



Pen City Current

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 245

Second phase of Bus. 61 project may get another look

Mayor-elect wants to look at doing 6th -18th at one time

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The city is two years behind on a planned reconstruction of Hwy. 61 through town. And mayor-elect Matt Mohrfeld wants to step on the gas a little bit. At Tuesday's regular board meeting, Mohrfeld said he didn't see the reason to keep doing the work in phases. "Can we do it all at once?" Mohrfeld said. "The money is there, the grants are there. You said it would take longer, but it is any different."

HR Green's Tim Cutsforth said he would have to look into the financing and grant timing on the rest of the phases. "We have to verify the timing of the money...of the (Surface Transportation Block) grants. I don't know if we can do that kind of a project yet, without having that money." Cutsforth said the money has been approved, but he couldn't remember the years on the grants. Mohrfeld said with the city is as far behind as it is, he didn't think that would be an issue. "Could you at least have a discussion on how that would impact the delay to businesses and citizens. It can't be that unusual that your chunking up 12 blocks at a time," Mohrfeld said. Mayor Brad Randolph said he appreciated the idea of

getting it done, but it's a huge section of the highway. "The perceived inconvenience, though, will be something that would have to be worked through," he said. Councilman Rusty Andrews said it's not just laying the pavement, but also putting in sewer lines would be rough. "It's one mobilization, one mile. They do that on highways all the time," Mohrfeld said. Cutsforth said the idea had merit. "It certainly could be done. It would take two construction seasons regardless for sure. It's just too big of a stretch," Cutsforth said. "But it's an interesting idea." Councilman Chris Greenwald said, as a business owner he's not sure he would want his road torn up for

See **HIGHWAY**, page 8



Courtesy Photo

Fort Madison High School students held their annual peanut butter drive over the past two weeks. The food pantry collected 616 jars this year.

FMHS students stick to peanut butter drive

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The annual peanut butter drive at Fort Madison High School generated 616 jars for the Fort Madison Food Pantry. Food Pantry President Lin Cramer said peanut butter is an excellent source of nutrition and is something that is given to every client that comes through the Food Pantry doors. High School Principal Greg Smith said the effort opens the eyes of students to putting others first. "I don't say it enough, but we have some of the fin-

est young people that you will find anywhere," Smith said. "It's easy to misunderstand this generation, especially for those of us who were born as a "baby boomer", but this small, but critical contribution to our community is evidence that they do care and will step up and come to the aid of others when asked to do so!" The jars were collected over the past few weeks by different classes and the Construction Trades class won this year with 13 students providing more 400 jars.

Area FBI op nets five arrests

Feds descend on Burlington after multi-year investigation

BY PCC STAFF

DAVENPORT – Eight defendants are facing federal criminal charges as part of a multi-year joint federal and state investigation of a large drug trafficking organization that operated out of Burlington. Five of the federal defendants were arrested Tuesday. Those arrested will make their initial appearance in federal court at the United States Courthouse, in Davenport, today. The charges were announced by Marc Krickbaum, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa; Kristi Johnson, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Omaha Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Lisa Schaefer, Des Moines County Attorney; Dennis Kramer, Burlington Chief of Police; and Robert Copley, Chief of Police of the Quincy, Illinois, Police Department. The charges stem from a long-term investigation conducted by numerous federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies including: the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Southeast Iowa Narcotics Taskforce; Burlington, Iowa, Police Department; Des Moines County, Iowa, Sheriff's Office; West Central Illinois Taskforce; Quincy, Illinois, Police Department; Drug Enforcement Administration; Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement; Henry

See **DRUG**, page 8

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

SHARON K. NICHOLS-KLINE

Sharon K. Nichols-Kline, 75, of Dallas City, Illinois passed away Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at the UnityPoint Health – Memorial Hospital in Carthage, Illinois.

Sharon was born on July 12, 1944 near Burnside, Illinois the daughter of Betty Marsden.

