

Our Mission

To be the leading consultant solving the engineering or land surveying problems unique to rural-urban communities and their enterprise—government, business, and agribusiness. And in the process, to build trust and lasting relationships with the people among whom we work and live. ◀

Bacon Aquatic Center in Cherokee has grand opening

Clear Lake's pool also opens in June

Two Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. swimming pool projects opened in June, one in Cherokee and the other in Clear Lake.

The Bacon Aquatic Center in Cherokee's Gillette Park held its Grand Opening on June 14. KPL's Neal Kuehl, who led the project, and Earl Zimmerman, who was responsible for construction inspection, were invited to participate in the opening ceremonies and ribbon cutting.

Kuehl and Payer, Ltd., was the prime consultant on the \$2.8 million aquatic center, part of the \$3.6 million dollar total project. Also part of the project team were RDG Planning and Design of Des Moines and Architects Collaborative of Spencer.

Kuehl and Payer's Bob Payer designed a recreational trail for Gillette Park which was completed at the same time. The park portion of the project included the



At top a panoramic view of the Bacon Aquatic Center and park. Below, Earl Zimmerman helps cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening. He wears a tan hat reading "I'm a Cherokee Pool Rat". "The hats were everywhere," says Neal Kuehl. "Everyone who participated in the project whether in planning, design or construction was wearing one."

recreational trail, an open shelter, a playground, and a performance area.

The center is named for George Bacon, a longtime Cherokee citizen who passed away in 2001 leaving the bulk of his estate to the City of

Cherokee to be used specifically for the benefit of the children of the community. Bacon had never married and had no children of his own. This bequest plus more than 300 contributions by other individuals and businesses, and **Continued, POOLS, page 4**



Taylor Mason valedictorian at Sac City

TAYLOR MASON, son of Tom and Sally Mason, was named valedictorian at the Sac Community High school 2007 graduation ceremonies. Taylor, who maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average over his entire high school career, was also his class president for four years. In his senior year he served as student body president.

Taylor also excels in sports, and earned 12 letters in high school varsity sports. In his final year he was chosen homecoming king by the student body.

Taylor plans to attend South Dakota State University where he will pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. ◀

PROJECTS

Work load in offices is heavy in design and construction

DRAINAGE, ag-related projects, and work driven by new water quality regulations are keeping KPL's three offices busy.

Says Algona's Curt Wiseman, "We have two similar projects for **wastewater treatment plant upgrades**—both resulting from the new water quality regulations—that will be completing design shortly: in **Early and Pomeroy**. The environmental soil boring and clearances for expansions to these plants are complete. And we'll be completing design this month."

Curt also has a **wastewater study for the Oak Lake subdivision** a rural subdivision east of Algona. "This involves infiltration and excess flows and what can be done given the new water quality regs.

"In **Leland we'll be reconstructing a lift station and force main** under the river. The force main developed leaks and temporary repairs were made. That will be reconstructed with help from a Community Development Block Grant.

"The **water main for the Algona Municipal Utility** is in construction. And for the private subdivision, **Diamond Estates**, we've completed design, permits have been received, and construction will start in a month.

"For **Snap-On** in Algona, a large building addition, a warehouse addition is in construction. We did all the **site work, utilities and construction staking** for that undertaking. Snap-On chose Algona over a number of other sites around the country for this warehouse. We're doing two **swine pits** in Calhoun County, they are in construction, and Brian Klein is doing the inspection. The **pellet-making building at the Cherokee County Landfill** is 70% constructed. Earl Zimmerman is doing the inspection there.

"Finishing construction: the **lift station and force main for Kossuth Regional Health Center** in Algona. That project went well. Brian Klein was that project inspector.

"**Swea City** has hired us to be the affidavit operator for their **water and wastewater treatment plants**. Brian Klein will be the operator. Also a private subdivision we've worked with before has hired us to design a private two-acre lake. New homes will be built backing onto the lake." Also in



New lagoon at Strawberry Point. This project is producing effluent with less than 10mg/l CBOD and TSS and less than 1mg/l ammonia nitrogen.

