

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, August 3 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 147



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Gunfire snarls Keokuk traffic

SATURDAY NIGHT: Altercation on South 7th leads to gunfire, 3-vehicle crash

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

KEOKUK – Keokuk police are looking for information in connection with multiple shootings that took place Saturday night on South 7th Street.

According to a release from the Keokuk Police Department, at about 8:31 p.m. officers responded to a report of a crash in the 1400 block of South 7th Street. Upon investigation, it was revealed the incident began in the 1000 block of Palen Street, where an occupant of one of the vehicles involved in the crash got out and approached the other vehicle. Shots were allegedly fired at that location.

The occupant then re-entered the vehicle and sped off with two other vehicles giving chase. Another set of shots were reported to have been fired in the 600 block of S. 5th Street and then a third set of shots were fired after three vehicles, an SUV, a car, and a motorcycle were involved in a crash in the 1600 block of S. 7th Street.

One vehicle was reported to have been struck by gunfire during the incident.



Photo courtesy of Chris Mills/Keokuk

An witness at the scene of a shooting in Keokuk Saturday night stands near a vehicle with apparent bullet holes near the driver's side back door.

No injuries have been reported and the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Keokuk Police Department at 524-7704.

SUPERVISORS

ARPA panel shifts position on funding

Committee wants to move 10% from sewer back to county projects

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A panel formed to help figure out how the county's \$6.5 million in federal recovery funds will be allocated, made a slight turn on Monday.

The group met following the regular Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting and decided to recommend a change in the percentage of the funding being allocated to the county projects.



SEYB

At earlier meetings the committee had recommended the following allocations: 30% to broadband improvements; 20% to county water and sewer projects including EPA mandated sewer separation projects in incorporated cities in the county; 20% to county projects, 10% to child care projects, 10% to housing projects, and 5% each to non profits and tourism efforts.

On Monday, committee member Gary Seyb recommending changing that formula to reflect an increased amount for county projects.

"That's kind of where we started out to take a look at things we wanted to support with the funds," Seyb said.

"At one point we talked about doing something with the health department. And with other county projects, that could potentially be a lot more than \$1.3 million, if we can even do that."

Seyb then recommended moving the county projects portion of the funding to 30% and cutting the percentage allocated for sewer and water projects in the county to 10% or about \$650,000. The increase to county projects would

See ARPA, page 5

Central Lee High School Principal Nicole Herdrich works with a parent during Central Lee's registration day Monday at the PreK-8th grade building. Parents at the registration day also heard about a new after-school program launched with federal stimulus funds.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

CARES Act churns out new school programs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Federal relief funds are being put to use to create new and innovative supplementary education programs in area school districts.

Fort Madison is using what is called ESSER, or Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, funds to create a Jumpstart program, while



LIGHTFOOT

Central Lee has put together a Hawks' Place after-school program.

Marge Lightfoot, who's spent close to three decades in the Central Lee district as a librarian, will coordinate the Hawks' Space, while Keely Kangas has been brought in to lead

Fort Madison Community School District's new program, as well as its



KANGAS

after-school program.

Kangas has spent the past three years working with the Mississippi Valley Council Boy Scouts program, and has been a community partner with the Burlington PIECES program.

"My experiences have really given

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 02 Aug.....Clear Skies, 76° F/ 57° F
WED 03 Aug.....Scattered Clouds, 78° F/ 58° F
THU 04 Aug.....Scattered Clouds, 78° F/ 59° F

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/01.....730 32 46 48, Lucky Ball: 13
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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/30/21 – 4:38 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue E.
 07/31/21 – 6:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue L.
 07/31/21 – 2:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3100 block of Avenue J.
 07/31/21 – 5:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of 14th Street.
 08/01/21 – 5:17 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue G.
 08/01/21 – 9:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2500 block of Avenue G.
 08/01/21 – 9:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 6000 block of Avenue O.
 08/01/21 – 2:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 08/01/21 – 8:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Cody Lee Jurgens, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 3rd Street, on a charge of 5th-degree criminal mischief.
 08/01/21 – 3:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Adam Ray Sutton, 43, of Montrose, in the 4800 block of Avenue O, on a

warrant for 5th degree theft. He was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

07/30/21 – 10:59 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Adrian Jamier Miles, 26, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department on a judgment hold. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.
 07/30/21 – 2:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jimmy George Barragan, 58, of Burlington at the sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 07/30/21 – 8:57 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua James Brown, 32 of Keosauqua, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.
 07/31/21 – 7:07 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at Hwy. 103 and Hwy. 61 exit. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Jaesen Sinclair Ziegler, 40 of Muscle Shoals, Ala., was found in a vehicle that had entered the ditch between the southbound lanes of Hwy. 61 just off the exit ramp.
 07/31/21 – 9:03 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jaesen Sinclair Ziegler, 40, of Muscle

Shoals, Ala., near Hwy. 103 and the Hwy. 61 bypass on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.

