

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, January 15, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 15



www.pencitycurrent.com

HPC group hitting the bricks



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

The city's Historic Preservation Committee is taking a look at the city's brick streets and the future of the streets on the city's preservation.

CREWS OUT: Historic preservation group may consider Historic Brick Street zone

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The city's historic preservation group is now looking at the value of the city's brick streets and their role in future tourism efforts.

At Monday's meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission, the group discussed how to proceed preserving the brick streets still present in the city, and how they may fit into future marketing plans.

HPC president Chris Sorrentino said he's been speaking with city Public Works Director Mark Boussetot about the possibilities concerning the streets and the city's plan going forward.

"I don't think we want to totally replace brick streets that have already been torn up, but I do want us to look on this committee at what streets are still there, get a list of those streets, and go back and see where the original brick streets were for comparison," Sorrentino said.

See **ROADS**, page 7

IOWA WORKFORCE

Initial state unemployment claims continue to fall

DES MOINES - The number of initial unemployment claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, Jan. 3, and Saturday, Jan. 9, was 7,638, a decrease of 217 from last week's adjusted numbers. There were 7,022 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 616 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state. The number of continuing

weekly unemployment claims was 49,451, an increase of 6,286 from the previous week. November through February are typically the months IWD sees the most unemployment claims, driven by increased claims in construction, agriculture, landscaping and manufacturing due to seasonal layoffs. For the week ending Jan. 9, 2021, nearly 68.3% of claim-

ants indicated their claims were not COVID-19 related, which is a decrease from 68.6% the previous week.

The U.S. Department of Labor adjusted last week's initial claim number to 7,855 (a decrease of 381) and continuing claims to 43,165 (a decrease of 736 for a total decrease of 1,117 over-

See **JOBS**, page 8

TEST KITCHEN, LINCOLN PTO

Hospital foundation awards grants

PCC STAFF

The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation is pleased to announce they have awarded funding for additional projects.

Elliott's Test Kitchen was awarded \$80,000 to be used to support the following programs: Summer Cooking Camps; Battle of the Books; Online Cooking and Learning and ACT Prep. Their programs prepare children in the community for opportunities in the future. Elliott's Test Kitchen's mission is to inspire passion for life-long learning and appreciation of healthy food. They provide academic support to students through a safe and compassionate learning environment, while also teaching them a valuable life lesson – how to cook healthy meals. Children from all backgrounds and, most importantly, those with adverse backgrounds benefit from these programs.

"We are honored and humbled. We cannot thank the GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation enough for believing in our program," expressed Kumar Wickramasingha, Director of Elliott's Test Kitchen.

A monetary donation of \$58,500 was also awarded to Lincoln Elementary School for the furnishing of a new STEAM lab (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Art) onsite at the school. This will be a new program for the school with the goal of improving the mental health of the students at Lincoln Elementary by allowing the students to use their imagination and promote a positive learning environment different than the traditional paper and pencil learning.

"The students of Lincoln Elementary will greatly benefit from the funding provided by the Foundation. The opportunities it will make available to them will be endless," commented Kelly Nelton, Lincoln Elementary, PTG Officer.

"The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation is proud to be able to support these community projects and organizations. Together we can improve people's

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
THU 09 Jan.....Light Snow, 34° F/ 29° F
FRI 10 Jan.....Snow, 32° F/ 26° F
SAT 11 Jan.....Light Snow, 36° F/ 23° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 01/13.....8 21 24 29 32, Star Ball: 2, All Star Bonus: 2
PICK 3 01/13 MIDDAY.....2 0 3
PICK 3 01/13 EVENING.....2 5 9
PICK 4 01/13 MIDDAY.....3 0 5 5
PICK 4 01/13 EVENING.....6 8 2 2
POWERBALL 01/13.....4 19 23 25 49, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ROSANNA M. STEFFENSMEIER

Rosanna M. Steffensmeier, 92, of rural Fort Madison Iowa, passed away at 5:25 a.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at the West Point Care Center in West Point.



STEFFENSMEIER

She was born on June 25, 1928, in rural Houghton, Iowa, the daughter of William and Anna (Menke) Sanders. On June 25, 1953, she married LeRoy Henry Steffensmeier at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Houghton, Iowa. He preceded her in death on January 21, 2015.

