

Elbow

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was one wrestling figure that got knocked off the wall.”

The exterior was a different matter, with neighboring Golden Land Asian Market completely destroyed. Goodman said that while his insurance company immediately worked to repair his roof, the heavy rain that followed the historic storm was too much for the battered structure to handle.

“The ultimate downfall was the fact that our temporary roof solution couldn’t hold up to all the water and it released thousands of gallons of water into the building, all at once,” he said of the damages.

But Goodman was determined to rebuild his business, and in the same location. He purchased (and still owns) the lots where Golden Land and a Puerto Rican church stood.

“My immediate thought was how do we rebuild? I had taken all the equipment out of the food truck to open the restaurant, and some of that equipment didn’t make it after the water damage,” he noted.

As he outlined what the new eatery would look like, he got his food truck back up and running in fall 2019. He helped Michele and Aaron Buzbee develop a food menu at Wayward Social,

using the time to also hone his craft.

The plan was to start construction in early 2020 but then the world was gripped by the pandemic. In August, a derecho inflicted damage to Marshalltown, which rivaled the tornado.

“I ordered \$2,500 worth of food. The next day, the derecho hit,” Goodman said of the timing.

From August to November 2020, he turned his attention to the food truck. Then in October, he learned the Small Business Administration was no longer going to be an option for securing funding.

“I was at the point where we were re-building, the food truck had the best run it had ever had, then it was back to square one at that point,” he said.

He decided to abandon rebuilding efforts at his Center Street location and venture across town. In December 2020, he met with John Hermanson, who showed him an available rental space in the 13th Street District.

“I got to work designing my third restaurant in three years,” Goodman said with a laugh.

It took most of 2021 to renovate the space, with Goodman on the road with the food truck that spring and summer. Finally in September 2021, the Flying Elbow reopened with 16 employees — twice as many as he’d had at the first location.

In January 2022, Goodman decided to add burgers for the first time on the menu.

“I have a larger kitchen than I did on Center Street, and we also have a full prep kitchen in the basement. Our smash burgers sold out in three days,” he recalled.

A month later, he’d learn that the Flying Elbow had made the top 10 for The Iowa Beef Council’s best burger.

“And basically, that doubled business overnight,” he noted.

Secret judges came out to the Flying Elbow in March, and by late April, he was notified he had won top honors, with the decision announced publicly on May 2.

“In 2022, we sold 65,000 burgers,” he said of the success.

That fall, Goodman had a custom smoker built and he began testing out new recipes. Lightning struck for a second time when Goodman learned in March 2023 that his cherry wood smoked pulled pork had been voted the best in Iowa during the sixth-annual Pulled Pork Madness social media contest, sponsored by the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

A total of 63 Iowa restaurants were entered into a bracket-style competition, much like the NCAA’s college basketball tournament.

“I went from eight pork butts a week to 64, in a pretty short period of time,” he

said of the surge in business.

The Flying Elbow’s menu includes hot dogs topped with everything from Cheeto dust to spicy sweet chili and sweet corn mayo. The coleslaw is flavored with tandoori spice.

“Inspiration can come from all different places,” he noted. “Visits to other restaurants, stuff I see on the Food Network or on social media. It’s taking little pieces of things I like from different places. All my recipes are weighed out to the gram like bakers usually do, for a very precise measurement.”

A deck and patio area will soon be added to the Flying Elbow. Goodman’s other business venture is his Last Ride BBQ food truck that offers Tex-Mex and smoked meats. He’s also building up the catering side of his business.

He said he has a goal of opening a Flying Elbow location in Des Moines in three to five years. The ultimate dream would be to get featured on a national food program such as “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.”

“It was such a tumultuous start, that it’s nice to have some consistency and stability,” he said. “I’m trying not to grow too fast. Everyday I wake up and am thankful for where I’m at and what I’m doing. As long as it stays fun, why wouldn’t I keep trying to push the limits?”



T-R PHOTO BY ROBERT MAHARRY

McFarland leaders cut ribbon on new clinic

McFarland Clinic leadership, local officials and Chamber ambassadors came out to the new location on East Merle Hibbs Boulevard for a ribbon cutting on Wednesday afternoon. McFarland invested approximately \$20 million into the new clinic, and it has been open since late June.

Fair

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Abigail Jo Hoyt was named the fair’s Little Miss Princess via a random drawing.

She was among 15 candidates for that honor.

Fischer and Wertz are students at West Marshall High School in State Center.

The two are veteran 4-H presenters, said CIF Board president Jodi Breniman of Marshalltown.

Breniman said the competition between the five queen candidates was especially keen and the selection committee said the task was challenging.

Other candidates were Lainey Harre, Maevae Jansen and Maddy Thompson.

Queen candidates were interviewed about one week ago, and then underwent a two-minute “quick-fire” round, followed by modeling evening gowns and more questions.

Fischer said she was excited to hear her name announced as winner.

“It is definitely an experience, she said. “I was not expecting it at all, but I am

definitely grateful ... I am excited about this year’s fair.”

Fischer will represent Marshall County at the 2023 Iowa State Fair.

She said competing to win in that competition against 98 other candidates will be fulfilling.

“It (the Iowa State Fair) will be an amazing experience, with a lot of planning and hard work,” she said.

Queen candidates can be anyone from the Marshall County area, ages 16 to 21.

Breniman said candidates must be participants in a community group, not necessarily 4-H.

This year’s fair’s theme is “Fairadise” and offers returning favorites, new events, food, rodeo and livestock.

Dozens of 4-H projects will be on display too, with winners moving on to have their projects exhibited at the Iowa State Fair.

