

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Friday, August 27, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 156



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Music In The Park hits 20



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

OSA Music In The Park chairwoman Sheryl Decker recognizes volunteers and sponsors during the final music program of the year Sunday in Old Settlers' Park.

OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION: Group celebrates 20th anniversary with final 2021 event

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Old Settlers' Association celebrated 20 years of "Music in the Park" Sunday with The River City 6, some food and some heartfelt recognition.

Sheryl Decker, chairman of the Music in the Park committee welcomed several hundred people to hear the final music event of the year.

Decker said the committee was excited and hoping for good weather when they determined there was going to be music in the park in 2021 after 2020 was put off due to the pandemic.

The River City 6 perform at Old Settlers Park Sunday night as part of the 20th Anniversary of "Music In The Park". The Old Settlers Association recognized sponsors and volunteers during the program. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

They were also hoping for sponsors to step up to help recover from the tough past two years.

"Most previous sponsors sent donations to be official sponsors at \$250; and a few others filled in the blanks for funds needed to hold this year's concerts and pay deposits to hold dates for next year," Decker said. "Community spon-

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MEXICAN FIESTA

Donors step up to help Fiesta celebrate 100th anniversary

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Some unforeseen expenses incurred by the Fort Madison Mexican Fiesta committee spurred local groups and people into action this week.

The Fiesta committee reported last

week that some rental expenses had gone up unexpectedly this year, but things were on schedule for the 100th annual event set for Sept. 16-18 in the Mexican Village on Avenue Q in Fort Madison.

The news generated several contributions including three \$1,000 donations

that came from Jason Lynk of King-Lynk Funeral Home, DuPont Corp. in Fort Madison and Lee County Supervisor Rich Harlow.

Committee member Jamie Mesech-er said the extra money will come in

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SCHOOL BOARD

Vote likely to delay Phase 1 construction

Firms say materials are hard to secure for \$25M construction project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Volatility in the market for construction materials has forced the Fort Madison School board to delay the date for retiring Lincoln and Richardson elementary schools by up to a year.

At a special meeting held Thursday night, officials with Carl A. Nelson & Co., and DLR Group, updated the board on extended lead times for securing construction materials and presented them with two options.

The first option was to continue with the PreK-6th grade construction add-on at the current Fort Madison Middle School. That option would have required bringing in mobile classrooms for 7th and 8th graders who were to move to the high school starting in the fall of 2023.

The second option was to push the entire project back one year to allow for materials to be secured for the projects.

The board approved the second option by a 6-1 vote with board president Dianne Hope voting against the measure.

"I'm just disappointed. Very disappointed. I'm disappointed that we didn't know this two weeks ago so that I could've gotten my head around it sooner," Hope said.

"It's a disappointment to our staff. We want to get out of Richardson and we want to get out of Lincoln. I'm preaching to the choir, I know that. It's just been hard for me to grasp that we're going to have another year in inadequate facilities."

Board member Brad Menke supported pushing the construction back a year.

"I agree with your frustration, but we're here for the future of the kids and if it's

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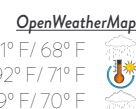
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WEATHER

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SAT 28 Aug..... Hot & Sunny, 92° F/ 71° F
SUN 29 Aug..... Light Rain, 89° F/ 70° F



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LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/25.....9 24 33 40 48, Lucky Ball: 11
PICK 3 08/25 MIDDAY.....3 2 4
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POWERBALL 08/25.....27 39 54 56 59, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/From the Front

Committee trying to get Fiesta back to its heyday

FIESTA - Continued from Page 1

handy as the committee works to put on a special centennial celebration.

"I love it and it makes my heart swell because I live for this," Mesecher said. "I appreciate everyone that has stepped up. We still have some people who are donating."

He said like any other event, costs continue to rise but he's hoping for a great turnout and additional donations to help the festival committee carry over some funds for the next year.

"We're trying to rebuild this festival. We want to get the 100th celebration in the books and then start working toward 101. We want this tradition to carry on," he said. "I have a daughter who's 15 and I want to see her compete for queen, or a granddaughter. This is a part of my life."

The festival was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic and was almost shuttered in 2018 when it appeared funding wouldn't be sufficient going forward.