She is survived by five sons: Bill Steffensmeier of Fort Madison, Bob Steffensmeier of Fort Madison, Joe (Kathy) Steffensmeier of West Point, Pat (Peggy) Steffensmeier of West Point and Tom (Carla) Steffensmeier of West Point; four daughters: MaryLee Burgason of Cedar Rapids, Sue (Joe) Butler of Burlington, Joan (Bob) Conley of Madison, Wisconsin and Jean (Brad) Schulte of Fort Madison; twenty-seven grandchildren; twenty-six great grandchildren. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband: LeRoy; one son in infancy; six brothers and three sisters.

Rosanna was a graduate of St. John's Catholic School in Houghton. She was a member of St. Mary of the As-

sumption Catholic Church in West Point, the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and the former Daughters of Isabella. She was a 4-H leader for several years and enjoyed spending time volunteering for the church. Rosanna also enjoyed gardening, baking, quilting, and playing cards. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her family and was a devoted mother and grandmother.

Friends may call between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point. Attendees will be required to wear masks and social distance.

A Private Family Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, January 14, 2021, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Point. Mass will be lived streamed on the church Facebook page and posted on her Tribute Wall on our website: www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in West Point.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in her memory for St. Mary's Catholic Church or Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.

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

OBITUARIES

JEROME F. LAKE

Jerome "Jerry" Francis Lake, 79, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 8:50 a.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021 at the West Point Care Center. He was born on December 6, 1941 in Fort Madison, IA to Frank & Doris Blacksmith Lake. He graduated from Fort Madison High School. After graduation, he joined the Army. The next 2 1/2 years he spent in Germany as a tank operator.

As a teen, he carried the Evening Democrat. He worked at Sheaffer Pen Company and retired from Dupont with 28 years of service. For over 30 years, he was a ringman for local auctioneers. He enjoyed auctions, working them or just attending. On September 30, 1967 he married Beverly Newton. She preceded him in death on March 26, 1977. On June 9, 1978 he married Barbara Newton. In his younger days he enjoyed hunting, fishing, mushrooming and a good game of Euchre. He also liked to hang-out with his cronies at Denmark's Jet Stop.

Jerry is survived by: his wife: Barbara Lake of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Bradley (Chantelle Runyon) Lake of West Point, IA; 3-grandchildren: Rachel, Hailey & Harley; 1-sister: Dorothy (Carroll) Fraise of West Point, IA; 2-brothers: Charles Lake of West Point, IA & Frank (Terry) Lake of New London, IA and a number of nieces, nephews & cousins. He was preceded in death by: his parents, first wife, 1-daughter: Marla, 2-sisters: Marlene & Loretta & 2-brothers: Floyd & Lyle "Hank".

There will be no visitation. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at Fairview Cemetery with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials and condolences to Jerry's family may be sent to: Barbara Lake, 1746 295th Avenue, Fort Madison, IA 52627. King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Lake Family.

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The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

HELEN J. HUSTON

Helen Joan "Grandma Joan" Huston, 81, of Keokuk, died Thursday, January 7, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

She was born April 13, 1939 in Keokuk, the daughter of Ernest and Irene Rittenhouse Young. She was united in marriage to Robert Page and to this union, two children were born, Patty and Bob. They later divorced. Helen was then united in marriage to Les Huston, they later divorced. Helen spent the remaining years of her life with Bill Hurburt, until he passed away in August of 2020.



HUSTON

Joan had been employed at Keokuk Area Hospital as a Home Health CNA for a number of years.

She was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Keokuk.

Her children and grandchildren were the light of her life. The time she spent with them were priceless and the memories that were made will live on in their hearts forever. Helen loved animals and made room in her heart for a number of family pets over the years, including her beloved Lucy.

She is survived by her daughter, Patty (Greg) Hymes of Warsaw, IL, her son, Bob Page (Lauriebeth Hunter) of Keokuk, thirteen grandchildren, Gregory (Emily) Hymes, Brad Hymes, Mike (Tabby) Hymes, Mary (Russ) Hymes, Alicia Thompson, William (Sally) Page, Joanie (Joe) Page, Bobbie (Andrew) Page, Jackie Page, Matthew (Rebecca) Page, McKenna (Nick) Hunter, Mason Page, and Breanna Page, thirty-four great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, a granddaughter, Meechele "Meshe" Page, a sister, Loretta Sanders and her four-legged companion, Gremlin.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m. Friday, January 15 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 5-7 p.m. Social distancing measures will be in effect and masks are required.

