### PEN CITY CURRENT

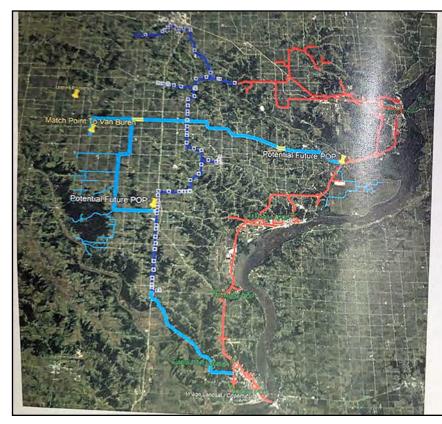
It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 | 7 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 143



www.pencitycurrent.com

### County broadband plan unveiled



LEE COUNTY BROADBAND EXPANSION MAP: EXISTING AND PROPOSED FIBER TRANSMISSION

RED = Existing Danville Fiber

July 26, 2021

Thick Light Blue = SIREPA/Danville fiber backbone

Dark Blue = Existing Aureon fiber

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The map and legend show the proposed new fiber optics network that is being planned for Lee County.

### **DANVILLE TELECOM:** State, federal grants could provide funding for infrastructure

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Danville Telecom CEO Tim Fencl is from this area and says no one should be without broadband service.

"I don't want to run into someone in the store who tells me their Internet service is bad," Fencl said Tuesday afternoon. "I'm from this area and I don't want that for people."

Fencl had just met with the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority board, at the KL Megla building near Montrose to discuss a potential partnership to build a fiber optic backbone right through Lee County to target the most rural underserved areas of the county.

The partnership includes working with SIREPA on



NORRIS

grant applications and a structure where Danville Telecom would own the service lines to customers and the equipment, and SIREPA would own the fiber optic backbone and would lease the infrastructure to the local communications company over a 10-year period.

The costs of the broadband upgrade would be about \$5.5 million, according to

Mike Norris of Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission. Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission administers services for SIREPA.

Fencl said Danville would apply, in a very tight window, for an Iowa grant administered through the state's Office of the Chief Information Officer. That grant would

See INTERNET, page 4

### TRI STATE RODEO

### Deadline extended for Little Miss Rodeo/All-Around Cowboy

FORT MADISON – It's time!! Contestants are being sought for the annual Little Miss Rodeo & All-Around Cowboy

This year's event is to be held on Monday, September 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Tri-State Rodeo Arena.

The contest is open to children ages 5-7. Contestants must be age 5 by August 1st, and no older than age 7 at the time of the contest.

An entry form is available on the Tri-State Rodeo website at <u>www.tristaterodeo.</u> org under the "Events" tab.

Entry forms and contestant photos must be postmarked by Aug. 7th and can be mailed to Trish Eaves-Fedler, 1930 303rd Avenue Fort Madison, IA 52627. For more information, contact Trish at (319)

See **RODEO**, page 7

### **DISTINGUISHED HONORS**

# SCC seeking nominations for alumni honors

WEST BURLINGTON – Southeastern Community College (SCC) is accepting nominations for the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award. Nominations are due online by September 1.

"We love learning about the paths our graduates have taken," Val Giannettino, executive director of institutional advancement, says. "We have remarkable Distinguished Alumni who motivate both our students and our community."

Two Distinguished Alumni have been selected each year since 1997. Some past recipients include Dr. Edward Stone, Randy Winegard, Dick Wagner, Martha Wolf, and Judy Brueck.

To be eligible for nomination, the nominee must have completed 30 credits at SCC or its predecessor colleges. These include Burlington Junior College, Burlington Community College, and Keokuk Community College.

Nominations should address at least one of the following: how the nominee has earned the respect and trust of their colleagues; how they've made substantial, positive contributions in their community; why the nominee is an outstanding practitioner of their profession; or how the nominee has served as a positive, motivational force for others.

At least one additional recommendation letter should accompany the nomination.

