

PEN CITY CURRENT

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Tuesday, November 2, 2021 | 9 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 198



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Costs surge for FMCS D project

FACILITY UPGRADE: Estimates 21% higher at \$33.2M, \$5.8M over budget

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – For the second time in less than nine weeks, the firms leading Fort Madison schools' facility upgrades have delivered bad news.

In August, representatives with Carl A. Nelson and DLR Group told the board that beginning the facility upgrades at Fort Madison Middle School and Fort Madison High School would have to be delayed by a year.

On Monday the construction and design officials again met with the Fort Madison School Board to tell them that costs on the project have increased almost \$6 million or about 21%.

DLR is the company providing architectural services on the improvements and Nelson is the construction manager. Earlier this year the board approved preliminary plans to have all Prek-6th grade students at the Middle School, and all 7th-12th graders at the High School with enhanced learning facilities. The plan also calls

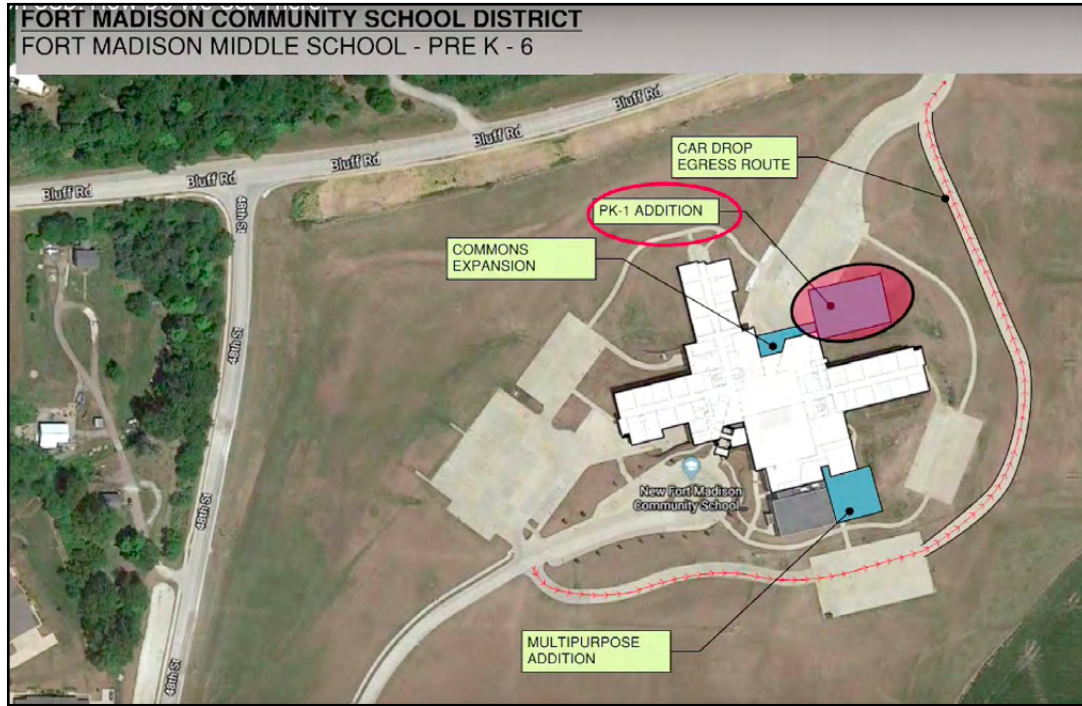


Image courtesy of FMCS D

The 1st grade pod in the proposed new construction at Fort Madison Middle School may be on the chopping block as prices for the work have soared close to 21% putting the project \$5.8 million over budget.

for the retirement of the Richardson and Lincoln elementaries. "We were updating our cost estimates, and the purpose is to make sure things are staying on track with your budget," said Chris Smith, Vice President of Construction with Carl A.

Nelson. "Not only are we doing cost estimates for the construction, but the overall project costs – the things we call soft costs." Smith said the cost estimate of the project has gone up to \$33.2 million from an original schematic cost of

\$28.7 million. He said value engineering in the original project had brought the cost down by \$1.7 million. Value engineering is finding cost savings in smaller priority items in the original design or less expen-

See **SCHOOLS**, page 9

SUPERVISORS

Committee gets 30 ARPA fund requests before Nov. 1 deadline

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A Lee County panel working through the distribution of \$6.5 million in federal funds out of the March 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, now has more than 30 applications for funding.

