

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 114



www.pencitycurrent.com

County tiring of "wild" cattle

SUPERVISORS: County attorney, board considering options for ongoing issue

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Supervisors want a county farmer to get a grip on his beef.

In a work session following Monday's regular Board of Supervisors meeting in Fort Madison, supervisors discussed the ongoing problem of cattle, including heifers and at least six charolais bulls that are loose and considered "wild" in Lee County.

Supervisor Garry Seyb said he's hearing that some of the cattle have never been touched by human hands.

"There's no doubt this is an issue that's going to have to be addressed," Seyb said. "All the border neighbors have been affected individually."



SEYB

Seyb said his investigations with neighbors in a 12.5 mile circle from Ambrosia Lane to 190th Avenue to 215th Avenue to Argyle Road, indicate there is about 3,000 acres where the cattle are roaming. He's also been given pictures of the cattle on the road.

One Lee County deputy has actually been assigned to take all the calls on the cattle and there have been 20 to 30 calls in the last eight months, according to Seyb.

The Lee County Attorney, Lee County Sheriff's Department, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and the Iowa Veterinary Association have been involved in

See **BEEF**, page 8

COUNTY NEWS

ARPA funds have county making plans

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – With \$3.2 million in federal American Rescue Plan stimulus funds already in the bank, Lee County officials are trying to map out how the money will be dispersed.

A committee of six people that includes Lee County Supervisors Ron Fedler and Garry Seyb, Jr., Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom, Lee County Administrative Asst, Sara Henthall and Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Mike Norris, met Monday to iron out some of the details.

The county received the first half of a \$6.5 million allocation in May and will get the second allocation in 2022.

The money is currently in the county's account with Connection Bank, but Auditor Denise Fraise said she's spoken with officials who say the money can be put into interest-bearing accounts or even invested.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he wouldn't support putting the money in any vehicle where principal could be lost, because the county may end up on the hook for it.

"In an investment you could see a loss and I don't think we should be in the business of investing with the possibility of loss. I'd rather have a sure thing on something like a short-term CD for, like, six months. Something to get a little revenue," Fedler said.

"Anything else wouldn't be responsible."

Norris suggested a money market account or something with little to no risk, but a little return on money.

Fedler recommended investing \$2 million of the ARPA funds into a CD or other no risk investment and keeping \$1.2 million in the bank in case the county would need to have access to some of the funds.

Seyb said he was concerned about the parameters of what would qualify in the requests that are sure to come in.

He said most of the requests would probably come in through the committee members, but they should be funneled to Renstrom. Norris said he would try to get out something in writing to the rest of the committee in the next

See **ARPA**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

A rainbow settles in over the Fort Madison High School baseball field just before a storm cell would delay the action for about an hour Monday night. For more see **SPORTS** page 4.

CITY NEWS

Police looking into early Sunday morning assault

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Police are looking into an assault that took place at the Casey's General Store in the 1200 block of Fort Madison early Sunday morning.

The incident is still under investigation, but three men allegedly assaulted

another man in the parking lot of the convenience store at about 3:20 a.m. Sunday morning.

According to Fort Madison Police, preliminary investigations indicate there may have been some words exchanged between the men inside the store and then an altercation took place outside the store when one of the men

left the store.

The man assaulted suffered minor injuries and refused to medical treatment and was given a ride to his home after the incident.

Police are hoping to gather video evidence of the scene and charges could be forthcoming after the investigation is completed.

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
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FRI 10 Jan.....Sunny and Warm, 85° F/ 68° F
SAT 11 Jan.....Scattered Clouds, 86° F/ 71° F

