

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 174



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County does 'about face' on masks

SUPERVISORS: Several on board change mind on face covering proposal

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A proposal to require face coverings when not publicly social distancing in Lee County was turned down Tuesday by Lee County officials.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors rejected a proposed regulation from the Lee County Board of Health that would have required masks in public if social distancing isn't possible. There was no vote, because Supervisor Rick Larkin's motion to approve died for a

lack of a second.

"The motion dies for a lack of a second and there will be no face covering regulation," said Board Chairman Ron Fedler.

The regulation had several exceptions including when exercising, or driving in vehicles, but for the most part would have required face masks out in public places or in places where members of the public are present.

All five supervisors said they have been inundated

See **HEALTH**, page 5

HUMPHREY BUILDING

District judge to hand down order on compliance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A southeast Iowa judge will be issuing an order for compliance to the owner of downtown building in Fort Madison that is crumbling on one side.

Eighth District Judge Michael Schilling told Fort Madison city attorney Pat O'Connell and Building Director Doug Krogmeier that he would issue a ruling on the case as soon as they finalized a proposed judgment in the case.

The city has been trying to get Bryan Humphrey, the owner of the building on the southeast corner of 8th Street and Avenue G to make repairs to the west side of the building that has repeated settled sending bricks falling on the sidewalk.

The west exterior of the building is visually compromised to the third floor and has wooden boards along a load bearing exterior column to try and secure the structure.

The building has five components, or storefronts, as Michael Purol, described to the judge at a hearing Tuesday morning.

Purol is a structural engineer with Poepping, Stone & Bach Associates out of Keokuk and was retained by the city to inspect the building. An administrative search warrant was granted by Schilling earlier this month and Purol, Krogmeier, Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld, and several members of the Fort Madison Fire Department went through the building on Sept. 11.

Purol said the western most storefront is the portion of the building that needs immediate attention and repair. The other portions of the building are secure, but do have some visible water damage. He said the winter months will surely cause additional damage with the freeze and thaw cycles common to the area.

Humphrey, an attorney himself, was not in attendance at the hearing and was ruled in default by Schilling. Humphrey



KROGMEIER



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Richardson Elementary Principal Adrian McKay celebrates his successful program of Busy Bee with 1st grade teacher Ashley Hardin as part of a demonstration Tuesday evening at the STEAMhound Station at Richardson Elementary School.

STEAM Lab

Richardson Elementary unveils innovation tech lab

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Students at Richardson Elementary School have a new room to explore almost endless applications of computer science.

The new STEAMhound Station just

off the media center at the elementary is home to a \$15,000 lab that Principal Adrian McKay says isn't another step toward computer literacy, but a giant step towards its applications.

"We're supposed to be moving away from this idea that, 'Hey, I'm tech literate. I know how to use a laptop. I can

trouble shoot a little bit', to a focus on 'I have a large problem and I can develop new tech to support humanity,'" he said.

He said the idea is to create deep knowledge, critical thinking students that are gonna focus on what it is that

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WEATHER

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 THU 24 Sep Broken Clouds, 76° F/ 54° F
 FRI 25 Sep Clear, 83° F/ 58° F

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

EARL E. HOSKINS

Earl E. Hoskins, 90, of Burlington, IA, passed away on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 12:08 PM at the Great River Medical Center.

He was born on March 17, 1930 in Dallas City, IL to Christopher and Hazel Ward Hoskins. On April 11, 1953 he married Shirley Pickard in Wayland, MO and she passed away on August 27, 2016. Earl worked at IAAP, ISP for eleven years and then the City of Ft. Madison where he retired in 1992 as Superintendent of Streets. He served in the US Navy during the Korean Conflict. Earl enjoyed being outside. He enjoyed tinkering in the garage, fishing and people watching. His greatest love of all was his family, especially all of his grandchildren.