Algona, Kent Rode reports that he is working on a site plan for a **biodiesel plant** located near **Galva** east of an existing ethanol plant. "We're doing the grading plan, storm water design, sanitary sewer design, water plan. That project is on a fast track with grading to start around the first of July. For **Emmetsburg** we are doing a preliminary survey and report for repairs to **Grand Avenue** where they've had ponding and dips consistent with sub grade settlement. Repairs were made to the street in 2002 by another firm, but settlement has occurred. The **recreation trail in Battle Creek** is on hold. Construction on a portion of the trail is complete; but because of high water and flooding this spring construction has been suspended on two areas of the proposed trail. Work will resume when the ground dries out.

"Construction of the sanitary sewer under **NE First Street in Alta** is underway. And we're working on a site plan for large grain bins to be constructed near a grain terminal near Galbraith."

Jeff Krueger in the Sac City office says they are doing the survey work on a small eight lot subdivision in Lake City; doing a topo and boundary survey for six sites for **Sara Lee**; and are finishing work on eight hog confinement sites for **Blackjack Pork** and located in Ida County.

In the Storm Lake office, survey work is heavy reports Scott Shevel. "**Construction staking for the Highway 60 bi-pass in Sibley** is 50% complete. Construction staking

"... the reclassification of streams most likely will increase the workload for KPL and other engineering firms in the coming years as many communities will have to upgrade to meet the new classifications."

for a new **Walgreen's** in Storm Lake has started; and also for the new **elementary school in Storm Lake**; and on **Project Awaysis** we are doing construction staking for the Great Lawn, and parking lot. We're also doing the surveying for the geopiers for the **Regency Condo** adjacent to the Project Awaysis Lodge."

Neal Kuehl says the final walk through for the **Strawberry Point wastewater system** was conducted June 20. "Final acceptance will be made on July 5, 2007. This project is producing effluent with less than 10 mg/l CBOD and TSS and less than 1mg/l ammonia nitrogen."

In other projects, Neal reports that design is progressing on the additions to the **Belmond swimming pool** with bids to be taken in early August and construction to start in September. John Devitt is working with **Schaller to complete a facilities plan** with the goal of expanding their controlled discharge lagoon system in 2008. Design is to begin in July or August. John has also been managing **well**

construction projects in both Newell and Dunlap. Start up should be in July for both of these.

The design of **water main improvements in Albert City** is nearing completion. Says, Neal, "This project will add water mains to the east side of town and tie in existing dead ends. The project will go to bid in August with a project start date of September."

The **Westside lagoon project** has been bid and construction will start July 11.

Stream reclassification

Neal also comments, "The reclassification of streams in Iowa by IDNR may be delaying some projects that we expected to get started this year. IDNR is evaluating

every stream in Iowa and until their work is complete, it will not be known just how to design some of our projects. Specifically, the Sloan, Iowa project may be delayed until 2008 when the stream classification is completed. On the other hand, the reclassification of streams most likely will increase the workload for KPL and other engineering firms in the coming years as many communities will have to upgrade to meet the new classifications."

Bob Payer reports that the **Storm Lake elementary school Phase I** is under construction with the top soil stripping started. Plans for Phase II which includes the rest of the infrastructure is going to the architect, NMW, to be let in August or September.

And says Bob, "We are working with **Ida county on plan development for the paving of 159th Street and Marshall Avenue**. We're developing plans for a **subdivision in Holstein called Kinder Ridge**. This is an extension of a previous street where water and sanitary sewer was done years ago. And we're doing a storm water study for the Alta school district."

The field work for the two-year cycle **bridge inspections for Clay and Kossuth Counties** is complete. "We'll also be doing a bridge inspection for the **City of Cherokee**," says Bob. Bob also reports that KPL has been hired by **Storm Lake** to develop plans for the **reconstruction of West Lakeshore Drive**. "We developed the plans, 12 years ago, for East Lakeshore Drive.

