

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, March 11, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 58



www.pencitycurrent.com

Science Fair goes on



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Max Kruse and Corby Moeller talk with HTC high school judges Conner Gehling and Brandon Jarvis, right, Wednesday afternoon at HTC Elementary School in West Point.

TASK FORCE

Reynolds sets sights on state's child care crisis

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – At her weekly update of all things COVID-19, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds took aim at the shortage of child care in the state.

Reynolds formed, by executive order, a Governor's Child Care Task Force to be headed up by Sukup Mfg. general counsel Emily Schmitt.

The 18-member task force is charged with coming up with recommendations in the next 100 days to address the shortage.

Schmitt said her goal will be to reduce the state's shortage of child care slots by 50% in the next five years.



REYNOLDS

"23% of Iowans live in a child care desert and in rural Iowa that stat goes up to 35%. One of my goals with this task force is to take an expansive view of the crisis," Schmitt said.

"Iowa has the highest rate in the country of both parents working, but we face child care shortages in every corner of the state."

She said data shows the state is 350,000 child care slots short of what is needed.

Child Care was one of the top recommendations from the Governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Board assembled last year to look at the state's pandemic recovery process.

Schmitt said the state also cannot ignore the fact that 60% of the people that left work during the pandemic were women.

"Some of our action will be to study successful delivery models from other states, while also considering the regulatory environment and partnerships,"

See **CRISIS**, page 4

Holy Trinity: Schiller enters 50th year helping students prepare research projects

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – They had to work at it, but Holy Trinity Catholic students were able to hold an in-person science fair Wednesday at the HTC Elementary in West Point.

Donned in masks and with temperatures taken upon arrival, HTC high school students stepped up to judge

the science projects from students of different ages in the school's gymnasium.

HTC Science coordinator Ernie Schiller, who is in his 50th year of prepping students for science fairs, said they had to do things different this year, and numbers were down, but the administration and teachers decided they could do something in a safe fashion.

See **FAIR**, page 8

Round up

Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary Teacher Ms. Dingman meets with a potential future Kindergartner in West Point Tuesday as part of the system's Kindergarten Round-up.



Photo courtesy of Holy Trinity Catholic

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WEATHER

THU 11 Mar.....Light Rain, 58° F/ 42° F
 FRI 12 Mar.....Light Rain, 53° F/ 38° F
 SAT 13 Mar.....Light Rain, 50° F/ 43° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 03/09.....4 33 46 58 65, Mega Ball: 13 Megaplier: 2
 PICK 3 03/09 MIDDAY.....788
 PICK 3 03/09 EVENING.....923
 PICK 4 03/09 MIDDAY.....4111
 PICK 4 03/09 EVENING.....8043

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Current-Lee/Scene Around Town

CURRENT-LEE

AmeriCorps Week

LEE COUNTY – AmeriCorps is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over. Lee County’s AmeriCorps is sponsored by the United Way of the Great River Region. AmeriCorps Week runs from Sunday March 7 through Saturday, March 13. AmeriCorps want to thank all it’s volunteers and anyone wishing to join the volunteer group can contact Tammy Hudson at 319-372-8043 or at rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org.

Read Across Iowa

WEST POINT – Preschool story time through the Iowa State University Extension is being held on Mondays in March beginning at 10 a.m. at the West Point Public Library. This year’s theme is agriculture.

Shugs Tiny Town Treasure Hunt

FORT MADISON – The Lucky ME! Treasure Hunt will be held March 13, 2021 from 10 a.m. to noon at 820 Avenue G in Fort Madison. Cost is \$25+tax per child. Book spot online at <http://shugstinytown.as.me>. For more information call Brenda Derr at 319-372-7484.

YMCA registering for programs

FORT MADISON – Little Tykes Soccer and Lee County Soccer registration is now open through the Fort Madison YMCA. Call 319-372-2403 to register and for more information. The YMCA is also scheduling private youth gymnastics lessons for boys and girls ages 10 and up.

Y Kids & Company preschool enrollment is now open for the 2021-22 schol year. Call the YMCA for additional information.

