

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, July 7, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 133



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Police looking for WP man

MISSING: 54-year-old hasn't been seen since June 14; foul play not suspected

BY PCC STAFF

WEST POINT – West Point police are asking for help in looking for a resident who's been missing for about three weeks.

According to a release from West Point Chief of Police Brad Roberts, a missing person's report was filed on June 15, by family members of Darren E. Bunnell, age 54 of West Point.

Bunnell was last seen on June 12th, 2021 at approximately 7pm, after his father had dropped him off at his residence. On June 14th, a mail delivery worker sighted Bunnell walk-

ing north on 240th Ave., north of West Point.

"No one has seen or heard from Bunnell since that time. No foul play is suspected, and local law enforcement have searched the West Point and rural areas," Roberts wrote in the release.

Bunnell is described as a white male, 5'08" tall, and approx. 180 pounds. He was last seen wearing blue jeans, t-shirt, eyeglasses, and was unshaven.

Anyone that has seen or know the whereabouts of Bunnell, or has information, are encouraged to contact the West Point Police Dept., or the Lee County Sheriff's Office 319-372-1152.

EDUCATION

Central Lee launches new after-school program

DONNELLSON – At its July 6 meeting, the Central Lee Community School District Board of Education approved a new after-school program for K-6 students.

Hawk's Place will provide after-school academic support, physical activities and enrichment opportunities. The district plans to make the program free for Central Lee students for the next two school years, leveraging federal CARES Act funding to provide the service. The district will actively seek additional funding for programming beyond the 2022-23 school year.

"As an elementary school parent myself, I am excited to see another level of programming be made available for the children in our community," said Dr. Andy Crozier, Central Lee Superintendent. "Rural school districts like ours do not always have access to high-quality after-school programs for elementary students. Hawk's Place helps meet that need while also helping us achieve a key objective of our strategic plan."

Central Lee will develop and share more details over the next three weeks while also hiring personnel to support Hawk's Place. The after-school coordinator position is posted to the public, with the application window closing Friday, July 9.

"Providing a safe and supportive environment for students is the mission of Hawk's Place," said Heather Fuger, Principal of Central Lee Elementary School. "We are excited for students to have this after-school opportunity to build positive relationships with staff and other students. Through purposeful learning activities, we will strive to enhance each child's school experience. We will also utilize community partnerships to provide engaging enrichment activities."

More information will be posted in August as the district prepares for the 2021-22 school year. Individuals interested in employment with Hawk's Place should contact Heather Fuger at 319-835-9510 or hfulger@centrallee.org.



CROZIER



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Des Moines Township resident Mark Wessel show his property boundaries on a map in front of Lee County Supervisors Tuesday. Wessel is upset at the cattle that are running wild in the area. The animal's owner, Gina Cramer, is seated at far right.

COUNTY NEWS

Cow issue moooves to front of supervisor agenda

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It really has become a case of beef on the lamb.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, the owner of cattle that are regularly on the loose in Lee

County told supervisors she is working on getting fencing repaired.

Gina Cramer, who lives in Des Moines Township near Montrose, said for more than 30 years there has never been a problem with her farm, that was originally owned by her grandfather.

She said the farm has about 100 head of a

cattle, but when pressed by Supervisor Gary Seyb, couldn't put an exact count on the animals.

Seyb said that's a critical part of the problem.

"I've worked with cattle on family farms

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WEATHER

WED 07 Jul.....Broken Clouds, 82° F/ 67° F
 THU 08 Jul.....Broken Clouds, 75° F/ 63° F
 FRI 09 Jul.....Light Snow, 79° F/ 61° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 07/05.....2 5 6 20 36, Lucky Ball: 11
 PICK 3 07/05 MIDDAY.....211
 PICK 3 07/05 EVENING.....7 8 8
 PICK 4 07/05 MIDDAY.....7102
 PICK 4 07/05 EVENING.....7074

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Obituaries

L. DOUG DUFFIE

L. Doug Duffie, 69, of Keokuk, IA died Sunday, June 27, 2021 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

He was born December 27, 1951 in Keokuk, IA the son of Loren and Leona Allison Duffie.



DUFFIE

Doug graduated from LaHarpe High School with the class of 1970.

Doug was united in marriage to Katherine Goetz. She preceded him in death.

Doug had been employed by United City Gas Co and later at The Amish Furniture Store in West Burlington, IA.

