjoyed gardening and canning and was a medicine man and member of the Standing Bear Council.



BEALL

Survivors include his mother, Sherri Beall of Keokuk; his father, Mike Beall of Ft. Madison; his daughter, Avielee of North Carolina and his special friend, Debbie Packer of Seymour, TN. Mike was preceded in death by his grandparents.

A service will be held on Friday, November 3, 2023 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory at 1 PM and performed by the Standing Bear Council. There will be a carry in dinner following the service at the Odd Fellows in Keokuk at 18th and Blondeau Street. Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City 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. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

Monument commission erred in military gravesite decision

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

in April 1945 during the closing weeks of the war in Europe. Bob was 19 months old, too young to have memories of his father. There was no grave to visit in Iowa, because his father was buried with 8,000 other men at the American cemetery outside Margraten, Netherlands.

Now 80 years old, Bob Holliday has brought a bulldog's tenacity to his quest to get the federal government to reinstate the discontinued floral program. He has led a contingent of people from across the nation

who lost a parent in World War II. They have enlisted former military leaders to help — people like retired Marine Corps Gen. John Kelly, whom you may remember as the secretary of Homeland Security and White House chief of staff under President Trump.

Kelly has a special bond with people like Bob Holliday. Kelly's youngest son, 1st Lt. Robert Kelly, was killed in Afghanistan in November 2010 when he stepped on a hidden explosive while leading a Marine patrol.

The chaos of World War II did not allow Karl Holliday's body to be returned to the United States for burial near the family farm outside of Promise City. The body of Robert Kelly was brought back to the United States and now rests at Arlington National Cemetery.

In the months after his son's death, Kelly told an audience, "Gold Star families are special, to say the least. They don't ask for much."

But in a federal budget that totals \$6 trillion (with a T), it was too expensive and too inconvenient for the government to handle the flower purchases families wanted to make for those resting in burial grounds in places like the Netherlands or above the D-Day beaches in France.

Three times a year for 40 years, Holliday bought flowers through the program for his father's grave. That ended when officials at the American Battle Monuments Commission, the government agency that tends these military cemeteries, decided the flower program had become a burden.

It was taking too much employee time.

Besides, most buyers

wanted to pay by credit card, and the agency said it is not set up to accept credit cards — even though every facet of American life, from income taxes to parking meters, can be paid by credit card now.

The government's decision angers Holliday, a recently retired West Des Moines lawyer — just as it angers General Kelly.

"Those people buried in those cemeteries, most in their 20s, they died for us and they died for our government," Holliday told a reporter. "Don't walk away from that."

With a jab at the supposed staff burden the flower program created, Holliday added, "You know how many man-hours I've spent thinking about my dad and what he could have been like? Don't talk to me about manhours."

Kelly's feelings are as strong, though more diplomatic.

In a recent column in the Boston Globe, he discussed the floral program and the American Battle Monuments Commission: "The Gold Star families, friends, and next generations growing up here, an ocean away from their loved ones overseas, deserve that support. It's efficient and the right thing to do. Plus, it's their job."

John J. Pershing, the most famous American general during World War I, once said of the war dead who fill our overseas cemeteries, "Time will not dim the story of their deeds."

But time appears to have dimmed the willingness of government officials to bear a bit of inconvenience to get flowers from families of the loved ones beneath those white grave markers.

Randy Evans can be reached at DMRev-ans2810@gmail.com.

BACK PAIN?

Do You Have Hip Pain? Are You As Stiff As a Board When You Try to Get Up From a Chair? Have You Run Out of Hope?

How 5 Lies About Low BACK PAIN May Keep You Hurting, Frustrated & Exhausted...Forever!

NEW Scientific Breakthroughs Often Make Short Work of Low Back Pain...Just What Big Medical Centers and High Priced Clinics Are PRAYING You Never Figure Out On Your Own!

Hi, I'm Dr. Jason James, and if you've got any kind of back, hip or leg pain, your worries may be over in just a few minutes. Why? Because I'm the owner of James Healthcare & Assoc. clinic, and I've discovered what may be the best healing secrets for "bad backs" — EVER!



Dr. Jason James, D.C.

I'd be stupid to make such a claim if I couldn't back it up. But I am so confident we can help your back, I insist on giving you a 100% SATISFACTION PLEDGE at James Healthcare. I hate empty promises, and I also hate the lies most folks have been told about their backs. That's why it's important I expose these MYTHS about back pain.

