

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, December 10, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 223



www.pencitycurrent.com

Landowners push back



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

About 160 people attended a state-mandated hearing with officials from the Iowa Utilities Board and Navigator CO2 to hear about a proposed liquid carbon dioxide pipeline that would cut across Lee County.

HEARTLAND GREENWAY: Landowners pepper IUB, Navigator with questions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – Four representatives from Navigator CO2 tried to pitch the safety and benefits of a carbon dioxide capture pipeline that's planned to run through Lee County.

The pipeline has been designed to run 50 miles through Lee County from the northwest side to the southeast corner where it will cross the Mississippi

River and progress through Illinois to a capture center in south central Illinois.

According to the Heartland Greenway website, "carbon capturing and sequestration (CCS) technology captures carbon emissions produced by agricultural processes before they reach the atmosphere. The captured greenhouse gases are then processed and compressed into a liquid form that can be safely transported

See PIPELINE, page 7

UGLY SWEATER RUN

PORT trail grows as new section dedicated at run

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The recreation trail that is gradually starting to connect the city of Fort Madison, saw a new segment open Sunday from 48th Street to the hospital.

The Promote Outdoor Recreational Trails committee now chaired by Larry Smith, officially opened the new section

of 10-foot concrete pathway from 48th Street across from Avenue L, west to the Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center's Fort Madison campus.

The trail runs out to the hospital campus where it loops around the pond on the property and back. It's now part of about 10 miles of pathways that run along the east and south borders of the Fort Madison Middle School, in addition to the rec trail that starts at the

northwest corner of the Fort Madison High School and runs along the back side of the baseball and softball fields all the way to 18th Street.

The trail crosses there and then heads east down Avenue B to 15th Street where it turns north and runs up to Rodeo Park.

Smith said there's more work to be

See TRAIL, page 3

DONATIONS NEEDED

Keokuk fire displaces families

Area groups step in to help collect needed items for 32 people

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – An early morning fire that destroyed the upper floors and roof on the Westport Apartment complex in Keokuk has left 15 families and 32 individuals without a place to live.

Firefighters and emergency crews were on the scene at about 2:30 a.m. Thursday morning and battled the fire for about 4.5 hours until 7 a.m.

Jackson Township fire was also called to assist, as was the Keokuk Volunteer Emergency Corp. and Lee County EMS. Six people were transported to area hospitals with smoke inhalation and several pets were rescued by firefighters.

Several area support groups have set up donation mechanisms for the families impacted by the fire, according to the Lee County Health Department.

The Salvation Army will become a set up point for The Red Cross. The Red Cross is working to provide housing for the individuals displaced.

The Salvation Army needs personal care items/toiletries and is accepting gift cards to Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee, and Walgreens. Victims also lost prescription medications and many other essential items. Gift cards and personal care items can be dropped off at The Salvation Army at 31 S. 30th St. in Keokuk.

First Christian Church at 3476 Main Street will provide beds to children affected by the fire and will be taking donations for adult-sized beds, bed frames, bedding, etc. Those wishing to help can call 319-524-5266 for donation drop off, or if you are an individual needing a bed as a result of the fire. The church is also an overflow for donated items. There are some recently donated coats available, especially child sizes.

See FIRE, page 2

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WEATHER

FRI 10 Dec.....	Light Rain, 64° F/ 36° F
SAT 11 Dec.....	Overcast, 54° F/ 34° F
SUN 12 Dec.....	Overcast, 52° F/ 33° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 12/08.....	2 11 17 41 46, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 12/08.....	5 20 24 40 43, Lucky Ball: 16
PICK 3 12/08 MIDDAY.....	3 17
PICK 3 12/08 EVENING.....	6 8 3
PICK 4 12/08 MIDDAY.....	4 2 1 4
PICK 4 12/08 EVENING.....	7 0 7 9
POWERBALL 12/08.....	3 7 33 50 69, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

RITA J. LANCASTER

Rita Jacqueline Lancaster, 92, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 9:55 AM at the Solon (IA) Care Center.

She was born on July 23, 1929 at Sacred Heart Hospital in Ft. Madison to Roy W. and Ruth Hutton Gehle. On March 3, 1951 she married Donald Lee Lancaster at St. Mary's Church in Fort Madison and he passed away on December 24, 1969. In her early years Rita worked with her grandfather at Hutton's Cigar Store. She then was a manager at JCPenney Men's Department and at the Spiegel Catalog store in Fort Madison. Before retirement, she also worked at the Financial Adjustment Bureau all in Burlington. Rita enjoyed embroidering, reading, working on crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She loved animals and always had a pet dog.

