Climax Moly donates $30K to Test Kitchen

Elliott Test Kitchen founder Kumar Wickramasingha is presented with a check for $30,000 from Climax Molybdenum’s management team on Tuesday at the Test Kitchen. The grant was from the parent company Freeport-McMoRan’s Social Investment Grant Program.

Grant could provide additional classes, enrollment

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Some good timing and corporate citizenship resulted in a large corporate donation to the Elliott Test Kitchen Tuesday.

Officials with Climax Molybdenum were treated to a Test Kitchen meal as they presented founder Kumar Wickramasingha a check for $30,000.

Wickramasingha had applied for a company grant through the corporation’s Social Investment Grant Program last year.

Tara Hosick, the manager of Strategic Community Development for Climax’s parent company Freeport-McMoRan, said company management was in town and was able to meet at the Test Kitchen to hear about the program.

“During that process of learning about what was going on here, we happened to have the worldwide ‘Moly’ managers in town and a couple of other executive

This gives them that positive interaction and positive family atmosphere and experience with extracurricular educational opportunities .”

-Emily Benjamin,
Climax Molybdenum, Community Development Specialist

County employees may get 2nd health care option

New choice would include a Health Savings Account

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County is looking at adding an option for county employees to use a health savings account option to help cover annual medical out-of-pocket expenses.

At Tuesday’s regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Matt Pflug updated the board on discussions that have been ongoing with the county’s insurance manager, Group Benefit Partners out of Fort Madison.

Pflug said a committee looking at the county’s health insurance plan is considering an option presented by GRP Co-owner Justin Pieper.

The plan would give the county’s approximate 125 employees another option in health care coverage.

“The employee would have the option of selecting that. There would be savings to the county,” Pflug said.

“They could either stay where they are at, or select the HSA. But I think it’s a good idea to give them the option and they’d have to have the knowledge on making that decision on which way they want to go.”

The county would give $100 per month on individual plans and $200 per month on family plans that would go into an account. Pieper said the employee would also be able to add money, before tax, to the account up to $7,000 on a family plan.

But the plan would double the deductibles from the current $750 individual and $1,500 family and all copays and prescriptions would be paid out of the HSA until the deductible was met.

“If they participate in the HSA compatible health plan the county would contribute $100/month and that can roll from year-to-year,” Pieper said Tuesday. “It’s tax free going in and tax free when it comes out as long as it’s spent on qualified medical expenses.”

Any unqualified withdrawals would be subject to penalties and taxes. Pieper said at retirement age, the
PAMELA JUNE TAYLOR
Pamela June Taylor, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 1:55 a.m., Thursday March 21, 2019 at Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born on February 7, 1949 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Harold “Shorty” and Wanda (Ramsey) Herdrich. She is survived by her two sons; Robby (Darryl Hanneken) Herdrich and Scott (Rick)Taylor; her life partner: Jim Henson; four brothers: Harold “Tony” (Lana) Herdrich, James (Dee) Herdrich, David (Kris) Herdrich, Todd (Nicole) Herdrich; four sisters: Linda (Larry) Bolanos, Carol Herdrich, Monica (Dale) Stecker, Cindy (Bobby) Howard; many favorite nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Tabitha Lynn Taylor; her parents, Harold “Shorty” and Wanda Herdrich; one sister, Debbie Marsh. Pamela attended Central Lee High School in Donnellson, Iowa. She worked as a press welder for Gleasons, was a homemaker and a devoted mother. She also served as a past Madame President of the Eagles Club. She loved playing Bingo, John Wayne, Elvis and her bird, Polly. Pamela also enjoyed fishing with Jim and camping and traveling with her sister, Carol.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson, Iowa for cremation. A Celebration of Life is being planned for a later date. A Memorial has been established in her memory.

D. DARLEEN “DEE” ALLISON
D. Darleen “Dee” Allison, 93, of Keokuk, IA, died Thursday, March 21, 2019 at River Hills Village in Keokuk. She was born on August 28, 1925 in Keokuk, the daughter of Claude Raymond and Bessie McGee Sackman. She was united in marriage to George Allison on May 6, 1942 in Kahoka, MO. He preceded her in death on July 29, 1973.