MYTH #1: Sciatica (pain down your leg) is always caused by a herniated disc!

No way...even though most doctors will sell you a \$3,000 MRI at the first sign of leg pain. But they don't tell you about a 5-inch muscle in the hip that can squeeze the sciatic nerve. And it feels EXACTLY like you've got the worst slipped disc on earth. It's a major discovery and...

The good news is that it can be easy and inexpensive to correct! How? Just keep reading! But first, here's a picture to show you where the pain comes from:



MYTH #2: Stiffness from Arthritis means you're getting old...and it must be the reason for all your pain and stiffness!

Not true, because thousands of folks with arthritis in their backs have absolutely NO PAIN! Then why do YOU feel like your back will snap if you bend forward or twist too fast? Because the truth is:

Your stiffness may be caused by a hidden, even more dangerous problem than arthritis, and it can lead to a hip replacement!

You see, most folks believe that something mysterious (like maybe an "arthritis fairy?") waved a wand over them, and they're cursed... doomed to suffer forever.

But did you know that many arthritis problems are CAUSED by a combination of unseen imbalances in the spine and surrounding muscles? It's the most common cause of hip replacements but not that hard to correct if we catch it in time. It's like the tires on your car...

If the alignment is off just a teeny-weeny bit, at first you don't notice, but over a few thousand miles you start to see signs of wear...that is, if you're lucky enough to catch it before a flat on the freeway ruins your day. In your spine, you're lucky if you catch untreated imbalances before they ruin your spine! How to fix them? Just look at Myth #3.

MYTH #3: Your Back is "Out"!

Sure, that's exactly how it feels. But guess what, we found that's usually not the case. It sounds good, but we now know better. You see, there are 7 different reasons for that painful, locked-up and stuck feeling that causes so much misery:

- low-grade spasm
- pelvis torque and tension
- imbalance of hips

- fallen or dropped arches
- stiff vertebra joint
- adhesions in leg muscle
- pinched nerve

It's NOT just your spine, and it's NOT just your muscles. As a matter of fact, if one of the major muscles that stabilize the spine is partly spasmed, a "2nd stringer" will have to carry the load. But this is a serious problem...

It's like having your plumber doing all the dangerous electrical work!

Sure, he may get it done, and it may work at first, but how long until there's a fire? Or your back locks up? Which leads me to our next myth:

MYTH #4: "It's Only a Muscle!"

Boy, it's scary how many people think muscle problems are no big deal. Unfortunately, tight, bound-up, and spasmed or tight muscles can wear out joints faster than you can say, "Charley Horse!"

That's why it's important to examine the spine AT THE SAME TIME as the muscles that control it. It's also why we've had such outrageous success with even the worst backs at James Healthcare. Because we deal with BOTH the spine and muscles at the same time. We have spine doctors (chiropractors), pain doctors (nurse practitioners) and muscle professionals (therapists) and together they deliver an outstanding way to help "bad backs". This ties in to Myth #5 and the diagram:



MYTH #5: "Muscle Relaxants" will help your muscles heal! Good grief, NO!

Your muscles tighten up for a reason, and muscle relaxants are like turning back the clock on a time bomb...you know it's still going to blow up! Sure, you may feel better now, but you'll pay later...and pay "in spades"! So don't fall for these lies about your low back. They'll keep you hurting, frustrated and exhausted forever!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER:

Turn over in bed without pain waking you up?

Get up in the morning without being as stiff as a board?

Be able to stand for as long as you want without sitting down for relief?

Lean forward over the sink without that "stabbing" in your back or leg?

SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH:

A hidden muscle may be causing your SCIATICA! Does Your Back Seem "Too Old" for Your Own Body? Not everyone qualifies for treatment, so help us see if you do. If you check off even one box, drop what you're doing and call James Healthcare NOW. And bring this coupon when you come in for your 39-Point "Back-Pain Track-Down Exam". Now check off what describes you:

- Tension...always tight across the beltline
- Bent...crooked off to one side and can't stand up straight if your life depended on it
- Trigger Point...zinging pain to butt-cheek
- Stiff as a board...creak and groan when you first get out of bed in the morning
- Traitor...can't trust your back and what it's going to do — or when!
- Vice-like...constantly locked down tight!
- Shooting...vicious but short-lived
- Lumbago...hard to pin it down — just seems to hurt all the time, but it's right at say where
- One-sided...right at that "bone" on one side
- Jack hammer...pounding off and on like a heartbeat or a toothache in your back
- Aching from 1-5 years
- Chronic pain for over 5 years

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P.S. Why You MUST Not Wait! Because of appointment availability, we can only honor this \$27 offer or bringing in a new or gently used winter coat through October 31, 2022. So don't say, "Well, maybe I'll be better tomorrow." Don't put your life on hold. Don't call in sick again. Live your life pain free! Tie your own shoes for a change.

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"I broke my back when I was 41 years old and have had problems from then on, until June 2017. Dr. James gave me my life back! I have very few back problems now. It is great to be able to do my everyday duties without back problems." — Roger Kirchner

James Healthcare & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dr. Jason James, DC
Dr. Mack Kohnke, DC
Ashley Neuweg, ARNP
612 MAIN STREET • KEOKUK, IA

319-524-3339

Got a news tip?

Call Chuck
(319)371.1670

or submit it online at www.PenCityCurrent.com

Education News/Iowa News

Three inducted into Central Lee Hall of Fame

DONNELSON, IOWA — The Central Lee Community School District has inducted three new members to its Academic Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2023.

This year, the Academic Hall of Fame honors a Central Lee class of 1992 graduate, a Montrose High School class of 1955 graduate, and a long-time Central Lee educator. Each of the inductees has left an indelible mark on the district and the broader community.



BURGIN



TWEEDY



JUNKINS

“Our Academic Hall of Fame inductees have made a lasting impact within Central Lee and beyond,” said Dr. Andy Crozier, Central Lee Superintendent. “We are privileged to recognize these outstanding individuals, including two graduates with impressive careers and an educator who continues to make significant contributions in our community.”

Inductee Judith Burgin dedicated 38 years as a Central Lee educator, teaching both Spanish and English. In addition to her teaching duties, Burgin served as an advisor to the Spanish Club, directed the senior class play for several years, and acted

as a volunteer liaison for foreign exchange students. She emphasized real-world experience by frequently studying abroad, encouraging students to broaden their horizons beyond southeast Iowa.

During her tenure, Burgin provided students with unique opportunities, including attending Spanish plays and achieving success in the Iowa AATSP contests held at Central College in Pella. She also organized trips to museums in Chicago and multiple excursions to Mexico. Burgin’s students, in turn, gave back to the community by tutoring younger students in Spanish and volunteering in the Salvation Army’s Christmas Bucket Drive.

Jerry Junkins, posthumously inducted this year, was a 1955 graduate of Montrose High School who went on to become the president, chairman, and CEO of Texas Instruments (TI) from 1988 until his passing in 1996. Junkins, who was the salutatorian of his high school class and married the class valedictorian, Sally Schevers, graduated from Iowa State University in 1959 with a degree in electrical engineering. After relocating to Dallas, he joined Texas Instruments while pursuing a master’s degree in engineering administration.

During Junkin’s leadership at TI, the company’s sales doubled from \$6 billion to \$13 billion, and the defense business under his guidance earned the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Junkins was also a fervent advocate for educa-

tion reform and played a key role in the creation of Head Start programs in Texas schools.

Throughout his career, Junkins received numerous accolades for his contributions to education, including having the Jerry R. Junkins Elementary School in Dallas named in his honor. Iowa State University established the endowed Jerry R. Junkins Chair position in 1996 to annually honor an outstanding engineering professor.

A graduate of the Central Lee class of 1992, Phil Tweedy distinguished himself as a high-achieving student during his high school years. His accolades included winning the Physics Bowl, receiving the Outstanding Senior Science Student award, and earning the Presidential Academic Fitness Award. Additionally, Tweedy was a part of the 1989 Iowa State Baseball All-Tournament Team, and his FFA team achieved gold at the state convention.

Tweedy graduated magna cum laude with a degree in chemistry from Monmouth College, where he excelled as a three-year Academic All-Conference 1st baseman for the Fighting Scots. He later obtained a medical degree from the University of Iowa, where he actively participated in the Medical School Ambassador Program and served as the President of the Internal Medicine Interest Group from 1999 to 2000.