Blue and Silver Celebration

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic will hold it’s annual Blue and Silver celebration, an annual tribute to teachers. This year’s event will be Saturday, March 27, 2021 and limited to teachers and guests only. The HTC Teacher of the Year will be announced.

Community Clean-up

FORT MADISON – The annual community clean up has been set this year for April 24. Contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

Green Team Fundraiser

The Fort Madison Green Team is soliciting funds for One Tree Planted, a non-profit whose mission is to plant trees in every corner of the world. To make a donation, click on the link provided: <https://www.bonfire.com/the-green-team-fundraiser/>.



Photos courtesy of The Kensington

Residents at The Kensington & Primrose Path, and students at the Creative Edge Pre School Children, shared some bubbles together in recognition of National Bubble Week on Tuesday.



DO YOUR PART

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS



WEAR MASKS



WEAR GLOVES



WASH HANDS OFTEN



KEEP DISTANCE

Great River Regional Waste Authority urges you to wear gloves when moving bins for residential trash pick-up. Workers can touch over 2000 bins a day before even touching yours. Don't forget to wash your hands after bringing in your bin!



WWW.GRRWA.COM

for your community

Obituaries/Scene Around Town



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The Fort Madison Elks Club donated more than \$3,000 to the Fort Madison Fire Department to purchase a “Stair-Chair” that will provide easier relocation of patients down stairs into ambulances.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/09/21 – 7:10 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident on Richards Drive.
 03/09/21 – 2:57 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue I.
 03/09/21 – 5:53 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H.
 03/10/21 – 3:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested James Daniel Reynolds, 54, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block

of Avenue F, on a charge of serious domestic assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/10/21 – 3:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Chandra Leigh Reynolds, 41, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of Eighth Street, on a charge of simple domestic abuse assault.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/09/21 – 1:55 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony J. Casady, 57, of Bonaparte, at the sheriff's dept. on a warrant for contempt of court. He was

taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/09/21 – 2:13 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Lee Hicks, 49, of Hamilton, at the Des Moines County Jail, on a warrant for contempt of court. He was held in custody. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/09/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls, one lift assist, and one false alarm.

OBITUARIES

TERRY L. VRADENBURG

Terry Lee Vradenburg, 68 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, March 8, 2021 at the Keosauqua Health Care Center in Keosauqua, IA.

He was born July 23, 1952 in Keokuk, IA the son of Frederick Eugene and Darlene Mae Carl Vradenburg. He was united in marriage to Kim Shuman in 2008 in Montrose, IA. She survives.



VRADENBURG

Other survivors include one daughter, Devan Stewart of Aiken, S.C., one son, Heath Feikert of Keokuk, three stepsons, Arthur Huston of Warsaw, IL, Justin Horn of AZ and Steven Horn of Hamilton, IL, two stepdaughters, Katrina Zekirovski of Hamilton, IL and Kassie Robinson of Hamilton, IL, five grandchildren, Sean Burk (Samantha) of Kahoka, MO, Zack and Spencer Feikert both of Keokuk, and Dylan and Abby Stewart of Aiken, S.C, several great-grandchildren, seven siblings, Fred Vradenburg (Carol) of Ft. Madison, IA, Juanita Mullens (Frank Kramer) of Montrose, IA, Mike Vradenburg of Wayland, IA, Roger Vradenburg (Aletha) of Keokuk, Cathy Blanset of AR, Annette McCarty (James) of Keokuk and Karen Spurgeon of AR. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Dave and Kirk Vradenburg one sister, Leora “Annie” Bell and one stepdaughter, Doris Burk.

Terry had been employed by Ferro Sil and later by Titan Wheel until his retirement in 2011.

He enjoyed fishing and he also enjoyed tinkering around in his garage making repairs and starting new projects. Terry loved spending as much time as possible with his stepchildren, grandchildren and his four legged companion, “Tabby” his favorite cat.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, at Sunset Memorial Park in Keokuk with Pastor Don Skinner officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service Thursday, from 12 noon – 2 p.m., at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with family meeting with friends at that time. Social distancing requirements will be in place and masks are required.

Memorials may be made to PAW Animal Shelter.