The community stepped up in 2019 to keep the festival from disbanding with numerous private donations to keep it afloat.

The Fort Madison City Council also approved a \$2,500 contribution to the festival this year, an increase from the past donations of \$1,000.

Mesecher said the owners of the shelter house area are working with the festival committee.

"We're glad they are working with us to make this happen," he said.

Despite the infusion of donations to the festival, Mesecher said additional donations as well as volunteers are welcome and appreciated.

"Volunteers and donations are still needed as we try to revitalize this historic festival," he said. "We'd like to get back to where we could give scholarships to the queens and possibly help with other events in our community, like groups are helping us," he said.

John Hellige, plant manager at DuPont in Fort Madison issued a statement from the corporation Thursday afternoon.

"For nearly 85 years, the DuPont Fort Madison site and its employees have been a strong and active member of the greater Lee County community. We are especially proud of our longstanding relationship with the vibrant local Hispanic community, and we are pleased to make a \$1,000 contribution to the Fiesta Committee to support their 100th Mexican Fiesta celebration next month."

A public work day to help get the village ready for the festival is to be announced next week.

OBITUARIES

JAMES E. WALTER

James "Jim" Emil Walter, 84, of Keokuk, passed away on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.

Jim was born on March 9, 1937, the son of Elmer and Bernice (Strohmaier) Walter. On August 22, 1959, he was united in marriage to Dena Brown of Kahoka, Missouri.



WALTER

Jim was a member of First Baptist Church in Keokuk for several years and was baptized there. As a boy, he carried papers for the Daily Gate City. He graduated from Southeastern Community College and the University of Iowa with a BBA. As a member of the Army Reserves, he spent time on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Jim was employed as a sales representative for Moore Business Forms in Des Moines where he was a member of the Moore Achievement Club. In 1964, he returned to Keokuk to work in the family roofing business. He retired from Walter's Roofing Co, Inc, in 1999.

Jim enjoyed working in his yard, playing cards, being active in the stock market, and spending time with his family and friends.

Jim is survived by his good friend and companion Debbie Foulkes of Keokuk; two sons: Brett (Kelli Jo) Walter of Grapevine, Texas, and Michael Walter of Denver, Colorado; his brother Dave (Barb) Walter of Keokuk; his sister Marilyn (Terry) Freitag of Monticello, Wisconsin; eight grandchildren: Claire (Ben) Wilson of Denham Springs, Louisiana, Jill (Landon) Applegate of Houston, Texas, Max Walter, Allie Walter, Emma Walter and Olivia Walter, all of Denver, Colorado, and Adena Walter and Joshua Walter of Grapevine, Texas; four great-grandchildren: Luke and Anna Clair Wilson of Denham Springs, Louisiana, and Ireland and Sailor Applegate of Houston, Texas; three sisters-in-law: Sherry (Rick) Larkam of San Antonio, Texas, Pam Brown of Dallas, Texas, and Maureen Walter of Wichita, Kansas; and brother-in-law Fred Brown of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Dena, his brother Dale Walter, and brothers-in-law John Brown and Bill Deck.

A graveside service with military honors will be held at 4 pm on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at Sandusky Cemetery in Sandusky, Iowa. Military honors will be rendered by the United States Army and VFW Post #3508. A celebration of life with food will be held on directly after the graveside at Jim's shaded front yard, 3370 Mississippi River Road, Keokuk, Iowa, 52632, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

Memorials may be directed to First Baptist Church of Keokuk (25 N. 8th Street, Keokuk, Iowa 52632) or Outreach Sports (988 Harber Ave. Grapevine, Texas 76051) www.outreachsports.org. Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

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Obituaries/Local News

OBITUARIES

LIL E. VERMILLION

Lil E. Vermillion, 97, of Keokuk, IA, died peacefully at her home, surrounded by her family, on Thursday, August 12, 2021

She was born on March 6, 1924 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of William and Ethel Iler Buerklin. On June 8, 1954, Lil was united in marriage to George L. Vermillion, Jr. in Quincy, IL. He survives.



