

HANSEN

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residents now.

The YWCA was never the Ritz, but it wasn't a flophouse, either. Going by Clark Kauffman's report in Thursday's Register, however, it was sinking steadily in that direction. It's pretty much a pit anymore.

I'm not trying to glamorize the good old days now that the YWCA is about to close. That's an impossible job; the good old days weren't that good.

It's hard to remember a time when the YWCA was financially stable. Something was always going wrong.

If they weren't losing grant dollars, executive council members were resigning over differences with the director.

In the rare times when the YWCA had money to spend, the YWCA leaders fought bitterly about how to use it.

Repair the building? Pay bills? Sink money into training programs?

The facility has been a challenge and a drain. It's hard to believe a 40-year-old building can cause so many problems and require so much maintenance.

But when you fail to keep the place up, for whatever reason, you have problems.

As one a former fitness member once said, "You

don't buy a car and not change the oil for the next 20 years."

In 1991, during a long-awaited remodeling of the child care center, workers found asbestos in the ceiling and floor. So officials moved 150 kids to the gym for eight weeks, closed the gym to the fitness members and wrote a check for \$255,000 to remove the asbestos.

A few years later, they emptied the pool during the winter to make \$42,000 in repairs, keeping swimmers away for 3½ months.

When the skywalk system stretched to 717 Grand Ave. in the early '90s, the YWCA got another bill.

And don't forget the new boiler that cost \$90,000.

Questionable management aside, if they handed out awards for hard luck, the YWCA would have walked away with the big prize.

The national organization has grandiose goals. Eliminate racism? Sure, why not. Empower women? Great idea.

And while you're saving the world, please keep costs down, especially when the demand for social services is touching the sky.

It could be said that the board of directors ran the YWCA into the ground or let it slide. But outside events conspired mightily to make it happen.

It seems counterintuitive,

but the development boom of downtown Des Moines didn't help the YWCA, either.

When big companies expanded, they added fitness facilities and child care centers. So did some hotels.

Entrepreneurs watched the influx of new downtown workers and residents and saw opportunity. Check the 24-hour gym in the Liberty Building. The YWCA never had a juice bar or tanning salon.

So what happens now? According to the scuttlebutt, some out-of-state developers want to fill the YWCA space with a hotel.

If true, there's an empty six-lane pool waiting for them in the basement.

Dateline Iowa

From Register staff and news services

■ CEDAR FALLS

UNI seeks approval for college mergers

The University of Northern Iowa is proposing to combine its College of Humanities and Fine Arts and the College of Natural Sciences.

University officials also said they will seek approval from the Iowa Board of Regents to combine the Department of English Language and Literature and the Department of Modern Languages.

UNI Provost Gloria Gibson said combining the colleges would strengthen the university's academic offerings and help reduce administrative expenses. University officials have not disclosed how much money would be saved by the plan.

In addition to combining the colleges, UNI President Benjamin Allen said he wanted to eliminate the university's Marketing and Advancement Division, resulting in the elimination of one vice president position.

Senate Republicans challenge gay unions

Associated Press

In the latest move against gay marriage in Iowa, 18 Iowa Senate Republicans have introduced a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment specifying marriage between one man and one woman as the only legal union that is valid or recognized in the state.

One of the sponsors, Sen. Merlin Bartz, R-Grafton, said Thursday's move was important in that it gives Iowa citizens a chance to



Merlin Bartz concedes that the move faces long odds.

get the ball rolling.

But Bartz conceded Senate Joint Resolution 2001 faces nearly insurmountable odds in being debated during the 2010 session given the steadfast opposition from Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs.

The resolution was assigned to the 11-member Senate Rules and Administration Committee, which is headed by Gronstal and has seven majority Democratic members.

Last year, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a 1998 state law that limited marriage to opposite-sex couples was unconstitutional.

CASINO

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of Council Bluffs said.

Pavone said he already has Sioux City investors who have agreed to purchase stock in the Tama County project.

Any confusion about the financing stems from his interest in allowing other Iowans to own part of the casino, he said.

He added that individual investors who own less than a 5 percent stake in the Tama County project won't need to undergo a Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation background check, which has been his goal.

Similar questions were raised about the Ottumwa casino project, proposed by Ingenus Management and Consulting of Brainerd, Minn. The company has \$40 million in financing from Saqqara Funding Gruppe LLC of North Carolina.

Ingenus President Ken

■ Timeline for casino license decisions

MARCH 23: Each license applicant will make a public presentation to the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission in Johnston.

APRIL 7: The five-member commission will tour proposed casino sites in Fort Dodge, Ottumwa and Tama County.

APRIL 14: Commissioners will tour a proposed casino site in Lyon County.

MAY 4: Public hearing on licensing in Johnston.

MAY 13: Commission will announce licensing decisions in Johnston.

Mimmack told regulators he plans to have an option for 20 percent local ownership of the Ottumwa casino, and there are potential equity owners still looking at the project.

But commission member Paul Hayes of Urbandale said he was left wondering who will be the casino owner.

Mimmack responded that Ingenus, which has already invested about \$1 million in the project, would be the owner. He said later he didn't see any problems with his financing plan.