Survivors include her brother Roger (Patricia) Gehle of Fort Madison, two sons, Robert (Renee Lunemann) Lancaster of Solon, IA and Rex (Renee) Lancaster of Cedar Rapids, IA ; three grandchildren, Jenny (Tony) Kramer of Cedar Rapids, IA, Adam (Ashley) Lancaster of Royal Oak, MI and Dillon (Bronwyn) Lancaster of Reinbeck, IA; six great-grandchildren, Addy and Landon Kramer of Cedar Rapids, IA, Delilah and Eliza Lancaster of Royal Oak, MI and Malakai and Roman Lancaster of Reinbeck, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Ruth; her husband, Don and one brother, Richard Gehle.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 11:00 AM at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Renee Lunemann officiating. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will meet with friends from 10:30 AM until the time of the service at 11:00 AM.

A memorial has been established for Ss. Mary & Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Madison. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.



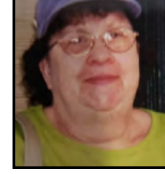
LANCASTER

OBITUARIES

ELLEN BALDWIN

Ellen Baldwin, 80, of Nauvoo, Illinois, passed away at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at Oak Lane Nursing and Rehab in Stronghurst, Illinois.

She was born on April 1, 1941, in Kirkwood, Illinois, the daughter of Gerald R. and Marie (McCune) Salter.



BALDWIN

Survivors include several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and three sisters.

Ellen was a 1959 graduate of Nauvoo High School. She worked at Troy Cleaners, Sheaffer Pen Company and retired from the Heinz Company. She attended the former Nauvoo Presbyterian Church.

A private family graveside service will be held at Appanoose Cemetery in rural Niota with Pastor Mark Anderson officiating.

A celebration of life will be held in the Spring of 2022.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.sbbfuneralhome.com.

WARREN J. NUTTER

FORT MADISON – Warren John Nutter was pronounced dead due to natural causes at 11:01 a.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 in a hospice room of the Iowa State Penitentiary where he had been housed due to chronic illness. Nutter was 84 years old at the time of his death.

Nutter had been serving a life sentence for the crime of Murder 1st Degree from Buchanan County. His sentence began on February 10, 1956.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

Donations sought for fire victims

FIRE - Continued from Page 1

Act 2:45 Closet is also helping the fire victims provide clothing items, furniture, and more. For more information contact Tiffany Smith.

Radio Keokuk is also taking donations They are in the process of compiling a list of specifics on ages, sizes, boys, girls, etc. Victims of the fire can also message the station at leahj@radiokeokuk.com with your information.

State to invest \$100M in water efforts

DES MOINES -- Gov. Reynolds today announced a historic \$100M investment in water infrastructure and water quality efforts for the State of Iowa.

Through a new grant program within Iowa Finance Authority, Gov. Reynolds is allocating \$75M for the Water Infrastructure Fund. The funding will come through federal ARPA dollars and will support projects aimed at reducing excess nutrients, improving drought

resiliency, reducing flood risks, improving public health, promoting reuse of water and wastewater and providing significant economic benefits to communities and the state. The grant application process will open December 15 and can be found here.

"We recognize the value and importance of water quality and what that means to families, businesses and economic prosperity for our state," said Gov. Reynolds. "That's why we remain committed to improving Iowa's water quality and providing these historic investments to local communities, landown-

ers and organizations that aim to protect, preserve and restore Iowa's water resources."

An additional \$25M will be allocated to the Conservation Infrastructure Project at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The Iowa Conservation Infrastructure Project brings together both public and private resources to advance the mission of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. In doing so, improvements will be made in priority watersheds to improve water quality, habitat, recreation opportunities and carbon sequestration.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Celebrations/From the Front

PORT group still has more plans for rec trails

TRAIL - Continued from Page 1

done.

"We've applied for state rec trail grants, REAP grants, and we've been turned down on a couple. We've got one more that's still active that's due at the end of December."

The next section of trail being proposed will run from the Phase 3 section that just opened on 48th Street to the Phase II section north on 48th Street to the trail head at the middle school on the Baxter Sports Complex side of 48th Street.

Smith said that portion will cost about \$500,000.

The PORT committee got a substantial contribution from the Great River Health System-Fort Madison Community Hospital Community Foundation of about \$3 million. Those funds paid for the trail up to Rodeo Park from behind the high school. It also has provided additional funding for future amenities and some match money for future grants.

The PORT committee started working on building the trail network about eight years ago under the leadership of Rachel Benda. She did that for the first seven years, before Smith took over as chairman.

He said eventually the trail could go all the way down Avenue A with a 10-foot trail off the current trail head on Bluff Road and hook up with 24th Street which already has dedicated bike lanes assigned there. That would go south to Bus. 61 where the path could tie in with 10-foot sidewalks, that are already in place in the 2nd to 10th street completed highway reconstruction.