Giannettino says multiple people can be nominated. In fact, two people can be nominated in one submission.

"If you know an outstanding couple or family members — maybe a mother and daughter — who you feel should be honored for their achievements, you can submit one nomination for them," Giannettino explains. "We want to hear everyone's story and celebrate their success."

The SCC Alumni Association Board will review the nominations at their October meeting. Recommendations are then taken to the SCC Board of Trustees'

See **ALUMNI**, page 3

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### WEATHER

 WED 28 Jul
 Scattered Clouds, 89° F/70° F

 THU 29 Jul
 Sunny and Warm, 87° F/71° F

 FRI 30 Jul
 Scattered Clouds, 80° F/65° F

#### INWA INTTERV

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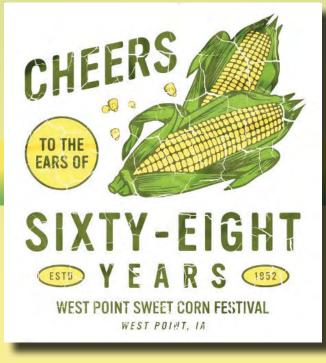
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### 68th, Annual West Point

### SWEET CORVESTIVAL







### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1111H

SHUCKFEST – When the Corn arrives – approx. 4p.m.

Sponsored by Merschman Seeds & Lee County Bank

• Located at Merschman Seeds, Inc.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 12TH

Carnival	5-10p.m.
Arts & Crafts in the Park	5-10p.m.
Free Sweet Corn Served	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
BBQ Pork Loin Dinners Served	5-10p.m.
0 4 1111	

- Carry outs available!
- Pork BBQed by the Lee County Pork Producers!
- Serving pork until 10 or until we run out

#### Free Entertainment on the Stage

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

- Princess & Queen candidates
- Interviews & Coronations......6-7p.m.
- Holy Trinity Dance Team performance following

### REDAY, AUGUST 18TH

Carnival	5-10p.m.
Arts & Crafts in the Park	5-10p.m.
Free Sweet Corn Served	5-10p.m.
BBQ Chicken Dinners Served	5-10p.m.
Carry outs available!	·
Serving chicken until 10 or until we run out	
Free Entertainment on the Stage	
Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank	
• 101.7 "The Bull" Sweet Corn Eating Contest,	
Open to All Ages	5-5:30p.m.
	Arts & Crafts in the Park  Free Sweet Corn Served  BBQ Chicken Dinners Served  • Carry outs available!  • Serving chicken until 10 or until we run out  Free Entertainment on the Stage  Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank  • 101.7 "The Bull" Sweet Corn Eating Contest,

#### 

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

Visit our Website
www.westpointsweetcornfestival.com
Facebook: West Point Sweet Corn Festival
Instagram: wpcornfest, Hashtag: #WPSCF

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 145th

#### 5K & 10K Run In Front of Main Stage

Sponsored by Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center

Registration (Entry Fee)	6:45-7:30a.m
Run Begins in Front of the Main Stage	
Awards Ceremony	
Hannahaa Daublaa Taumamant Assa 16 9 Ousu	

### Horseshoe Doubles Tournament – Ages 16 & Over

Cash Prizes Awarded. Northeast Side of the Square

Registration	9a.m.
Tournament	
Arts & Crafts in the Park	
Free Sweet Corn Served	
RRO Chicken Dinners Served	11a m -10n m

- Carry outs available!
- Serving chicken until 10 or until we run out

Carnival .......Noon to Midnight

#### Pee Wee Drags in Front of the Stage - Ages 3-6

No Entry Fee. Trophies to 1st-3rd Places Candy & Ribbons to All Participants

Registration 10:30a.m.-11a.m.

• Races......11a.m.-1p.m.

### Junior Water Fights – Ages 7-12

No Entry Fee. In Front of the Stage. Ride Tickets to All Winners

#### Corn Hole Tournament (South Side of the Park)

Registration (Must Be 21)

• Cash Prize Tournament.......3:30-6:30p.m.

