

Kelly named Trust Director



The Pella Preservation Trust is pleased to announce that Gerae Kelly has been hired to serve as the organization’s Executive Director. Kelly’s professional experience includes more than 25 years of award-winning marketing, branding, communications, corporate event management, and organizational administration. As the executive officer and business manager of the Trust, Kelly will lead its marketing, communications and social

media efforts, provide administrative support for the board and committees, coordinate events and property activities, as well as seeking and coordinating funding via grants, memberships and donor contributions. Bruce Boertje, president of the Pella Preservation Trust, said, “The Trust is thrilled to have Gerae join our organization! Her extensive skill set, wealth of experience, and passion for preservation will be invaluable in helping our organization grow and thrive. Please join us in welcoming her aboard!” As a graduate of Pella Community High School, Kelly attended University of California, San Diego, and holds a Professional Certificate in Human Resources Management. Previously, she worked as a marketing communications / trade show and events manager for the corporate offices of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Principal

Financial Group, First American Title RES, and Old Gringo Boots. After relocating to Pella in 2020, she worked in the COVID call center for Pella Corporation’s human resources department during the pandemic. Since 2022, Kelly has been employed by Central College in the Office of Academic Affairs and currently serves as the administrative assistant to the dean of the faculty. “I’ve lived in Pella about a third of my life, and have always been passionate about Pella’s founding and growth, historic architecture, renowned beauty, and unique culture,” said Gerae Kelly. “I am honored and excited for the privilege to serve the trust in its mission to preserve and promote our treasured heritage, which is vital to the financial and cultural health and well-being of our community. Truly, there is NO place like Pella!”



Class of 1964 Endowed Scholarship

The Knoxville High School Class of 1964 has established a new Endowed Scholarship. The KHS Class of 1964 joins the KHS graduating classes of 1961, 1966, 1971 and 1991 who now offer endowed scholarships. Endowed scholarships, once established, require no further contributions and provide a scholarship annually of at least \$600 for perpetuity. The members of the Class of 1964 have been actively involved in offering scholarships through the Foundation since 2014. Their scholarships have been awarded to graduating seniors whose

parents, grandparents or great grandparents were members of the graduating class of 1964. To date the class has awarded sixteen scholarships. This year the class decided to make a final fund-raising push to reach the endowed status. A KHS Class of 1964 Endowed Scholarship will now be awarded annually to KHS graduating seniors or to KHS graduates entering their second, third or fourth year of post-secondary education with no further contributions required. Congratulations to the members of the Knoxville High School Class of 1964. Your commitment to

helping future generations of KHS graduates pursue their dreams is to be applauded. GO PANTHERS! If you would like more information about you or your graduating class can help our Knoxville High School graduates, visit the Foundation website at kpsfoundation.org or contact Board President Curt Froyen by email at irishsciguy@hotmail.com or by phone at 641-891-7170. You may also contact Board Vice-President Michael Moats at kpsfoundation04@gmail.com.



New attraction coming to Brinkhoff Park

By Steve Woodhouse
Coming soon to Brinkhoff Park in Pella is a massive wooden shoe that will allow park visitors a new photo opportunity, or just another place to sit in the shade and enjoy the weather. “They did a nice job building it, and it’s going to be installed on a cement pad out there,” Parks Manager Chandler Nunnikhoven said. The shoe is made possible through a collaboration between Visit Pella and the Pella Parks Department. They successfully wrote a grant for the project. “I think it’s six feet, seven feet long, and that will be installed here in April,” Nunnikhoven said. “We’re excited to see that feature over at Brinkhoff Park.” Work is also being done to improve the wooden playground at West Market

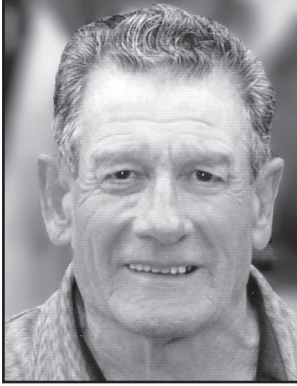
Park. The third phase of the Kiwanis’ Wonder Spelen Playground is set to be installed this spring as well. The tennis courts nearby are serving as a staging area for the new equipment. Late last week, the Parks Department also received new trees. Planting will likely begin after Tulip Time. “We’re going to be planting a whole bunch of new crab apples in Central Park,” Nunnikhoven said. “Some of the older crab apples are at the end of their life, and we need to start phasing in the new the new decades of crabapple trees.” The fountain in Central Park will return soon as well. It was sent to Alabama to be refurbished and should complement the Tulip Toren’s new paint job to help the park look its best.