She had been employed as the manager of the Mode O’Day Clothing Store in Keokuk. She retired after many years of travel as their troubleshooter. She had also worked at J.C. Penny’s and Western Auto both in Keokuk for many years prior.

Darleen was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Keokuk. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Keokuk Area Hospital Auxiliary, BPW and AARP.

Darleen loved her family and friends and was happy doing things for others. She enjoyed making crafts and giving them to family and friends. She also enjoyed planning and giving parties, dancing, bowling, music and helping others, no matter what the task.

She is survived by three daughters, Doris (Don) Leimer of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Audrey Shaffer of Keokuk and Abby (Lennie) Etter of Keokuk, two sons, John Frakes of Keokuk and Chris Frakes of Keokuk, twelve grandchildren, Russ (Shawnna) Leimer of Fullerton, CA, Joel (Sallie) Leimer of San Jose, CA, Rob (Deb) Giles of Macomb, IL, Michele Winkel of Union Mills, IN, Shane (Tracy) Etter of Keokuk, Nicole (Alex) Rudd of Shawnee, KS, John Paul Frakes of Antioch, CA, Adam (Karen) Frakes of San Francisco, CA, Sarah Jones of Antioch, CA, Ethan Frakes, Jeremy Frakes and Michelle Bennett all of Keokuk, twelve great-grandchildren, Graham and Payton Leimer and Isla and Oona Leimer all of CA, Megan (Hunter) Myatt of IL, Matthew Giles of IL, Taylor Winkel of MN, Savanah (Jordan) Standish of MN, Lucas Giles of IN, Cassidy (Travis) Fox of MO, Madison Etter of IA, Griffin and Garrett Judd both of KS, Daesha Cale of IA and Destiny Bennett of IA, two brothers, Raymond (Megan) Sackman of Bonnie, IL and Frank Sackman of Alexandria, MO, two sisters, Virginia Price of Kahoka, MO and Mary (Garry) LeMaster of Alexandria, MO, her special friend, Cindy Hoewing and two daughters-in-law, Karen Frakes and Wendy Frakes and many nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, one daughter in infancy, Sharon Roxanna Nye, step-parents, Doris and Dwayne Altmaier, grandparents, Frank and Lucy McGee and brother-in-law, Leonard Price.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Reverend Rodney Underwood officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 2 p.m., Sunday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m.

Memorials may be made to First Lutheran Church, the American Legion Post #41 or River Hills Activity Fund.