He said that path could then go east and tie into the new marina and have a trail that runs from the hospital to the east edge of town and from Rodeo park to Bus. 61.

This week crews could be installing a new bridge on Avenue B that crosses a creek bed there.

"Essentially now, when the bridge is in, we'll have from the hospital to rodeo and that's five miles each way, which is a 10-mile loop and that doesn't include the paved paths through Rodeo Park," Smith said.

During the dedication, Smith thanked Jones Contracting for their work in building the path, as well as the City of Fort Madison.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld was on hand making the 5K run at the dedication which took place during the group's annual Ugly Sweater 5K run on Sunday afternoon at the complex.

Birth Announcements

STUEKERJUERGEN



STUEKERJUERGEN

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – Bailey and Kaleb Stuekerjuergen are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Millie Stuekerjuergen at Blanchfield Hospital at Fort Campbell, Ky on Sept. 2, 2021.

Millie is joined at home by Henry 2.

Grandparents are LeAnn Murphy, Debbie Murphy, the late Michael Murphy, Marcine Ellis, the late Frank Ellis and the late Nancy and Paul Stuekerjuergen, all of Fort Madison; and Dennis Stuekerjuergen and Traci Stuekerjuergen of West Point

FRASER

FORT MADISON – Jessica Wiggins and Bradley Fraser are proud to announce the birth of their son Wells Fraser in Nov. 4, 2021 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison.

BALES

FORT MADISON – Kelsey and Shawn Bales are proud to announce the birth of their son Kallen Bales on Oct. 24, 2021 at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center in Fort Madison.

Pen City Current Celebrations policy

The Current runs birth announcements, wedding anniversary announcements, and other milestones at no charge to individuals and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. Announcements can be submitted online here: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/submissions/> or by email to editor@pencitycurrent.com.

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Local News/Health News

IDOT says Hwy. 2 set to reopen on December 15

FAIRFIELD, Iowa – Dec. 9, 2021 – The bridge located at Sugar Creek, 1.4 miles west of Donnellson in Lee County is scheduled to open Wednesday, December 15th, weather permitting. With the first phase to replace bridges on Iowa 2 completed, between Farmington and Donnellson, Iowa 2 will be open to traffic in both directions during the Winter.

However, in Spring 2022, the next phase to microsurface Iowa 2, between Donnellson and Farmington, will require alternating lane closures and using a pilot car for traffic control.

The Iowa DOT reminds motorists to drive with caution, obey the posted speed limit and other signs in the work area, and be aware that traffic fines for moving violations are at least double in work zones.

As in all work zones, drivers should

stay alert, allow ample space between vehicles, and wear seat belts.

The latest traveler information is available anytime through our 511 system. Visit 511ia.org; call 511 (within Iowa) or 800-288-1047 (nationwide); stay connected with 511 on Facebook or Twitter (find links at <https://iowadot.gov/511/511-social-media-sites>); or download the free app to your mobile device.

To receive email or text alerts about traffic incidents, road closures, traffic delays, and other restrictions that affect this highway route or other routes you travel, the Iowa DOT offers the “Your 511” option on 511ia.org. It’s easy to subscribe to Your 511 and sign up to receive the email/text alerts. Visit <https://iowadot.gov/511/511-full-feature-website-help/how-to-videos> for simple, step-by-step instructions.

State Hygienic Lab confirms Iowa’s first case of Omicron

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the State Hygienic Lab (SHL) confirm detection of the first case of the COVID-19 variant, Omicron, in an Iowa resident. The case involves an unvaccinated individual under the age of 18 who resides in Black Hawk County. The individual remains asymptomatic, however because of travel exposure; the family sought testing based on public health guidance.

Black Hawk County Public Health acted quickly to initiate contact with the family and remain in contact to monitor the health of the individual. Proactive measures taken by the involved family, leadership of the county health department along with support provided by SHL underscore the strength of our public health process. It is because of this process that Iowans are informed about virus activity in the state. As always, COVID-19 infected individuals are advised to isolate in accordance with IDPH and CDC guidance.

SHL maintains a strong statewide genomic surveillance program and the lab will continue to prioritize sequencing of test samples that look suspicious for the Omicron and other variants.

“There is emerging evidence that a booster dose of vaccine offers protection against Omicron, which is great news. Vaccinated Iowans who have not yet received a booster should do so as soon as possible,” said IDPH interim Director Kelly Garcia. “I want to emphasize how grateful I am to Iowans who have chosen to get vaccinated, thank you. To those who haven’t been vaccinated for COVID-19 yet, I urge you to speak with your health care provider about the vaccine’s benefits for you and those around you.”

Find vaccine providers here: <https://vaccinate.iowa.gov/>.