“It’s over 100 years old,” Nunnikhoven said. “It’s been moved three, four times, and it’s a very important piece of history in Central Park, and I’m glad that we got it fixed.” Nunnikhoven was asked how people can best support the Parks Department. His advice was just to “pick up after yourself” and do what you can to help the public spaces and the broader community live up to expectations. “Pella is known for being a really clean town, and if people can just pick up after themselves, pick up after their dogs when they have parties in the shelter house or in the playgrounds, if people could just pick up after themselves and take pride in our community,” Nunnikhoven said.

Dick Darnell Memorial Scholarship

The Board of Directors of the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce a new scholarship to be offered to Knoxville High School graduates. The family of Dick Darnell has recently established the Dick Darnell Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded annually to a female graduate who is pursuing post-secondary education in the field of Science/Medicine or Education. Dick graduated from KHS in 1963 and went on to marry the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Carme—who is also a Knoxville graduate. Their two daughters are also KHS graduates, Linda (1988) and Suzie (1993). Dick and Carme were

Knoxville business owners for over 50 years. They were owners/operators of Darnell’s DX, 2 Coin Op laundromats, a U-Haul rental company, and LTD Auto Sales. Dick also operated Hayes Wrecker service before retiring. They were a hard-working couple who always encouraged their children to pursue education. Dick encouraged his kid to: “work hard to get an education so you have more options than I did to make a living without skinning your knuckles.” It is the Darnell’s family hope that this scholarship will help make the pursuit of the dreams of Knoxville High School graduates a little easier. If you would like more information about



the Knoxville Panther Scholarship Foundation, visit the Foundation website at kpsfoundation.org. You may also contact Board President Curt Froyen by email at irishsciguy@hotmail.com or by phone at 641-891-7170. You may also contact Board Vice-President Michael Moats at kpsfoundation04@gmail.com.



Collision at Robinson and Roche

Knoxville Police and Ambulance personnel responded to a two-vehicle collision around 2 p.m. Monday afternoon at the intersection of Roche and Robinson. Police Chief Aaron Fuller reports that a pickup truck eastbound on Robinson struck a sedan that was southbound on Roche. The accident was under investigation, and Fuller had not determined whether the sedan driver made the mandated stop. Both vehicles had single occupants. The driver of the sedan was checked by ambulance personnel on site. Confirmation of drivers’ identities or any citations issued was not received before our print deadline. (photo by Steve Woodhouse)

Author Visit with Michiel Van Diggelen

The Pella Public Library and Pella Historical Museums will welcome Michiel Van Diggelen, author of The Exodus of Hendrik Peter Scholte on Tuesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. This book about Pella’s founder tells the story of an idyllic and privileged childhood, an adolescence and young adulthood of unbearable losses, and a brilliant mind that led Hendrik Peter Scholte (1805-1868) on a

tumultuous life path. Author Michiel Van Diggelen tells the story, based on all available historic resources, of a man of flesh and blood, full of strengths and weaknesses. He will talk about the writing process, combining fact and fiction through imagination. Van Diggelen is a retired teacher of history and economics now living in Zeist, the Netherlands. He is a published author of books and articles, and

participated in the Scholte symposium in Pella. Joining Michiel will be Bruce Boertje. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing after the presentation. This event will take place in Room 206 of the Pella Community Center (712 Union St.) and is free and open to the public. Please call the library at 641-628-4268 if you have questions about this or other upcoming library events.

Pella plans to reduce electric fund balance

By Steve Woodhouse
The City of Pella plans to draw down its electric fund balance. City Administrator Mike Nardini said most municipal power

companies try to maintain a \$7 million fund balance; Pella will have a \$13.4 million balance. The City expects to receive \$23 million in

revenue in the next fiscal year. In the coming years, a cost of service study will be done to see who is using the power and align future electric rates accordingly.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR BID PROPOSALS FOR PLEASANT GROVE TOWNSHIP CEMETERY MOWING SERVICES

Sealed bids are invited and will be received by Pleasantville Board of Trustees for the mowing of certain properties of the Township. The selected Bidder will be awarded the contract by action of the Board of Trustees, approving and adopting the contract documents, providing for its enforcement and penalties as provided by law. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, nor is the Board obligated to accept the lowest bid.

The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities and/or informalities in any Bid and to make an award in any manner, consistent with law, deemed in the best interest of the Board of Trustees.

Sealed Bids are to be hand-delivered by the bidder to the Pleasant Grove Township meeting on Monday April 14, 2025. Sealed bids will be opened at the Pleasant Grove Township meeting to be held on April 14, 2025 at 6 pm at the Pleasantville EMS Building, 1012 Hwy 5, Pleasantville, IA 50225, Pleasantville Iowa. Contract/Bid sheets can be obtained by contacting any of the current trustees: Aaron DeMoss at 515-681-8760 , Aubrey Burress at 515-238-9730 or Jocelyn Richards at 515-210-0870.



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