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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/03/21 – 4:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Storms Court.
06/03/21 – 10:32 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.
06/03/21 – 11:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Donald Bell, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for probation violation and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/03/21 – 11:44 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1200 block of 37th Street.
06/03/21 – 3:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3000 block of Avenue J.
06/03/21 – 6:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Nicholas Kamp, 28, of Fort Madison in the 100 block of 28th Place on a warrant for parole violation and violation of pretrial release. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/03/21 – 9:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Belinda Shallcross, 33, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension.
06/04/21 – 9:43 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3900 block of Bluff Road.
06/04/21 – 10:14 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3900 block of Bluff Road.
06/04/21 – 10:53 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
06/04/21 – 7:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5000 block of Avenue O.
06/05/21 – 11:45 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 900 block of 30th Street.
06/05/21 – 11:51 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
06/05/21 – 11:52 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 1500 block of 20th Street.
06/06/21 – 11:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Chandra Leigh Reynolds, 42, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue H, on a charge of violation of a no contract order. She was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/03/21 – 4:01 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Erin Barkow, 38, of Keokuk, at the South Lee County Courthouse on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/03/21 – 5:08 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Christine Yvette Bullard, 63, of Keokuk in the 2700 block

of 340th Street, on a charge of 3rd-degree harassment.
06/04/21 – 9:43 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Hayley Rayes-Barreira, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 2600 block of Hwy. 2 on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/04/21 – 6:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandy Lynn Sturm, 30, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.
06/04/21 – 10:42 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at Hwy X32 and 303rd Avenue. Deputies observed an SUV on it's side in the ditch without a driver. Investigation showed the vehicle was headed southbound on 303rd Avenue when it lost control and spun going into the ditch backward and tipped over onto its side. The following morning the driver Cammie Donaldson 38, of Fort Madison contacted police and said she got into the accident trying to avoid colliding with a deer. Donaldson was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported.
06/05/21 – 8:36 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at Hwy. 16 and 6th Street. According to the report a vehicle driven by Larry Patrick Brotherton, 77, of Fort Madison allegedly struck a legally parked vehicle. Brotherton was headed eastbound on Hwy. 16 and pulled to the side of the road to park and backed into the second vehicle. No injuries were reported and no citations were listed.
06/05/21 – 11:25 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Michael Gollieher, 34, of Farmington, in the 2500 block of 218th Street in West Point on a warrant for being a fugitive. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
06/06/21 – 10:25 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Karkisha Alberta Robinson, 41, of Mobile, Ala., in the 2500 block of Hwy. 27 in Donnellson, on a charge of carrying weapons. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

05/31/21 – Bryce R Bowman, age 23, of Mt. Pleasant, IA was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault. Bowman remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
06/01/21 – James A Martens, age 35, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Brown County, IL Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear and Pay Fines and Costs. Martens was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
06/01/21 – Tristan D Tripp, age 23, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Tripp was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
06/01/21 – Daphne K Akers, age 41, of Colchester, IL was arrested on a McDonough County, IL Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Possession of Methamphetamine. Akers was released to McDonough County, IL authorities.
06/02/21 – Jennifer A Robertsons, age 48, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked. Robertsons was released and given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.
06/02/21 – Kalon B Monroe, age 59, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Monroe was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
06/03/21 – Michael E Bates, age 45, of Ursa, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Bates remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
06/05/21 – Joseph R McGowan, age 34, of Plymouth, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence and Domestic Battery. McGowan remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
06/06/21 – Jonathan D Scoville, age 41, of Quincy, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Scoville remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
06/06/21 – Gregory D Anthony, age 46, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Disorderly Conduct. Anthony was also arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine. Anthony remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
06/06/21 – Jessica N Linke-man, age 29, of Windom, MN was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Driving While License Suspended, and Possession of a Hypodermic Needle. Linke-man remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting her next court appearance.
06/06/21 – Troy D Simpson, age 55, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Threatening a Public Official, Disorderly Conduct, Illegal Possession of a Firearm by a Felon, and Resisting a Peace Officer. Simpson remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

MARILYN P. MCDONALD

Marilyn Patricia (Bughman) McDonald, 88, died December 30, 2020 in St. Paul, MN. A long-time resident of Keokuk, Iowa, Marilyn was a graduate of Keokuk High School and Northeast Missouri State University, with a major in Home Economics.



MCDONALD

She was married to Karold McDonald for 58 years until his death in 2012.

The McDonalds had four children: Mark (Rev. Laura) McDonald of Rising Sun, Indiana, Marcia (George) Richardson of Pekin, Illinois, Steven McDonald who died in infancy and Lisa (Bruce) Lohr of St. Paul, Minnesota. Marilyn is also survived by two granddaughters, Molly Behrends, and Hannah (Aaron) Ganschow of Peoria, Illinois, and four great-grandchildren. In addition, she is survived by niece Jan (David) Whaley of Alton, Illinois and nephew Lee (Judy) Bughman of Moline, IL.