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

Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

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Best Lawyers BEST LAW FIRMS
 A WORLD REPORT
USNews RANKINGS

Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence

Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in 2020 and again in 2021.

320 North 3rd Street, Suite 100, Burlington, Iowa 52601-0337

1603 Main Street, Keokuk, IA 52632

www.PothitakisLaw.com

P
POTHITAKIS
 LAW FIRM P.C.

Sports/From the Front

Hounds run at only indoor meet of the year at UNI

Miller finishes 11th in the 400-meter run

BY PCC STAFF

CEDAR FALLS – The Fort Madison Bloodhounds Track & Field team opened its 2021 season at the Dickinson Relays in Cedar Falls Tuesday.

The Relays at UNI are the only indoor competition the Hounds will compete in this year as all other normally scheduled indoor runs have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Twenty Hounds made the trip for the Relays with only a week of practice, and set six personal best times.

The best finish of the day came from Austin Miller who took 11th in the 400-meter dash with a time of 54.66, a personal best for the junior who qualified last fall for the State Cross Country meet finishing 35th overall. Garrett Hannum finished 27th with a time of 55.94, in a field of 77.

The Bloodhounds 4x200 team of Brock Califf, Tate Johnson, Joey Dodson and Jacob McGowan finished 13th with a time of 1:38.14.

The 4x400 team, in the last race of the day, composed of Califf, Andrew Schaefer, Landes Williams, and Garrett Hannum motored to a 17th-place finish with a time of 3:48.64.

In the shot put, Ethan Deacon finished 20th with a toss of 43-9, which is a personal best for him. Cuyrin Ross also had a personal best with a throw of 35-9 good enough for 50th in a field of 79.

Jacob McGowan jumped 19-1.5 placing 23rd in the long jump and Kane Williams jumped 17-8 placing 47th. There were 68 competitors and both of those marks were personal bests.

Mikey DiPrima competed in the high jump and cleared 5-6 placing 31st.

The 4x800 team of Austin Miller, Nick Fullenkamp, Hayden Wolfe, and Chay Smith posted a team time of 9:52.61 placing 31st. Macaden Rhoer ran the 60 hurdles and posted a time of 10.33. Calem Maclearn and Seth Mendez each sprinted in the 60-meter dash finishing at 8.01 and 8.22 respectively.

Gavin Wiseman and Mikey DiPrima both sprinted in the 200 meters. Wiseman posted a personal best in a time of 25.21 placing 41st, while DiPrima placed 38th with a time of 25.09 just ahead of Wiseman.

Nick Fullenkamp, running his second 800 of the day, posted a time of 2:31.14 and Macaden Rhoer posted a time of 2:27.81. They placed 65th and 57th respectively.

“We’re pretty happy with the way our guys competed today,” said co-Coach Chad Hannum.

“We’re excited for the outdoor season. Hopefully mother nature provides us with some great track meet weather.”

The Hounds open the outdoor season in two weeks at Washington.

Reynolds has no comments on Register reporter’s trial

CRISIS - Continued from Page 1

she said. “Big challenges required bold discussions.”

Reynolds said child care will be a critical part of the state’s road to recovery.

“Access to child care is an issue in every single corner of Iowa and we need to do everything we can to resolve it so every parent can do everything they can to better their families,” she said.

During the question and answer that followed, one reporter asked Reynolds if she had any comment on the Des Moines Register reporter that is currently on trial after being arrested covering a riot in north Des Moines near the Merle Hay Mall.

“I don’t have any comment on that. We’ll continue to work through the process and see where it ends up,” she said.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 3/2/2021

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 3/2/2021, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Andrews, Bowker, Lair, Schulz, Rink and Amanda present. Council Member Cangas was absent. This meeting was held with Council and staff present but was also available electronically (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) due to social distancing issues because of COVID-19.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 2/16/2021; Payroll of 2/26/2021; Library Claims and Claims dated 2/26/2021.

Public Works Director Boussetot presented the Street Department Five-Year Plan.