07/31/21 – 7:17 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tammy Louise Bottoms, 52, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for time served.
 07/31/21 – 9:42 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Daniel Stark, 41, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrants for voluntary absence from custody and a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 08/01/21 – 9:20 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Blain Michael Burford, 23, of Niota, at the sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

07/26/21 – Payton C Scott, age 21, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery. Scott was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.

07/27/21 – Nicholas C Foster, age 19, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Retail Theft. Foster was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.

07/27/21 – Jason A Sprague, age 39, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession with Intent to Deliver Cannabis. Sprague was also arrested and charged with Possession of Cocaine and Possession of Mushrooms. Sprague remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.

07/28/21 – Johnathon M Grey, age 25, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Burglary. Grey was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.

07/28/21 -Cindy S Bragg, age 47, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Possession of

Methamphetamine. Bragg was released for time served and given a future court date.

07/28/21 – Bobby J Myers, age 43, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Possession of an Open Title. Myers was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

07/29/21 -Richard L Lynch, age 44, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/Failure to Pay on original charges of Criminal Trespass to Real Property, Driving While License Suspended, and Operating an Uninsured Vehicle. Lynch was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

07/29/21 – Robert J Waller, age 37, of Roseville, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Waller was release after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

07/30/21 – Deray M Clegg, age 35, of Burlington, IA was arrested on a Henderson County Warrant charging him with Failure to Pay. Clegg was released after posting the required bond and

given a future court date.

07/30/21 – James M Mason, age 30, of Mendon, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Domestic Battery. Mason was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

07/30/21 – Jeremiah L J Jordan, age 39, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Aggravated Battery. Jordan remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.

07/31/21 – Joshua J Kraft, age 40, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Kraft was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

08/01/21 – Christopher J Sutton, age 29, of Dallas City, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Sutton was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CONRAD J. MERTENS

Conrad James "Jim" Mertens, 93, of Anchorage, AK, passed away at 1:10 p.m. on Saturday, May 29, 2021 in Anchorage. He was born on May 10, 1928 to Conrad



MERTENS

Peter & Kathryn Wilken Mertens in Fort Madison, IA. He graduated from Catholic Central High School in Fort Madison and then received his electrical engineering degree from Iowa State University. Jim served in the Korean War and obtained the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Army. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, National Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, the United Nations Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and a Purple Heart.

Jim worked and traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, Greenland and Canada on the D.E.W. line before settling in Alaska in the late 1960's. Jim loved nature and the freedom of living in Alaska. He often traveled

to his land in the Salem, IA area.

Jim is survived by: his brother, Robert J. (Barb) Mertens of Fort Madison, IA and his sister, Kathryn "Kay" (Ronnie) Holvey of Fort Madison, IA and by several nephews, nieces and cousins. He was preceded in death by: his parents, his two sisters: Dorothy L. Mertens & Virginia A. Mertens and by his sister-in-law, Yvonne Mertens.

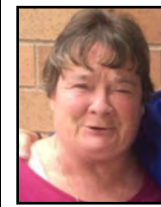
A visitation will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory in Fort Madison. A private family burial with military rites performed by the Fort Madison Veterans Honor Guard will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Fort Madison. Jim will be laid to rest with his parents, sisters and sister-in-law. Online condolences to Jim's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



OBITUARIES

VICKIE D. RIIS

Vickie D. Riis, 63, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 1:44 a.m. Monday, August 2, 2021, at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.



RIIS

She was born on October 7, 1957, the daughter of Roy and Phyllis (White) Lay. On July 21, 1979, she married John Peter Riis in Donnellson. He preceded her in death on July 4, 2021.

She is survived by her son: Carl (Amanda) Riis; two daughters: Angie Brown and Carrie (Kurt) Wagner; three granddaughters: Lacy Vaughn, Bailey Vaughn, Addyson Riis and one grandson: Zachery (Emily Hagmeier) Vaughn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband: John

Vickie was a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Donnellson. She enjoyed the farm, her family and most of all spending time with her grandchildren.