The initial deadline for filing applications with Lee County for funding in one of five categories, including tourism, housing, child care, broadband, or projects within the Lee County public offices, was Monday.



SEYB, JR.

At Monday's Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Garry Seyb said he had received a lot of calls about the ARPA funding. Just three weeks ago, the panel had only seen about six applications.

One application has already been approved by the board, and that's for \$1.9 million to be used as a matching grant to trigger more than \$3 million in state funding to put in a broadband backbone through Lee County to serve the county's most under-served areas.

Seyb, who chairs the ARPA fund panel, said depending on the review of the current projects, there could possibly be a second round of applications accepted.

The committee will meet again on Monday for an initial review of the applications on file.

"My thought is as a committee to go through each one of them by project identifier and see what qualifies and what doesn't qualify," Seyb said. "That would be the committee's first swing at it. And for the ones that do qualify, after reading through some applica-

See **ARPA**, page 3

COUNTY NEWS

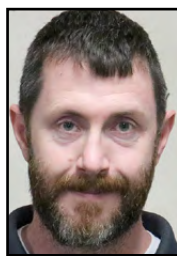
Carbon capture pipeline in the works for Lee County

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – County officials heard Monday that yet another pipeline could be traversing the county in the next few years.

County Engineer Ben Hull told Lee County Supervisors during the board's regular meeting on Monday that a carbon capture pipeline is scheduled to go through Lee County, but no additional details were provided.

The news comes just weeks after a public meeting was held in West Point regarding an anhydrous ammonia pipeline extension that would run around Fort Madison and hook up with Iowa Fertilizer Co.



HULL

NuStar Pipeline Operations Partnership L.P. is proposing to build that 6-inch line over about 14 miles in Lee County.

The newest information is that a company called Navigator CO2 Ventures LLC, or "Navigator" will be building a pipeline called the Heartland Greenway and has received preliminary board approvals to proceed with the project.

However, the company is now currently going through the proper Iowa Utilities Board protocols and will be holding a meeting on Dec. 8, 2021 at 6 p.m. at Small Grand Things south of West Point, the same

See **GREENWAY**, page 9

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 02 Nov Clear and Cool, 47° F/ 31° F
WED 03 Nov Overcast and Cool, 46° F/ 32° F
THU 04 Nov Clear and Cool, 48° F/ 31° F

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LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/31.....	5 7 11 21 29, Lucky Ball: 15
PICK 3 10/31 MIDDAY.....	7 0 9
PICK 3 10/31 EVENING.....	4 4 9
PICK 4 10/31 MIDDAY.....	11 9 6
PICK 4 10/31 EVENING.....	5 1 3 8

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Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

HELEN DRUMMOND

Helen Drummond, 85, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 3:44 a.m. Friday, October 29, 2021, at the Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa.



DRUMMOND

She was born on December 1, 1935, in Keokuk, Iowa, the daughter of Ralph, Sr. and Marie (Kay) Hall. On October 11, 1952, she married Bud A. Drummond in Keokuk, Iowa.

She is survived by her husband: Bud; children: Timothy (Diane) Drummond of Bonaparte, Matthew Drummond, Lisa Drummond, Pamela Drummond and Joseph Drummond all of Farmington; grandchildren: Adam (Jeremy) Drummond of Farmington, Jacob Drummond of Farmington, Tyler Drummond of Ottumwa, Tanner (Shaylee) Drummond of Cedar Rapids, Terra Jo (Tyler) Wiseman of Farmington and Trenton Drummond of Farmington; great grandchildren; Jaxon and Lennex Wiseman and Sagan Drummond; sister-in-law: Oneida Drummond - Stansbury and brother-in-law: Jerry (Karen) Drummond. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; infant son: Mark Aledo; sisters: Margaret Norvell and Shirley Allsup; brothers: Ralph Hall, Jr. and Pete William Hall

Helen was like a mother to all and Farmington's babysitter for years. She was a member of Farmington Methodist Church and the Order of the Eastern Star. She enjoyed her walls being full of pictures, her plants and flowers. She collected angels, chickens and geodes. Her biggest joy was being able to watch her grandchildren grow up and the short time that she was able to spend with her great grandchildren.

