



Nautical by Nature

RAGBRAI Iowa Falls committee unveils logo

The volunteers in charge of planning RAGBRAI's overnight stop in Iowa Falls this summer are working on details of the July 27 event. One of those details - the logo that will set the tone for the Scenic City's hosting duties - was unveiled Friday.

The logo uses the overnight stop's theme, Nautical by Nature, a nod to the town's proximity to the Iowa River with a play on the name of the hip hop group Naughty by Nature.

Organizers of the overnight stop are also working on recruiting more volunteers to help with planning and staffing the July 27 event. They will host an April event similar to "speed dating." Prospective volunteers are invited to walk through a line of needs for volunteers and sign their names in the area or areas that interest them the most - everything from campgrounds and food, to hospitality and the beverage garden.

The volunteer sign-up will be held at Timbukbru Brewery (819 Washington Ave.) in Iowa Falls on Monday, April 19, from 6 to 9 p.m. In addition to volunteer sign-ups, there will be drawings every 30 minutes to award a free beverage of choice. All ages are welcome to attend and to volunteer for RAGBRAI.

Those who cannot attend the April 19 event, but still want to help, should contact Michelle Nederhoff at mnederhoff@relion-ins.com or call 641-648-6684. ■



Jim Stotser speaks during a public meeting of the Iowa Falls School Board and the district's Facilities Study Committee at Iowa Falls-Alden High School on Monday, March 29, 2021.

NEXT STEPS

Iowa Falls School Board, committee, public mull bond project's future

BY SARA KONRAD BARANOWSKI | skonrad@iafalls.com

The merits and deficiencies of the plan at the heart of the Iowa Falls School District's failed March 2 bond referendum were debated on Monday night as supporters and opponents of the project met to discuss what can and should be done moving forward.

If it had passed, the referendum would have given the district permission to issue \$28.5 million in bonds to fund the construction of a new elementary school off the southwest corner of Iowa Falls-Alden High School, replacing Pineview and Rock Run elementary schools, which are each more than 80 years old. Plans also included some improvements at the high school: new band and art rooms, a gymnasium, locker room renovations and an expanded shop. But the two questions on the ballot - each of which needed 60 percent approval plus one vote - fell 35 and 52 votes short, respectively.

SCHOOL BOND ... P2

Clinic Pharmacy employees Jacey Redman, a student pharmacist, and Kara Carr (back), a certified pharmacy technician, answer phone calls about COVID-19 vaccines.



PHOTOS BY SARA KONRAD BARANOWSKI / TIMES CITIZEN

CDC shipments boost local vaccine supply

Clinic Pharmacy receives hundreds of doses of J&J COVID vaccine

BY SARA KONRAD BARANOWSKI | skonrad@iafalls.com

The hours are long and the phone calls are many, but despite the work involved with distributing 900 COVID-19 vaccines, the staff at Clinic Pharmacy in Iowa Falls are on cloud nine.

Last week, after months of emails and phone calls, requests and follow-ups, Clinic Pharmacy received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine: 400 doses of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The pharmacy was able to act immediately and distribute enough shots in the first three days, that on Wednesday this week, it received another 500 doses.

"I didn't believe it," Clinic Pharmacy owner Colette Venteicher, RPh, said.

Coordinating the distribution of 900 vaccine doses is no small job, but Clinic Pharmacy has been preparing for this for months.

Venteicher has been pleading with local and state public health agencies, the federal government and her franchisor, Health Mart, to receive an allotment of vaccine



Jane McClellan, RPh, of Clinic Pharmacy, speaks with a person about the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine he had just received on Wednesday, March 31.

doses. Last year, she filed paperwork with the federal government to qualify to administer COVID-19 vaccine shots. She and her staff spent weeks building a list of clients who were desperate to be vaccinated, and they installed a refrigerator specifically to hold vials of vaccine, equipping it with an alert system to guarantee the doses would be safe from temperature fluctuations. But until last week, the pharmacy remained shut out.

“Every vaccinator here, everyone who’s been a part of it, we’re not tired. We’re ecstatic. We’re giddy. We want to do more.”

COLETTE VENTEICHER RPh, Clinic Pharmacy owner

Since December, the bulk of the COVID-19 vaccine doses sent by the Iowa Department of Public Health to Hardin County Public Health - all of which are the Moderna vaccine - have been distributed by Medicap Pharmacy in Eldora. Since February, the county has received 300 doses per week. In the past month, HyVee Pharmacy in Iowa Falls and NuCara Pharmacy in Ackley have also received doses of vaccine from the federal government. Clinic Pharmacy's allotment of vaccine are the first Johnson & Johnson doses sent to Hardin County. And unlike the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, which require a second booster shot after 28 and 21 days, respectively, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only one shot. That feature has proven to be popular.

"I had people from Clive, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, all surrounding counties, word of mouth has spread," Venteicher said Wednesday. "Some are teachers, some are health care workers who opted out the first time [they were offered the vaccine] because they wanted one shot."

COVID VACCINES ... P2

New Face of Parks and Rec

Niedert anxious to put her stamp on department

BY JUSTIN ITES | ites@iafalls.com

Karlie Niedert considered the circumstances of her graduation from the University of Northern Iowa in the spring of 2020 to be bad timing.

The arrival of the novel coronavirus in Iowa, and the related shutdowns meant job openings weren't plentiful.

The Independence native found work in Waterloo until an opportunity to join the Iowa Falls Parks and Recreation Department presented itself.

Niedert recently completed her first week as recreation supervisor for the department, replacing Mark Schulz, who joined the department in 2020 and resigned about a year later.

While Niedert said she knows a few people in the Scenic City, her first priority is to learn more about the community and to meet as many people as she can. She's also relying heavily on the knowledge of Chris Kuhnle, who is the head of the Parks and Rec Department.

"This community is an ideal size," Niedert said last week. "It's a little bit bigger than Independence, but just really getting to know people and what they expect out of our programs. For



JUSTIN ITES / TIMES CITIZEN

Karlie Niedert recently joined the City of Iowa Falls as its new recreation supervisor. The Independence native and University of Northern Iowa graduate said she's excited to bring fresh ideas to the department.

me, I want to give kids the experience I was given when I was in parks and rec. The fun and what they can learn from the games."

Following her high school graduation, Niedert attended NIACC in Mason City for two years before moving on to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She didn't enjoy Wisconsin, which led to a change in her major and a transfer to the University of Northern Iowa. Majoring in leisure youth and human services, she chose to concentrate in the community recreation sector of that department.

"When I graduated, it was frustrating because there was not a lot open (job opportunities) due to the pandemic. No one was hiring, so I started working for VGM Fulfillment, but then this job opened up and I was fortunate enough to interview and get it," Niedert said.

One of her primary goals is to encourage community members and kids in the area to remain physically active. That means she will be at the forefront of planning activities, as well as bringing fresh ideas to the department.

NIEDERT PARKS & REC ... P2