Marilyn and Karold were active in leadership at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Keokuk, and the Lee County Hospital Auxillary.

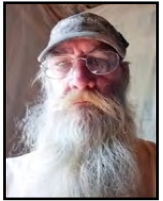
She worked for several years as a Children's Librarian in Keokuk. In addition, she was a member of P.E.O. and Eastern Star. A gifted crafter, Marilyn enjoyed Sewing, Quilting, Needlework, Crochet, and Knitting. Her abilities in music (piano and voice) were a lasting legacy to her children and grand-children.

In addition to her husband and infant son, Marilyn was predeceased by her parents, Herbert and Zella Bughman, and her brother, Jack (Nancy) Bughman.

Services to remember Marilyn Bughman McDonald will be held Tuesday, June 8th at St. Paul UCC in Keokuk with visitation at 9 am and service at 10 am. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Rev. Milo Van Veldhuizen will officiate and De-Jong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home will be in charge of arrangements. The family requests any memorials be given to St. Paul UCC.

DAVID SPORTSMAN

David Sportsman, 68 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Saturday, June 5, 2021 at the Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. He was born November 8, 1952, the son of John E and Juanita W (McPherson) Sportsman.



SPORTSMAN

David was a 1972 graduate of Fort Madison High School. He was a painter and contractor. He also had a creative side and did art restoration for churches, including locally at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He loved fishing, gardening, cooking, and his animals, especially his cat, Tom. David was a man of diverse interests, close to nature, skilled in many trades, and was a strong man with an honorable tender heart.

He is survived by two children, Quenten Sportsman of Osage Beach, Missouri and Carin (Scott) Collins of Brookfield, Missouri; three sisters: Sharon Sportsman Ebert, Janice Sportsman, and Priscilla Sportsman Nelson, all of Fort Madison, Iowa; three grandchildren: Ember, Marley, and Cole; four nephews: Brian, Jeremy, Scott, and Matthew; two great nieces, Juanita and Daniele; one great nephew, Joey, and countless other loved ones and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1:00 - 4:00 pm Sunday, June 13, 2021 at the Eagle's Club, 4821 Ave O, Fort Madison, Iowa. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Sportsman family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

OBITUARIES

CHARLES F. ANSCHUTZ

Charles Felix Anschutz, 92 of Keokuk, IA, died Monday, May 24, 2021 at his home. He was born on November 18, 1928 in Keokuk, IA, the son of Felix and Ida Elizabeth Haubert. He graduated from Keokuk Senior High with the Class of 1947.



ANSCHUTZ

In 1951, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was in the 682nd Combat Engineers. In 1952 he was transferred into the 969th Construction Engineers Company B and in 1952 he was sent overseas to Lavno, Italy where he served until January 1953. He returned to the United States where he received his Honorable Discharge.

On November 13, 1960, Charles was united in marriage to Saralee Ruby in Keokuk. She survives

He is also survived by three children, Charles (Mary) Anschutz of Independence, MO, Wayne (Susan) Anschutz of Pella, IA and Cindy (Jon) Wollenburg of Omaha, NE, four grandsons, Will and Ben Anschutz of Pella and Tyler and Andrew Wollenburg of Omaha. He is also survived by one sister, Susan (Dow) Prouty of Cedar Rapids, IA and several nieces and nephews.



He was preceded in death by a brother, Bill Anschutz in 1956, his parents, aunts and uncles.

Charles had been employed at Chevron Chemical Plant in Fort Madison, IA for twenty-five years.

He was inducted into the Masonic Lodge in 1950, where he served in various roles and was Secretary of the Lodge for over thirty years. He joined the Kaaba Shrine in 1958 where he was Treasurer for over twenty-five years and served as a Hospital Dad, helping qualify young kids for medical care at the Shriners Hospital in St. Louis. He made many trips to St. Louis to take children to the Hospital. He was a member of the American Legion for over thirty years. He was a charter member of the Keokuk Yacht Club and served as treasurer for several years. He was also a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary where he taught Safe Boating Classes for twenty-five years.