Friends may call after 3:00 p.m. Monday, November 1, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. that evening.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington with Pastor Chad Welch officiating.

Burial will be at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

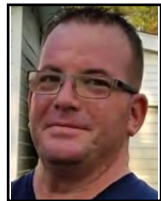
Memorials have been established in her memory for the Farmington Library or Wild Rose Park.

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

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL T. WEST

Michael T. West, 42, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 3:10 a.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2021 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, IA.



WEST

He was born on April 9, 1979 in San Francisco, CA to John & Susan Notmeyer West. He enjoyed being on the river, swimming in his pool, riding jet skis, watching Iowa Hawkeye Football, Karaoke, and being around his friends.

Mike is survived by: 1-son: Carson E. West of Fort Madison, IA & his significant other: Cindy Matlock of Fort Madison, IA. He was preceded in death by his parents and 1-aunt.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Online condolences to the West family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Missouri man nabbed by Task Force

KEOKUK - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Missouri man on Felony and Misdemeanor drug charges.

John Soper, 49, of Alexandria, Mo., was arrested on Oct. 30 in the 1700 block of Exchange St. in Keokuk. Soper was arrested for two outstanding warrants for Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Soper was also charged with Possession with the Intent to Deliver more than 5 grams of methamphetamine 3rd or Subsequent Offense While in Possession of a Firearm Within 1,000 feet of a Public Park a Class B Felony with Enhancements; Possession of a Controlled Substance-Heroin 3rd or Subsequent Offense as an Habitual Offender a Class D Felony; Violation of Drug

Tax Stamp as an Habitual Offender a Class D Felony; Prohibited Acts an Aggravated Misdemeanor and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a Simple Misdemeanor. Soper was also charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm, a Class D Felony.

Soper was also arrested on April 13th 2021 on three counts of Delivery of more than five grams of methamphetamine. He was awaiting trial on his previous charges at the time of his current arrest.

Soper's current arrest stems from report that Soper was involved in a disturbance at a Keokuk residence and was in possession of a firearm. Soper was spotted leaving the area when stopped by Keokuk Officers.

All suspects are arrested on suspicion of charges and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Founded in 2016

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

CHARLES J. COOPER

Charles Judson Cooper, 78, of Alexandria, Mo., died Saturday, October 30, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.



COOPER

He was born on July 15, 1943 in Alexandria, Mo., the son of Dexter and Hilda Ruth Garrett Cooper. He married Sarah Lewis in 1964 and they later divorced.

Charles had been employed at Electro Metals in Keokuk and then at Keokuk Steel Casting until his retirement.

He was of the Baptist Faith.

Charles enjoyed the outdoors and spending time hunting for deer and turtles, fishing and trapping for furs. He also enjoyed playing horseshoes and was always up for a good fight. He loved animals, especially his cat, Rita and his dogs, Spencer and Dog.

He is survived by two sons, David Lorentzen of Nebraska and John Soper of Missouri, two daughters, Sarah Cooper and Sherry Cooper both of Keokuk, four stepsons, Kenny Spurgeon and Raymond Boyd both of Keokuk, Jeff Boyd of Kahoka, Mo. and John Brown of St. Francisville, Mo., one stepdaughter, Samantha Brown of Keokuk, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, two nieces and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sons, Dexter Cooper, Jr., Charles Cooper, Jr. and Jerry Soper, one daughter, Mary Soper, three stepsons, Robert Brown, Danny Spurgeon, and Kevin Spurgeon and two sisters, Betty Lou Cooper and Hilda Mitchell.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Buena Vista Mound Cemetery in Keokuk with Pastor George LeMaster officiating.

Visitation will be held on prior to the service on Wednesday from 1 pm - 2 pm at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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

Committee to take up ARPA fund applications

ARPA - Continued from Page 1

tions, it might behoove us to maybe have those people come in and explain (the projects)."

Seyb said he envisioned the committee making recommendations to the full board and then possibly having representatives come to supervisors and talk about their projects.

"Some of these are very large projects, and some are smaller projects."

Chuck Vandenberg, the county's ARPA fund administrator, said the panel and the board could consider the projects piecemeal.