Survivors include one son, Earl Hoskins of Keokuk, one daughter, Patty (Michael) Bandy of Burlington; four grandchildren, Christopher Hoskins, Lizz Wagner, Pepper Wagner and Amber Scott; nine great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; one daughter, Barbara Ann Wagner; a great grandchild and one sister.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020 at 3 PM at the horseshoe shelter house at Crapo Park.

A memorial has been established for Hope Haven and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



HOSKINS

OBITUARIES

SHARON A. MERTENS

Sharon Ann Mertens, 78 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 2:00 am Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She was born June 20, 1942 in Moline, Illinois, a daughter of Carleton "Keith" and Betty Louise (Walker) Ahlstrand. On June 30, 1962, she married Alfred "Ike" Mertens in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Sharri was a 1960 graduate of Fort Madison High School and lived in the area most of her life. She was always working. She worked at a credit bureau office, Kemkper's Insurance, State Central Bank, and Lee County Bank before retiring in 2010. In addition from 1975 to 1985, Sharri and her husband, Ike, ran Ike's Place in St. Paul, Iowa. She loved to sing and was a member of the Sweet Adeline's for 18 years. She was a baritone in the International Queens of Harmony quartet, "Galatones." In 1971, the quartet traveled through out the U.S. and did a USO Tour of the far east where they performed at military hospitals. She loved to read and travel. After retirement, Sharri and Ike wintered at Clearwater, Florida for six years.

She is survived by her husband, Alfred "Ike" Mertens of Fort Madison; two sons, Gregory (Linda) Mertens of New London, Iowa and Jeffery (Nicole) Mertens of Coal Valley, Illinois; three brothers-in-law: Francis Mertens of Sacramento, California; Johnny Mertens of Houghton, Iowa; and Paul Mertens of Fort Madison; two sisters-in-law: Harriet Coster of Sacramento, California and Jeanne (Gary) Kos of Washington, Iowa; six grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister Beverly Mertens, and one brother-in-law Dan Mertens.

Per her wishes her body has been cremated. Her family will greet friends from 5:30 - 7:00 pm Friday, September 25, 2020 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. A memorial service will begin at 10:00 am Saturday, September 26, 2020 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, with Pastor Dean Graber, officiating. Burial will be at Aspen Grove Cemetery, Burlington, Iowa. A memorial has been established for PAWS, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Mertens family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.



CLARK

OBITUARIES

DEWEY L. CLARK

Dewey Lee Clark, 77 of Dallas City, IL died Saturday, September 19, 2020 at his home in Dallas City, IL.

He was born November 3, 1942 in Ralls County, MO, the son of Frank and Annie Howald Clark. Dewey graduated from Mark Twain High School in Center, MO in 1961. After High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served his Basic Training in Oakland CA. He then had the pleasure of serving his country being stationed in Hawaii, where he was an Indirect Fire Infantry Man, Honor Guard, 2nd Battalion 21st Artillery. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Driver Mechanic's Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Sharpshooter Expert, and 2D Class Gunner Marksman Medals. After his enlistment he went on serving his country in the National Reserve until 1969.

On March 10, 1973 he married Deanna Williams in New London MO, they later divorced.

He was employed with Orscheln Products in Moberly, MO as Supervisor until his retirement. Before that he was employed with both JI Case and Benner Tea in Burlington IA.

He loved to garden, mushroom hunt, and play with his beloved dogs. Most of all he loved to spend time with his family and friends. There was nothing better than a good family and friend gathering with good food.

He is survived by his daughter Jeannie VanNiewaal (Rod) of Gulfport IL, two Grandchildren, Rodney VanNiewaal (Amy) of Gulfport IL, and Jocelyn Priebe (Brandon) of Nauvoo IL, three Great Grandchildren, Hayden VanNiewaal, Taylor Priebe and Brody Priebe, his ex-wife Deanna Holstein of Dallas City IL.

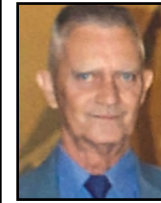
He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk IA. Burial with Military rites will be in Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Friday from 11 a.m. until service time at the funeral home with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Social distancing requirements will be in place and attendees may be limited according to those requirements. Masks are strongly encouraged.