Chuck enjoyed boating on the Mississippi River and had a passion for the history of the river. He was a member of the Midwest Riverboat Buffs club for over twenty-five years and took many weekend trips to attend meetings with the group, reminiscing about the river, the boats, the people, and sight-seeing. He spent his childhood growing up living near the river and it became part of who he was.

A visitation will be held from 1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with a Masonic Service at 3 p.m. Burial with military rites will follow in the Sandusky Cemetery in Sandusky, IA.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for children. On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Charles Vandenberg, Editor
 (319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
 (319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Sports

Hounds blast Chiefs 10-0, 21-2 in doubleheader sweep

Softball double header called after lightning

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lightning put about an hour pause on the Bloodhounds’ baseball action Monday, but it may not have been the most powerful force of the night.

The Hounds blasted away at Keokuk all night for a 10-0 and 21-2 doubleheader sweep over the Chiefs to move Fort Madison to 6-2 on the year.

The only losses were splits with Class 3As No. 2 ranked Davenport Assumption and a split in the Southeast Conference season opener with Washington. Fort Madison held leads in both of the losses.

Tate Johnson and Vasin Thurman both went 3 of 4 in the opener Monday night. Matt Hopper went the distance getting the shut out. The junior scattered just four hits while striking out nine and walking two.

Fort Madison jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead when lead-off hitter Landes Williams drew a walk and was driven in when Jason Thurman laced a triple past Keokuk’s Liam O’Donnell in center. Thurman would score on Vasin Thurman’s sac fly in the next at bat.

Johnson would double down the right field line, but would get stranded on a strike out to end the inning.

The Hounds would get one run each in the bottom of the 2nd, 4th and 5th before lightning delayed the game.

Fort Madison would get Keokuk in order in the top of the sixth and then tack on five runs in the bottom half to set the 10-run rule after 5 innings.

Hopper and Aiden Pennock would lead off the inning with a couple singles. Williams would make it three in a row to drive in courtesy runner Aiden Mitchell, before Jason Thurman reached on an error on a grounder to short loading the bases.

Vasin Thurman then hit a fly over O’Donnell’s head in center to score Pennock and Williams to make it 8-0 with no outs. Reiburn Turnbull would ground out to second, but get the RBI for Thurman. Johnson would then hit a game-winning triple to left-center scoring Vasin Thurman. Johnson had thoughts of an inside-the-park homer but was held up at 3rd with the game already settled.

Vasin Thurman had 3 RBI in the first game. Williams, Johnson and Turnbull had 2 RBI each.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison’s Matt Hopper tries to beat out a throw from short in the first game of the Bloodhounds’ sweep of Keokuk Monday night in Fort Madison.

Head Coach Ron Walker said the Hounds made some nice adjustments to Keokuk’s off-speed game from the mound.

“We made some nice adjustments to the slower velocity, letting the ball travel a bit. I thought we made another nice adjustment after the rain delay when we were struggling just a bit, but then came out and put up five that inning to finish the game off,” he said.

In the nightcap, the Hounds scored early and often tagging Keokuk starter Josh Wills with five runs on just two hits with the Chiefs defense committing four errors in the first inning and a third.

Reliever Andrew Seabold got treated even more rudely with the Hounds scoring 16 runs, 13 in the 2nd inning. Holding a 3-0 lead going into the bottom half of the 2nd, the Hounds put 12 batters in a row on the base paths scoring 11 runs, nine before the first out was recorded.

In the onslaught Vasin Thurman and Colton Engeman both doubled driving in two runs each. With the bases loaded Landes Williams hit a line drive right at

first baseman Cole Gillenwater who snagged it and doubled off Aiden Pennock.

The Chiefs would also commit four errors in six plays to allow three runs to score. It wasn’t until Garrett Hannum lined out to short to end the inning where the Hounds hit through the lineup twice with 18 hitters coming to the plate, scoring 13 runs. Fort Madison would put up five more in the bottom of the third and Vasin Thurman would shut things down in the top of the fourth to invoke the 15-runs-after-4-innings mercy rule.

Walker was able to work 15 different players to the plate in the second game. He said those at bats are critical for the programs future.