#### STAGE PERFORMANCE – Free Entertainment

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

• Whiskey Friends......7p.m.-10p.m.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH

Free Sweet Corn Served	Tla.m?
BBQ Chicken Dinners Served	11a.m?
Carry outs available!	
Serving chicken until we run out	
Carnival	11:30a.m6p.m.

### Sweet Corn Festival Parade.....Noon Mini Garden Tractor Pull

Sponsored by Sinclair Tractor

Weigh In
.....1-2p.m.

• Tractor Pull Begins at 2p.m.

### **Obituaries/From the Front**

MUELLER

#### **OBITUARIES**

### JAMES R. PORTER, SR.

James Richard Porter, Sr., 91 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, July 26, 2021 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

He was born July 21, 1930 in Keokuk, IA the son of Wilbur and Gladys Fox Porter.

James graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1948.

He was a veteran of the Iowa Army National Guard.

On May 5, 1951 he was united in marriage to Doris Scott. She preceded him in death on January 28, 2017.

James had been employed at the A&P store in Keokuk for many years. He later was employed by Keokuk Waterworks for thirty-eight years until his retirement. After retirement, he worked for several car dealerships in the area picking up and delivering cars.

He was a member of New Testament Christian Church in Keokuk.

James was a baseball fanatic. He tried to visit all the baseball stadiums he could and he attended eleven-hundred major league games through the years. James once had the opportunity to visit with Harry Carey and talk baseball with him. James enjoyed a good cup of coffee and visiting with his friends. He had a passion for streetcars and skylines. He was very knowledgeable about them both and would draw beautiful pictures of them for others to enjoy.

He is survived by two sons, Scott Porter (Julie) of Keokuk and James R. Porter, Jr. (Natalie) of Keokuk, two daughters, Jean Brown (Steve) of Nauvoo, IL and Janet Kinman (Dee) of Springville, IN, eight grandchildren, Sally Carter (Brian), Amy Newberry (T.J.), Tim Porter (Robin), Nolan Porter, Annie Holmes (Tim), Kevin Crabtree, Jessica Fatt (Austin) and Cal Kinman, eleven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Dee Kinman officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10 – 11 a.m., Thursday at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be to Every Step Hospice.

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

### Receptions to be held to honor alumni

#### **ALUMNI** - Continued from Page 1

November meeting for confirmation.

Receptions are held to honor the Distinguished Alumni before each awardee gives a keynote address at their respective campus commencements. They will receive

an award, and a plaque recognizing their accomplishments will be hung amongst other Distinguished Alumni plaques at the SCC campuses.

To make a nomination, visit bit.ly/SCCDistinguishedAlumni.

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**OBITUARIES** 

### FRANK MUELLER, JR.

Frank Mueller, Jr., 79 of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at River Hills Village in Keokuk.

Frank was born August 27, 1941 in Hodjez, Hungary the son of Frank and Maria Mueller. He graduated from Canton High School in Canton, MO with the Class of 1960 and then attended Culver Stockton College.

> Frank was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He had been employed at Armor Dial in Ft. Madison for thirty-one years before his retirement in 2004.

> He was a member of the Anchor of Hope Fellowship in Keokuk and the Keokuk Odd Fellows.

Frank enjoyed fishing and had a large collection of lures and jigs. He also enjoyed hunting, playing pool, and reading Louis L'amour novels. He especially enjoyed going out to eat at the Cottage Café in Ft. Madison. Frank was a talented musician and will be remembered for his harmonica

Survivors include a son, Shawn (Christine) Mueller of Henderson, NV, a daughter, Melissa (Ira) Law of Keokuk, ten grandchildren, Jarin Mueller, Tyler Olsen, Danielle Garcia, Hailey Mueller, Parker Mueller, Abigail Mueller, Kendall Woolf, Mad-

playing. He was also a left-handed guitar player.

ison Woolf, Hana Woolf and Hudson Law, seven great grandchildren, Ada Mueller, Tenzin Miller, Elias Miller, Ezra Garcia, Elijah Garcia, Zoë Garcia and Aria Garcia, one brother, Larry Mueller of Canton and a sister Elizabeth McAvenia of Corpus Christi, TX.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Joseph Mueller. Visitation will be held Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Anchor of Hope Fellowship in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends at that time.