"I would recommend looking at some of them piecemeal as well. There are a lot of different asks in these. Some of those are very relevant to the goals you are trying to achieve, and some parts may not be as relevant," he said.

"There are a lot of different ways to look at it based on the (U.S. Department of Treasury's) Interim Final Rule."

The Treasury is anticipating releasing a Final Rule document in the next three to six months.

Vandenberg also said the county may want to look at granting funding as forgivable loans similar to the federal PPP loan program. Those were forgivable loans with no interest if requirements in place were met.

Under the Treasury's rules for ARPA fund disbursements, the money has to be allocated to projects by Dec. 31, 2024 and the funds have to be spent prior to Dec. 31, 2026. The Treasury does have language in its current rules that allow for recouping of funds if not properly allocated and utilized.

"It's going to take time to go through what we've got," Seyb said. "We have a lot of applications. Some have an impact outside of Lee County, and I think we want to focus our attention and funds on Lee County, that would be one issue. And No. 2 we want to make sure we're making a lasting impact."

He said requests for hiring staff for a period of time would need some sustainability piece to it.


"The committee's going to have some questions and I know I'm going to have some questions. These funds we're providing are not sustainable. They are one-time funding. If you hire someone for three years how are you going to sustain that?"

The county created five categories with different percentages of the \$6.5 million for each category. County projects, which is loosely geared toward projects within the administration of county offices, is tentatively allocated 42% of the funds, or \$2.73 million.

Broadband was allocated 30%. Funding requests to help with child care and housing projects have been earmarked \$650,000, or 10% each, tourism has been allocated 5% or \$325,000.

The remaining \$195,000 is being used to help pay half of a five-year commitment for a county ARPA administrator/grant writer position. The other half is being paid out of the Supervisors' budget.

Vandenberg was hired by the county for that position two weeks ago and started Oct. 20.

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Paperwork is located on LCHD website (www.leecountyhd.org). Everyone is encouraged to have paperwork filled out prior to arriving at the clinic.

For more information visit www.leecountyhd.org or the LCHD Facebook page.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

10/28/21 – 12:31 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue B.
 10/28/21 – 1:50 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested James Robert Best, 40, of Fort Madison, at the police department, on a charge of OWI.
 10/29/21 – 1:00 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 800 block of 20th Street.
 10/29/21 – 3:22 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1800 block of Avenue A.
 10/29/21 – 4:50 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 11th Street and Avenue G.
 10/29/21 – 9:53 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of Avenue G.
 10/29/21 – 10:35 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Timothy Richard Hogan, 61, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of Avenue G, on a charge of OWI – 1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/30/21 – 6:35 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Dalton Kenneth Tweedy, 21, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for OWI – 2nd offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/30/21 – 7:51 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 18th Street.
 10/30/21 – 9:20 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 13th Street and Avenue F.
 10/30/21 – 12:37 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Joshua Dean Potter, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 3200 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while barred.

10/30/21 – 2:37 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Jaunito M. Shoup, 21, of Fort Madison, at the Eagle Bluff Apartments, on a warrant for dog running at large. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/30/21 – 4:09 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue H.
 10/30/21 – 4:15 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Janel Lea Lindsey, 48, of Fort Madison, at the intersection of 20th Street and Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 10/30/21 – 5:03 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Avenue D.
 10/30/21 – 8:00 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1300 block of Avenue G.
 10/30/21 – 9:04 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Jeremy Loren Schrader, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 8th Street, on a charge of driving while suspended or revoked.
 10/30/21 – 9:54 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1600 block of 34th Street.
 10/30/21 – 9:56 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Andres Lee Diaz, 40, of Fort Madison, in the 1600 block of 34th Street, on a charge of interference with official acts. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/31/21 – 2:31 a.m. – Fort Madison police arrested Nicholaos (no middle name listed) Hantzeas, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of 11th Street, on charges of OWI 1st offense and open container – driver 21+ years of age. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/31/21 – 3:50 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4600 block of Avenue J.
 10/31/21 – 3:53 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to

a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of Avenue B.
 10/31/21 – 5:54 p.m. – Fort Madison police cited Robert (no middle name listed) Zerba, 55, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving under suspension.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