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



CLARK



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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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Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Lee County News/Scene Around Town

Burlington PD gets \$22K JAG grant

WASHINGTON – Congressman Dave Loebsack today announced six Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program awards for local law enforcement to support their efforts to prevent crime, keep our families and communities safe, and keep drugs off the street. The program is the only source of federal funding for multi-jurisdictional drug task forces that work to prevent, fight and prosecute drug-related and violent crime. Details of the grants are below.

“Byrne JAG awards help support local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to keep Iowa families safe,” said Loebsack. “I am pleased these law enforcement agencies are receiving this funding to help reduce crime and enhance public safety. These men and women, who are sworn to protect and serve, deserve to have the necessary training and equipment to properly serve our communities.”

FY2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program awards:

- Johnson County- \$20,842
- Scott County- \$81,074
- Burlington- \$22,272
- Clinton- \$16,441
- Muscatine- \$15,763
- Ottumwa- \$15,462

Background on the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program allows states and units of local government, including tribes, to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own state and local needs and conditions. Grant funds can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice, including for any one or more of the following program areas: 1) law enforcement programs; 2) prosecution and court programs; 3) prevention and education programs; 4) corrections and community corrections programs; 5) drug treatment and enforcement programs; 6) planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and 7) crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation) and 8) mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs.

Community Foundation accepting 2020 grant applications

LEE COUNTY - The North Lee Community Foundation, based in Fort Madison, is now taking applications for its 2020 grant program. Approximately \$22,000 is available to North Lee County based 501 (c) (3) non-profits that benefit the citizens of their respective communities. Grant applications are available online only at the North Lee Community Foundation's website at www.northleecf.org.

The grant application timeline is from September 21, 2020 through November 4, 2020, with the recipients being announced after the Foundation's November board meeting.

Formed in 2005, the North Lee Community Foundation is made up of approximately 90 permanent endowments benefitting various charities and students throughout Southeast Iowa.

Donors who create a permanent endowment can take advantage of a 25% Iowa Tax Credit plus Federal charitable deductions. The Iowa Tax Credits are only available when the endowment fund is created through an Iowa based community foundation and must benefit an Iowa based non-profit into perpetuity.

The North Lee Community Foundation's mission statement and vision from the outset was to provide an avenue for local citizens to create their own legacy. Donors can achieve this by establishing a family named endowment that will benefit a local not-for-profit forever. To date, the Foundation has endowed nearly \$20 Million with an annual charitable and scholarship distribution of \$900,000. Its board is made up of 13 members from all areas of North Lee County.



Above, Mary Hellige, Lincoln Elementary teacher and Kiwanis Club member, and Tracy King, Principal of Lincoln Elementary stand in front of a well-stocked supply cabinet. The Fort Madison Kiwanis Club recently helped to replenish supplies, snacks, and milk tickets for the students. The Kiwanis Club also purchased needed supplies, snacks, clothing, and milk tickets for Richardson Elementary. This is part of the Back to School Backpack program that is sponsored by the Fort Madison Kiwanis Club with the assistance of donations from local businesses.

Got a news tip?
Call Chuck (319)371.1670

Sports/From the Front

City to submit new proposed judgment

HUMPHREY - Continued from Page 1

had his license to practice suspended indefinitely in Jan. 2019 by the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board.

Fire Chief Joey Herren said he wanted the firefighters to see what the building was like inside should any collapse or fire occur. Herren said because of the condition of the western side, it is very possible that should a fire occur, the fire department would only fight it from the outside due to the dangers the building poses.

Purol said the western component has had some mitigation done, but the shoring up of load-bearing structures was done in a way that prevents additional repairs from being done, and is no longer viable for the structure.

The city was originally asking for the court to vacate the building, but after conferring with Purol, O'Connell said it would be the city's intention to just ask that the western component be kept vacant since Humphrey lives in one of the other sections of the building that is secure.