A private family graveside service with military rites will be held at a later time. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project. Online 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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### From the Front

### SIREPA, Danville Telecom to partner on broadband

**INTERNET** - Continued from Page 1

be for a 65% match of the \$5.5 million. The other 35% would come from Lee County's American Rescue Plan Act funding. The OCIO grant applications are due Wednesday.

The county has already received \$3.25 million in ARPA funds that are currently in an interest bearing account as county officials determine when and how the money should be spent. Those guidelines are supposed to be released before the fall, but a committee overseeing the ARPA expenditures in Lee County said 30% will be spent on broadband expansion in the county, especially projects that use the money as matching funds for additional grants.

The project would bring Tier 1 service to about 120 customers in Lee County, but would also provide what Fencl called a "future proof" fiber optic backbone that can be upgraded to meet increased speed demands of the future.

Tier 1 service would provide 25mbps download speed and 3mbps upload speed. Fencl said ARPA funding would require the work to tackle only Tier 1 service, and requires the work to be capable of providing speeds up to 100mbps upload and download.

"Basically you're building the backbone for the future because you don't need to rebuild this infrastructure to create those greater speeds. You change the electronics out to provide the gigabyte speeds that we all foresee coming in the next five to 10 years," Fencl said.

Fencl also said the 121 customers that would be provided Tier 1 service would not be charged a hook-up fee. He said this is just a first step in getting the county up to Tier 2 and Tier 3 service which are faster speeds.

"This is the first step, but one of the things we



LEE COUNTY BROADBAND EXPANSION MAP: EXISTING AND PROPOSED FIBER TRANSMISSION

July 26, 2021

RED lines = Existing Danville Fiber

Thick Light Blue lines = SIREPA/Danville fiber backbon

Thin Light Blue lines = Fiber Routes to Tier 1 Areas

Dark Blue Line = Existing Aureon fiber

Dark Blue Areas = Tier 1 block groups of Lee County

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The above map shows the potential expansion of broadband services with a proposed new fiber optic "backbone" that runs up through the county from Keokuk to Highway 16 along the western half of the county.

wrap into this project is the lease back of that fiber backbone that would give SIREPA additional funds every single year to put back into broadband funding so we can go after the Tier 2 and Tier 3 locations," he said.

SIREPA board member Bob Dodds asked Fencl why he wouldn't be charging a hook-up fee to help create another revenue stream to help fund future upgrades.

Fencl said he considers he current customers shareholders in his company and wouldn't want to charge them for the service. However, he said anyone who comes on after the initial roll-

out would probably be charged a hook-up fee.

"In the case of Lee County, I'm trying to serve areas that are underserved and I don't want there to be any hurdle for that individual to take our service. Where I benefit from them taking our service is that consumer will have our product for the next 3, 5... 10 years."

He said the lease-back payment to SIREPA amounted to 50% of the depreciated value of the fiber optic backbone over 10 years.

The SIREPA board approved a resolution supporting the plan unanimously.

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FLOATS	HORSES
DECORATED CARS OR TRUCKS	
OTHER	
NAME	PHONE NO
ADDRESS	
DOES YOUR ENTRY HAVE MUSIC?	YESN0

Over \$500 in cash awarded to winners in 4 divisions \$50 given to every participating high school band

Mail entry to Parade Committee, P.O. Box 305, West Point, Iowa 52656 or Email WPCornFest@GMail.com. Entrants should meet at the corner of 3rd St. and Avenue E. (Presbyterian Church) no later than 11:15 a.m.