He was a member of the South Side Boat Club, Keokuk Yacht Club, Knights of Columbus and All Saints Catholic Church.

He enjoyed shooting pool and always played to win. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family at family gatherings.

Doug is survived by his daughter, Michelle Duffie of Keokuk, one son, Joel Duffie of West Burlington, IA, one granddaughter, Delayna Althide and one grandson, Breyen Duffie, three brothers, Mike, Lenus and John and twin sisters, Cathie and Carron along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides his wife, Katherine Goetz Duffie he was also preceded in death by his parents.

A family graveside will be held at a later date.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

DONNA CONOVER

Donna "Jean" Conover, 68, of Keokuk, IA died Thursday, July 1, 2021 at her home. She was born on August 27, 1952 in Carthage, IL, the son of William Earl and Dorothy Mae Brownlee Conover.



CONOVER

Jean was employed by BTR in Keokuk for twenty-five years until her retirement. She enjoyed the outdoors along with spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her son, Michael "Mike" Sestern of Keokuk, two daughters, Kimberly Reeves of Keokuk and Christine Otte (David) of Montrose, five grandchildren, Chad Sestern (Hope), Morgan Reeves, Megan Reeves, Alexis Otte and Nick Otte, eight great-grandchildren, Kimberly, Brooklyn, Makena, Baylie, Cash, Chandler, Emilia and Guthrie, two brothers, Don Conover (Barb) of Burlington, IA, and Mike "Bill" Conover (Lori) of Hamilton, IL, three sisters, Donna Jean Conover, Kathleen McGlasson (Carl) and Judy Miller (Lyle) all of Keokuk and two special sisters-in-law, Janet Conover of Kahoka, MO and Peggy Conover of Alexandria, MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers, Earl Conover, Everett Conover, Robert "Rocky" Conover and Joseph Conover, two sisters, Debbie Jamison and Beverly Conover and one niece, Lori Bollin.

A gathering of remembrance will be held 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with the family meeting with friends at that time. Memorials may be made to the family.

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

JOHN W. GERVELER

John Wayne "Jack" Gerveler, 77 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Friday, July 2, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa. He was born September 22, 1943 at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Fort Madison, Iowa, a son of Frank and Rose (Beuchel) Gerveler.



CONOVER

On August 20, 1976, he married Sharon Kay Waters Horn at Carthage, Illinois.

Jack was a 1961 graduate of Aquinas High School and was of the Catholic faith. He worked as a carpenter all his life. He had a passion for the outdoors, riding his motorcycles, and gardening. Jack was a strong family man, a loving husband, dad, grandfather, great grandfather, and a kind hearted friend to many.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Gerveler of Fort Madison; one son, Kurt (Lynn) Gerveler of Cave Creek, Arizona; two daughters: Christy Yando of Indianola, Iowa and Lori Denaro of Scottsdale, Arizona; one step-daughter, Judy Meyers of Fort Madison; two brothers: Tom (Billie) Gerveler of Fort Madison and Bryan (Michael) Winke of San Diego,

California; one sister, Mary Jane (Tom) Tiemann of Lufkin, Texas; nine grandchildren: Devan (Rusty) Andrews, Eric Thomas, Matthew Gerveler, Madisyn Denaro, Erin Gerveler, Ryan Denaro, Katelyn Yando, Michael Gerveler and Allison Yando; two great grandchildren: Lauren and Collin Andrews; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, William Gerveler.



Per his wishes, his body has been cremated. His family will greet friends from 9:30 - 10:30 am, Thursday, July 8, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church of Holy Family Parish, Fort Madison. Mass of Christian Burial will follow and begin at 10:30 am at Sacred Heart Cemetery, with Father Joseph Phung as Celebrant. A memorial has been established for the Parkinson's Foundation or Iowa Donor Network, contributions may be made at church or Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Gerveler family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/02/21 – 12:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 07/03/21 – 12:07 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Obie Taylor, 42, of Burlington, in the 600 block of Avenue G, on a charge of trespass. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/03/21 – 12:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Nicholas Michael Gene Bushinger, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue G, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 07/03/21 – 3:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism on Richards Drive.
 07/03/21 – 9:50 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Timothy Lee Thorn, 48, in the 1700 block of Avenue L, on charges of 2nd-degree harassment, interference with official acts, and a warrant for violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 07/03/21 – 10:37 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue G.
 07/04/21 – 1:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1300 block of Avenue G.
 07/04/21 – 8:56 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1900 block of Avenue G.
 07/04/21 – 9:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Amber Rae Grooms, 37, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 5th Street on a charge of 5th-degree theft. She was released with a court date.
 07/04/21 – 9:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Tyler Scott Grooms, 35, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of 5th Street, on a charge of aiding and abetting 5th degree theft. He was released with a court date.