According to evidence presented Tuesday, Humphrey had retained Klingner and Associates out of Burlington to inspect and recommend corrective action, but Krogmeier testified that only a certain portion of that work had been done, and the work that was done to shore up the building was done 10 months ago and is no longer sufficient to prevent additional settling.

Purol testified that the shoring of load bearing walls was done in a way that prevents additional correction to take place and would have to be removed before other work can be done.

Additional recommended work like brick replacement and tuck pointing hasn't been done, according to the Klingner report that was shared with city officials.

Krogmeier said the city is out about \$30,000 in

barricade, engineering and legal costs already. O'Connell said according to city code, which is based on a federal administrative code for dangerous buildings, Humphrey would technically be looking at fines in the \$275,000 range over about a year since he was originally given citations for municipal infractions.

But Krogmeier said the city isn't asking for those fines to be paid.

"It's unreasonable for him to be able to account for that and make repairs to the building," Krogmeier told Schilling.

O'Connell said the city would be open to a \$150,000 fine with everything above the \$30,000 suspended with language that Humphrey either had to make the required repairs to the building or give the city options to make the repairs or demolish the building.

Schilling asked Krogmeier what he thought it would cost to make the required repairs to the building.

"Just the exterior is going to be about \$500,000," Krogmeier said.

Schilling then asked how much it would be to demolish the building. Krogmeier said estimates on that are in the \$300,000 range.

Purol said it would be cheaper to demolish the building than repair it, but Krogmeier told the judge the city didn't have that kind of money in the general fund.

O'Connell said he'd like the court order to contain language that would give the city options if Humphrey fails to comply.

"I'd like to see if he will comply and have the wherewithal to fix it," O'Connell told the judge.

"Failing that, we want to have the option to do what we can to fix it. Public officials are under a lot of pressure from the community to get something done."

Krogmeier said he'd like to see what option Humphrey plans to pursue by Oct. 9.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Central Lee's Mya Merschman and Zoe Eschman put up a block on a Fort Madison player in Monday's Holy Trinity quadrangular featuring all the teams in Lee County. Central Lee won the event going 3-0. Holy Trinity was 2-1, Keokuk was 1-2 and Fort Madison finished the day 0-3.

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Lee County News/From the Front

Sheriff, County Attorney weigh in during supervisor vote

HEALTH - Continued from Page 1

with calls and emails regarding the incident.

"This is that red hot, highly charged hot potato issue, and here we are," said Supervisor Rich Harlow.

Fedler said the number of people reaching out to him are overwhelmingly against the regulation.

"A lot of people have been stopping me or talking to me, and an overwhelming majority of 90 to 95% of the people said they did not want us to pass this," Fedler said.



WEBER

"I know the Health Department is in charge of the health of Lee County and I understand their decision, but we as a board are elected where as the Board of Health is appointed. Our job is to listen to residents and what they want."

Fedler said he didn't oppose the Board of Health recommendation, but he said he had to stop at the point where it became a law where people could be fined for not wearing a mask.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber and Lee County Attorney Ross Braden have been vocal about their opposition to enforcing a county-wide mandate.

"This doesn't belong in the hands of law enforcement," Weber said.

"We've short-changed the people of our county. They are smart people and they are doing what we do. If I feel the need to wear it, I wear it. But it's a choice, and it's heavy-handed to say they are going to do this or we're going to make you a criminal."

Braden reiterated that approving the regulation would further overwhelm a court system that is already backlogged six months because of the virus.

Supervisor Gary Folluo who initiated the inquiry on the board to look into a regulation, said Tuesday that there were things in the regulation that he couldn't support.

"There is a substantial rate decrease and people in Lee County are doing the right thing. When they do the right things - wear a mask, social

distance and wash their hands, this is the way this thing is combatted," Folluo said.

"My personal opinion is that you should be wearing a mask. It's all about your neighbor, your friend, and the people you come in contact with. The (Centers for Disease Control) administrator has stated that the mask is the best thing you can do to limit infection."

Supervisor Matt Pflug, who's the board's liaison to the Health Department and has been supportive of the regulation, said he couldn't support it Tuesday.