The fair continues Thursday through Saturday at the fairgrounds, 1308 E. Olive St.

For more information, contact 641-753-3671 or cifa@heartofiowa.net.

Thein

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said. “I feel very prepared for a chief of police position based on the guidance and leadership provided to me by Chief Tupper, Capt. Chris Jones and Capt. Batterson. The standards that they have set have been very high, yet they inspired me every day to strive to meet those standards. In all fairness, that led to some very, very, very long days, for the record, yet the years went by like lightning.”

The decision to take the leap into a chief position in Decorah (pop. 7,747 according to 2021 estimates) was not an easy one for Thein, but she believes she is ready to take it on due to the “mentorship and guidance, competence and confidence, and the courage and the drive” she received from her chain of command. She then invited Tupper and Jones to the podium and noted that all three of them were graduates of the FBI National Academy, a prestigious honor in law enforcement which was compared to getting into an Ivy League university.

“Both Chief Tupper and Capt. Jones are foundational to me. Three words come to mind when I think of them, and (they are) leadership, courage and friendship,” she said. “Chief Tupper started as my leader. He developed courage in me, and we end this chapter as friends, whereas Capt. Jones started as my friend, bolstered my courage and we end this chapter with him being one of my leaders. Both different and yet the same, same and yet different.”

She cited their efforts to push officers out of their comfort zones and set goals and said all of her successes over the last several years were theirs as well.

“The following quote sums it up nicely. A true friend accepts who you are but also helps you become who you should be, and I’m a better person, a better public servant and will be a sound chief of police because of you two,” she said. “Please know that as I go forward, Marshalltown will forever be near and dear to my heart. I will always be glad to be a resource for this great community in any way I can. The city is blessed to have a police

department that remains in amazing hands with the current leadership, and the Marshalltown Police Department is blessed to have a mayor and a city council that support them in all of their endeavors. And I am blessed to have had such a small part in all of that, so thank you very much.”

After the audience at the meeting gave Thein a resounding round of applause, Tupper then thanked her himself and assured her that she had earned everything that’s happened for her over her 20-year career in Marshalltown.

“I have been amazed to watch you grow professionally and personally over the last 12 years and watch how far you’ve come, and I know you’re gonna be a great police chief,” Tupper said. “And I know that you have said that you would call me for advice. I’m guessing it’s gonna be the other way around because I have often gone to you for advice, and I just want you to know that it’s been my pleasure and my honor to be able to work with you for the last 12 years. And we’re rooting for you. Good luck.”

Jones said he and Thein

had enjoyed a long working relationship — some of it even spent in the same squad car — and attributed her ability to complement him on some of his shortcomings as one of her best attributes.

“I’ve learned way more from you than I’m probably willing to admit publicly, but what you have taught me, even from the beginning when we were driving around in the same vehicle, you kept hounding me about how my career aspirations weren’t everything in life and to pay attention to my family and things outside of work,” he said. “Those are the things that I’ve learned from you and I will always take away (from our time). You’ve been a great friend. I’m so happy that you have been able to put up with me for all of these years, and I’m so happy to see where you are and where you’re going.”

Thein presented Jones and Tupper with plaques that read “friendship, courage, leadership.”

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Iowa Valley struggles with transformers

By LANA BRADSTREAM
TIMES-REPUBLICAN

The July meeting of the Iowa Valley Community College District Board of Directors was short on Wednesday on the Marshalltown Community College campus. There were not a lot of reports provided by employees or directors and very few updates given on projects.

District President Kristie Fisher provided a brief report on the \$32 million bonds approved by voters in 2019. At Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls, some minor work still needs to be finished at the student activity space. Fisher said

it is a result of subcontractors failing to complete their work. She expects the general contractor to seek out different subcontractors.

At Thompson Hall on the Ellsworth campus, Fisher said they expect a delay on the work.

“Transformers are very hard to get right now,” she said. “We are primary metered at Ellsworth, which means we own our transformers. We are non-primary here. We may make a shift and move to where we are going to be non-primary. Because we are last on the priority list for Alliant.”

Fisher explained if one of the transformers blew up, Iowa Valley would be re-

sponsible for replacing it.

“The fact we can’t buy them right now means we could have a building out of commission for a year,” she said. “It’s never been an issue before because you’ve always been able to buy transformers.”

Fisher said they are trying to figure out how much it would cost to move to a non-primary meter. She said that option might cost more annually.

In other business:

The board approved a three-year subscription for Security Awareness Training through KnowBe4 for a cost of \$24,201. The subscription will educate personnel

about possible cybersecurity threats and will improve the district’s security. Chief Information Officer Mike Mosher told the board it is required for the district to be in compliance with the Higher Education Act Gramm Leach Bliley Act.

The district is preparing for an upcoming audit. Chief Financial Officer Gena Garber said it will take place in October and an audit report should be given to the board in December.

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Marshalltown enters sister city agreement with Zdolbuniv

TIMES-REPUBLICAN

On Friday, July 7, Marshalltown Mayor Joel Greer had the honor of participating in the signing of the Sister City Cooperation Agreement between the municipality of Marshalltown, Iowa and the

municipality of Zdolbuniv, Ukraine.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our city, with a population of about 28,000 people, to establish a connection and partnership with a city in Ukraine, especially during such times. We acknowledge and ad-

mire the efforts made by the Ukrainian people to preserve their way of life and democracy. It holds significance for us, right in the heart of the United States. While Ukraine is dealing with war, we have recently experienced a tornado and derecho. However, our

community is resilient and continues to move forward. As part of that progress, we are committed to helping Ukraine. In our hearts, we stand excited to sign this document today, expressing our solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine.”