Visit Us Online: www.WestPointSweetCornFestival.com

### **Obituaries**

#### **OBITUARIES**

### SHARA D. MCDONOUGH

Shara Delores McDonough, 50, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 24, 2021, at her home.

She was born on May 28, 1971 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Forest Wayne and Rhonda (Johnson) Markey. She was united in marriage to Curtis

McDonough on November 21, 2015.



MCDONOUGH

She is survived by her husband: Curtis; grandmother: Charlotte Johnson of Troy, Missouri; eleven children and step-children: Anthony (Josey) Markey of Donnellson, Nicholas (Chantell) Ferrel, Brandon and Joshua Ferrel of Washington DC; Ashley and Jacob Kempf, Addison McFerren (who preceded her in death), Dalton Kempf (who preceded her in death), Megan (Randy) Armstrong of Chillicothe, Iowa, Connor McDonough of

Ottumwa, Iowa and Katie McDonough of Oskaloosa, Iowa; six grandchildren: Braxton and Ainsley Markey, Sophia McFerren, Tamsin, Raegan and Loren Armstrong.

She was preceded in death by her parents; grandpa Johnson and two children: Addison McFerren and Dalton Kempf.

Shara was a 1990 graduate of Central Lee High School. She was passionate about her grandchildren and would spend every spare minute she had with them spoiling them all. She enjoyed going fishing with her husband, son and grandkids. Shara had a love for shopping and talking for hours on the phone with her grandmother.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

Family will receive friends from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Larry Wallingford officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

### EDWARD MENDEZ

Edward "Eddie" Mendez, 83, of Fort Madison passed away on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 5:30 AM at his home.

He was born on June 9, 1938, in Ft. Madison to Vicente and Maria Fuentes Mendez.



**MENDEZ** 

On September 29, 1962 he married Mary Vasquez in Ft. Madison. Eddie worked at Fruehauf for twenty years and then at Case where he retired after twenty years. Eddie was known for always being a hard worker so following retirement from Case he worked for the City of Ft. Madison and retired after seventeen years of service. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church, the LULAC and served in the US Army. He loved playing the drums and was in a local band for several years. Eddie enjoyed being outdoors, helping others and especially loved

dancing. He was an avid Dallas Cowboy and Boston Celtics fan.

Eddie's family was always first and he lived for Mary. He loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Mendez of Ft. Madison; two sons, Eddie (Laura) Mendez of Ft. Madison and Tony (Janie)

Mendez of Ft. Madison; six grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; three brothers, Abie Mendez and Roger Mendez of Ft. Madison, Jerry Mendez of Livermore, CA; three sisters, Rufina Martinez and Sally Hernandez of Ft. Madison, Anna Luna of Galesburg, IL; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Eustolia and Carolina and four brothers, Aurelio, Lupe, Ruben and Johnny.

The funeral mass will be held at 11 AM on Thursday, July 29, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church with Rev. James Flattery officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9-11 AM at the church. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery with military rites performed by the Fort Madison Honor Guard. Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established for the LULAC and Lee County Hospice and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

### DENNIS R. PILES

Dennis R. Piles, 71, of Niota, Illinois passed away at 3:10p.m. Saturday, July 24, 2021 at his home.

He was born June 18, 1950 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Raymond and Harriet (Lefler) Piles. On October 17, 1970 he married Melaney Hamm in Dallas City, Illinois.



Dennis worked as a salesman at Shottenkirk's dealership in Fort Madison for many years. He also operated Denny's Autobody and Sales from 1967 – 2008 and assisted with auctions at the Lieurance Auction Barn in Fort Madison. He attended the Grace Bible Church in Dallas City, was an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan, enjoyed hunting, cooking, attending car shows and especially spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Melaney, two sons, Kory (Priscilla Pope) Piles of Groveland, Illinois and Jamie (Jamie-Lee) Piles of Fort Madison, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service will be held at 10:00a.m. Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with Rev. Jim Luder officiating. The family will meet with friends from 5:00 until 7:30p.m. Tuesday at Banks & Beals. A memorial fund has been established. To leave a condolence, please visit Dennis' obituary at banksandbeals.com.