VERMILLION

She is also survived by her son, George Vermillion III and his wife Kancy of Nicollet, MN, her daughter, Peggy Vermillion of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Adam Vermillion and his wife Sarah of Eldridge, IA, Christopher Vermillion and his wife Leslie of North Mankato, MN, Dan Workman and his wife Lacey of Donnellson, IA, and Hailey Workman of Des Moines, IA, seven great-grandchildren, Quinn Vermillion and Zach Vermillion both of North Mankato, Gracie Vermillion, Scarlett Young, Elora Young and Ender Young all of Eldridge and Wyatt "W.O.W." Workman of Donnellson, four sisters-in-law, one brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter at birth, Elizabeth, her brothers and sisters, Onita Stoeber, Theodore "Ike" Buerklin, Carl Buerklin, Lawrence "Oak" Buerklin, Dorothy "Dot" Wardwell, Don Buerklin, Marie Peterson, Robert Buerklin and Dewey Buerklin, and a cherished niece, Patty Poland

Lil was a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Keokuk and a lifetime member of Weight Watchers.

Lil played softball in her younger years and throughout her lifetime was a very talented bowler. She bowled on several Women's Leagues and participated in several state and national bowling tournaments. She held the record for the highest women's series score of 675 for many years. Lil was honored to be inducted into the Keokuk Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame. She was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan and never missed an opportunity to watch a game and cheer them on.

Lil was a wonderful baker and candy maker and was famous for her homemade turtle candy. She often made treats for the managers and staff at local banks and HyVee. The manager at HyVee enjoyed her rice crispy treats so much that he asked for her recipe and proceeded to have them made and sold at HyVee under the name, The Million Bar. Lil loved to make afgans and one year made forty-five afgans to give to her bowling friends. For fun, Lil enjoyed going to the casinos and trying her luck with scratch off lottery tickets. She was lucky enough once to have a winning \$3,000 ticket.

Lil was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and her greatest joy in life was spending time with her family.

A memorial service will be held at 1:30, p.m., Friday, August 27, 2021 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Reverend Milo Van Veldhuizen officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Thursday, August 26 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 5 - 8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to the St. Paul United Church of Christ in Keokuk or the Shriner Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Police look into gun fire incident on Avenue I

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison police are currently looking for a suspect in connection with gun fire Wednesday night near 26th Street and Avenue I.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, police were called to the intersection just after 8:30 p.m. where a motorist stated he was accosted by the occupants of a second vehicle.

In a release, Rohloff indicated a small caliber pistol was discharged into the air and some yelling occurred.

"Apparently we have some bad blood here between a couple people," Rohloff said.

He said the parties are reported to have known each other, but no injuries or property damage resulted from the incident.

Officers did recover a single shell casing at the scene. A description of the suspect and a vehicle were obtained and officers are currently looking for both.

Rohloff said further information will be made public as it becomes available.

Gov. orders flags at half staff after Kabul bombing

DES MOINES - Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered all flags in Iowa to be lowered to half-staff immediately until sunset on August 30, 2021 to honor and pay our respects to the U.S. service members and other victims killed in the terrorist attack on August 26, 2021, in Kabul, Afghanistan. Flags should remain lowered until sunset on August 30, 2021.

The governor's order is issued in conjunction with President Joe Biden's proclamation to lower all United States flags to half-staff for the same length of time.

Flags will be at half-staff on the State Capitol Building and on flag displays in the Capitol Complex. Flags will also be half-staff on all public buildings, grounds and facilities throughout the

state.

Individuals, businesses, schools, municipalities, counties and other government subdivisions are encouraged to fly the flags at half-staff for the same length of time.

Gov. Reynolds released the following statement earlier today:

"The state of Iowa joins with the entire nation mourning the devastating loss of 12 U.S. service mem-

bers killed in action in Kabul earlier today. There are no words that can describe the pain felt by their fellow soldiers, family, and loved ones. Kevin and I send our prayers to their family and to those injured, as well as those brave men and women still standing guard outside the airport. We cannot thank the brave men and women of our Armed Forces enough for what they do to preserve this incredible nation."

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Sports

Battle for chair kicks off 2021 football season



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FM quarterback Landes Williams breaks through the line in a drill earlier this month in Fort Madison. The Hounds open the season Friday at home with a 7:30 p.m. game for the county seat against Keokuk.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison football coach Derek Doherty said he learned on thing from last year’s season-ending loss to Grinnell in the Class 3A playoffs.