Memorials may be made to the Keokuk Humane Society.

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

PERRY D. MEYER

Perry Donald Meyer, 60, of Keokuk, passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021, at Great River Medical Center in West Burlington, Iowa.

Perry was born on May 11, 1960, in Marshall, Minnesota, the son of Donald George Meyer and Mildred (Perry) Meyer Mickow. On June 27, 2020, he was united in marriage to his partner of 20 years, Brenda Toops at Victory Park in Keokuk. She survives.



MEYER

Perry worked on the Mississippi River unloading barges for Gateway Company. In 1983 he joined the Army. Perry was stationed in Germany and was a boxer during his time of service.

He enjoyed woodworking, playing pinochle, and attending the races in Donnellson, IA. Perry was a diehard Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Twins and Mark Martin NASCAR fan. You could find him from time to time singing his karaoke favorites - "Born to be Wild", "Bad to the Bone" and "Wild Thing". Perry was proud to be a Democrat and loved Keokuk - which he deemed his earthly forever home.

Perry is survived by his wife Brenda of Keokuk; six siblings: Connie (Jeff) Struckman and Bonnie (Mark) Schroeder of Elgin, Minnesota; Cindy Austin of Rochester, Minnesota; Chad Meyer of Montrose, Iowa, Monte Meyer of Fort Madison, Iowa, and Stacy (Chris) Rule of Montrose, Iowa; his uncle Charlie (Kathleen) Perry of Rochester, Minnesota; aunt Sharon (Wally) Miller of Minneapolis, Minnesota; stepmom Mae Meyer of Montrose, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Perry was preceded in death by his parents, aunt Rusty (John) Wreath, aunt Elta Langson and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 15, 2021, from 10:00 am to Noon at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk directly followed by the funeral service at Noon. Burial to follow at Keokuk National Cemetery. For the safety of those attending, masks and social distancing are required. For those unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed via the DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home Facebook page.

Memorials may be directed to the family for funeral expenses in care of Brenda Meyer.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



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For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

01/12/21 - 7:29 a.m.

- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of 20th Street.

01/12/21 - 3:31 p.m.

- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue M.

01/12/21 - 7:51 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 9th Street.

01/13/21 - 1:13 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Michelle Brewer, 40, of Fort Madison in the 3000 block of Avenue P, on a six warrants for driving while barred and failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/13/21 - 3:51 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Carri Carson, 43, of Fort Madison in the 2800 block of Avenue K on a charge of driving while suspended.

01/13/21 - 12:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police

responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3200 block of Avenue N.

01/13/21 - 4:23 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident at 53rd Street and Ortho Way.

01/14/21 - 6:09 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Michael Melton, 33, of Altamont, Kan., on charges of criminal trespass and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

01/12/21 - 6:38 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Michael Frazier, 27, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

01/12/21 - 10:06 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Brandon Michael Frazier, 27, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's of-

fice, on a charge of 5th-degree criminal mischief.

01/21/21 - 10:37 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at the West Point Care Center. According to the report, a vehicle owned by Alexis Nelson, no age or residence provided, had been struck while parked at the care center. No information was provided on the second vehicle.

01/13/21 - 4:14 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jarrod Parin Holland, 42, of Denmark, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation.

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

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

01/12/21 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medical and one fire alarm

01/13/21 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.



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Sports

Bloodhounds take another SEC dual meet

BY PCC SPORTS

FAIRFIELD – Fort Madison lost two of the first three matches on the night in a dual meet at Fairfield but came back to win four of the last five enroute to a 48-30 win Thursday night.

The Hounds opened with a quick pin by senior Levi Lowney at 195 lbs. Lowney took just :45 to take down the Trojans Anya Patel for a quick 6-0 Bloodhound lead.

Daniel Sokolik and Nathan Leasch then suffered pins at 220 lbs and 285 lbs. Sokolik's fall came :30 seconds into the 2nd period and Leasch lasted 1:37 before getting trapped.

After a couple of forfeit wins at 106 and 113, Ace Meierotto suffered a fall at 1:47 of the first period to tie things up at 18.

2020 State qualifier Owen Kruse was able to tie up Fairfield's Brecken Courtright up 53 seconds at 126 lbs, and Brock Califf got the quickest pin of the night in just :38 at 132 lbs.