Currently, Tweedy serves as an inter-

nal medicine doctor and primary care consultant, known for his contributions to coaching, mentoring, and community leadership. He has been involved in coaching youth baseball, YMCA flag football, and Upwards basketball, as well as hosting students for job shadows in his office. Tweedy resides in Hannibal with his wife, Tory, and their sons.

The Academic Hall of Fame was established as a platform to honor, preserve, and celebrate Central Lee’s rich history and its tradition of academic excellence. It highlights the significance of high-achieving graduates and former staff members who left a lasting impact on the school community during their time at Central Lee.

Community members, families, staff, and alumni are encouraged to nominate individuals for Hall of Fame recognition. To be eligible for nomination, individuals must have graduated from Central Lee schools or have been a staff member and should be at least five years removed from their association with the district. A committee reviews all nominations and determines each year’s inductees. Central Lee also has Athletic and Fine Arts Halls of Fame.

The Central Lee Community School District’s Hall of Fame ceremony to honor the 2022 and 2023 inductees will take place on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Central Lee High School.

Gov. puts \$6.5M more into Destination Iowa fund

DES MOINES – Monday, Gov. Reynolds announced a new \$6.5 million investment in communities to bolster tourism and quality of life through Destination Iowa. The grant initiative, which launched in 2022 with federal funding, became a state-funded initiative following approval from the Iowa legislature this year.

“Destination Iowa has inspired communities statewide to dream big about projects that will give tourists a reason to explore and newcomers a reason to call Iowa home,” Governor

Reynolds said. “This initiative has advanced 46 projects across the state so far, activating more than \$480 million in total investment. Support from the state will open this opportunity for even more communities to boost tourism and quality of life while raising the profile of our state.”

The IEDA Board approved the Destination Iowa program guidelines and procedures at its monthly board last Friday. Funds will be awarded to projects investing in vertical infrastructure such as land acquisition and construction, recreational trails and water

trails. The goal is for Iowa communities to make strategic investments that create or support lasting opportunities to attract visitors and enhance quality of life amenities for residents, thereby boosting local economies and attracting talent.

Priority will be given to applicants that have not been awarded money from the federally funded Destination Iowa fund or other programs intended to support community attraction and tourism projects after July 1, 2018. Eligible applicants include cities, counties and not-for-profit organizations.

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P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

From the Front

Bendlage leads HTC with 11 kills

STATE - Continued from Page 1

rattled. And it turned out the player with the least experience of all got them going.

Freshman Adalyn Kruse's block with Holy Trinity down 11-6 was part of a five-point run that whittled Don Bosco's lead.

"We had a big block from Adalyn, and that really lit a fire under us," Bendlage said.

Kruse, for her part, admitted to her own jitters.

"I was very nervous for myself," she said. "But I learned how to calm myself and just play."

The Crusaders just kept chipping at the Dons. A 6-0 run gave them an 18-16 lead, and then scored the final four points of the set — three coming from Bendlage kills — to take control of the match.

"I just think we came together and we were like, 'Let's just stop making the mistakes and start playing our game,'" said senior Natalie Randolph. "I think the nerves definitely started to die down and we just came together. We realized we had been in this position and we can come out of it, and I

think that definitely helped us."

Freesmeier said the Crusaders had learned from matches earlier in the season, when they had been tested in the SEI Superconference's South Division.

"Earlier in the season, we would have allowed those mistakes to define us," Freesmeier said. "Tonight, we didn't. I told them that you can't get all of those points back in one swing. Just play one point at a time."

Holy Trinity stayed in command in the second set, using a seven-point run to take an 11-5 lead. That left Don Bosco chasing points.

The Dons were within 18-14 before two kills by Kruse ended any momentum.

"She came in there and had some big blocks for us," Freesmeier said of Kruse, who had seven kills and nine digs. "Sometimes teams forget about her as that second middle (hitter) behind Presley (Myers), but she was huge for us tonight."

"It feels really great, because I didn't expect myself to do so good this season,

just being a freshman," Kruse said. "So it really feels good."

Don Bosco didn't go away in the third set. Holy Trinity's biggest lead was 18-13, then the Dons rallied to get within 23-21. Kruse's tip set up match point, then the Crusaders finished the win.

The victory was big for Randolph, who missed all of last season with a knee injury. She had nine kills in this match, along with 12 assists and 14 digs.