"I think we have to listen to Stacy and Ross. Their opinion's carry a lot of weight here. As the liaison to the Health Department, it's tough for me today, but I'm against this for a couple of reasons."

Pflug said he believed that most people in the county are wearing masks and the numbers are going down. He also said that it was his understanding that Johnson County, who has a regulation in effect until the end of October, had not written one citation, but had instead been educating those not in compliance.

"If this was gonna go forward, we would need Stacy's backing. At this time it doesn't make sense to put this in place in my opinion."

Rick Larkin said he supported the resolution because it was simple thing that the county could do to help control the virus, especially if a second, more intense, wave of infection were to come during flu season.

"If we all wore masks the number of new cases would go down, but when we still have high numbers like 14 in a day that tells me it's still out of control," Larkin said.

"They say they are tired of this virus and we're all tired of it, but with a second wave coming, I think the worst is in front of us."

The Board of Health could re-submit the regulation and start the process over again since the proposal wasn't voted on, but without the vote, that resolution to approve the Board of Health's recommendation, goes away.

Argyle church postpones annual God's Portion Day

ARGYLE - The Argyle Presbyterian Church has decided to postpone this years annual God's Portion Day festivities that were scheduled for September 26th, 2020.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Elders of the church have decided to forgo the activities after careful consideration of the current concerns in Lee County by the Lee County Health Department and the CDC.

During the last couple weeks of August and the first couple of weeks in September we have most of our planning done. We have not been able to plan as well this year due to the current health concern.

We know that we have many people that come to this event and support us very well. We ask that those that still wish to make a monetary or other contribution to the church, please contact the Clerk of Session, Tony Keefe, 319-371-4786 or keefe.tony@gmail.com. We want to thank the community for their continued support of our church.

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Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison has openings for correctional officers

Correctional officers serve as the backbone to the correctional system. Their careers are both challenging and rewarding as they balance their security mission with the mission of helping those incarcerated reform themselves into a successful, law-abiding citizen upon their reentry. Once fully trained, Correctional Officers can make a lasting impact on an incarcerated person's life while also helping maintain safe and secure correctional facilities. New Correctional Officers earn a full time salary as they go through their training, and the State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the private or public sectors.

Salary range is \$42,307 to \$62,691 annually.

Minimum Qualification Requirements

- Graduation from high school, GED, or equivalency.

For additional information, please [click on this link to view the job description](#) ([Download PDF reader](#)).

Additional Qualification Requirements

All applicants must be able to successfully pass the following:

- Psychological tests
- A background investigation check.
- A post-offer health screen administered by an institutional physician.
- A urinalysis screen for drugs.
- All new employee training during the probationary period, including local orientation, new employee orientation, and emergency preparedness training.
- Designated positions in this job class require applicants to obtain a Commercial Driver's License and endorsements within a period of time as determined by the appointing authority at the time of hire.

To apply, click the following link: <https://doc.iowa.gov/about-us/about-institutions/iowa-state-penitentiary>

YOUR AD HERE
Call Lee
(319) 371.4125

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Position – Fort Madison Housing Authority (FMHA) of Fort Madison, Iowa, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director to lead the Authority in its management of its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program. The FMHA administers 134 units of Public Housing, 70 Housing Choice Vouchers, and management / maintenance of 22 units for the Lee County Housing Initiative Program.

The Executive Director is responsible for all aspects of its Public Housing and Voucher Program including but not limited to supervising a staff of six employees.

The qualified applicant should possess a wide range of skills in public housing operations, office management, accounting, customer service; computer proficiency and the ability to function courteously with residents and employees. The applicant must be PHA certified or certifiable within one year of employment.

Salary is negotiable and the Housing Authority offers an excellent benefit package and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Interested applicants must submit a resume and cover letter marked Confidential to:

Chairman of the Board, Fort Madison Housing Authority, 1102 48th Street, Suite #1, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Or email to: fortmadisonha@mchsi.com.