Gavin Wiseman got caught early in his 138 lb match with Cohyn Roach and suffered a pin also just 38 seconds into action to allow Fairfield to get within 6 at 30-24.

But the Hounds would put together a run of four straight wins at 145, 152, 160 and 170 to put the match away.

At 145 Will Larson scored a 9-2 decision over Payton Cline for 3 points and then Teague Smith mirrored that with a 9-3 decision at 152.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison freshman Ike Thacher gets the upper position on a wrestler from Mt. Pleasant in a dual meet earlier this season. Thacher scored a pin in the 3rd period of his match with Fairfield's Carter Moore as the Hounds rolled to a 48-30 win over the Trojans.

Mason Schau and Ike Thacher both scored pinfalls. Schau in 1:32 of Blake Sobaski at 160 and Thacher got in with :39 left in the third period to put the Hounds up comfortably 48-24.

Austin Ensminger suffered a fall to Theodore Metcalf at the 1:44 mark of the 1st period to round out the varsity match.

In junior varsity action, Aidan Pennock and Austin Miller each recorded two falls. Landon Rudd, Chaz Fullenkamp, Will Gager and Macaden Rhoer all scored wins.

The Hounds travel to Cedar Rapids for the loaded J-Hawk Invitational on Saturday.

Complete results from Thursday's varsity action are below.

Fort Madison (FOMA) 48.0 Fairfield (FAIR) 30.0
 195: Levi Lowney (FOMA) over Arya Patel (FAIR) (Fall 0:45) 220: Cesar Smithburg (FAIR) over Daniel Sokolik (FOMA) (Fall 3:29) 285: Tarence Craig (FAIR) over Nathan Leasch (FOMA) (Fall 1:37) 106: Henry Wiseman (FOMA) over (FAIR) (For.) 113: Emmett Kruse (FOMA) over (FAIR) (For.) 120: Jacob Bland (FAIR) over Ace Meierotto (FOMA) (Fall 1:47) 126: Owen Kruse (FOMA) over Brecken Courtright (FAIR) (Fall 2:53) 132: Brock Califf (FOMA) over Ben Sirdoreus (FAIR) (Fall 0:38) 138: Cohyn Roach (FAIR) over Gavin Wiseman (FOMA) (Fall 0:38) 145: Will Larson (FOMA) over Payton Cline (FAIR) (Dec 9-2) 152: Teague Smith (FOMA) over Logan Adam (FAIR) (Dec 9-3) 160: Mason Schau (FOMA) over Blake Sobaski (FAIR) (Fall 1:32) 170: Isaac Thacher (FOMA) over Carter Moore (FAIR) (Fall 5:21) 182: Theodore Metcalf (FAIR) over Austin Ensminger (FOMA) (Fall 1:44)

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Birth Announcements/Classifieds

Celebrations

ROONEY

FORT MADISON – Moriah and Joseph Rooney, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Iris Whalynn Rooney on December 19, 2020 at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Iris joins Emorie Rooney, 1, at home.

Grandparents are Steve and Marsha Hayes of Fort Madison; and Pat and Patty Rooney of Donnellson.

ENKE

DENMARK – Sarah Herriman and Kolton Enke, of Denmark, are proud to announce the birth of their son Jaxx Alan Enke, on Dec. 31, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Jaxx is joined at home by Owen Gray Hurt

Grandparents are Kurt and Shannon Enke of Wever; Daren and Marilyn Siemens of Niota, Ill.; and Scott Herriman (deceased) of Dallas City.

JUSTICE

KEOKUK – Charla Holmes and Trent Justice, of Keokuk, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Haizleigh Jean Justice, on Nov. 7, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Haizleigh is joined at home by Ashton Snodgrass and Greyson Justice.

Grandparents are Robert Holmes of Keokuk; Mary Ann Holmes of Warsaw, Ill.; Roger Justice of

Kahoka, Mo.; and Donna Amandus of Fort Madison.

Great-grandparents are Bob Campbell of Bowen, Ill.; and Blanche Holmes of Keokuk.

MASON

NIOTA, Ill. – Katlynn Mason and Cody Mason of Niota, Ill., are proud to announce the birth of their son Dakota Michael Mason, on Dec. 13, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Dakota is joined at home by Luke Mason.

Grandparents are Mike Fields of Niota, Sean and Lindsay Settles of Fort Madison; and Missy and Mike Pollpeter of Denmark.

Great-grandparents are Jim and Phyllis Settles of West Point; and Karen and Rusty Robbins of West Point.