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

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in her memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

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

BETTY L. JOHNSON

Betty L. Johnson, 87, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 12:40 p.m. Saturday, July 31, 2021 at the Rosville Nursing & Rehabilitation.



JOHNSON

Betty was born on December 15, 1933 in Arkansas the daughter of Gerald and Pauline (Cline) Robinson. Betty was raised by her mother and step-father, Edwin Chapman. On December 27, 1952 she married J.W. "Dub" Johnson in Piggett, Arkansas. He preceded her in death on July 17,

2002.

Betty was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. She enjoyed time spent with her family.

Survivors include one daughter: Vicki Gale (Bill) Clark; four sons: Stanley Jay (Shelley) Johnson, Randy Dale (Melinda) Johnson, Lonnie Wayne Johnson and Darrin Lynn (Shirley) Johnson; eleven grandchildren: Jill (Darin) Cordray, Jeff Holmes, Jennifer (Shane) Hall, Tina (Jeff) Finley, Rashele (Josh)

Gordon, Jarrett Johnson, Miranda (Marcus Sutcliff) Johnson, Shelby Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Loriane (Logan) Harl and Jessica (Dawson) Ryner and eleven great-grandchildren: Damon and Dayne Cordray, Megan and Todd Finley, Flyn and Fritz Gordon, Peyton and Tripp Sutcliff and Camron, Chayzley and Chloe Johnson. Also surviving is one sister: Reva Borden and one brother: Lester (Amy) Robinson.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband; one daughter: Linda Jean Holmes; one son in infancy, Martin Gale Johnson; one grandson: Ryan Johnson and two brothers: Barney and Donald Robinson.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Home. No services are planned.

A memorial fund has been established for Hospice Compassus. Memorial may be sent to the Betty Johnson Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 70, Dallas City, Illinois 62330.

To leave a condolence for the family please visit Betty's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

BETTY J. HAGEMAN

Betty Jane Hageman, 80, of Canton, MO died Sunday, August 1, 2021 at her home. She was born March 22, 1941 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Willard and Stella Miller Krome.

On June 11, 1958, Betty was united in marriage to Foriste Hageman in Carthage, IL. He survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, LeAnn Luko (Ron) of Fairbanks, AK, two sons, Dean Hageman of Wayland, MO and Thomas Hageman of Kinderhook, IL, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one sister, Bonnie Horner of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Rodney Krome.

Betty had been employed by Clark County Nursing Home and Lewis County Nursing.

She gifted in arts and crafts and made beautiful paintings and craft items for her family and friends to enjoy. Betty ran the craft barn at the Mule Festival in Kahoka for many years. There will be no services.

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

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

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From the Front/Sports

ARPA funds may not allow new building

ARPA - Continued from Page 1

put \$1.95 million toward county projects and \$1.95 million to broadband expansion.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said Des Moines County is moving toward building a new health department.

"Which kind of surprised me. Our state auditors told me that is pretty gray area. We could use the loss money for it, but he wasn't comfortable with us using the actual Rescue funds," Fraise said.

Seyb said a FAQ sheet from the government gave guidance for using the funds appropriately for improvements to health departments, but new construction wasn't as clear cut.

Fraise said she has an email into the Treasury Department for clarification on the issue but hasn't received a response yet.

County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said she's sat in on meetings where new construction was discussed and it wasn't looked on favorably for purchasing or building new facilities.

"We have to find out for sure. To me that's a really gray area and I don't want to do something now where in 3 years we have to come up with the money to pay it back," Renstrom said.

Seyb said if there was the potential to do a large infrastructure improvement with the health department, he would recommend bumping the county project money up to 30%.

"The water sewer is something we're pushing out throughout the county versus an overall for the entire county. I was thinking at least rather than push it to the incorporated areas, maybe look at taking 10% from it and bumping the county projects," he said.

"I think we need to look at focusing on ourselves a little bit because the money is coming to us. Each one of the incorporated areas are receiving money. We

are just looking at augmenting them."

Ron Fedler said he didn't think it was legal for cities in the county to get money for themselves and then get it from the county.

"That would be double-dipping," Fedler said.

But Renstrom and Fraise said that county can provide extra money to the cities if they choose and there's nothing in the guidance to prohibit cities getting money from the government.

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Director Mike Norris, who sits on the committee, also is an administrator for the Southeast Iowa Regional and Economic Port Authority. That group last week approved a plan that included applying for the entire \$1.9 million in broadband money from the county for a new fiber optics network to be built by Danville Telecom in Lee County.