"Last year sitting on the sidelines, it wasn't any fun," Randolph said. "Being back on this court, getting a chance to play, that was just great."

One match down, the Crusaders feel like they're settled in to stay a little longer.

"I think we're going to be able to come in tomorrow nerve-free," Bendlage said. "We know what we're capable of, and we'll be ready to go."

HOLY TRINITY STATISTICS
 Kills — Mary Kate Bendlage 11, Natalie Randolph 9, Presley Myers 9, Adalyn Kruse 7, Taegan Denning 3, Anna Bendlage 3.
 Assists — A. Bendlage 19, Randolph 12, MK Bendlage 4, Teagan Snaadt 3.
 Digs — Snaadt 19, Randolph 14, Denning 12, Kruse 9, A. Bendlage 9, MK Bendlage 8, Myers 6.
 Blocks — Myers 2, Kruse 1 ½, Randolph 1 ½, Bendlage 1



Senior Mary Kate Bendlage gives her sister Anna a squeeze after Anna scored on a kill in the third set Tuesday night.

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Lunch Specials
Oct 30 - Nov 3
11am - 1pm

Monday, October 30
Spaghetti, Cottage Cheese, Garlic Bread

Tuesday, October 31
Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn

Wednesday, November 1
Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Applesauce

Thursday, November 2
Fried Chicken Dinners

Friday, November 3
Tuna & Noodles, Blueberry Fluff

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
Meeting of the SIREPA Board of Directors
November 1, 2023
3:00pm – 4:00pm
Via Zoom
Call-In: (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 793 665 7959
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7936657959>

Agenda

1. Call to Order, Chair (Hickey):
Roll Call:

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY
 SECONDARY ROADS
 HELP WANTED
ENGINEERING RECORDS MANAGER

Lee County is taking applications for an Engineering Records Manager, to work at the Lee County Engineer's Office in Fort Madison. Duties will include secretarial tasks and general office support skills, including computer database, record keeping, and software skills. The position requires attention to payroll, benefits, and personnel matters. Requires a High School graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and an Associate of Arts Degree, preferably in Business and/or High School diploma (GED) with 5 years of experience in accounting/general clerical and personal computer knowledge of Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, and accounting software. The wage range is \$21.74 to \$24.60.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, or disability.

For job descriptions and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org/employment.aspx, or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Lee County Engineer Office at (319) 372-2541 or email them at engineer@leecounty.org.



- a. Director Mike Hickey, Chair
 - b. Director, Bob Dodds, Vice-Chair
 - c. Director, Bruce Hardy, Secretary/Treasurer
 - d. Director Michael Dunn
 - e. Director Denise Boyer
 - f. Director Jack Smith
 - g. Ex-Officio, Garry Seyb, Lee County Supervisor
 - h. Ex-Officio, Tom Schultz, Lee County Supervisor
 - i. Ex-Officio, Matt Larson, State Treasurer's Office
- II. Agenda of November 1, 2023 Meeting (Board Action)
 III. July 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Board Action)
 IV. Financial Report
 V. Lee County Broadband Expansion Contract Documents with Danville Mutual Telephone Company (Board Action)
 VI. Matters from the Floor
 VII. Adjourn (Board Action)

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE
CENTRAL LEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625
(HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 107)
NOVEMBER 8, 2023
WORK SESSION
5:30 P.M.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Building Reports:
 - a) Elementary
 - b) Middle School
 - c) High School
3. Adjourn

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From the Front

Sweds to set up restaurant at Marina

MARINA - Continued from Page 1

the public/private partnership in bringing the Fort Madison Marina to fruition. He said the city's commitment of \$1.5 million in seed money to the reconstruction of the marina itself, was crucial in leveraging the rest of the money privately. The city's portion was part of the funding needed to rebuild the physical marina. The hospitality center is being funded totally by the private for-profit group that will run the facility.

The city leased the marina entirely to the non-profit charitable group Southeast Iowa Aquatic Restoration Group for one dollar per year. The 501c3 is run by a board of directors that includes Andrew McFall, local realtor Kara Morrow, Bob Huffman of Huffman Welding & Mfg representing Fort Madison Economic Development, and Mayor Morhfeld. Since that time, Steve Link, Michael Mohrfeld, and Bob Schierbrock of Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, have been added to the board of directors.