Darleen's family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of River Hills for the many years of loving care they gave their mother.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAMES “JIM” P. BOZARTH</th>
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| James “Jim” P. Bozarth, 72, of Ft. Madison passed away at 9:24 AM on Friday, March 22, 2019 at his home. He was born on September 24, 1946 in Quincy, IL to Paul and Maxine See Bozarth. On November 15, 1968 he married Dianna Rankin in Memphis, MO and she passed away on May 12, 1986. He then married Peg Pumphrey and they divorced. Jim served in the US Army during the Vietnam War, he was so proud he got to attend the Honor Flight with his fellow Veterans. He was a truck driver for numerous years. Jim enjoyed hunting, fishing, shooting guns, woodworking, riding his Harley and antique tractors. He was always the life of the party and a friend to all. Jim’s greatest love was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Survivors include three daughters, Rena (John) Beach of Ft. Madison, Angie (James) Klett of Ft. Madison and Lisa (Eric) Vincent of Ft. Madison; six grandchildren, Chance and Chase Beach, Braxton and Addison Klett, Christian and Dianna “Jo Jo” Vincent; two great grandchildren, Violet and Elyse; one brother, Bill (Rita) Bozarth of Knox City, MO; three sisters, Carolyn Bozarth of Hannibal, MO, Mary Jean Bozarth of Columbia, MO and Colleen (Darrell) Cornwell of Sedalia, MO; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife. Friends may call after 2 PM on Monday, March 25, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home where the family will meet with friends from 4-6 PM. The Memorial Service will be held at 10 AM on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. Burial will take place in Oakland Cemetery with Military Rites conducted by the Ft. Madison Honor Guard. A memorial has been established for the Honor Flight and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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<th>SANDRA “SANDI” SCHMIDT</th>
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| Sandra “Sandi” Schmidt, 68 years, of Donnellson, Iowa died Sunday, March 24, 2019 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison, Iowa. She was born November 23, 1950 in Louisville, Kentucky, a daughter of Franklin and Alma Jean (Hoffman) Scruggs. She first married Stanley Witek Sr. They later divorced. She then married Michael “Mike” Schmidt on May 7, 1985 in Illinois. Sandi was a bookkeeper most of her life. In the past she enjoyed cross-stitch, needlepoint, quilting and gardening. Her family was most important to her and she loved cooking and gathering the family with a big meal, traveling and reading. She is survived by her husband, Michael “Mike” Schmidt of Donnellson; four children: Stanley Witek Jr of Donnellson; Jason (Brenda) Schmidt of Salem, Iowa; Andrea (T.J.) Froehlke of Montgomery, Illinois; and Thomas Scruggs of Louisville, five sisters: Marcella (Dan) Buchanan of Louisville; Linda Scruggs of Carmel, Indiana; Ruth Ann Scoggs of Stockbridge, Georgia; Pam Stutz of Massapequa, New York; and Patty Alvey of Louisville; five grandchildren: Channing, Brian, Sarah, Collin, and Grace; several nieces and nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister Lorene Rowland. Her family will greet friends from 1:00 to 2:00 pm Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A Memorial Service will follow and begin at 2:00 pm Saturday afternoon at the funeral home, with Pastor Mark Baker officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Kentucky. A memorial has been established for the Rheumatology Research Foundation. Contributions may be left at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Online condolences to the family may be made at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Iowa Dems call for DOJ to drop ACA efforts

WASHINGTON – Today, Iowa’s three Democratic Representatives, Dave Loebsack (IA-02), Abby Finkenauer (IA-01) and Cindy Axne (IA-03) called on the Department of Justice to drop its effort to strike down the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which would lead to the loss of patient protections, including for those with pre-existing conditions, reopening the prescription drug donut hole, removing the ban on lifetime limits and taking away the ability for young adults to stay on their parents’ health insurance until 26. In a letter to Attorney General William Barr, Loebsack called on the administration to halt its efforts to strike down the ACA.
OBITUARIES

MARIJANE P. NALL

Marjane P. Nall, 82, of Ft. Madison and formerly of Pittsfield, IL passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 7:20 PM at the Montrose Health Center. She was born on April 17, 1936 in Winchester, IL to John H. and Helen C. Carlton Smith. Marjane was a real estate agent for thirty years. She enjoyed crocheting and loved shopping with her girls, cooking for her family and renovating older homes where she was still working in the real estate field. Marjane enjoyed spending time with her family and having all her grandchildren and great grandchildren together. Her passion was her real estate and helping people with their homes and farmland.

Survivors include her son, David (Janice) Campbell of Ft. Madison; her daughter, Phyllis (Craig) Brawthen; eight grandchildren; twenty one great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; one sister, Grace Worrall of Winchester, IL; two brothers, Sam Smith of Vicksburg, MS and Darrell Smith of Rolling Fork, MS; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter Carolyn Campbell Johnson; a grandson Rod Lauber and one brother William Smith.

A celebration of life for Marijane will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 with her family present from 12 PM until 2 PM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the Alzheimer’s Association and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

RICKY “RICK” LEE BLINT

Ricky “Rick” Lee Blint, 66, of Ft. Madison passed away at 8:37 AM on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He was born on September 24, 1952 in Ft. Madison to Raymond and Pauline Watznauer Blint. On July 30, 1977 he married Kathy Wood in Ft. Madison. Ricky was an industrial painter. He started by helping his dad in his teen years painting barns. He was a member of the Painter’s Union and worked at several factories in the area installing protective coatings. Rick worked for National Church Decorating Company and traveled throughout the Midwest painting Catholic churches. He lastly worked for Allen Blasting and Coating as the shop manager. Rick could build anything and was very meticulous with all he did. He loved the outdoors. He especially enjoyed spending time in his shop and showing his grandchildren all the ins and outs of what he could do.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy Blint of Ft. Madison; two sons, Jaron (Jen Schmid) Blint of Ft. Madison and Josh (Jo Schmid) Blint of Veyer; four grandchildren, Haysten, Max, Kaiah and Kaydence and one brother, Ron Blint of West Point. He was preceded in death by his parents. The family will meet with friends from 9 – 11 AM on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral service will be held at 11 AM with Rev. Dennis Hoffman officiating. The burial will be in Gethsemani Cemetery. A memorial has been established in his memory and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

County looks at five-year road plan

money can be withdrawn for other uses without penalty, but taxed at the marginal tax rate.