“We gotta be us.”

That’s the mantra Doherty is carrying into his third year as head of the Fort Madison football program – a year he says he’s bringing in a brand new team.

“That’s been the message – we’ve gotta be us. That was last year’s team, and this year’s team has to be us. If we’re not us, anybody can whip our butt.

If we’re us, we feel like we’re a competitive football team,” Doherty said Thursday.

The season kicks off at 7:30 p.m. Friday against county rival Keokuk. The rivalry is as hot as ever and usually the game is played toward the end of the season. But with redistricting taking

place in the off-season and Fort Madison climbing into Class 4A, the game was set for the opener.

“It’s a rivalry game right at week 1. I think it’s great for the area. I love this time of year. People are excited and the fact that we’re in the same county and there’s a chair, it just makes it fun,” Doherty said.

Both the Hounds and the Chiefs are in a sort of rebuild mode, but Doherty said that’s part of high school football. Fort Madison finished last year 7-2 with a 35-0 loss to Grinnell ending the year.

The Chiefs bring back Equilius Lee at running back, a quick slasher of a back, and the line will be anchored by Trace Hackaday, a 6’5” 250 lb. senior who’s quickly grabbing the attention of many at the college level. Hackaday was recently listed in the top 40 Iowa high school college prospects by the Des Moines Register.

“Hackaday’s a dude and seems to be the real

See HOUNDS, page 5

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Sports/Lee County News

Hounds returning just three on both sides of ball

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 4

deal. But we gotta do what we gotta do. The hype is there and he's earned that respect, but we gotta believe in our kids and believe we can get the job done," Doherty said.

Hackaday had 18.5 tackles as a junior, 14 solo and one sack.

The Chiefs' offense was entirely quarterback Corey Skinner who amassed almost 2,000 total yards last year and scored 23 of the Chief's 29 offensive touchdowns. This year Keokuk will either turn to Bryor Lindner or Lucas Swainey, a left-handed sophomore to lead the offense.

Keokuk went 4-4 in 2020 missing one game along the way. Washington ended Keokuk's season with a 47-6 loss in the second round of the Class 3A playoffs, after the Chiefs beat Fairfield to open the post season.

Lee led the Chiefs in yards per carry at 7.8 and had close to 300 yards total but failed to reach the endzone.

Fort Madison will bring back three returners to the offense led by quarterback Landes Williams. Williams will enter his senior year with some lofty numbers after taking over calling signals in the third game last year. Williams threw for close to 750 yards and 12 TDs against three picks. He also ran for 445 yards and nine scores.

Senior Tate Johnson will be a threat on both sides of the ball. Johnson hauled in seven touchdowns in 2020 with a whopping 20.4 yards per catch. He also had 43 tackles, and returned both a fumble and an interception for touchdowns.

Senior Austin Ensminger and junior Tanner Settles will help anchor the Hounds defense. The two combined for 90 tackles last year and Settles was all over in the backfield recording eight tackles for losses.

On the offensive side, seniors Jakob McGowan and Gavin Wiseman will provide some options out of the backfield as will sophomore Teague Smith. Junior Kane Smith will give the Hounds some depth at wideout along with Xander Wellman, Miles Dear and Mikey DiPrima.

Wellman will also handle the kicking and punting duties for the Hounds.

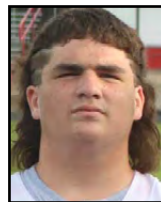
Doherty said the Hounds will go into week 1 trying to find their identity and seeing who steps into roles, especially on the offensive and defensive fronts. Junior Mateo Lozano will be anchoring the lines for the Hounds. Lozano started both sides as sophomore last year.

"We're still filling that hole now. We've got some guys that are neck and neck," Doherty said. "We're not big and we won't impress you on paper. We didn't do that last year, either, but our kids are strong and if you play at a good pad level and you do the systematic things it puts you in an advantageous situation.

"It's not just about body mass. Height and weight look good on paper, but I don't get caught up in it. We think strong is strong and fast is fast, and we've got a job to do."

Doherty kept any surprises close to the vest, but said the whole team has shown up in the preseason. With 85% attendance from players at athletic enhancement, Doherty said there will be some heavy competition for varsity action this year.