Deadline for resumes: October 15, 2020



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Merschman Fertilizer has a job opening at the Fort Madison Iowa facility. This terminal handles dry and liquid fertilizer used in the surrounding tri state area.

Job description: To assist in the receiving, production, and shipping of dry and liquid fertilizer products. Job applicant should have experience or be able to be trained in the operation of skid loaders, fork lifts, and articulating loaders. The ability to do preventative maintenance and general repairs to the facility and equipment is desirable. Some overtime is required especially during the spring and fall season. Salary will be based upon experience and education.

Merschman Fertilizer offers the following benefits:

- Competitive wage
- Paid vacation and holidays
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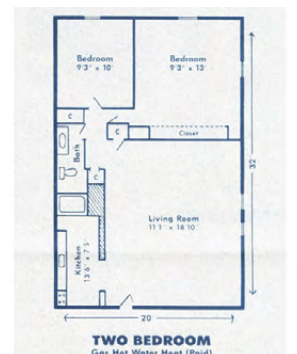
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Technical innovation to be focus at STEAM lab

LAB - Continued from Page 1

tech can do to help, as opposed to consuming tech.

Richardson Elementary's Parent-Teacher Organization was approached by McKay to sponsor the lab. The effort was born out of a 2019 grant awarded to the district on behalf of the school. Some of those funds were used to buy equipment for the lab. The rest of the station was built with funds from the P.T.O.

Kim Harmon, director of student services for the district, said the goal was to ignite interest in computer science at the earliest stages possible.

She said building a computer sciences elementary team and developing an implementation plan for getting computer sciences into the classroom was the first step. The school administration re-imagining a learning space to promote the creative problem solving skills foundational in the field of computer science, was next.

She said by re-purposing space at Richardson, the school has created a colorful, flexible, inviting area to spark the excitement for learning for all the students.

STEAM stands for Science Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

Brandi Koering, president of the P.T.O said McKay approached them about sponsoring the classroom about six months ago.

Koering said the group quickly picked up on the idea and even in the midst of a pandemic and financially tough times, the group streamlined some projects and found \$15,000 to create the classroom.

"We had been very fiscally responsible and we'd had some really great fundraisers leading up to that point," she said.

"We made some tough decisions and scaled back some of our field trip funding. How do you get a \$50,000 grant and then not have somewhere to go with it. How could we say, 'No'?"

McKay said the lab is a launching point for work in computer science in an elementary setting to computer science for all K-12 students in the district.

The station is equipped with a SMART TV, a green screen video area, a 3-D printer, and five work stations with individual desks that form different pods throughout. The shelves are full of puzzle pieces, blocks, art supplies and other necessities for the different projects.