“That’s what we talked about after the game. Not only are we developing depth for this year, but we’re developing depth in the future of our program. Getting to play with some of these experienced players we have was good for the younger kids,” Walker said.

“It wasn’t just about tonight or two weeks down the road, but for the longevity of the program. And they stepped in and did a great job.”

Walker said he’s happy with where the Hounds are eight games into the season.

See HOUNDS, page 5

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Sports/Education News



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Colton Engeman (8) slides into 2nd base safely on a steal attempt in early action Monday at Fort Madison High School.

Hounds move to 6-2 on year

HOUNDS - Continued from Page 4

"I like where we're at. We throw strikes, but our key is our defense. Up at Washington we booted the ball around a little bit," he said. "We're not a strikeout team, so we gotta make the plays. Just like tonight's first inning of game one, we walked the lead off hitter and then turned a 6-4-3 double play.

Williams and Turnbull combined for five hits and eight RBI in the night cap to lead Fort Madison. Hopper went 3-for-3 at the plate with two runs scored and an RBI.

Hannum got the win going two innings and striking out three. Turnbull worked 2/3 of an inning and Vasin Thurman pitched the final four outs for the Hounds, who travel to Mediapolis on Wednesday for a junior varsity/varsity doubleheader.

Central Lee honors teachers, staff

DONNELLSON — The Central Lee Community School District recognized several of its teachers and staff members through its 2020-21 Annual Awards.

Earning Teacher of the Year honors was Kathryn Sellens, who teaches fifth grade at Central Lee Elementary School. She is known for her commitment to continuously improving to enhance student learning. She has been a leader in working with her fellow teachers and staff to support student achievement, and has also mentored and collaborated with many of her colleagues. Sellens will retire at the end of the school year.

Additionally, Amanda Schiller was named Newcomer of the Year. She began serving as part of the middle school science team this school year, and has already built strong relationships with her colleagues, students and families. She has taken on leadership roles and actively participated in school-related activities, such as the Leader in Me program, school dress-up days and weekly videos.

The district also recognized four Employees of the Year: Lora Azinger, Bob Burgess, Deb Hunold and Brian Wells.

Azinger has served in the district office for many years, working on a wide range of functions across Central Lee. She is known for doing everything at an extremely high level while maintaining a pleasant and polite demeanor at all times. Parents and community members have come to appreciate the level of respect and compassion she exhibits on a daily basis. Azinger is also retiring at the end of the school year.

Burgess serves as a full-time substitute bus driver for Central Lee. He has brought a positive attitude, commitment to safety and a love of students to the transportation team. Burgess is willing to help out in any capacity needed, and does it with a smile. He has been part of the Central Lee family in different capacities over the years, but this role is definitely a great fit for him.

Finally, Hunold and Wells were honored for their exceptional work serving as POD leaders in both Montrose and Donnellson during the COVID-19 pandemic. They played a variety of roles, including many outside of their training and experience. Through it all, they focused on providing a safe and healthy learning environment for students. As they took on these new roles, Hunold and Wells got to know and formed strong relationships with teachers, students, parents and community members.

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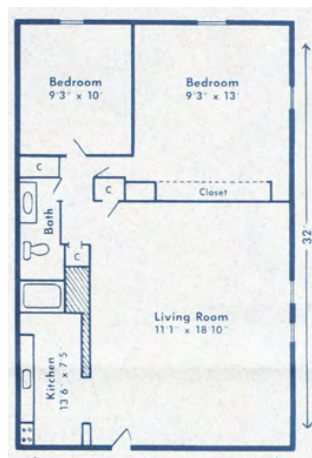
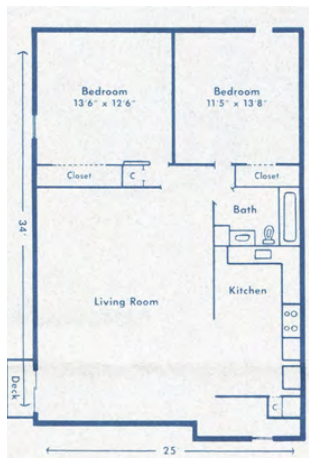
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To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at engineer@leecounty.org.



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From the Front

County to prescreen funding requests

ARPA - Continued from Page 1

week or so outlining parameters to consider when evaluating requests.