Mohrfeld opened the public hearing concerning Public Improvement Project 2020-05, Reconstruction of Old Hwy. 61 from 6th to 10th Street. Mohrfeld closed the public hearing at 6:07 P.M. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-13, approving plans, specifications and form of contract for the project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-14, awarding construction for the project in the amount of \$3,324,777 to Jones Contracting Corp., of West Point, Iowa, and approving contract and bonds of Jones Contracting Corp., pending receipt of the documents.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-15, updating the City Personnel Manual by establishing procedures for providing Temporary Modified Duty Assignments. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2021-16, ratifying a settlement agreement with Teamsters Local 238, Water Department.

On motion, Council approved the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget and setting Tuesday, 3/16/2021, at 5:30 PM as date and time for hearing. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with Klingner & Associates, P.C., for the Marina Jetty Wall Improvements. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on Supplemental Agree-

ment #3 to a Consultant Contract with Klingner & Associates, P.C., for redesign of the micropiles, value engineering and survey and design work for the storm/sanitary sewer separation in the Depot area. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's reappointment of Larry Wright and Corey Fraise to the Planning and Zoning Commission, terms expiring 3/31/2024. On motion, Council approved the Mayor to work with the City Attorney to negotiate a long-term lease with the marina group for the purpose to bring the lease back to the council for modification and or approval. On motion, Council approved the Mayor's signature on a Professional Services Agreement with HR Green for Preliminary General Work and Design Phase Services for the Happy Hollow Water Main Replacement.

At 7:01 P.M., the meeting adjourned until March

16, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

EXPENDITURES	
General	\$31,589.81
Special Revenue	2,068.28
Road Use	3,253.67
Capital	174,389.01
Water	66,421.69
Sewer	42,749.27
Solid Waste/IWC	2,681.06
Storm Water Util.	0
	<u>\$323,152.79</u>

PAYROLL 2/26/2021	
General	\$ 192,607.30
Old Fort	2,766.89
Emp. Benefits	7,243.42
Road Use	35,078.70
Tourism	1,529.66
Water	30,483.61
Sewer	41,157.47
Solid Waste	12,024.60
Airport	486.54
Storm Water	<u>3,555.03</u>
	<u>\$326,933.22</u>

CLAIMS - 3/2/2021

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING, PRINTER LEASE	900.85
ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC	28,635.76
ALTORFER INC., IGNITION SWITCH	336.43
ANSWER IOWA, ANSWERING SERVICE	188

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

REVENUES 2/28/2021	
General	\$ 54,367.33
Special Rev.	90,750.42
Road Use	123,439.15
Debt	2,920.98
Capital	384,981.21
Water	307.75
Sewer	2,152.23
Solid Waste/IWC	163.19
SW Utility	<u>25.08</u>
	<u>\$659,107.34</u>

ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM	585.56
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC, INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL	7,071.00
B&B PROPANE, HEAT	635.6
BROWN SUPPLY CO.	

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR

Lee County is taking applications for an Engineering Technician Supervisor to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include: to direct and oversee the work of a small crew of engineering technicians, perform research and fieldwork for land surveys, engineering surveys, and construction surveys; drawing plans and preparing specifications, conduct inspections of work performed by contractors, and preparing right-of-way descriptions and drawings for the purchase of land to improve and construct roadways and operate survey equipment.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

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 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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



INC., COLLAPSIBLE DOLLY/MAGNETS	1,780.00
BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE	85
CENTURY LINK, PHONE	65.69
DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, GARBAGE STICKERS	298.2
EASYPERMIT POSTAGE, POSTAGE	2,250.04
FORT MADISON COMM. HOSPITAL, PHYSICAL -	

WORLEY	879
FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER	27.57
GALL'S, AN ARAMARK COMPANY, COMMENDATION BAR	114
GARNER OIL INC., FUEL	64.39
GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, TOILET PAPER/PAPER TOWELS	227.8
GREGORY WAROSH, MEALS @ TRAINING	124.43
HACH CHEMICAL CO.,	

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS ASSISTANT TO ENGINEER

Lee County is taking applications for an Assistant to Engineer to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include conducting National Bridge Inspection Standards inspections of in-service bridges, preparing engineering plans and specifications for road-related construction or maintenance projects and serving as project lead inspector on construction projects, including directing and supervising contractors and County employees. Wage based on experience and qualifications.

Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

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 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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



REAL ESTATE LOAN AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Lee County Bank, a progressive, locally owned bank, is seeking a qualified individual for a Real Estate Loan and Compliance Officer. This person should possess strong computer and customer relations skills, the ability to work in a team environment, and a commitment to community involvement. Job responsibilities include loan origination and overseeing compliance aspects in the Loan Department.

Competitive compensation with excellent benefits package. Lee County Bank is an equal opportunity employer. Please submit resume to:

Lee County Bank
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HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Lee County Attorney is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Primary duties involve all aspects of trial work including daily court appearances, assistance with investigations; charging of criminal cases; interaction and training with law enforcement, victim and witness contact, representing the State at hearings, trials, and in other legal proceedings; and other duties as assigned. The duties of this position may change as determined by the County Attorney.

REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial caseload.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

SALARY:

Salary range to start at \$71,300.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden
Lee County Attorney
710 Avenue F
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
rbraden@leecounty.org

Applications must be received by March 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

TESTING SUPPLIES245.16	WARRANTY - REIMB39,766.00	SIGNS 186.01
HILL PRINTING, TIME CARDS82.45	IDEAL READY MIX COM- PANY, FILL SAND961.73	JETCO INC., CHANGED VALVE/RECALIBRATED1,421.00
HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - PARKING LOTS1,947.00	IOWA DEPT OF NATU- RAL RES., WASTEWATER DISPOSAL PERMIT315.2	LEE COUNTY RECORD- ER, PROPERTY RE- CORDING.....56
HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, EXCHANGED HEATER289.12	IA DIVISION OF LABOR SERVICES, BOILER INSPECTION.....365	LIBERTY UTILITIES, HEAT1,219.49
HUMBURD'S AUTO SERVICE, TIRES ...360.4	IOWA PRISON INDUS- TRIES, NO PARKING	LYNCH DALLAS P.C., PROF FEE - FIRE4,208.00
ICAP, MANUFACTURING		MADISON TURF & TIM- BER, AIR FILTERS...27.6

MCFARLAND, SCREEN/ WIPES 120.97	PETTY CASH - MELINDA BLIND, POSTAGE/FUEL/ LUBRICANT 190.1	USA BLUE BOOK, HAND SANITIZER..... 16.99
MELLER EXCAVATING & ASPHALT, PAY EST#2 PARKING/HAULING SNOW 172,392.87	POEPPING STONE & BACH, PROF FEE - 732 AVE G.....3,219.18	VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC, PROF FEE - SEW- ER SEPARATION28,358.92
MENKE PROFESSIONAL AUTO PART, MOTOR TUNE UP.....25.5	POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON WATER BILLS/PAST DUES1,450.44	VISION INDUSTRIAL SALES, OIL 376.05
MIDAMERICAN ENER- GY, HEATING5,008.14	RAINBO OIL COMPANY, OIL.....98.2	WALMAN OPTICAL, SAFETY GLASSES - V SLATER.....72
MIDWEST SAFETY COUNSELORS, FILTERS26.34	SHOTTENKIRK SUPER- STORE, SENSOR52.9	TOTAL 315,130.21
MOHRFELD ELECTRIC, REPAIRED POWER @ PAVILION44	SIRCHIE, HOODS..87.83	GENERAL 25226.66
MUNICIPAL SUPPLY COMPANY, EXTENSION RINGS 1,329.60	STERLING CODIFIERS/ AMERICA, ORDINANCE EDITING2,087.00	SPECIAL REVENUES226.6
NFPA, ANNUAL MEM- BERSHIP 175	TESTAMERICA INC., WEEKLY TEST273	ROAD USE.....3253.67
PARKVIEW VETERI- NARY CLINIC, MONTH- LY RENTAL FEE 1,350.00	TYLER TECHNOLO- GIES, MONTHLY TECH FEE.....252.5	CAPITAL PROJECTS174389.01
PDC TECHNICAL SER- VICES, INC, PROF FEE - CLOSED LANDFILL518.75	U.S. CELLULAR, PHONES 1,556.23	WATER..... 66421.69
	UPS, SHIPPING 11.93	WASTEWATER42749.27