07/04/21 – 6:15 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Justin Michael Barnes, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a charge of 1st-degree harassment and trespassing. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/04/21 – 6:39 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of 22nd Street.
 07/04/21 – 9:15 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1300 block of Avenue J.
 07/05/21 – 3:41 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2300 block of Avenue A.
 07/05/21 – 5:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Sarah Ruth Mitchell, 43, of Fort Madison in the 2300 block of Avenue A on a charge of serious domestic abuse assault, interference with official acts, and assault on a peace officer.
 07/05/21 – 7:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary on Green Oak Court.
 07/05/21 – 9:37 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 5600 block of Avenue O.
 07/05/21 – 9:47 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1800 block of Avenue H.
 07/05/21 – 5:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H.
 07/05/21 – 6:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 20th Street.
 07/05/21 – 7:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1200 block of Avenue H.
 07/06/21 – 4:45 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Robert Wayne Lorton, 56, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of

39th Street on a charge of serious domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/02/21 – 12:22 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Russell Keith Kutcher, 38, of Fort Madison, in the 3300 block of Hwy. 218, on a charge of driving while barred.
 07/02/21 – 3:15 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Steven Ramone Weems, 31, of Burlington at the sheriff's office on a warrant for 1st-degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/02/21 – 5:04 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justice Christine Elvira Nuss, 18, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on warrants for OWI-1st offense and violation of probation. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/02/21 – 11:39 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kelly Melissa Baker, 44, of Burlington, in the 3000 block of Timberlane Drive in Fort Madison on a temporary hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and transported to another county.
 07/03/21 – 1:44 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle motorcycle accident in the 3000 block of Argyle Road. According to the report, a motorcycle driven by Daniel Dean Horton, 39, of Argyle, left the roadway into the south ditch and rolled. Deputies found the Horton next to the motorcycle with severe injuries. Horton was transported to Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison with injuries and then transported to University of Iowa Hospitals and clinics for injuries. Charges are pending.
 07/03/21 – 4:27 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shauna Lynn Ellingson, 27, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's

office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.
 07/05/21 – 3:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan Eric Washburne, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of interference with officials acts, and failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/05/21 – 8:57 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Morgan Pace Burns, 33, of Carthage, on warrants for violation of parole, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance and a charge of possession of a controlled substance. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/05/21 – 8:59 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Lawrence Glasgow, 34, of Keokuk, on 18th Street in Keokuk, on a charges of possession of controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, and warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia and 4th-degree theft. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/05/21 – 9:53 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Elijah James Pickens, 30, of Burlington, at the Lee County Jail and a judgment hold. He was held in custody.
 07/06/21 – 12:03 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rick Keegan Tinder, 26, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail and a judgment hold. He was held in custody.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

06/29/21 – Kady G Cox, age 23, of Macomb, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer and Disorderly Conduct. Cox remains lodged in the

Hancock County Jail awaiting her next court appearance.
 06/29/21 – James A Martens, age 35, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Brown County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay. Martens was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 06/30/21 – Aubrey EC Markley, age 29, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Markley was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 06/30/21 – David L Speer, age 72, of Basco, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Speer was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 06/30/21 – Alicia C Behrman, age 36, of Dallas City, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Behrman was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 06/30/21 – Anthony D Gregory, age 46, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Gregory remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 06/30/21 – Robert R L Duncan, age 31, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of

Driving While License Suspended and No Valid Registration. Duncan remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 07/01/21 – Cindy S Bragg, age 47, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Bragg was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date.
 07/01/21 – Robert D Wilson, age 52, of Burlington, IA was arrested and charged with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Wilson was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.
 07/01/21 – Zoie E Boudreau, age 21, of Iowa was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked and No Valid Insurance. Boudreau was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 07/01/21 – Heather J Lefler, age 41, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Bond Violation. Lefler was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 07/01/21 – Dakota J Vaughn, age 41, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Vaughn was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 07/04/21 – Randy A White Jr, age 40, of Basco, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. White remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Sports

Lone Tree sits Crusaders down for the season

Hellige goes 2 for 3 with 2 RBI, Mueller sidelined with surgically repaired thumb

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – Holy Trinity Catholic’s girls softball team was 600% better this year.