"It sounds cliché, but the whole team has surprised me. We've obviously got a couple key guys back, but Miles Dear is looking really good. I like how he's matured and Teague Smith, we knew we had a dude there, He's not just a workhorse, he's smart. The best thing about him is he wants to be good. He doesn't wish to be good, he's working for it and that's a huge difference," Doherty said.



LOZANO



WILLIAMS



JOHNSON

WP library revs up after-school programs

BY DARA SANDERS
West Point Public Library Director

WEST POINT - Back to school means fall programming and new resources at the West Point Public Library for children. We are offering a number of after school programs for kids on Wednesdays. First, Lego Robotics is being offered on the first Wednesday of every month from 1:30 - 3:00 pm, starting on Sept. 1, for kids in grades 4th -6th. Registration is required and space is limited so reserve your spot soon by calling the West Point Public Library at (319) 837-6315. Afternoon Adventures, which includes BINGO and a STEAM program for kids in grades K - 6th, will also occur on Wednesdays. BINGO will be on the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 3:30 - 4:30 pm, no registration required with snacks and prizes provided. The

STEAM program will be presented by Breana Houtz, of the Lee County Extension Office, on select Wednesdays once a month from 1:30-2:30 pm. Please check the library website or Facebook page for specific dates. Registration is required by calling the Lee County Extension office at (319) 835-5116. And finally, Preschool Story Time for kids ages 2-5 will begin on Monday, Sept. 13, at 10:00 am. Please call the library to register.

The library also has new collections and resources available for kids of all ages. For children in grades K - 6th, we have a new collection of Interactive Non-Fiction books through the Junior Library Guild. This collection includes both the print book and an interactive online version of the book in the following categories: All About Animals, Sports Essentials, About Our World, and

World Languages. These non-fiction topics come to life with animated illustrations, live videos, slideshows, and quizzes. In addition, starting on September 1, we will be subscribing to TumbleBookLibrary, an online collection of free e-books for children that can be accessed from home on any computer, tablet, or mobile phone. There are over 250 animated, talking pictures books along with Spanish and French books, read-along chapter books, nonfiction books, and exciting games and puzzles. Visit our library's website for instant access at www.westpoint.lib.ia.us. Both of these resources, along with the above-mentioned Lego Robotics program, are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as administered by the State Library of Iowa.



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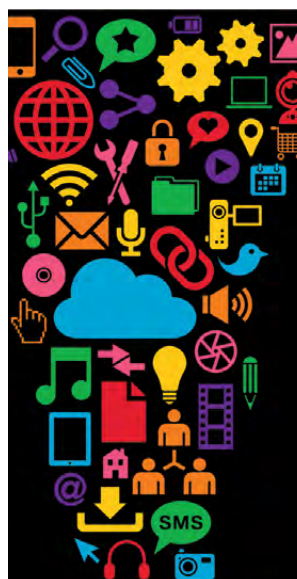
PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority August 27, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Directors 2:00pm – 3:00pm
In-person at: SIREPA Building 2495 280th St, Montrose, IA
And Via Zoom
Call-In: (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 876 5845 2821
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87658452821>
Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Chair (Boyer):
 - Roll Call:
 - a. Director Denise Boyer, Chair
 - b. Director Mike Hickey, Vice-Chair
 - c. Director Michael Dunn, Treasurer
 - d. Director Jack Smith
 - e. Director, Bob Dodds

- f. Director, Bruce Hardy
- g. Ex-Officio, Garry Seyb, Lee County Supervisor
- h. Ex-Officio, Rick Larkin, Lee County Supervisor
- i. Ex-Officio, Matt Larson, State Treasurer's Office
- II. Approval of Agenda of August 27, 2021 Meeting (Board Action)
- III. Approval of Minutes of July 27, 2021 Meeting (Board Action)
- IV. Resolution No. 3-2021 to apply for Lee County ARPA Broadband Funds in amount of \$1,950,000 to partner with Danville Telco Lee County Broadband Proposal to Serve Tier 1 Underserved Areas (Board Action)
- V. LCEDG Lease Agreement (Board Action)
- VI. Matters from the Floor
- VII. Adjourn (Board Action)



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From the Front

Board disappointed in project setback

SCHOOLS - Continued from Page 1

one more year that we have to wait to get something perfect and right, I think it's on us to make that right decision in my opinion. It is frustrating but good things come to those who wait," he said.