LIBRARY CLAIMS 2/2021
AMAZON.COM, LI- BRARY MATERIALS & MISC..... 360.66
BAKER & TAYLOR, LI- BRARY MATERIAL2,129.93
BLACKSTONE PUBLISH- ING, LIBRARY MATERI- ALS.....298.50
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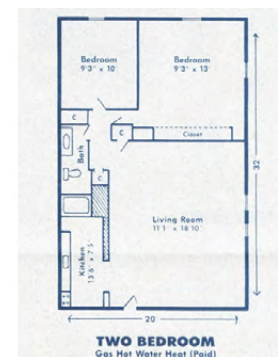
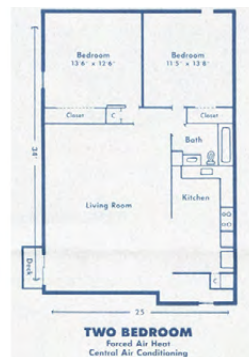
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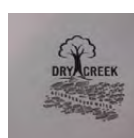
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From the Front

Numbers down but students happy to show projects

FAIR - Continued from Page 1

With spread of the coronavirus at the lowest levels since the outbreak began, Schiller said the students wanted to try and do something in person.

Twenty students came up with 16 projects ranging from investigating Saturn's rings to neutralizing e.coli, to whether a motorcycle is quicker with a clutch or automatic shifting.

HTC junior Jack Blint worked on altering the genetic makeup of E.coli in a lab setting by adding DNA strands. He said the project was just to fine tune his lab technique as he wanted to do something more serious next year.

"I plan to do something bigger next year and more serious and wanted to get my lab

technique down. Some applications could be to alter bacteria for other purposes like creating a super cleaner or something along those lines," he said.

Blint said introducing genes to the E.coli was a little intimidating, but said he ran the project about five times to get the technique down.

"The first two times were failures and we couldn't get anything to work. (Schiller) was there mentoring me, but a lot of this was on my own, too. This is actually the fifth one. The fourth one was iffy on results, but this one went well and was the one we decided to do the project on."

Blint said ultimately he would like to see if he can take a bacteria and

kill it on something it should typically survive on.

Schiller said getting the projects up and going was difficult with the COVID pandemic.

"This has been the most trying year. I'm an old guy and I didn't get my vaccine until the Feb. 18, the first one, and I was very nervous about coming in." Schiller said.

"But I get it. The kids don't want to do a virtual science fair, period. I think the thing that bothers me the most with them is there's no incentive to share your project and excitement with a judge virtually."

Max Kruse and Corby Moeller took to the road to try and sort out which dirt bike was safer for children wanting to ride for the first time.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC junior Jack Blint explains the procedures he used to integrate genes and DNA strands to E.coli to see how they altered the bacteria.

"We really were trying to see which dirt bike was faster, the ones with a clutch or without. It turns out that it really doesn't matter. It's just what the driver is most used to," Kruse said.

Kruse admitted that the result is also determined by how good the driver is moving

through the gears on the bike.

He said some bikes are tougher to shift and the bike he used for his part of the experiment had a tougher shifting procedure.

"I used a bike I'm not used to so I kind of messed up on that one," Kruse said.

Schiller said it was more difficult this year with just the 16 projects, than it was last year where 60 students had 45 projects. Most of the work was done with

zoom before Schiller was vaccinated.

"For a while I was zooming with the kids and then felt more comfortable after getting my first vaccine."

But with the assistance of several teachers and the principal, tables were spaced out, student judges came in with masks and a clipboard, and the show was on.

Pilot Grove Savings Bank sponsored the top awards and Alan Adams sponsored the Inspiring Excellence Awards.



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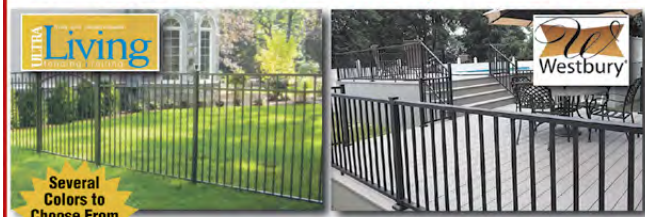
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