That’s not hyperbole, that’s real math. A team that one just one game last year in its first year of softball since 2012 won six this year.

But one of them wasn’t the Class 1A Region 8 first round game at South Park Tuesday night. Holy Trinity, minus its only 1st team all conference player in 2020 in Brooke Mueller, fell to Lone Tree 10-4 ending the year for Crusaders.

Mueller, the team’s sophomore catcher and offensive spark plug firing next to Kayla Box, had to miss the game with a surgically repaired thumb. She broke it against West Burlington last week trying to tag out a runner at home.

“Taking her bat out of the lineup, taking her out from behind the plate you’re moving a potential all-conference center fielder in Haile (Cain) out of her spot and moving players around – it’s part of the game, you do what you gotta do,” said HTC Head Coach Loren Menke.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC’s Kayla Box puts a tag on a Lone Tree runner in the fourth inning of the Crusaders’ 10-4 season ending loss Tuesday in West Point.

Mueller said it was heartbreaking for her not to be with her teammates.

“It was really hard because I love playing with my team

especially at the end of the season. It was heartbreaking to be able to play the whole season and then get to post season and I’m unable to play,” Mueller said.

“I was still very lucky I was able to come and cheer my team on and participate in the dugout with all the cheers and be positive.”

Cain had to move to the catcher’s spot which threw Teegan Snaadt, just an eighth grader into center field. Snaadt made several running catches and filled in nicely for Cain. The open lineup spot pushed Kelli Meierotto to second and typical 2nd baseman Laura Mehmert went into left field for a little speed defensively.

But the Lions jumped on starter Mary Hellige hitting through the lineup in the first and second innings enroute to a 6-0 lead after two. HTC managed just two base runners on singles in the first two innings off Lone Tree starter Arlie Lorack.

The Lions would put up two more in the third inning and were looking to add more but a single by Hogan Eden to center sent Kayla Dautremont headed for third. A sharp throw from Snaadt right at the bag got Dautremont by half a step for the third out.

The Crusaders would get on the board in the bottom of the third. Cain would fan to start the inning, then Anna Sobczak put down one of three drag bunts for hits on the night. Mary Hellige would then reach on a fielder’s choice that moved Sobczak to third.

Kayla Box followed with a double down the line over the top of Eden’s glove at third scoring both Hellige and Sobczak. A pop out to first would end the inning with HTC down 8-2.

Lone Tree would add an insurance run in the top of the fourth and seventh and Lorack would hold the Crusaders in check through the sixth inning.

HTC would start things in the seventh with Cain and Sobczak getting on with no outs before Hellige clubbed one to the fence in center scoring two to set what would be the final score at 10-4. Kayla Box reached on a walk to put two on still with no outs, but a strike out and sacrifice bunt moved runners at 2nd and 3rd before a fly out to short ended the game.

“We just had too many errors. It’s hard to win with nine errors,” Menke said. “We left runners on base. We didn’t hit great, but if we would have kept the game a bit more in line, we could have put a scare into them.”

The Crusaders are not graduating any seniors so the whole team will be back for the 2022 season.

“We were better in all aspects. Everything starts with pitching in fast pitch softball and Mary was markedly improved over last year and she works her tail off so she’ll be even better next year,” Menke said.

Sobczak went 3-for-4 on the night with two runs scored to lead Holy Trinity. Hellige had two hits, 2 RBI and a run scored. Box, Menke and Meierotto each had hits in the loss.

Hellige went all seven innings and gave up 10 runs five earned on nine hits, while striking out three and walking three.

Holy Trinity finished the year 6-16 and 4-8 in the South-east Iowa Superconference.



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Lee County News/From the Front

County could take custody of livestock and assess owners

CATTLE - Continued from Page 1

and we always new how many cows, bulls and calves we had exactly. The fact that you can't tell us how many you have is part of the problem here," Seyb said.