In other action, the board:

• approved a replacement hiring in the Lee County Attorney’s office.
• approved a replacement hiring in the Secondary Roads Department.

• heard from Lee County Engineer Ben Hull on a proposed five-year plan for secondary roads that will be submitted for approval at Tuesday’s meeting.

Robert F. Niggemeyer, 83, of Ft. Madison, passed away at 7:54 PM at the West Point Care Center. He was born on June 3, 1935 in Ft. Madison to Henry and Elsie Krumpleman Niggemeyer. On May 8, 1953 he married Marilyn Moothart and she passed away on June 10, 2018. Bob worked for MidAmerican Gas Company and retired after several years of service. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church and enjoyed working on vintage cars and other people’s cars in his spare time.

Survivors include one sister, Barb (Fred) Otte; two brothers, Donald (Elaine) Niggemeyer and James (Mary Jane) Niggemeyer all of Ft. Madison; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Charlene; two brothers, Melvin and Wilbert; two half brothers, Ralph and Clarence; one half sister, Julia.

The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Friday, March 29, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at the church. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Lee County Hospice and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670

3/26 EVENING
0 0 8 2
3/26 MID-DAY 4 1 4 2
3/26 EVENING 9 4 7 0
3/26 MID-DAY 3 7 4 4
3/26 EVENING 5 1 7 0
Bloodhounds get third at Falcon Relays

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON - A depleted Bloodhound track team captured 3rd place at the Falcon Relays Monday night.

Co-Head Coach Mike Schneider said the squad was without eight or nine runners due to illness and injury.

Holy Trinity Catholic juniors Quentin Schneider and Matt Hellige continue to pace the Bloodhounds, each garnering first place finishes at the meet.

Hellige, who runs the mile, two mile, and long legs of medley relays, has been showing a lot of late race speed this year.

Hellige took first in the 1600 and 3200 Monday, March 25, 2019 at the Falcon Relays in West Burlington.

Fort Madison’s Brock Califf runs in the 200 meter dash Monday, March 25, 2019 at the Falcon Relays in West Burlington.

Schneider, Hellige lead field in 400 hurdles, distance runs

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Schneider said Meierotto’s performance was the biggest surprise of the meet.

“Matt does quite a bit of speed work in practice and that’s paying off and he’s finishing stronger. He’s got more foot speed this year,” Schneider said.

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Photo by Donald Aliprandi/For PCC

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Applications: All applications should be directed to Lee County Conservation, 2652 HWY 61 Monrovia, IA 52639. Deadlines to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, 2019. Applications are available online at www.leecounty.org.

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HELP WANTED

COMMUNITY GARDEN COORDINATOR NEEDED

RSVP/United Way of the Great River Region is seeking a Community Garden Coordinator.

Do you like to garden and work outdoors? Do you like to plan, plant and harvest food?

We are seeking an individual this Spring who will plan, plant, cultivate, harvest and lead other volunteers in our Community Garden (garden is located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison, Iowa behind Hy-Vee).

Must enjoy working outside, gardening and harvesting. Will direct garden activities with other volunteers and may require some bending, stooping and lifting of 15 lbs. or less. Times: 1 hour, 2 times per week.

If interested and for more information, please call Tammy at 319-372-6643.

United Way of the Great River Region supports non-profit organizations and agencies that provide programs assisting those in need in health, education and financial stability to residents in Clark, Hancock, and Lee Counties.

United Way of the Great River Region serves all of Lee, Hancock, and Clark Counties. All donations are tax-deductible.