FMCS D launches new app on Dec. 10

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Community School District is thrilled to announce the launch of our brand new mobile app. This mobile application will be “everything FMCS D, in your pocket.”

FMCS D will be launching our mobile app on December 10, 2021. We are excited to announce this app after launching our new website in September. The app is available for all users in both the Apple app store and the Google Play store. To download the free app, go to your app store and type in “Fort Madison CSD.”

The new FMCS D app is customizable for our families and community. After downloading the app, users are able to follow the schools that pertain to them. Users can also change the language of the app in the settings! The main features of the app include: a news feed, easy-to-view calendar, lunch menus, contact us, and a notification section to get instant updates from our school district.

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Applications are available at the Fort Madison Public Library and can be returned there. Applications will be taken until position is filled. Contact Sarah Clendinning at (319) 372-5721 if you have any questions.

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From the Front

County will again hire inspector to help landowners

PIPELINE - Continued from Page 1

to a sequestration site, where the CO2 is securely and permanently injected approximately a mile underground beneath thick layers of rock with continued monitoring. After injection, the CO2 will remain trapped beneath the caprock and begin to dissolve and mineralize.”

The space the carbon will be injected into is in Mt. Simon, Illinois and officials told the crowd of about 160 that had piled into Small Grand Things in West Point Wednesday night that it would take 100s of years for the carbon to calcify as it mixes with the water between two rock shelves.

But many residents in attendance were frustrated with the damage done by previous pipeline installations including the Dakota Access Pipeline, that was installed in 2015.

Esther Tweedy said her family’s farm was “molested” by the crude oil pipeline.

Tweedy is not a landowner but her brother is and he farms land their parents bought in 1946.

“He battled with Dakota Access because they wanted to tear down trees that my father planted in 1946,” Tweedy said.

“He just asked them to move the pipeline and they wouldn’t do it and luckily the IUB listened to his pleas and told them they needed to go under their roots, which we assume they did. But as my brother said, just because there is no sign of molestation, does not mean it hasn’t occurred.”

Tweedy said she felt like her whole family was intimidated, threatened, and misled by Dakota Access and she didn’t want that to happen again with the Heartland pipeline. The proposed pipeline has a similar path to the Dakota pipeline.

Easements for construction would be anywhere from 50 to 150 feet depending on the size of pipeline to be used. The Heartland carbon pipeline would have pipe that ranges from 6 to 24 inches in

diameter. The pipeline will be buried a minimum of 5-feet underground.

Navigator officials are required by law, as was NuStar Pipeline in October when they met at the same location to pitch their addition to anhydrous ammonia pipelines in the county, to hold the hearing prior to any negotiation for land rights or for petitioning the IUB for permits.

One landowner asked if the IUB was going to not allow any carbon to flow through the pipes until all landowner issues had been resolved.

He said if that was the case, issues that occurred during the Dakota Access installation could be resolved because the company would be held up from producing until all land issues had been corrected.

Geri Huser, chairman of the IUB, who moderated the hearing said she couldn’t comment on issues of the past installation because the agreements for easements and restoration are between the landowner and the company.

But she said the county hires an independent consultant to oversee all landowner issues. That inspector is paid for by the pipeline company and is hired without consultation with the pipeline company.

Lee County Supervisor Ron Fedler told the crowd that the county had good experience with Chippewa Resources, who was the inspector for the Dakota Access.

“We hire a private company to protect the landowners’ rights. That company then bills us for that process and we turn that bill over to the pipeline company and they reimburse the county, so the county taxpayers do not pay for any of that inspection provided for by the county,” Fedler said.

“But that inspection company is independent of the pipeline company. It’s not something associated with them at all.”

Fedler said the county has already interviewed three companies to be the inspector for this pipeline and the anhydrous ammonia pipeline. Fedler asked when the IUB suggested the inspector should be hired.

Huser told Fedler the county should hire that inspector as soon as possible.

Other landowners asked if there were better ways to capture the carbon, what the value of the carbon is, and why previous pipeline pathways can’t be used rather than taking additional easements.

Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, Vice President of Government and Public Affairs told the group the pipeline is one of the most contemporary and well-researched scientific mechanisms to reduce the carbon footprint of fertilizer plants in the country.

She said other companies are competing to move carbon through pipelines and it’s a system that the government has initiated credits to encourage.

Navigator has already reached an agreement with Iowa Fertilizer Plant to move their carbon off-site. The pipeline is also working to pull carbon from Big River Resources, an ethanol producer in West Burlington.

The pipeline will run about 1,300 miles with 900 miles in Iowa across 36 counties.

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed pipeline can file comments as part of the IUB docket online at <https://iub.iowa.gov/online-services/open-docket-comment-form>. The docket number for the Heartland Pipeline is HLP-2021-0003.

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