10/28/21 – 2:33 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 340th Street and Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Bryce Nathaniel Baxter, 25, of Keokuk, was headed eastbound on 340th Street and failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of 340th Street and Hwy. 61, striking a vehicle driven by Brenda Lynn Eston, 60, of Fort Madison, as it was headed north on Hwy. 61. Both vehicles sustained damage equal to \$1500 each, but were functional and able to be driven from the scene. No injuries or citations were reported.
 10/29/21 – 2:20 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Gerhard Andrew Luebers, 53, of Farmington, in the 2800 block of Belfast Road, on a charge of OWI – 1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on his own recognizance.
 10/31/21 – 3:25 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident on Johnson Street Road. According to

the report, a vehicle driven by David James Markell, 25, of Keokuk, was traveling southbound on Johnson Street Road when the right tires left the roadway to the right, struck a private driveway entrance and became airborne, landed between two private driveway entrances, began sliding sideways until striking a driveway entrance where it began to roll, struck an Alliant Energy utility pole, shearing off the pole and coming to a stop against the broken pole, coming to rest on its passenger side against the ground. The driver was extracted from the vehicle by Jackson Fire personnel and transferred to Blessing Hospital, Keokuk. According to the report, criminal charges for OWI are pending, as are various traffic offenses.
 10/31/21 – 10:54 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Levi Dewayne Hillman, 38, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 10/30/21 – 9:59 p.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Gerhard Andrew Luebers, 53, of Farmington, in the 2800 block of Belfast Road, on a charge of OWI – 1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and later released on his own recognizance.
 10/31/21 – 3:25 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies responded to a single-vehicle accident on Johnson Street Road. According to

the report, a vehicle driven by David James Markell, 25, of Keokuk, was traveling southbound on Johnson Street Road when the right tires left the roadway to the right, struck a private driveway entrance and became airborne, landed between two private driveway entrances, began sliding sideways until striking a driveway entrance where it began to roll, struck an Alliant Energy utility pole, shearing off the pole and coming to a stop against the broken pole, coming to rest on its passenger side against the ground. The driver was extracted from the vehicle by Jackson Fire personnel and transferred to Blessing Hospital, Keokuk. According to the report, criminal charges for OWI are pending, as are various traffic offenses.
 10/31/21 – 10:54 a.m. – Lee County sheriff deputies arrested Levi Dewayne Hillman, 38, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

10/25/21 – James A. Martens, age 35, of Quincy, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Revoked. Martens was released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.
 10/25/21 – Logan J. Harl,

age 24, of Niota, IL was issued three Notice to Appear at a future court date for Animals at Large.
 10/28/21 – Jerry W. Husketh, age 66, of Tuscumbia, MO was arrested and charged with Probation Violation on original charges of Drugs. Husketh remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 10/28/21 – Cody S. Sommers, age 29, of Kahoka, MO was arrested and charged with Probation Violation on original charges of Drugs. Sommers remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 10/29/21 – Gavin T. Groves, age 18, of Fort Valley, VA was issued two Notice to Appear at a future court date for Speeding.
 10/30/21 – Brandon S. Hart, age 23, of Salem, IA was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Hart was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 10/31/21 – Robert K. Summers, age 21, of Argyle, IA was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Summers was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
Those listed above are arrested or cited on a suspicion of a crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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- Hydraulics & Pneumatics
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- Basic electrical knowledge (3 phase, breakers, schematic reading, etc.)

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- Main responsibilities:
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- HVAC systems
- Compressed Air Systems
- Water Systems-Level 2 Water Treatment certified with IDNR is preferred
- Steam Boiler Systems
- Fire Protection Systems
- Minimum Requirements:
- 3-5 years of experience in Industrial Ammonia Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, and/or a 2-year technical college degree (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration)
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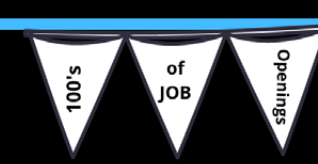
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From the Front

Board to consider options

SCHOOLS - Continued from Page 1

sive materials.

But he said staff wanted to add a Special Education space to the PreK-6 plans. He said that added about \$400,000 to the project.

After all that, the total cost was \$27,457,000.

"Which obviously means that we're \$5.8 million over budget."

Smith said the increased costs are not due to design being out of control, but rather the marketplace.