This current project will be a total reconstruction and will be similar to the the work done on East Lakeshore Drive."

Construction for the **lateral expansion of the Sac Landfill** began June 4. Says Ivan Droessler, "Work involves the installation of a ground water diversion system, preparation of a four foot clay liner and the installation of a leachate collection system." Greg Villegas is doing the staking and Brian Blomme is doing the inspection for this project with an expected completion by September 1.

Construction for a **lateral expansion to the Cherokee landfill** began on June 26. "This work also involves the installation of a ground water **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4**

News about KPLers

Neal Kuehl named to ACEC nominating committee

NEAL KUEHL has been named to the nominating committee for ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies). This select committee of seven members chooses the members of the ACEC national executive committee and the president elect. "Only one nominee will be selected for each slot, so in effect the nominating committee selects the executive committee and president elect," explains Neal. "At this time we have seven people vying for three executive committee slots and three people vying for the one president elect slot."

The nominating committee met in Washington in May and had a reception for all the nominees. "We will next meet at the fall meeting and interview all ten candidates before selecting the nominees who will appear on the ballot in January," adds Neal. Neal is also the National Director from Iowa for ACEC having served

for four years. This will be his final year as a National Director. In May he attended the spring meeting in Washington D.C.

KPL's extended family

KPL's extended family just got bigger! On June 18, **Ellie Catherine Ashley** was born to **Adam and Angie (Payer) Ashley** of Blair, Nebraska.

Ellie is the granddaughter of KPL's **Bob Payer**; and has an older sister, Elizabeth, nine; and two older brothers, Derek, six, and Alex, two and one half. Welcome aboard!



Ellie Catherine Ashley

Dan Etler, a former Kuehl and Payer employee and son of **Don Etler**, and **Theresa Uchytel-Etler** of Kansas City have been honored by Iowa State University with the James A. Hopson Alumni Volunteer Award.

The award which will be presented to them at Homecoming 2007 on October 19 recognizes contributions of service, achievement and philanthropy. It is one of 15 awards to be conferred during a special ceremony.

Community service

Scott Shevel reports that the current Habitat for Humanity house is well ahead of schedule with the sidewalls up, the roof on, and sheeting complete. If you'd like to participate in the Habitat effort talk to Scott. Volunteers are always welcome.

Sports

Tangy Wiseman, daughter of **Curt Wiseman** came in 6th out of 26 girls in the 800 meter race at the Hershey State Track Meet held recently in Marshalltown. Her 4 X 100 relay team came in 4th at the event. Tangy earned her

right to compete at the state event by placing first in the locals. Way to go, Tangy!

Don Etler is coaching his son, **Mike's**, Little League team of 9 and 10 year olds. This is the seventh team Don has coached. "But this year is after a 15 year hiatus. We're having fun, but we only have a 3 and 10 record. I can tell I'm 15 years older than last time," says Don.

Interns

Two Iowa State University engineering students are doing internships in the Algona office this summer.

Heidi Rode, a civil engineering major and daughter of **Kent Rode**, and **Chad Lane** a student in construction engineering are involved in the Kossuth County Economic Development program for interns.

Happy birthday

To **Nick Frederiksen** whose birthday is June 15; and to **John Devitt** whose birthday is June 29. ◀

Kuehl and Payer, Ltd.

1725 N. Lake Avenue, PO Box 458
Storm Lake, IA 50588-0458

1609 US Highway 18 East, PO Box 715
Algona, IA 50511-0715

423 West Main Street
Sac City, IA 50583

INTERACTION is published for Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. by Coppola-Sharp, Inc. «

POOLS, continued ...

several grant awards, including that from the Vision Iowa CAT program funded the Bacon Aquatic Center and park improvements. A committee of volunteers led by local Cherokee attorney John Cook and retired surgeon Dr. Robert Martin spearheaded the effort.