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Unforgettable Celebrations
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Events@bouldersinffortmadison.com

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Pen City Current - Thursday, March 28, 2019 - 7
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Photos by
Donald Aliprandi/
For PCC

Eleesha Estrada sings "I Will Always Love You," made popular by Whitney Houston, during the Murder Mystery dinner theater event Friday night at Fort Madison High School.

Codee James sings "Dancing on My Own" during the Murder Mystery dinner theater event Friday night at Fort Madison High School.

Foreign exchange student Viivi Linna performs on the cello while the "deceased" is in front of her during the Murder Mystery dinner theater event Friday night at Fort Madison High School.

One of the many groups dancing and singing "Eye of the Tiger" during the Murder Mystery dinner theater event Friday night at Fort Madison High School.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Weather Condition</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
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Eleesha Estrada sings "I Will Always Love You," made popular by Whitney Houston, during the Murder Mystery dinner theater event Friday night at Fort Madison High School.
Local girl dies at area shooting club

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE – A 15-year-old Fort Madison girl was killed Sunday in a tragic shooting accident at the Tri-State Gun Club.

According to a release from Lee County Sheriff Stace Weber, at approximately 10:41 a.m. deputies and first responders of Montrose Fire and Rescue were dispatched to the Tri-State Gun Club at 2308 280th Street, Montrose for a reported gunshot victim.

When deputies arrived at the scene, they found a 15-year-old female who suffered a single gunshot wound. The victim was immediately transported to the Fort Madison Community Hospital by Lee County Ambulance Service.

The victim, identified as Haley Elizabeth McManus, 15, was later transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics where she later succumbed to her injuries.

The cause of the incident is being treated as an accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound. No foul play or negligence is suspected. The incident is still under investigation pending an autopsy scheduled for Tuesday.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by Montrose Fire and Rescue, Lee County EMS and LeeComm dispatchers.

“The Lee County Sheriff’s Office wishes to extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Haley during this traumatic time,” Weber said.

Fort Madison High School Principal Greg Smith said the incident was not related to any school function of the trap shooting team.

“It’s our understanding, that this was kind of a regular thing for her and her dad to go out to the range,” Smith said Monday morning.

Smith said the school made a staff of grief counselors from the Great River Area Education Agency available for students and staff at the building.

Grant funds part of parent company’s community efforts

DONATION - Continued from Page 1

Climax Molybdenum and Freeport-McMoRan.

She said the process also happened to be the time they brought on Emily Benjamin as community development specialist. She started in October and said this was one of the first projects she was tasked with by local and corporate management.

“This gives them that positive interaction and positive family atmosphere and experience with extracurricular educational opportunities. We’re very excited to continue building the relationship,” Benjamin said.

“It’s important for us to partner with education so that we know and understand the workforce that is coming to us as the baby boomer generation retires and is replaced with the next generation of students.”

Wickramasingha said the large contribution will fund programming well into next year and may allow additional services.

“This is going to make a huge impact and will allow us to possibly add additional classes this year and next,” Wickramasingha said.

“Now we might be able to incorporate another day. Right now we couldn’t do those things because of budgetary issues.”

A statement released by the company Tuesday indicated the Social Investment Grant Program is part of Freeport-McMoRan’s goal to “support sustainable programs for communities in the areas where we operate and assist these communities in ensuring their self-sufficiency beyond the presence of our operations.”

According to the release, Lee County currently ranks 87 out of 99 Iowa counties in per capita and median household income, resulting in the need for educational services that extend students’ learning resources. The ties between income and achievement are deep-rooted and hard to overcome. The Elliott Test Kitchen project is striving to break down these barriers by offering academic assistance aimed at improving graduation rates and opportunities for higher education. Go to https://www.ektkf.org/ for more information about Elliott Test Kitchen.

“At Freeport-McMoRan, we believe it is critical to empower communities to envision and plan for their own sustainable future. One way we do this is by working together with community leaders and stakeholders to identify the best ways to invest in programs and projects today that contribute to a stronger tomorrow,” said Tracy Bane, President, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation.

“On behalf of Freeport-McMoRan, congratulations to Elliott Test Kitchen – the work you do makes a difference to our community.”

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