

Beer & barbecue

Armored Gardens brings a 'bizarro 1960s country club' feel **FOOD, B7**



'He wasn't moving'

Murder victim's girlfriend testifies about day of shooting **Q-C AREA, A5**

Candidates talk schools

Enrollment discussed at forum **Q-C AREA, A3**

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What's to become of the Levee Inn?

Riverfront hot dog stand's future stymies commission members

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As the city of Davenport's Main Street Landing is set for a facelift, including holding an open house this week to help choose materials for future riverfront development, the question remains of what's to become of the Levee Inn?

For members of the Riverfront Improvement Commission, it's a question that has many possibilities after briefly discussing the subject at its Tuesday meeting

and asking to continue the dialogue next month.

Commissioner Karl Rhomberg had asked that the discussion be put on the agenda after he pondered the inn's condition and historic value and how it related to Main Street development.

"What do people want?" Rhomberg asked. "What do the citizens want and how does the commission feel?"

The small structure was renowned for its hot dogs, including one named after Quad-City Times columnist Bill Wundram.

The Levee Inn has sat unused, except for measuring flooding of the Mississippi River, since 2000

Please see **LEEVEE**, Page A3



JEFF COOK, QUAD-CITY TIMES FILE PHOTO

Bill Wundram is a longtime champion of the Levee Inn on Davenport's riverfront.

Mayor ousted no more

Judge agrees that Broderon was in the right

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MUSCATINE — A District Court Judge ruled Tuesday the Muscatine City Council's removal of Mayor Diana Broderon from office last May was a violation of her right to due process.

Muscatine County District Court Judge Mark Cleve issued a final ruling, vacating the city council's impeachment vote and requiring the defendants — the city and city council — to pay the mayor's legal fees.

"The people are not pleased at the expense that has been spent of the taxpayers' money to go through all of this, and even so there's only two weeks left to the election, so this was a lot of money spent for nothing really," Broderon said in an interview. "And to pit neighbor against neighbor in our community — it was bad decisions all throughout."

Broderon said she was pleased the judge ruled in her favor before the election on Nov. 7, in which she is seeking a second term.

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Negotiations to begin on mini-golf proposal

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It's not a hole-in-one yet, but the Riverfront Improvement Commission has voted to commence negotiations on the terms and conditions of a lease that would bring miniature golf to the Davenport riverfront.

Over the last month, the commission has had the opportunity to hear from the Quad-Cities River Bandits ownership group about its proposal and visit the prospective 18-hole miniature golf course site behind the scoreboard and Ferris wheel at Modern Woodmen Park.

The commission's approval of the concept does not mean the miniature golf proposal has been green-lighted yet. Instead, it gives staff the ability to

Please see **MINI-GOLF**, Page A3



KEVIN E. SCHMIDT PHOTOS, QUAD-CITY TIMES

Great River Maple is on Brick Lane near Garnavillo, Iowa. BELOW: Rich Taste, Robust Taste, and Iowa Bourbon Maple are varieties of syrup produced at Great River Maple.

'Crazy good' in the off-season

Deep in the sugar bush, Great River Maple produces 'the taste of Iowa'

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Bouncing along a trail that seemed like it was made for horses, not vehicles, Dan Potter maneuvers his well-worn Jeep Cherokee deeper into the heavily wooded area five miles northeast of Garnavillo, Iowa.

Potter stops and points up through the Jeep's missing roof at the new leaf growth and

branches high above. "There's a lot of crazy leaves up there, these branches are all new in the last five to seven years," he says. His smile gets wider, "And that means each one of those (leaves) are converting sunshine into sugar ... and that's crazy good."

It was the late 1800s when a local lumber baron took the first of two cuts through the region, taking down most of the white

oak trees and floating them down river, leaving behind a treasure Potter now cherishes. It wasn't until 2009 that Potter and his wife, Dorinda, and their three daughters cleared the underbrush to replace the oaks on the 360 acres of property his great-grandfather settled all those years ago. In their place are maple trees — lots and lots of maple trees.



Great River Maple tapped into the potential of the "sugar bush" — tens of thousands of maple trees across Potter's property and several hundred more acres of land located nearby on his sister's farm.

Now in the off season, Potter says they've only tapped into about 100 of the potentially 500

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