

NIU celebrates 125 years in 2020

Kickoff planned for Jan. 30 to begin events throughout year

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DeKALB – Northern Illinois University will celebrate its 125th birthday this year.

Festivities are planned for the duration of 2020, according to an NIU news release, with a kickoff celebration set for 3 to 5 p.m. Jan. 30 on the lower and newly remodeled level of the Holmes Student Center on campus. Events will celebrate the university's long history and look to the future, too.

"You cannot chart a course for the future without understanding the past," NIU President Lisa Freeman said in the release. "We are going to use this anniversary as an opportunity to not only look back and reflect, but also as an opportunity to embrace our present and to help chart our path forward."

Other events planned throughout the year include:

On Feb. 4, NIU will unveil the exhibition "Becoming Huskies" at the



Mark Busch file photo - mbusch@shawmedia.com

Northern Illinois University President Lisa Freeman speaks Oct. 10 during the unveiling and dedication ceremony of the new sculpture, Huskie Pride, in the Martin Luther King Jr. Commons.

Founders Memorial Library, which will highlight the transitions, traditions and moments that have defined the growth and identity of the university throughout its history, the release states.

In March, a dramatized lecture, "Women at Northern: The First Twenty-five Years," will examine the contributions of some of the female

pioneers at the Northern Illinois State Normal School.

In May, the exhibition, "Crimson Days," will open at the Ellwood House Museum in DeKalb, and a companion lecture, "Constructing the Castle," will be held on campus. Both will highlight the contributions of the individuals behind the founding of the Northern Illinois State Normal School,

the release states.

In July, an environmental art installation, "River Weaving," will illuminate the surprising role played by the Kishwaukee River in the selection of DeKalb as home to the normal school.

In November, the Avalon String Quartet will debut "Seven Ages of Man," a piece commissioned for the anniversary celebration.

Throughout the year, there also will be proclamations and receptions at university conference centers expected around the region, and a week of events planned in Chicago.

A complete list of the planned happenings can be found by searching "125th Anniversary" on the NIU all-university calendar at www.calendar.niu.edu.

NIU also will publish a chronological list of "125 Key Moments" in NIU history. The series of milestones will be presented online in monthly increments. A new interactive map also will be posted on the university website to illustrate how the footprint of the campus has grown and changed over time, and an oral history featuring the memories of Huskies past and present will be released later this year.

DeKALB

City Council supports lowering bar entry age to 19

Hookah bar owner wants BYOB policy

By KELSEY RETTKE
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DeKALB – While the City Council is largely in support of allowing minors under the age of 21 into bars, some council members wish to do a more thorough review of the entire liquor municipal code and votes regarding changes will take place at a future meeting.

"I think just a general review of our liquor code in an entirety would be a value to us," 6th Ward Alderman Mike Verbic said Monday.

Verbic, like much of the council Monday, supported all three liquor code-related measures up for consideration: allowing minors 19 and older into bars to



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Cameron Dye, one of four owners of Aroma's Hookah Bar, 811 W. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, across from the DeKalb Police Department, said he's hoping to obtain a BYOB license for his hookah lounge to provide smokers the opportunity to drink to aid falling clientele numbers.

aid food sales, providing BYOB (Bring your own bottle) liquor licenses to establishments that wish to allow patrons to bring their own alcohol to consume on-site, and providing a liquor license to fitness center owners who wish to complement smoothie bars with alcohol.

Chapter 38 of the DeKalb Municipal Code "Intoxicating

Liquors" currently prohibits anyone under the age of 21 from entering certain establishments in the city, but proposed amendments could soon allow people 19 years of age or older to dine in designated areas for restaurant sales, separate from any area used for bar sales.

Cameron Dye, one of four owners of Aroma's Hookah

Bar, 811 W. Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, across from the DeKalb Police Department, said he's hoping to obtain a BYOB license for his hookah lounge to provide smokers the opportunity to drink to aid falling clientele numbers.

"Our business has slowed down drastically to the point where we think if no change is made, we will not be in business come the end of the year," Dye said.

First Ward Alderwoman Carolyn Morris and City Manager Bill Nicklas said they think younger generations may not be as interested in drinking as older ones, and businesses are looking to offer alcohol as an option but keep alternative options such as food or smoking to prop up revenue.

Dye said he would mimic other establishments that have dual licenses, such as ones in

Naperville and Chicago, and charge \$4 to \$5 a person who wish to bring their own alcohol and drink while smoking inside.

The council also deliberated on how to designate those underage from those of drinking age if both are allowed in bars.

"Do the patrons at 21 or over have wristbands?" 2nd Ward Alderman Bill Finucane said. "It's easy enough to take off."

"When I was a young Marine, they drew giant X's on our hands with permanent marker," Morris said.

Interim DeKalb Police Chief John Petragallo said his staff is compiling a report of similar-sized cities that have allowed the same.

"We're conducting some outreach to other municipalities to basically gauge the impact on them," Petragallo said. "Not only for public safety but for operational necessities."