PHILLIPS

FORT MADISON – Kynndal Orth and Isaak Phillips are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Gianna Marie Phillips, on Dec. 29, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Gianna is joined at home by Gabriel Phillips.

Grandparents are Brad and Kristen Patten of Katy, Texas; Clint and Jess Orth of Douds; and Chrystie Phillips of Fort Madison.

Great-grandparents are Tom and Judy Orth (deceased) of Burlington; Sheila and Jerry Koble of

Fort Madison; and Tom and Melissa Peters of West Monroe, La.

RODEFFER

FORT MADISON – Lauren and Bryan Rodeffer are proud to announce the birth of their son Raleigh Russell Rodeffer on Dec. 6, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Grandparents are Skip and Michele Young of Fort Madison; and Carla Rodeffer (deceased).

RUDD

SAWYER – Andrea Owen and Cameron Rudd are proud to announce the birth of their son Lincoln Joel Rudd on Dec. 15, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Lincoln is joined at home by Aubrey Dawn Rudd.

Grandparents are Dawn and Bernie Holtkamp of West Point; Jason Rudd of Montrose; April and Troy Daniels of Keokuk; and Richard Owen (deceased) of Kahoka, Mo.

Great-grandparents are Linda Johnson of Montrose; Russ Rudd (deceased) of Keokuk; Patty Schreck of Wayland, Mo.; Jim and Cheryl Hecox of Keokuk; and Helen and Robert (deceased) Owen of Kahoka.

Pen City Current congratulates these families on their additions.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

CIVIL SERVICE HIRING NOTICE Police Officer

The City of Fort Madison is seeking applicants to fill Police Officer positions. Starting- \$41,662. After 1 year - \$45,697. After 2 years - \$54,600. Benefits include, longevity pay scale; shift differential, paid training; Uniform allowance; paid vacations, holidays, personal & sick time; Education incentives & reimbursement, health, life, and supplemental insurance.

LE certified applicants are eligible for lateral entry and hiring bonus. DAQ.

Candidates must minimally be 20 years of age and have a high school diploma. Must also have an acceptable background history and valid driver's license. Will be required to successfully complete a POST exam and physical agility test in Fort Madison to enter the process. Testing standards can be found on the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy website. Non-certified applicants must attend the four-month academy paid for by the department.

TO APPLY: Contact jgray@fortmadisonpd.com or pick up an application packet at our lobby M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Application deadline is February 5th, 2021 at 4:30 PM.



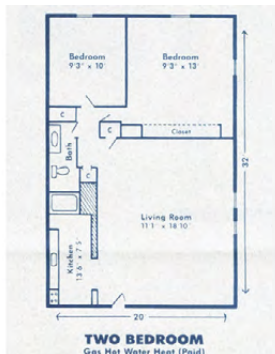
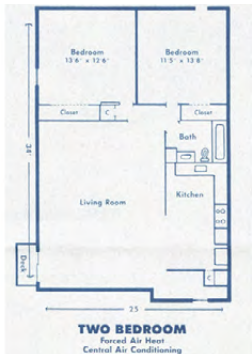
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Sports/From the Front

Ice not thick enough for several area fishing holes

The following is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources fishing report for the week ending Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021

Big Hollow Lake

Ice fishing not recommended on the main lake. Ice thickness at the boat ramp bay is about 4-5 inches. Ice thickness is thinner on the main body of the lake and highly variable.

Lake Belva Deer

Ice fishing not recommended. Ice thickness is about 3-4 inches in the campground arm; most of the main lake remains much thinner.

Lake Darling

Ice fishing not recommended. Temperatures haven't been below freezing the last 48 hours. Numerous wet spots are around the lake and a couple of open water spots have developed. The frozen-over spot where the geese were is opening back up. Some anglers have been out on the ice; they are staying close to shore for the most part (<20 yards out).

Lost Grove Lake

Above the causeway is the best ice; the upper half of the main lake has improved to about 5 inches of ice. Use extreme caution if you go down lake off the middle (red barn) boat ramp, especially out away from the tree. Black Crappie - Good: Best bite is later in the afternoon into the night in about 12-14 feet of water up above the causeway. Bluegill - Good: Best bite is early morning or late afternoon down about 14 to 16 feet in the flooded timber.