The address listed for the Aquatic Group by the Secretary of State's office is Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E.

The group was incorporated on May 10, 2021 and has a 25-year lease with the city. The current agreement allows for another 25-year extension. The city is the landlord of the marina property, including the refurbished park and all properties along the riverfront, and maintains ownership of all assets and improvements.

The Aquatic group has exclusive rights to the Marina facility under the terms of the lease, but non-exclusive use of all other common areas. The lease gives the Aquatic group authority to renovate, develop, operate, and manage the marina, including boat docks, fuel docks, and food and beverage services, entertainment facilities, marine retail and repair businesses, and other services relating to the operation of the marina. The group is also responsible for all utilities and services on the property, and all insurances.

The lease agreement is signed by Matt Mohrfeld on behalf of both entities as Mayor of Fort Madison, and as President of Southeast Iowa Aquatic Group, Inc.

The Aquatic Group has entered into a lease with the for-profit private group that will own and operate the restaurant and bar area. The stakeholders at the tour on Thursday couldn't provide the name of that private entity. That agreement has not been made available to the public, but is a private agreement between a for-profit and a non-profit and not subject to Iowa open records laws.

Chris and Maddie Swed were announced Thursday as the operators of the center to include the event center, restaurant, and bar. The couple already operate Swed & Co. Coffee and the Fox Theater in downtown Fort Madison.

Chris said he didn't feel stretched too thin taking on another operation in town, but said it took more than a month to agree to become the operator.

"I think from the moment we saw the original renderings of what the marina was going to become, we immediately perked up



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Michael Mohrfeld of Green Oak Development talks with visitors at the Fort Madison Marina's hospitality center that is currently under construction. Mohrfeld said the project should be completed by the spring of 2024. Chris Swed and his family, on the left, were the chosen as operators of the new facility.

as seeing this as something that will change the direction of the town. Bringing some life back to our riverfront," he said.

"For the eight years we've been here, the riverfront has always been one of our favorite places to go as a family and spend time outside. We're excited to play a role and bring good food, drinks, and atmosphere."

Swed said he didn't want to reveal much about the menu and the operations of the restaurant, but did say they are looking at upscale bar food and more traditional dinner options. Hours and staffing are to be determined at a later date.

Attracting good workers has been a concern locally since the pandemic put everyone at home, but Swed said creating a fun environment in which to work, and also having the wonderful location and view and unique nature of the facility, will help bring in a solid staff.

"I anticipate being able to find people who see this as a place they want to work. And then we can continue to facilitate that work environment that you want to keep working at. It's something we've definitely given a lot of thought to."

He said the new restaurant will fill a need in Fort Madison proper, but he thinks it will pull in people from all around the area.

"It's an absolute destination and that's what we're so excited about," he said.

Glass garage doors will be installed that can be opened on the south side of the center to 6,500 square feet of patio space with gas fire pits. Michael Mohrfeld said small bands or one-man bands can set up and play while people are eating or gathering on the patio.

Mohrfeld addressed the potential of flooding of the property.

"1993 and 2008 are noted as the largest floods Fort Madison's seen and, right now, we're standing two feet above that mark," he said standing out on the new patio. "Two feet doesn't sound like a lot, but I can tell you that we're standing at where Casey's is, so if Casey's floods, we're in trouble."

He said this spring there was some considerable flooding and the new park was four or five feet out of that flooding.

"We don't envision flooding being an issue with the building, and the park is well above the 100-year flood plain," he said.

The marina now holds 172 boats, almost doubling previous capacity. While giving the tour, a larger boat moving up the river pulled into the marina and gassed up for the next leg of the excursion.

"Guys, that's a boat that would not have gotten in here four years ago," Michael said. "We were down to pontoon boats not being able to get in here. That boat needs three and a half, four feet of water draft to get in here. So just getting that boat in here is a big deal. Next year those boaters will be able to come in, use the restroom, shower facilities, and then of course, have access to a full kitchen."

The northwest corner will be a large marina sales room, which is next to the public access on the north side.

On the west end of the 12,000 square foot facility will be an event center that could be rented out for parties, weddings, graduations, etc, with an open south view that looks out over Pool 19, the newly completed recreational trail/jetty wall, and one of the best views of the only double decker swingspan bridge in the country.

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