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### Classifieds

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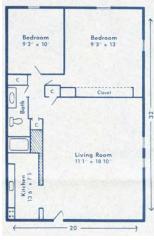
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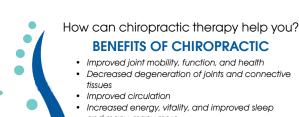
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### Education News/Scene Around the Area

### Portions of donations go to support Miss Rodeo Iowa program

**RODEO** - Continued from Page 1

470-8030 or Lisa Frederick at (815) 343-0911 .Canisters, with each child's photo and name, will once again be placed in area businesses for family and friends to cast a vote by dropping their "spare change" into the canister.

The night of the event, contestants will be interviewed and have a chance to showcase their talent. Judges will score the children on personality, attire, interview and talent. Judges have no knowledge of how much money each contestant has collected in their canister. In the event of a tie, the amount in the canister will help determine the winner.

A portion of the money collected in the canisters goes to Miss Rodeo Iowa to help defray traveling expenses as she competes for the coveted title of Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas this coming December.

Each contestant will receive a goodie bag for participating, however only one girl and one boy can win the title of Little Miss Rodeo & All-Around Cowboy.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

The now-vacant KL Megla building across Hwy. 61 from Dollar General in Montrose, could soon be teeming with instructional life as Southeast Iowa Regional Economic & Port Authority gets ready to close on the building for the Lee County Economic Development Group. A pre-lease agreement was approved at Tuesday's SIREPA meeting at the building.

### Matteson Scholarships awarded to 34 area students

In 2020, The Matteson Scholarship was relaunched in Southeast Iowa by The Keokuk Area Community Foundation and The North Lee Community Foundation. In 2021, \$86,000.00 in Matteson Scholarships were awarded.

To be eligible for The Matteson Scholarship, students or working adults must live in the Iowa counties of Lee, Des Moines, or Henry.

The Matteson Scholarship also accepts scholarship applications from graduates of Wapello Senior High in Louisa County. The 2022 Matteson Scholarship Application will open in January of 2022. For more information visit mattesonscholarship.org.

2021 Matteson Scholarship Applicants: Brett Baccam - Mt. Pleasant Chloe Blind - Fort Madison Andrew Carter - Morning Sun Kinsey Duwa - Mt. Pleasant Tyler Hill - West Burlington

Elizabeth Larson - Mt. Pleasant Katherine Larson - Fort Madison Dylan McElderry - West Burlington Catie Messer - New London Darien Pidgeon - New London Bethany Shane - Burlington Jamie Sobczak - West Point Devin Tweedy - Argyle Maui Pearl Whaley - Mt. Pleasant Olivia Williams - Denmark Alex Wolter - Keokuk Aidan Wendoff - Fort Madison

Ali Whisenant - Burlington Sierra Kelman - Danville Jacob Wallace - Mt. Pleasant Blake Moeller - West Point Maille Sheerin - Fort Madison Mason Porter - New London Zachary Glasscock - Keokuk

Raven Messamaker - Burlington Jacob Stukerjurgen - Salem Gabe Gourley - Danville Abigail Crowner - Burlington Ella Francis - New London Jackson Holtkamp - Montrose Callum Tackes - Keokuk Thomas Weir - Burlington Isabelle Hase - West Burlington Claire Wills - Donnellson

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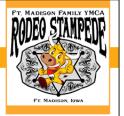
Begins Tuesday, July 20th

Registration Fee: \$30.00 Includes FREE entry into the Rodeo Stampede

YOUTH RUN (12 & under) & ADULT RACE (5k Run Walk)

Saturday, September 11th

Registration Fee: \$25.00 Includes Commemorative T-Shirt



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