



Mike Putz • Staff Photo

From left, Central Elkader instructor Ryan Bergan and students Caden Erickson, Elliot Kelly and Dan McGreal visit with Cascade Manufacturing plant manager Adam Ruley and designer Bret Hardersen.

Cascade business part of skilled trades event

BY MIKE PUTZ
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A Cascade business was among a large contingency of companies represented at a High Demand Skilled Trades event for area high school students, Feb. 7, in Edgewood.

Cascade Manufacturing Company took part in the event that brought 10 area high schools to not only talk with employers in the skilled trades but also to try their hand at something they could find themselves doing if they were employed by that company.

Students could make and cook their own bratwursts at the Edgewood Locker booth, do some virtual welding at the Henderson Products booth, or run an excavator at a construction equipment operator mobile simulator.

Held at Kendrick Forest Products, the event was sponsored by Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) and Delaware County Economic Development.

NICC Manchester Center Director Jodi Ehlers said the event was an offshoot of a similar event held in Decorah in past years.

"Our schools in the south part of the NICC area needed something closer," she said. "Fortunately, Kendrick Forest Products has a building big enough and were willing to share it with us."

Ehlers said 17 businesses set up booths,



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had to be exploratory."

During a question and answer period at lunch, business representatives agreed they want workers who have positive attitudes, will show up for work and have the interpersonal skills to work with others. All agreed young people have great opportunities working in the high demand, skilled trades.

Will Noonan, human resource manager at Cascade Manufacturing, said the event was an opportunity to tell students about the company.

"We are looking to put ourselves out in front of students at something like this," he said. "We want to basically show them what kind of opportunities are available. The good part about this event is that it is hands-on, so we are explaining some career paths within our company, such as drafting and design, truss production and assembly and becoming a driver."

with the stipulation all needed hands-on activities for students.

"This wasn't just a career fair where students walk around, talk to businesses and pick up a brochure. This had to be a high-demand career, had to be associated with the trades and



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the surrounding communities. I think students are benefitting from this."

Director of Operations, Joe Noonan, said students learned some of what goes into making a truss. "I think people don't always know what goes into it. It's an engineered product. But once you get into the actual manufacturing environment, we have a lot of automation, so there's a lot of working with computerized saws cutting our lumber. The assembling of our trusses has some automated equipment, so this is showing students this isn't something that magically shows up at a job site, that there is a lot that is required from start to finish."

Joe Noonan said the company has hired 16-to-17-year-olds in some limited manufacturing roles. "That has been very successful for us. But also post high school, if someone wants to make a career at Cascade Manufacturing, they absolutely can. There are a lot of opportunities."

He went on to say feedback from students was very positive.

"We saw faces light up," he said. "They enjoy the hands-on part of it and learning what kind of opportunities are available within our region and

Board awards contracts for track project, acknowledges Legacy contribution

BY MIKE PUTZ
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The Western Dubuque School Board awarded bids for the Western Dubuque High School track and field improvement project at its Feb. 13 meeting, as well as acknowledging a contribution toward the project from a non-profit group.

Plans call for field turf for the football field and a resurfacing of the track, with work to begin as soon as this spring's soccer season concludes.

Project costs are \$1.3 million. Tschiggfrie Excavating's bid of \$799,420 was accepted, which included \$137,000 for the track resurfacing, covered by the district. The bid for field turf and installation went to Field Turf USA for \$440,078.

The Bobcat Legacy Foundation contributed \$590,000 toward the football field turf project, with the school committing \$575,000 toward the turf, as well as agreeing to pay for any change orders that come with the project.

Bobcat Legacy Foundation President, Pat Hogrefe, said the foundation made its contribution now, despite the fact it needed to take out a loan for \$100,000 to cover the donation.

"We came up a bit short on fundraising, but because the bids came in so attractive, we needed to act now and get this done," he said. "This is just the first of many projects we hope to come in the future from the Foundation. We will continue to fundraise by reaching out to individu-

al donors and the public in general."

Hogrefe said anyone wishing to make a donation may go to www.bobcatlegacy.com or call him at 563-580-6474. Donations may also be sent to the Bobcat Legacy Foundation at P.O. Box 79, Peosta, IA. 52068.

Hogrefe said the Foundation also has a Facebook page, Bobcat Legacy Foundation. Updates on the project, including renditions of the turf project, may be found there.

The board also set Monday, March 13 as a public hearing on the 2023-2024 school calendars. The district is proposing two calendars — one for grades K-12 and another for preschool.

The K-12 calendar has Wednesday, Aug. 23 as the first day of classes, as well as scheduled one-hour early outs on Wednesdays for professional development and teacher work time. The final day of classes for students is scheduled for Thursday, May 23.

The preschool calendar proposal has students' first day of school Tuesday, Sept. 5. Preschool students attend four days a week, Monday through Thursday. The last day is also Thursday, May 23.

The board also held a public hearing on the proposed board director map based on the 2020 census. Following the hearing, the board approved the map, with minimal changes to the previous map, with the new map taking effect Saturday, July 1, 2023.

New Dubuque County attorney, treasurer make budget pitches

BY BENJAMIN FISHER
Telegraph Herald

Dubuque County's new county attorney and treasurer each recently offered budget proposals setting their own priorities for those departments.

The proposals from County Attorney Scott Nelson and County Treasurer Michael Clasen to the county Board of Supervisors come as that

body works to develop the county budget for the fiscal year starting July 1.

One of the county attorney's duties is to represent the county government in litigation and provide legal guidance to other elected officials, department heads and advisory boards and commissions. But the office currently has no one assigned specifically to that duty.

The previous county attorney,

C.J. May III, had a background in local government representation, so he handled all those duties and did not fill a civil attorney position that past county attorneys had tasked with county government duties.

County Supervisor Ann McDonough has asked Nelson to devote an assistant county attorney to that task.

"We are a rare county to not have dedicated civil advice for

all the sorts of things we are doing," she said. "We could use some focused help on many things."

During his presentation, Nelson said the county board would have to budget for a new position to fill that role.

"If that's what the board wants, I would ask for another \$100,000 on (expenses), so I can go out and find another

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GAZEBO: Funding will come from Parks Dept.

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up the construction area if they're not done yet for that."

The Gazebo's main features will be an open walk-in on the west side facing the park, limestone to match the amphitheater, a gable roof, railing facing the river and stonewalls on the north, south and west.

It will fit three park benches and the electricity will come from the park amphitheater.

Funding for the construction will be taken from the city's Parks Department. If the expenses exceed the estimated amount, Kotter said sales tax will fill the rest.

"It wasn't budgeted for that amount, so whatever amount we end up needing at the end of the year will probably come from sales tax."

The city is currently accepting donations for the gazebo, having already collected \$12,000 from three donors.

Any interested donors can call City Hall. All donors of \$1,000 or more will have their names on a recognition wall in the gazebo.