On two sides of the rooms there are stations with tablets on them where videos

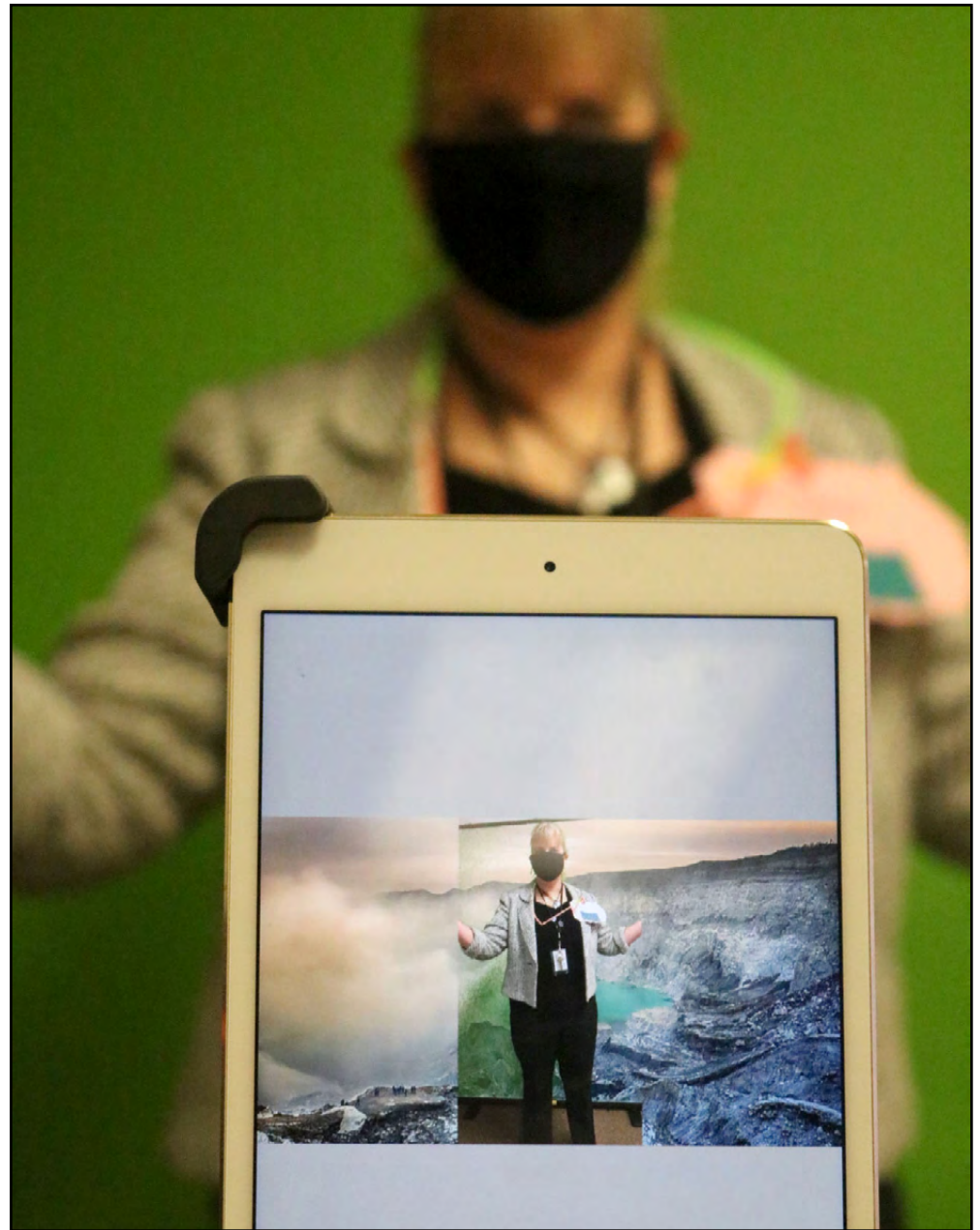


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison School District Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater gives a presentation from Yosemite National Park right in the STEAMhound Station at Richardson Elementary Tuesday afternoon.

can be played with projects associated with Osmo™ learning programs. That system uses the tablets to scan the students work areas where they are doing coding, spelling, drawing and more. There is also a Busy Bee station where initial programming problem solving exercises take place and other computer art stations.

The lab is an extension of a STEM lab, but includes the art.

"Our goal is to embrace the gifts of every child and I think we would have to include the arts as a big part of that," Harmon said.

LCCD hosts river, rail, trail weekend

LEE COUNTY - Come celebrate River and Rail Trail Weekend with an easy float on the backwaters of the Mississippi River at the Heron Bend Conservation Area on Sat., Sept. 26! Lee County Conservation will be providing 4-person canoes or single kayaks as well as life jackets for you and your family for no charge.

This all-ages program is extremely safe as the water is only a few feet deep in this part of the river. Just follow the lane around the front of the Lee County Conservation Center down to the river.

This event is free and no experience or registration is required. Just show up anytime between 1 and 4pm! Please wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. Contact Lee County Conservation with any questions at (319) 463-7673.



At this time we are also offering curbside pick-up for orders over \$20. Orders can be placed via phone (319-837-6126), email (sonnymarket@hotmail.com) or Facebook messenger (@sonnysupermarket). Immediate reaction to Social Media is not guaranteed.



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