The problem has arisen from what Cramer called the "perfect storm" over the past couple of years where wind storms have knocked down branches and trees that have damaged fencing and she can't get caught up with repairs.

Wessel said he's run the fenceline himself and made repairs to his part of the fence and the Cramer's part of the fence, but has seen such provincial efforts as "Wal-Mart" bags stretched between fence posts to try and keep bulls and cattle contained.

He said he's had instances of cattle wrecking his CRP food plots and hunting grounds for years and it has to stop. He's also seen cattle, including bulls, running through his property and up close to his house.

"I have a place and I like my place. If I wanted cattle there, I'd own cattle. It's very distracting when you go to get the mail and there's cattle poop all over the driveway, or hearing and seeing cattle go running through the yard," he said.

Wessel said he never leaves his property without a sidearm out of fear of encountering a wild bull in the area.

"I haven't had that happen yet, but I can see it happening."

Iowa code requires fence owners in Iowa townships to share fencing responsibility and the shared fencing must be at least the same caliber of fencing by both property owners.

Lee County Attorney Ross Braden said he's had ongoing conversations with Cramer about the issue of the loose cattle and said today's conversation is the same information he's been hearing.

He said upon notification the county could go in and erect a fence along the property that is sufficient to keep the animals contained and assess the cost to Cramer. He added that the county could, if the issue continues to be a problem go into the area and take custody of the cattle and charge the owners per day for holding them.

Cramer said she believes all the animals have now been accounted for, but Wessel said he's encountered them in the last several days. Seyb again pressed Cramer as to how many cattle she currently has in containment and Cramer couldn't give a specific answer.

"It's about a 100 head, but it could be 98 or 99. Sometimes you can't see a calf that may be hidden from view, but that's probably within two or three."

Cramer said she only has six bulls, but Wessel said his encounters with the cattle show that about 30% are bulls.

"I've worked with steer and cattle and I know what a bull is. And I would say 30% of that wild herd is bulls. They may be you calves or young and just learning, but those are bulls."

Supervisor Rich Harlow asked all the parties to attend the meeting and speak during public discussion. Harlow asked that the two keep open lines of communication with the county. Supervisor Chair Matt Pflug said Braden outlined things pretty clearly and Cramer needs to get her cattle on her own property and secure the fence or the county would have no choice to take action.

In other action, the board:

- heard an update from the Iowa Municipalities Worker's Compensation Association on the county's progress on worker's comp rates. The county is saving about \$50,000 compared to it's rates six years ago.

- heard an update on the county's property insurance renewal from John Little with EMS insurance, to include the new property obtained in the acquisition of Lee County Ambulance.

Regional planning may handle Lee County ARPA funding

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County officials may look at paying Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission to help manage requests for distributions of the county's American Rescue Plan Act funding.

The county has received about \$3.3 million of a total \$6.5 million in funding from the U.S. Treasury as part of the stimulus act. The other payment is expected in May of 2022.

A steering committee comprised of two Lee County supervisors, Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom, Deputy Auditor Sara Helenthal and SEIRPC Director Mike Norris have been meeting for the last two months to set up

how the funding projects will be accepted and approved.

Lee County Supervisor Gary Seyb asked if Norris thought it would be a good idea to hire someone to help make sure the grant allocations would pass the sniff test with the federal government.

Norris said SEIRPC would be willing to help the county navigate the federal requirements, but said it would involve additional compensation over the current per capita funding arrangement in place between SEIRPC and the county.

"I think maybe we could tackle parts of this. We would have to talk about that and see what it looks like," Norris said.