Cedar River (La Porte City to Cedar Rapids)

The backwaters near Vinton have about 7 inches of ice. Bluegill - Fair: Most fish are smaller. Black Crappie - Fair: Most fish are smaller. Northern Pike - Fair: Angles are catching a few fish on tip-ups.

Central Park Lake

Ice thickness is 3-8 inches. Bluegill - Slow: Catch 4- to 6.5-inch fish on the bottom.. Largemouth Bass - Slow: Fish are 10- to 13- inches; no legal-sized fish are available yet.

Central Park Pond

Ice thickness is 4-8 inches. Fish are being caught on the bottom. Bluegill - Slow. Largemouth Bass - Slow.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at winter pool of 683.3 feet and is frozen over with variable ice.

Diamond Lake

The lake has about 2 to 6 inches of ice under the snow. Use caution if venturing out; check ice thickness often. Bluegill - Fair. Black Crappie - Fair: Most fish are 7- to 9-inches.

Green Castle Lake

Ice thickness is 4 to 6 inches. Bluegill - Fair: Most fish are small. Yellow Perch - Fair: Most fish are small. Black Crappie - Fair: A few nice fish were reported.

Hannen Lake

Ice thickness is about 6 inches in most areas, with less in the center of the lake. No fishing reports are available.

Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

Ice thickness is 6 inches on the edges and closer to 3 inches on the main lake. Use caution if venturing out; check ice thickness often. Bluegill - Fair: Some decent fish were caught this week. Black Crappie - Fair.

Lake Macbride

Ice thickness is 5-6 inches on the edges and protected areas; deeper areas may only have 2-3 inches. Use caution if venturing out; check ice thickness often. No fishing reports available.

Otter Creek Lake

Ice thickness is 6-8 inches. A yellow bass ice fishing tournament will be held here on Jan. 16. Bluegill - Good. Black Crappie - Fair. Yellow Bass - Fair.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The west end of the lake has up to 6 inches of ice; the main lake is more variable and potentially unsafe. Bluegill - Fair: Try around brush in coves.

Most fish are smaller, but some are up to 7- to 8-inches. Black Crappie - Slow: A few around 9-inch fish have been caught around brush.

Rodgers Park Lake

Ice thickness is 9 to 10 inches. Most activity has been towards the north end of the lake around brush. Bluegill - Fair: Fish are reported as 5- to 8-inches. Black Crappie - Fair: Fish are reported as 10- to 12-inches.

Sand Lake

This is the quarry in Marshalltown. Ice thickness is up to 6 inches, but is variable. Use caution and check ice thickness often. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Rainbow Trout - Fair. Bluegill - Fair: Most fish are smaller. Largemouth Bass - Slow: A few nice bass have been caught this week.

Union Grove Lake

Ice thickness is 5 to 7 inches. The aeration system was turned on Jan. 13; there is open water on the southwest corner of the lake. Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches. Most activity has been around the west ramp jetties and over the deeper water below the cabins.

Some areas have unsafe ice hidden under the snow. Use caution if venturing out; check ice thickness often. For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Hawthorn Lake

Ice is of variable thickness. Use caution and test ice thickness often.

Lake Miami

Ice thickness varies; use caution if venturing out and test ice thickness often.

Lake Sugema

Ice is starting to form, but is unsafe. Open water is still in some areas.

Historic group to map out city's remaining brick roads

ROADS - Continued from Page 1

He said the streets that are paved over usually have the bricks ripped up, but he was interested in finding out what it would cost to repair and preserve streets that are still viable.

"Let's go with what streets are still brick in the entire city and go from there," Sorrentino said.

Commission member Andy Andrews said the streets are part of the city's history and need to be preserved where possible.

"My main concern is the 10th Street sewer project is going to probably tear out the oldest brick street in town from Avenue H to the tracks down there," said Andrews said.

"That's probably the most endangered one."

He said a 20-foot by 20-foot section was ruined in 2008 by the flood, but it was repaired with bricks.

Sorrentino and Andrew agreed the streets are vital to people visiting the community.

"It's already been well expressed by visitors from the cruise lines and from other states, that part of their goal is to see the brick streets, because there are so many towns that have done away with them," Sorrentino.

"That's why we are addressing it now and we need to start working on it with the city."

City councilman Mark Lair said some of the streets are really rough and have had some asphalt patching and may not be cost effective to try and save.

Sorrentino said that's why its important to get city staff involved in the discussion.