"We've been waiting a hell of a long time," Hope said.

Board member Josh Wykert also supported moving the project back a year. He said he couldn't support educating students in mobile classrooms.

"I'm not for putting kids in boxes, trailers, whatever you wanna call them, when we have two perfectly inadequate buildings already," Wykert said.

"At least their safe."

Chris Smith, Vice President of Construction with Carl A. Nelson, said typical requests for these types materials are about two months out, but current conditions have those same requests now 10 to 12 months out.

But he said the work on the project will still be moving ahead and if the market rebounds the work could get done before the new August 2024 project deadline.

"What we've been seeing over the past several weeks is just continuous feedback from the market conditions that materials are becoming harder to procure – the labor market is challenging as well – and on things that we generally see on short lead times," said Andrew J. Van Leeuwen, a senior architect with DLR Group out of Des Moines.

"A lot of these materials impacted some of our systems and a lot of those systems we're finding and hearing and getting confirmation from the market that there are extensive lead times. So those traditional materials are getting harder and harder to find."

Smith said the two entities worked together to try to find other ideas and materials that would fit the construction budget to keep the project moving, but ultimately nothing panned out.

"Honestly, I think reality has set in that all these

alternative solutions and methods that we've been dreaming up that we thought were viable solutions, we believe were too risky for all of us," Smith said.

"The problem is that if this was a house or an office building or something like that and construction came in a month or two late, it may not be ideal, but it's not the end of the world. But you have to have places to put kids. So we thought it best to have that conversation with you now and not 8 to 10 months from now."

Smith said he took responsibility for not bringing the concerns up earlier, including a school board meeting 10 days ago when DLR presented the schematic design and didn't elude to any construction delays.

"My position has always been that we committed to a schedule and I'm gonna break my back to make this happen and we're not going to go ask for extra time," Smith said. "But I think it's become apparent that it doesn't matter how hard we try and how smart we think we are, we just can't outsmart the marketplace."

The board has already approved construction on the Middle School and the Fort Madison High School that will eventually have all Prek-6th grade students at the Middle School, and all 7th-12th graders at the High School with enhanced learning facilities.

At the Aug. 16 board meeting, DLR's Nick Hanson presented the schematic design to the board and said in 25 months kids will be walking into the doors of the schools "and we're all going to celebrate".

Hope was also the only board member to vote against hiring DLR for architectural services. She also voted against Carl A. Nelson as Construction Manager on the project.

The work is Phase 1 of construction to move all students into the Middle School and High School and retire the elementaries at a cost of about \$25 million.

The district has also put \$186,000 into beefing up security at the two elementaries until they are retired.

OSA group thanks volunteers, sponsors for keeping music alive in city park

PARK - Continued from Page 1

sors who pay for supplies to hold the concert meals were also received."

The concert in July featuring 50's and 60's music by Richie Lee found 400 plus in attendance with 60 plus classic cars on display from Pen City Cruisers, and a profit that will allow the organization to fertilize the grounds and pay for Christmas decorations.

"The tip jar certainly helped make up for loss of income in 2020" Decker said. "We are grateful".

On Sunday the OSA recognized official sponsors include the following: Connection Bank & Insurance, Jim Decker family, DuPont, Art and Kathy Nelson, Pen City Cruisers, Pen City Current, Preceptor Gamma Delta Sorority and Preceptor Delta Phi Sorority, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, Seither & Cherry Services, UFCW Local 617, Dan Willits, and the Rose Briggs Foundation.

Community Sponsors who donate \$100 or more and pay for supplies and food in preparation for the concerts are Brad Hart, the Iowa Fertilizer Plant, Ed and Georgia Merschman, Jan and Jack Moore, Linda and David Smith, and the Dodie Jerome memorial.

In-kind donations received were from the Democrat, Fort Madison Chamber, Fort Madison city parks workers, Hy-Vee, Pen City Current, the FM United Methodist Church, (providing a rain out location), the Lions Club and the Elks Lodge.



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