The \$120 million Lyon County project would be developed near Larch-

wood along the South Dakota border. It would be financed with a \$70 million loan from Jeffries Funding LLC of New York and \$50 million in stock ownership.

The \$56 million Fort Dodge project would be developed by Webster County Gaming.

Peninsula Gaming Partners LLC, which operates Iowa casinos in Dubuque and Worth County, said it has agreed to provide all the debt financing and equity for the project.

Webster County Gaming has also been working with Jeffries & Co. to provide all or part of the financing.

■ PARKERSBURG

Becker to face Jan. 29 hearing

A Jan. 29 hearing is set for a man accused of killing an Iowa high school football coach.

Mark Becker of Parkersburg is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Aplington-Parkersburg coach Ed Thomas in June.

His trial is set for Feb. 8 in Butler County. He remains in the Cerro Gordo County Jail in Mason City on \$1 million bond.

Judge Steven Carroll on Wednesday scheduled the hearing in Mason City to consider any pretrial motions that may be filed.

The judge also ruled that prosecutors must share reports from two state medical experts, who probably will be used to refute defense claims that Becker was insane at the time of the shooting.

■ WATERLOO

Cleaning company told of poor work

Black Hawk County officials have warned officials of a company hired to clean government buildings that their three-year contract is in jeopardy because of shoddy work.

Supervisor Frank Magsamen held two pages of complaints when he warned executives of Diamond Shine of Cedar Rapids that they have been put on notice.

Magsamen said Tuesday that if significant improvement isn't seen at the courthouse and jail in 30 days, the Board of Supervisors will re-evaluate the company's \$214,813-per-year contract.

Sheriff Tony Thompson said his office has made frequent requests for better floor care at the jail.

A spokesman for Diamond Shine said the company last month was blindsided by complaints at the jail. New staff is being hired and trained, he said.

Board: City is short of grant money

The city of Waterloo said the federal money it receives to help lower-income residents will fall short at a time when needs are growing.

The Waterloo Community Development Board reported that it has received requests for more than \$3 million in federal Community Development Block Grants for the coming fiscal year. But it has only a projected \$1.4 million to distribute.

In the past, most block grant money went to housing rehabilitation for low-income residents, down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers and administrative costs.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION	OFFICIAL PUBLICATION	OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
2010 Polk County Caucuses – January 23, 2010		
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS LOCATION SITES		
Caucus begins at 1:00P.M.		
PRECINCT	LOCATION	ROOM
Altman 1	North Polk High School	Rm. 45
Allen 1	Clearwater Lake Clubhouse	Main Area
Altona 1	Southeast Polk High School	Rm. N132
Altona 2	Southeast Polk High School	Rm. N143
Altona 3	Southeast Polk High School	Rm. N145
Altona 4	Southeast Polk High School	Rm. N146
Ankeny 01	Ankeny High School	Rm. 413
Ankeny 02	Ankeny High School	Rm. 414
Ankeny 03	Ankeny High School	Rm. 423
Ankeny 04	Ankeny High School	Rm. 424
Ankeny 05	Ankeny High School	Rm. 425
Ankeny 06	Ankeny High School	Rm. 433
Ankeny 07	Ankeny High School	Rm. 434
Ankeny 08	Ankeny High School	Rm. 435
Ankeny 09	Ankeny High School	Rm. 436
Ankeny 10	Ankeny High School	Rm. 443
Ankeny 11	Ankeny High School	Rm. 444
Ankeny 12	Ankeny High School	Rm. 445
Bondurant 1	Bondurant Farrar High School	Rm. 102
Clay 1	Southeast Polk High School	Lab N144
Clive 1	Indian Hills Junior High	Rm. 141
Clive 2	Indian Hills Junior High	Student Ctr
Clive 3	Indian Hills Junior High	Auditorium
Clive 4	Indian Hills Junior High	Student Ctr
Crocker 1	Saydel High School	Rm. 224
Delaware 1	Delaware Elementary School	Rm. 29
Delaware 2	Delaware Elementary School	Rm. 30
Delaware 3	Delaware Elementary School	Rm. 32
Des Moines 001	East High School	Rm. 1043
Des Moines 002	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 133
Des Moines 003	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 121
Des Moines 004	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 123
Des Moines 005	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 125
Des Moines 006	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 127
Des Moines 007	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 128
Des Moines 008	Hoover High School	Rm. 101
Des Moines 009	Meredith Middle School	Rm. S8
Des Moines 010	Meredith Middle School	Rm. S10
Des Moines 011	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W1
Des Moines 012	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W2
Des Moines 013	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W3
Des Moines 014	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W4
Des Moines 015	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W6
Des Moines 016	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W8
Des Moines 017	Meredith Middle School	Rm. W10
Des Moines 018	Meredith Middle School	Library
Des Moines 019	Meredith Middle School	Library
Des Moines 020	Hoover High School	Rm. 103
Des Moines 021	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 129
Des Moines 022	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 130
Des Moines 023	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 131
Des Moines 024	Warren Harding Middle School	Rm. 132
Des Moines 025	East High School	Rm. 1045
Des Moines 026	East High School	Rm. 1053
Des Moines 027	East High School	Rm. 1054
Des Moines 028	East High School	Rm. 1055
Des Moines 029	East High School	Rm. 1060
Des Moines 030	East High School	Rm. 1061
Des Moines 031	East High School	Rm. 1064
Des Moines 032	East High School	Rm. 1065
Des Moines 033	East High School	Rm. 1069
Des Moines 034	East High School	Rm. 1070
Des Moines 035	East High School	Rm. 1074
Des Moines 036	East High School	Rm. 1075
Des Moines 037	East High School	Rm. 1076
Des Moines 038	East High School	Rm. 1077
Des Moines 039	Moulton Elem School	Cafeteria
Des Moines 040	Moulton Elem School	Art Room
Des Moines 041	Moulton Elem School	Library
Des Moines 042	Moulton Elem School	Gym
Des Moines 043	Moulton Elem School	Cafeteria
Des Moines 044	Moulton Elem School	Gym
Des Moines 045	Merrill Middle School	Lecture Rm
Des Moines 046	Hoover High School	Rm. 104
Des Moines 047	Hoover High School	Rm. 105
Des Moines 048	Hoover High School	Rm. 107
Des Moines 049	Hoover High School	Rm. 109
Des Moines 050	Hoover High School	Rm. 111
Des Moines 051	Hoover High School	Rm. 113
Des Moines 052	Hoover High School	Rm. 115
Des Moines 053	Hoover High School	Rm. 117
Des Moines 054	Hoover High School	Rm. 123
Des Moines 055	Merrill Middle School	Rm. 111
Des Moines 056	Merrill Middle School	Lecture Rm
Des Moines 057	Merrill Middle School	Rm. 114
Des Moines 058	Willard Elementary School	Rm. 103
Des Moines 059	Willard Elementary School	Rm. 104
Des Moines 060	Willard Elementary School	Rm. 105
Des Moines 061	Willard Elementary School	Rm. 107
Des Moines 062	Willard Elementary School	Rm. 109
Des Moines 063	Willard Elementary School	Cafeteria
Des Moines 064	Merrill Middle School	Rm. 116
Please call Tamyra Harrison, Executive Director of The Polk County Democrats, at 515-285-1800 if you need a ride to your caucus or have a question on Democratic caucuses.		
DM-11053589D.INDD		