"Mark's agreed to come to one of our meetings once we get all this data. We can sit down with him and go over it and he can give us more knowledge on what we can do with them," Sorrentino said.

One suggestion was to get a historic brick street district north of the Park to Park Historic district on the city's east side that bookends with Old Settlers and Central Park.

Andrews said the city needs to hold onto the remaining brick streets.

"We need to keep them. We get all kinds of visitors in town who want to drive the brick streets and we send them to D," Andrews said.

In other action, the commission:

- received word that \$5,000 match program has generated more than \$11,300 for the City Cemetery renovation efforts.
- discussed putting an iron archway on the Avenue H main entry of the City Cemetery with some of the renovation funds and is looking for firms interested in helping with the design and creation of the signs.
- discussed getting bids from headstone companies to reset and repair damaged markers in City Cemetery.

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Business News/From the Front

Alliant Energy named to Newsweek top company list

MADISON, Wis. (January 8, 2021) – Alliant Energy has been named to Newsweek’s 2021 list of America’s Most Responsible Companies. This prestigious list is presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider. The list, which spans 14 industries, recognizes the top 400 most responsible companies in the United States.

“We are pleased to be recognized as one of America’s Most Responsible Companies,” said John Larsen, Chairman, President and CEO of Alliant Energy. “Guided by our purpose-driven strategy to serve customers and build stronger communities, we are generating cleaner energy while ensuring it’s affordable, safe and reliable. We act today for a better tomorrow.”

To successfully create a better tomorrow, Alliant Energy follows the roadmap

outlined in their Clean Energy Blueprint. It’s coupled with their sustainable energy plan, aspirational net-zero emissions goals for the energy they generate and actions to help build equitable, respectful and resilient communities – key elements featured in the company’s Corporate Responsibility Report.

It’s these publicly available key performance indicators, derived from CSR Reports, Sustainability Reports and Corporate Citizenship Reports as well as an independent survey that were the basis of Newsweek’s America’s Most Responsible Companies List.

The detailed analysis covered three areas of Corporate Responsibility – environmental, social and corporate governance – while the independent survey asked U.S. citizens about their perception of company activities related to corporate social responsibility.

Consolidated Appropriations Act extends federal jobless benefits

JOBS - Continued from Page 1

all). Iowa Workforce Development relies upon the weekly data released by the U.S. Department of Labor to report its numbers and as such, adopts the revisions to the previously published data.

IowaWORKS Centers are not providing in-person services. Customers are encouraged to log onto Iowa-WORKS.gov or the mobile application to continue their work search activities. Further assistance can also be received by visiting the website or calling customer service.

On Dec. 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021, reauthorizing and extending the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program. The CAA also created the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. IWD has received the implementing guidance from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), and is now working on the extensive system programming needed to distribute payments to eligible claimants. There is no need to call or reapply for these programs. Please call customer service

only if you have questions about filing for unemployment benefits. Claimants who have questions about their claim status or benefit payments should email uiclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov.

For the week ending Jan. 9, 2021, unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$15,638,255.25. The following industries had the most claims:

- Construction (2,014)
- Manufacturing (1,397)
- Industry Not Available - Self-employed, Independent Contractors, etc (593)
- Retail Trade (560)
- Administrative, Support, Waste Management, and Remediation Services (529)

A total of \$889,200 in FPUC benefits was paid, which were retroactive payments as the program ended July 25, 2020. Since April 4, 2020, a total of \$1,629,592,633 in FPUC benefits has been paid.

A total of \$4,394,210 was paid in PUA benefits. Since April 13, 2020, a total of \$179,171,319.54 in PUA benefits has been paid.

A total of \$5,536,189.19 in benefits has been paid in PEUC benefits. Since May 27, 2020, a total of \$191,421,463.04 in PEUC benefits have been paid.

Foundation helps local health initiatives

GRANTS - Continued from Page 1

lives, especially our children’s, by providing the necessary resources to encourage healthy living. We look forward to partnering with these and other organizations in 2021,” commented Neal Dodd, President of the Foundation Board.

The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation’s mission is to improve the overall health of the communities Fort Madison Community

Hospital and Great River Health serves. Projects are funded based on their connection to the Foundation’s mission.

The GRHS-FMCH Community Health Foundation was created in 2018 as part of the affiliation agreement between Fort Madison Community Hospital and Great River Health. Organizations can request a funding application by emailing abudnik@fmchosp.com

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