The \$1.9 million would help trigger state grants that would pay for an approximate \$5.5 million new fiber optic backbone that runs from southern Lee County up through the western part of the county to Hwy. 16 and then back east to Hwy. 61.

The money would also help provide connection lines to take care of homes not getting at least a 25/3 download upload speed in the county.

Norris said he will also be coordinating an ask with the Great River Housing Trust Fund for money from the \$650,000 for housing projects. Coupled with SEIRPC's role in administering the port authority, Norris could represent close to \$2.5 million in funding requests from the committee and the county.

"So as we make the sausage here it's gonna be lots of things thrown in there over time and as things become clearer on the rules, if they ever truly become solidified, which I'm not convinced that they will. We'll do the best we can with the funds," Seyb said.

SEISC releases All-Academic lists for spring/summer

LEE COUNTY - The following is the Southeast Iowa Superconference All-Academic list for the spring/summer sports season for our local school coverage areas.

CENTRAL LEE - Abby Wellman, David Denbow, Hailey Tweedy, Emmy Liu, Addi Britt, Sydney Jones, Karlie Pohren, Abby Simmons, Sidney Gruntmier, Brooklyn Jones, Makayla Howard, Shanna Bufod Taylor Griffin, Brenden Mulligan, Grant Myhre, Chyane Davidson, Ellie Herdrich, Mercedes Kirchner, Karissa Moeller, Addi Brumble, Malia Brumble, Madeline Wellman, Macy Watkins, Makayla Morrison, Grace Hulsebus, Sarah Martin, Grace Glasscock, Josie Newton, Hannah Leech, Landan Lowenberg, Landon Crank, Dante Merschman, Mason Schau, Tristan Howell

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC - Vasin Thurman, Jason Thurman, Chandler Rung, Alison Robu, Claire Pothitakis, Taylor Crabtree, Jackson Van Hamme, Anna Sobczak, Tyler Snaadt, Raquel Schneider, Mitchell Pothitakis, Jacob Pothitakis, Rachel Menke, Brooke Mueller, Laura Mehmert, Mary Hellige, Jenna DiPrima, Kayla Box, Maddox Rung, Andrew Mehmert, Conner Gehling, Mary Kate Bendlage, Kadin Medland.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JUNE 28, 2021**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administration Building, on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Ron Fedler, Rick Larkin and Garry Seyb. Present electronically was Rich Harlow.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to continue holding Board meetings at the Administration Building in Fort Madison. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve replacing a Records Clerk in the Treasurer's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, sec-

onded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, June 21, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried with Larkin abstaining.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Seyb, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a transfer for Mary Lambert, from Records Clerk \$17.00/hr. to Election Administrator \$19.68/hr., effective 7/1/21 and a new hire for EMS, Mark Long, Paramedic, \$20.16/hr., effective 6/30/21. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Harlow reported on speaking to the owner of

the roaming cows. Larkin reported on a Workforce Development Board meeting. Seyb reported on an American Rescue Funds Committee meeting. Fedler reported on a Crime Commission meeting and a Juvenile Detention Commission meeting. Pflug reported on a Decat Commission meeting.

At 9:35 a.m. a motion was made by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Lee County Administration Building.

Matt Pflug, Chairman

Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

**Claims paid
June 28, 2021**
Am Legion Post, rent 1200.00
J Baier, veh..... 15166.00
Bates Sntatn, svsv.. 300.00
Bnd Tree Med, splys 3.39
R Braden, exps..... 274.18
R Bradley, svsv..... 130.00
Brookes Publ, edu 1072.37
Brngtn Fire, svsv.. 1800.00
CenturyLink, svsv..... 90.95
CLIA Lab, dues..... 180.00
DM stamp, ntry 32.40
RK Dixon, equip 272.00
Drsvy/Whntny, svsv 17531.33
Fedex, pstg..... 28.17
Fllnwrth Beach, exps 928.56
Fork Catering, exps 560.21

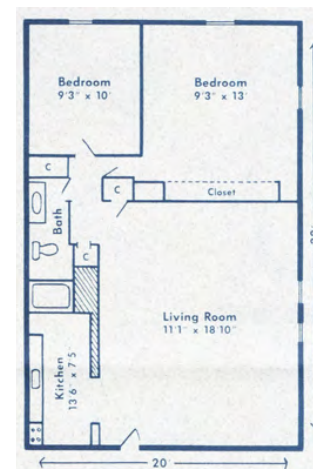
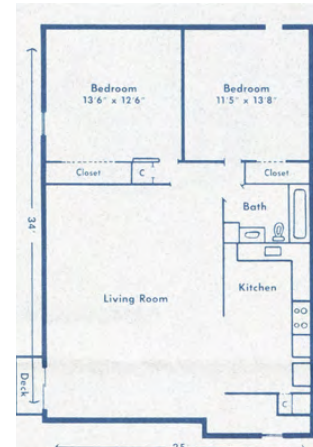
FM YMCA, exps ... 600.00
FMPD, svsv 3039.60
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Iowa News/From the Front

New Iowa Bicycle map now available digitally or in print

AMES – The 2021-2022 Iowa Bicycle Map is now available in both paper and digital formats.