Fraise said the state auditor's office has confirmed to her that non-profits are eligible for funds from the county. Norris said the county would also be able to make transfers to other local governments with the funds as well.

Seyb favored doing some kind of a matching grant program to incorporated cities in the county to help offset some of the costs associated with sewer separation projects that are being mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I do like the idea of some kind of possible grant program for these incorporated cities that have gotten monies themselves through the American Rescue program that are doing septic or sewer work for a matching grant. We couldn't do a full match program we'd have to put a limit on it, but that would benefit all incorporated cities within Lee County," Seyb said.

But he said, and Fedler agreed, that the \$6.5 million won't last long if the county doesn't have a solid plan for accepting and evaluating requests for funding.

"In the grand scheme of things, if we don't pare that down to have some select impacts, then it's not going to last long," he said.

The committee would serve as a recommending board to gather all the requests and pre-screen and qualify the proposals, and those would go to the full Lee County Board of Supervisors for final approval.

After lengthy conversation, Norris said he was going to put something together with seven categories including child care, housing, non-profits, sewer treatment, broadband, county projects, and tourism. Each category would have a funding cap.

The county projects would have to be submitted to the committee and be pre-screened along with all the other projects.

"I think it's a good thing to do a some kind of a cursory pre-review. To have a some kind of a checklist to go through just to have a double check of whether the request is eligible based on what has been set out," Norris said.

According to the U.S. Dept. of Treasury website, the treasury launched the relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control

- Replace lost revenue for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs

- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses

- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic

The county has until the end of 2024 to allocate the full \$6.5 million and currently has until the end of 2026 to spend the funds.

Ordinance may be next step

BEEF - Continued from Page 1

discussions on how the county can help mitigate the issue.

Township trustees within the county typically have jurisdiction over fencing issues, but supervisors have gotten involved because of the legalities of the "wild" cattle and mitigation efforts. Neighbors are telling Seyb that crops and property are being damaged and the cattle are regularly seen on county roads.

Seyb said he's also spoken with Des Moines Township Trustees and has gone around with them to talk with neighbors. Iowa code 169.3 is the one that deals with stray livestock.

Supervisors weren't ready to name the person responsible for the cattle, despite a nod from Lee County Attorney Ross Braden. Supervisor Rich Harlow, specifically asked for the farmer's name in the open work session, but board chairman Matt Pflug declined to reveal the name.

"We're not going to share that right now. Let's don't go there," Pflug said.

"Let's just say they're very well known," Seyb said.

Braden said state code does allow the county to get custody of the cattle, but he said the animals have gotten to the point where they are not used to human interaction.

"My understanding is that if you try to approach them they scurry back off into the woods," Braden said.

Braden said code would also allow the county to erect a fence to corral the animals or protect the neighboring property, and assess the owner. He said the county can also seek reimbursement if they have to take custody of the animals.

But tracking them down may be difficult as the animals seem to be roaming a 12.5 mile area.

Seyb said the bulls are roughly 1,500 pounds each and if they don't want to be wrangled, they probably won't be.

"What do you do with a 1,500 pound charolais bull? If you research them a bit they don't have the best attitude to begin with as a breed. And there's six of them," Seyb said.

"You're also dealing with bulls and cows and the penny game. And you're talking about something that's been going on for sure for at least a year and maybe longer than that.

Seyb said the "wild" cattle could range in number from 16 or 17 to 27 or 28 depending on how long they've been unrestrained.

Braden said he's sent out a document to the owners as well as speaking with them directly and said they have taken a pretty "laissez-faire" approach to the situation.

But he said as a governmental agency, they can only do so much.

"Our primary interest is public safety. I do agree these cattle create a safety hazard. They are roaming the roadways and trespassing in people's front yards. I wouldn't feel very good about a charolais bull standing outside my front door," Braden said.

He said the landowners suffering property damage may have to look at civil suits.

Pflug said he's surprised someone hasn't shot one of the animals.

Seyb said their are laws on the books protecting them from being shot.

"Technically you're not legally able to shoot the cattle," Seyb said. "I'm still looking into it but it's a real frustration and I feel for everybody I've talked because I can't give them a good answer."

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