The Clear Lake Pool started operation June 12. "The contractor is finishing up some items in the concession area," says Neal. The pool at Hospers, also designed by Kuehl and Payer and managed by Curt Wiseman in the Algona office opened on Memorial Day weekend. «

PROJECTS, continued ...

diversion system, the preparation of a four foot clay liner and the installation of a leachate collection system. A lift station and force main to pump the leachate to an existing leachate pond on site will also be constructed." Greg and Brian are doing the staking and inspection on this landfill too with an expected completion by September 1.

Ivan reports that in animal waste projects: Tom Grafft is heading up a study for the **expansion of the industrial wastewater lagoon at Rembrandt Enterprises**. Work authorizations for three **EQIP swine projects** have been signed. Jaylin Dahlhauser is heading up the designs which include two deep pits and one circular open top tank. And there are two more EQIP jobs for dry stack facilities for turkey manure."

Work continues on the site layout and design for **seven turkey sites**. Two turkey sites are under construction with three more ready for construction. The final plans on the other two are expected to be complete by mid-July. "Sara Lee hopes to choose five more sites with the design to be complete before year end."

Drainage news

In Algona, Don Etler, reports that the spring seeding involved in several **CREP projects** has been on hold because of the wet spring. "It has made the task difficult for contractors. The bulk of the sites are being

seeded in a mixture of native grasses. Fortunately this lets us seed into early summer." Four additional CREP sites are expected, and two new CREP projects, both in Kossuth County, are underway with Nick Roethler in charge.

"On the drainage district side, the Commissioners' Report to bring flood relief to **New Hartford** was filed on June 12. Hearing will be held this summer on whether to construct the \$1.6 mm project. The **reclassification of Joint Drainage District 77, Pocahontas and Palo Alto Counties** was submitted to public hearing on May 17. This 63,000 acre project reclassification provides for the hearing with no additional review. This is very unusual for a district this size and with so many laterals. We credit the use of LIDAR data which helped the commission in accuracy.

"Also, a large wind farm to be constructed in southern Pocahontas County has raised an interesting challenge: the contractor would like to build five temporary crossings over drainage district ditches to allow for the passage of giant cranes needed to erect the wind towers. KPL has been charged to determine what is a reasonable size for the culverts for these temporary crossings."

Ivan Droessler reports, "The **Joint Drainage District 19 and 26, Buena Vista and Sac Counties**, clean out is nearing completion with Greg Villegas doing the staking and Brian Blomme assisting in inspection. Clean out work in **Drainage District 10, Calhoun County** will begin on June 28 with Greg doing both staking and inspection. Greg and Brian have completed the field damage review for the FEMA damage assessments for **Sac County**. Jaylin Dahlhauser completed field damage reviews in conjunction with the FEMA damage assessments for **11 drainage districts in Monona County**. Cost estimates were prepared and Jaylin met with FEMA representatives during the week of June 4. Thousands of dollars were approved for repair.

Welcome Aboard



WELCOME to Melissa Riggert who joins Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. in Algona. Melissa grew up on a farm in southwest Iowa near Shenendoah and went to Trainer High School. "Most people recognize Trainer because we went to the state tournaments so often," she laughs. Melissa spent two years at Iowa State University focusing on ag business and has three years experience as a computer technologist. She moved to Algona from Kansas City. Her hobbies include: building web pages, doing video scrap books and editing, and writing. "I've had several articles on women's health published. And fiction. Mysteries. I like to write." Melissa has a one year old son.

"The annexation report for the **Gray Lateral Districts, Monona County** was prepared by Jaylin and filed with the Monona County Board of Supervisors. The hearing was set for July 31. Jaylin is also working on the reclassification of over 6000 acres of the Gray Lateral Districts. This report will be filed in July. Also, the petition for the investigation and report on the main open ditch of **Drainage District 6, Calhoun County** has been filed. A survey of five miles of ditch is to be completed this fall.

"Finally, the preliminary report of a partial clean out of **Losey Drainage District Monona County** will be filed in July. The survey of three miles of ditch is possible for this fall.

If you have questions or want more information about these or similar projects, talk to any of the people mentioned. «