The Iowa Department of Transportation is distributing the free paper version of the map at Iowa DOT driver's license centers, county treasurer's offices, the six Iowa DOT district offices, Iowa DOT rest areas, and state welcome centers. There are also static and interactive online versions at <https://iowadot.gov/iowabikes/transportation-map-for-bicyclists>.

This popular publication has been updated to show new four-foot, paved shoulders and recreational trails completed since the 2019-2020 version was published. As in past versions, the map highlights bike-friendly routes when traveling on two wheels through Iowa by identifying bike trails and traffic levels on all paved roads. The map also includes insets of Iowa's 16 largest cities.

A person riding on a public road has all the rights and is required to know and obey all traffic laws and rules of the road, applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle. To assist bicyclists in understanding their rights and responsibilities, a section of the map is dedicated to highlighting rules of the road. Also, bicyclists are urged to always wear helmets, use lights at night and watch out for road hazards including parallel-slat stormwater grates, gravel, sand, and debris.

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New programs target different skill sets before and after school

ESSER - Continued from Page 1

me a deeper appreciation and understanding of the student's social-emotional needs and ensuring that they are in a "learning mindset," Kangas said.

"That is part of the goal of Jumpstart – to help give students a boost in getting into the "learning mindset." Our students have had a very disruptive past 18 months academically and socially, and we want to support them as whole students. We want to help them feel prepared for success inside and outside of the classroom."

The Jumpstart program that began Monday is for students in grades K-9 and will run until school starts later this month. Kangas said the value of engaging students with peers before school begins has many benefits, including getting that learning mindset started a little sooner.

She said the after-school programs will have a very strategic approach of direct academic and student specific support for scheduled times as well as enrichment and fun programming during scheduled times.

"Learning is fun and we want our students to feel that way," Kangas said.

Lightfoot said the Central Lee after-school program will start after Labor Day and will be capped to the first 120 students.

At Monday's Central Lee registration, Lightfoot said she had more than 90 parents answer a survey on how the after-school program could be structured.

"We had questions on there about student's age, what times work best, transportation and program specific questions," Lightfoot said. "And we're here until 8 p.m. so we're happy with the response we've had to the survey."

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier said the program is paid for with CARES Act funding from the federal government for the first two years.

"If all goes well, then we'd have to either look into budgeting for the program or look into what grants are still out there two years from now."

Lightfoot said she envisions a more structured curriculum than the typical after-school day care setting.

"We'll have some homework time, so there'll be

help with homework. There will be some STEM time and enrichment program with it, and of course they're will be some recess time where there is a structured activity."

She said the results of the survey will help determine if parents in the district are looking for Monday through Friday or just several days a week due to other activities going on with students.

The new Central Lee Prek-8 building commons area will be a large part of the program in addition to the library and several classrooms, and then possibly the multi purpose room with the new gym coming on line at the high school.

Kangas said the Jumpstart and after-school programs in Fort Madison will also provide needed homework support, as well as introduce them to skills and valuable lessons not taught in a traditional school-day curriculum.

"We are able to help students learn these non-classroom skills through partnerships with local organizations like Elliott Test Kitchen, Iowa State Extension Office, YMCA, and Lee County Conservation," Kangas said.

"We want our students to know Fort Madison and to know what being a part of this community offers them. We want them to feel connected to our local businesses and feel comfortable visiting them."

Kangas said she's interested in what other schools are doing and looking for collaborations.

"My hope is that other school districts are looking at ways to be serve their students and their families, too. I would love to be able to collaborate and connect with others in positions like mine," she said.

"The more ideas the better!"

She said her vision that students who participate in the After-School program long term, will leave our programs with those lie skills necessary for personal success and responsible living with a desire to give back to the community who supported them."

Funding for both programs is through the ESSER program through 2024.

Registration for Fort Madison's Jumpstart has closed for this year, but families can now register for the After School program. All the programs are free to families with children in Kindergarten through Eighth grade.

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