"In the last quarter we have seen the costs absolutely skyrocket in the marketplace," Smith said. "Construction material costs and availability, as we talked about before, are through the roof. Workforce shortages and everything about it has just jacked the prices way out of sight. That's the bad news."

Smith said additional value engineering was reviewed and they found about 80 "nickel and dime" items that could be addressed that wouldn't be noticed as part of the project, about \$473,000 in savings at the PreK-6 building, and at the 7th-12th site they've found \$740,000, for a total of \$1.2 million in savings.

He said that's not enough to get them back to budget so bidding a portion of the work as a separate project could bring in some lower overall costs.

"Our recommendation is identify a component that will be bid as an

alternate bid, separately from the project in hopes the bid will come in low enough to be able to reduce the added costs of the project," Smith said.

One of the components was eliminating the 1st grade wing or "pod" of the middle school upgrade. That project is estimated at \$3.8 million currently. He said that would require finding space for six classrooms and some collaboration space inside the existing middle school building.

Smith said there is space now, but those were intended to be collaborative discovery spaces.

The other idea is switching over to the 7-12th space and bid the proposed locker room and gymnasium as an alternate bid, which represents \$4.4 million of the costs.

He said if the bids come in favorably on that, they district could buy that project back, but if they don't, the district would have to be willing to move ahead without the improvement.

Smith said using both components as alternative projects could jeopardize the number of people who bid on the work. He said their recommendation would be to bid one or the other as an alternative project, not both.

Smith said there could be some wiggle room in the 10% contingency fund that is included in cur-

rent project estimations. He said that contingency provides insurance against even further cost increases, but said he recommended keeping that contingency in place.

Board member Josh Wykert asked if the board could delay making a decision down the road since the project has been delayed a year due to procurement of materials.

Smith said it would be a gamble to put it off, but they could do that.

Board President Dianne Hope said the increase was an "overwhelming number and a disappointment."

"The board asked great constructive questions and I don't want to speculate where we're going to end up. I have no clue where we're going to end up," Hope said.

"They're getting into the details and in my industrial experience, we're doing exactly what we've done in the past and given best estimates. But when you get into the nitty gritty and you start checking the market - it's a surprise, but not a surprise if you watch the news and see what's going on in the world."

Another pipeline hearing set in WP on Dec. 8

GREENWAY - Continued from Page 1

location as the NuStar hearing on Oct. 6.

According to an Oct. 14 story in PRNewsWire, Navigator is evaluating multiple opportunities to expand the Heartland Greenway's available capacity and add service offerings for the benefit of its current and future customers. Navigator has commenced the process to obtain all the necessary permits to construct the Heartland Greenway line with initial system commissioning during late 2024 and into early 2025.

According to IUB officials, that board received a request on Oct. 19 to hold 37 public informational meetings to discuss the Navigator proposal. The request indicated the pipeline will extend across five states in the Midwest including Iowa.

There is also a meeting planned for Des Moines County at noon at LOFT Events, 416 Jefferson in Burlington, in Van Buren County on Dec. 9 at the Bonaparte Opera House, 614 First Street, and in Jefferson County at the Walton Club in Fairfield, 2265 Walton Lake Road.

The PRNewswire article said Navigator's current and future customers for the system include many rural value-added ag processors from the ethanol and fertilizer industries and has a multi-year commercial partnership with Valero Energy Corporation as the anchor customer of the system.

County Engineer Ben Hull was notified Monday morning that the informational meetings were being scheduled in Lee County.

"This will be another hazardous liquid high pressure pipeline," Hull said.

He said a company called ISG, a pipeline inspection company is interested in coming to a future board meeting to offer inspection services for the county on both the Navigator and NuStar pipeline projects.

The pipeline companies pay for the inspection services, who monitor the pipeline's impact on county property and private residents' property in the county.

"Of course we're not going to be footing the bill for this anyway, but we want to make sure we have the right person in place. The last go round we were very happy with them."

Hull said this pipeline really seems to be moving forward. He said the political nature could be volatile as the Sierra Club is highly against the project and is speaking out against it.

"That brings to mind some of the stuff that happened during the Dakota Access that could play in more again," Hull said.

Hull said from maps he's seen it appears to be being built in conjunction with the Iowa Fertilizer plant, but he hasn't been told that by anyone.



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