See FUNDS, page 8



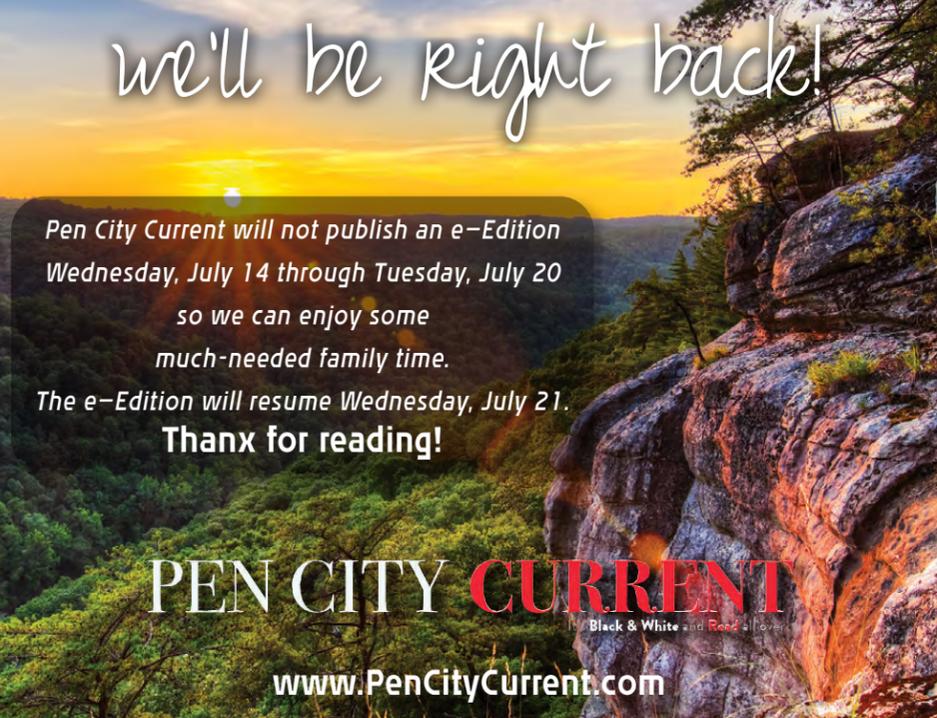
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we'll be right back!

Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Wednesday, July 14 through Tuesday, July 20 so we can enjoy some much-needed family time. The e-Edition will resume Wednesday, July 21.

Thank for reading!