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IN THE COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH FOR SASKATCHEWAN JUDICIAL CENTRE OF SASKATOON

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-36, AS AMENDED (the "CCAA")

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED PLAN OF ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CREDITORS OF BIG SKY FARMS INC., DRY CAST SYSTEMS INC. and BIG SKY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING CORP. (collectively the "Big Sky")

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS

Big Sky commenced proceedings under the CCAA on November 10, 2009 and was granted an *Ex Parte* Order of the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan (the "Initial Order"). The Initial Order granted Big Sky various relief including, among other things, imposing a stay of proceedings against creditors in respect to Big Sky and its assets, appointing Ernst & Young Inc. as Monitor and providing Big Sky an opportunity to prepare and file a plan of arrangement or compromise for the consideration of its creditors and other stakeholders.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a meeting of the Affected Creditors of Big Sky (the "Creditors' Meeting") will be held in the Laurentian Room of the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, 315 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (Central Standard Time) for the following purposes:

- to consider, pursuant to an order of the Court of Queen's Bench of Saskatchewan dated January 5, 2010 (the "Order"), and if deemed advisable, to approve, a plan of compromise and arrangement (the "Plan") under the CCAA and certain related matters; and
- to transact such further and other business as may properly be brought before the Creditors' Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Pursuant to the Order, only Affected Creditors are entitled to vote with respect to the Plan. All documents relating to the Creditors' Meeting, including a Notice of Meeting; an Information Circular; the Monitor's Recommendation on the Plan; a Proxy and Voting Letter; and the full text of the Plan (the "Plan and Meeting Documents") will be sent to Affected Creditors in advance of the Creditors' Meeting. The Plan and Meeting documents will also be posted on the Monitor's website at www.ey.com/ca/bigskyfarms.

Affected Creditors unable to attend the Creditors' Meeting are requested to date, sign and return the Proxy and Voting Letter. To be used at the Creditors' Meeting, the proxy must be sent or delivered to the attention of Mike Bell at Ernst & Young Inc., P.O. Box 10101, Vancouver, BC, V7Y 1C7, fax: (604) 643-5422, e-mail: Mike.Bell@ca.ey.com by 5:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time) on February 5, 2010 or, if the Creditors' Meeting is adjourned, on the business day (which is a day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or statutory holiday) before the adjourned Creditors' Meeting.

Affected Creditors requiring further information not made available on the website should contact:

Monitor:	Big Sky:
Mike Bell	Accounts Payable Dept.
Ernst & Young Inc.	Big Sky Farms
P.O. Box 10101	P.O. Box 610
700 West Georgia Street	10333 8th Street
Vancouver, BC	Humboldt, SK
V7Y 1C7	S0K 2A0
1-888-283-9867 Ext. 3566	(306) 682-5041

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