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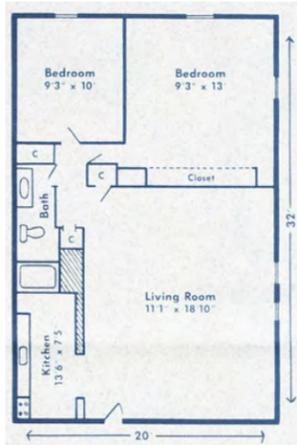
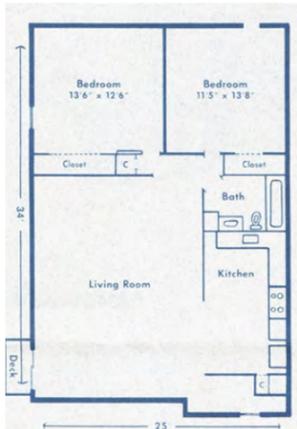
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Wednesday, July 7		Thursday, July 8		Friday, July 9		Saturday, July 10		Sunday, July 11		Monday, July 12							
9a 4H/FFA Horse Show - HA		7a - 9a Breakfast by Ft. Madison FFA - LC 8a 4-H/FFA Poultry Show - SB Clover Kid's Small Pet Show to follow 11a - 8p Lee Co. Sheep Producers Lunch/Dinner - FFA Bldg		Ft. Madison Community Hospital & Blessing Health Keokuk Kid's Day 7a - 9a Breakfast by Pampered Pals Red Hat Society of Donnellson - LC 9a 4H/FFA Swine Show - SB 11a - 1p Lee Co. Pork Producers Lunch - LC		7a - 9a Breakfast by Chapter CK TTT - LC 7a Registration 5K Run/Walk 8a Kevin Young Annual 5K Run/Walk 9a 4H/FFA Beef/Butter Bottle Calf/Dairy Show-SB 9a VanWinkle Chess Registration - LC 10a VanWinkle Chess Tournament - LC 11a - 2p Lee Co. Cattlemen Lunch - FFA Bldg		9a Non-Denominational Church Service - LC 9a Co-Ed Sand Volleyball - EP 9:30a 4H/FFA Dog Show - SB 10a - 11a Car Show Registration - T 11a - 1p Car Show		7:30a - 9a Exhibitor/Buyer Breakfast - LC Sponsored by: THOMPSON FARM SUPPLY 8:30a Jr. Agriculture Livestock Auction - SB							
Morning	1p ALL Livestock on Grounds Exhibitor Meeting		1p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show Senior Day 1p - 4p Sponsored by: The Kensington at the Learning Center 1p - 2:30p Informational Booths - LC 2p - 3p BINGO by Pampered Pals Red Hat Society of Donnellson - LC 3p FREE Ice Cream and Dessert courtesy of KILJ 3:30p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show		Kid's Day 1p - 4p Sponsored by: FMCH / Blessing Health Keokuk Lots of games and activities!! Farmer Bill's Barn Viele Schoolhouse Crafts Med Force Helicopter Face Painting Monster Truck - on Display 1p - 10p Kenny's Funland Carnival *ARMBAND \$25* 1p & 3p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 2p 4H Share-the-Fun and Working Exhibits - CB Clover Kid's Stuffed Animal Show to follow 4p Paulette's Dance - CB		1p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 2p 4-H/FFA Rabbit and Small Pet Show - SB 2p Farm Bureau Cookout Contest Registration 2p Lee Co. Fair LOCAL Wine Expo Judging - LC 3p Lee Co. Fair Wine Expo Tasting - LC 3p - 10p Kenny's Funland Carnival *ARMBAND \$25* 3p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 4p Farm Bureau Cookout Judging & Tasting		1:30p Car Show Results - T 2p LOCAL Talent Show Sponsored by: CONNECTION BANK & INSURANCE 2p Open Beef Show - Open Barn 2p Ag Olympics - SB 3p 4H Lee County Council Ice Cream Social - LC 3:30p 4H Art Hall Exhibits RELEASED 4p 4H/FFA Livestock RELEASED 4p Open Art Hall Exhibits RELEASED								
	Afternoon	4p - 9p Vendors - GS		4p - 9p Vendors - GS		4p - 9p Vendors - GS		4p - 9p Vendors - GS		4p - 9p Vendors - GS		4p - 9p Vendors - GS					
5p - 10p Kenny's Funland Carnival *ARMBAND \$15* 5p Channel Seed Exhibitor Meal - SB 5p Blue Ribbon Diner - GS 5p Fish Fry - FFA Building 6p Lee Co. Fair Queen, Jr. Queen & Little Miss. / Mr. Lee County Fair Crowning - SB 5:30p MOTOCROSS PRACTICE \$ - GS 6:30p MOTOCROSS \$ - GS \$10 Adults - \$5 Youth (ages 4-12) Under 3 FREE Sponsored by: CONN COMMUNICATIONS MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PUBLICATIONS CLEAR VIEW VISION CENTER DR PEPPER HENNIGES AUTOMOTIVE ST. CLAIR POWERSPORTS SHOTTENKIRK AUTOMOTIVE GROUP		5p - 10p Kenny's Funland Carnival *ARMBAND \$20* 5p Blue Ribbon Diner - GS 6p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 5:30p - 6:30p Monster Truck Fan Zone \$ - GS 7p MONSTER TRUCKS FAMILY NIGHT \$ - GS Bike Giveaway, Candy Dash, \$1 Hot Dogs (while supplies last) \$15 Adults - \$10 Youth (ages 4-12) - Under 3 FREE Sponsored by: CONN COMMUNICATIONS GREGORY CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION MENKE & COMPANY CPA CASEY'S GENERAL STORE CONNECTION BANK & INSURANCE DONNELSON CHIROPRACTIC HOLTkamp FLOORS DÉCOR & FURNITURE 9p-2a RE RIDE - EP MUST BE 21 TO ENTER		5p Blue Ribbon Diner - GS 5p Stockman's by livestock barns 6p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 6p Lee Co. Cattlemen's Bucket Bottle Calf Show - SB 5:30p - 6:30p Monster Truck Fan Zone \$ - GS 7p MONSTER TRUCKS \$ - GS \$15 Adults - \$10 Youth (ages 4-12) - Under 3 FREE Sponsored by: CONN COMMUNICATIONS KEY CONTRACTING INC TRUCK REPAIR, INC. GOLDEN EAGLE DISTRIBUTING LEE CO. CORN GROWERS ASSN. THREE RIVERS TRACTOR CLUB MILLWRIGHT SERVICE, INC. 9p-2a Decade of Decadence - EP Sponsored by: IOWA BEVERAGE MUST BE 21 TO ENTER		5p - 9p Vendors - GS 5p Blue Ribbon Diner - GS 5p Stockman's by livestock barns 5p Kid's Pedal Pull Registration - CB 5:30p Hawkeye Sanctioned Kid's Pedal Pull 6:30p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 7p Kid's Power Wheel Derby \$ - GS 7:30p DEMOLITION DERBY \$ - GS \$15 Adults - \$5 Youth (ages 4-12) - Under 3 FREE \$20 Pit Pass (ALL ages) - \$25 Driver Pit Pass Sponsored by: CONN COMMUNICATIONS MERSCHMAN SEEDS HOENIG TREE SERVICE HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE HUFFMAN FARM & HOME DISCOUNT TIRE & SERVICE KEOKUK FARMERS SAVINGS BANK FULLenkamp INSURANCE AGENCY LEE COUNTY BANK 9p-2a Devin Clemons Band - EP Sponsored by: GOLDEN EAGLE DISTRIBUTING TITAN BORADCASTING & DIGITAL GROUP MUST BE 21 TO ENTER		5p - 9p Vendors - GS 5p Blue Ribbon Diner - GS 5p Stockman's by livestock barns 5p Kid's Pedal Pull Registration - CB 5:30p Hawkeye Sanctioned Kid's Pedal Pull 6:30p Kid's Celebration Family Game Show 7p Kid's Power Wheel Derby \$ - GS 7:30p DEMOLITION DERBY \$ - GS \$15 Adults - \$5 Youth (ages 4-12) - Under 3 FREE \$20 Pit Pass (ALL ages) - \$25 Driver Pit Pass Sponsored by: CONN COMMUNICATIONS MERSCHMAN SEEDS HOENIG TREE SERVICE HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE HUFFMAN FARM & HOME DISCOUNT TIRE & SERVICE KEOKUK FARMERS SAVINGS BANK FULLenkamp INSURANCE AGENCY LEE COUNTY BANK 9p-2a Devin Clemons Band - EP Sponsored by: GOLDEN EAGLE DISTRIBUTING TITAN BORADCASTING & DIGITAL GROUP MUST BE 21 TO ENTER		Art Hall Ernie Rotter Barn - Pioneer Village Wednesday 2p-7p Thursday thru Saturday 9a-7p Sunday 9a-4p GUIDE GS - Grandstand \$ - Gate Fee SB - Show Barn HA - Horse Arena LC - Learning Center T - Tent EP - Entertainment Pavilion CB - Connection Bank & Insurance Stage							
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FUNDS - Continued from Page 5

"There's a variety of ways we could go about that. The critical pieces are the contracts and the applications, making sure the money is drawn the right way, and then verifying the activities have been completed."

Seyb said it might be more efficient for the county to hire someone to do that work.

"I personally think that might not be a bad idea, especially if the money is not coming from taxpayer funds, it would actually come from grant itself. And that person could then focus also on the requirements of the grant and keeping this group apprised of the rules," Seyb said.

Norris said there could be a potential conflict of interest with SEIRPC administering the Southeast Iowa Housing

Trust and the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority, two groups which could be looking at funding requests from the pool.

Norris said the county could appoint someone to verify any funds going to SEIRPC administered group, and each committee member said they were comfortable with that idea.

Ron Fedler said he was also concerned about non-profits going to both the county and cities for funding help and called it double dipping.

Seyb said the guidance is so broad right now that the steering committee would have focus the projects and funding. He said he's already seen requests come in for essential employees.

Seyb said the county should be reimbursed for any COVID-related losses before any funding is allocated. He also said a new Lee County Health Department building should

be a priority rather than renting the space at the former John Bennett Center at the old Iowa State Penitentiary.

Fedler said he'd rather see a subcontractor do the consulting for the county and not make them a county employee so the county isn't on the hook for the position after the funding has been spent.

Under the APRA program, counties have until Dec. 31, 2024 to allocate all the funds they receive, and then until Dec. 31, 2026 to have all the funds spent.

The federal government is still in the public comment time on the guidelines on what will be allowed as qualified expenditures. Renstrom said she wouldn't expect final guidance on that until the fall.

The committee decided to not meet again until next month to see what progress has taken place at the federal level, and then start preparing an application process for groups to submit proposals.

The county is currently recommending that 20% of the funds go to water/sewer infrastructure to help cities with EPA mandated storm and wastewater sewer separations. Other proposed percentages of spending were 30% for Internet infrastructure, which could be used as matching grants to trigger more state and federal grants; 20% for county projects; 10% for housing projects; 10% for child care projects; 5% for non-profit requests; and 5% for tourism-related projects.

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