She worked at Sheaffer Pen in Fort Madison, Pioneer Lumber Company and as a custodian for the Dallas City school system. She enjoyed fishing, playing cards with friends, nature, watching birds and spending time with her family especially her two great-granddaughters; Lainey and Briella.



NICHOLS-KLINE

Survivors include one daughter, MaLinda (Greg) Olson of Dallas City; one grandson, Brett Pence and two great-granddaughters, Lainey and Briella.

Sharon was preceded in death by her mother and three sisters, Andrea Arnold, Gloria Sue Bowman and Peggy Hoenig.

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 22, 2019 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with Rev. Jim Luder officiating. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. until the time of services Friday at the funeral home. A memorial fund has been established in her memory. To leave a condolence please visit Sharon's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

OBITUARIES

OLIVE LORENE THORN

Olive Lorene Thorn, 97, of Keokuk, IA, died Monday, November 18, 2019 at UnityPoint Health-Keokuk.

She was born on November 6, 1922 in Unionville, MO, the daughter of Guerney and Ethel Pickett Mullenix. Lorene graduated from the Unionville High School with the Class of 1940.

On April 9, 1942, Lorene was united in marriage to Kenneth Eugene Thorn in Unionville. He preceded her in death on November 11, 1980.



THORN

She had been employed at Drydens/Sheller Globe in Keokuk for over 39 years, retiring in 1987.

Lorene attended the Cornerstone Church in Keokuk. She was a member of the Sheller Globe Arts and Craft Club and the Keokuk Area Hospital Auxiliary. She volunteered many hours with the Auxiliary, working in the gift shop, at the front desk, in the surgery waiting room and the hospital cart.

Lorene had a crafters heart whose hands were always busy doing embroidery projects and hand-stitching quilts. She enjoyed working on puzzle books and especially enjoyed word search puzzles. She loved to dry dishes and help with yardwork. Lorene had an adventurous soul and at age 80 went tubing on the river. She loved her family and treasured her visits with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by two daughters, Karen Thorn and Katherine Burgess both of Keokuk, four grandchildren, Kevin Knowles, Robert Knowles, Wayne Hays and Billy Hays, ten great-grandchildren, one brother, Johnnie (Mary) Mullenix of Blue Springs, MO, one sister, Anna Mae Lichtenberger of Lees Summit, MO, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Sharen Knowles, one sister, Pauline Gleason, four brothers, Albert at birth, Randall, Delbert and James Mullenix and two sons-in-law, Louis Knowles and Howard Burgess.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Pastor Jed Linebaugh officiating. Burial will be in the Sunset Memorial Garden in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 2 – 4 pm with the family meeting with friends at that time.

Memorials may be made to the Cornerstone Church of Keokuk.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at vigenmemorialhome.com.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/19/19 – 12:49 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue E.

11/19/19 – 1:52 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 1500 block of 18th Street.

11/19/19 – 2:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run on Sunnyside Drive.

11/19/19 – 3:24 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2000 block of Avenue I.

11/19/19 – 9:17 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1800 block of Avenue L.

11/19/19 – 11:53 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Avenue F.

11/20/19 – 1:46 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of 35th Street.

11/20/19 – 7:53 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue J.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/19/19 – 4:00 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Ian Hefernan, 37, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on warrant for parole violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

11/19/19 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, one lift assist, one gas odor call, and one fire detector activation at Fort Madison High School.

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Derek Breder, M.D.



Brent Woodbury, M.D.



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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Lee County News/Area News

Lee County foundation ends year with name change

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – At its 4th quarter meeting held last week The Community Foundation of North Lee County voted to change its name to The North Lee Community Foundation.

This is only one change of many taking place at the Fort Madison-based organization.

Since its founding in 2005, the Foundation had been affiliated with The Quad Cities Community Foundation. In June of this year, the board voted to dis-affiliate from The Quad Cities and re-affiliate with The Keokuk Area Community Foundation. Both the Quad Cities and Keokuk are Foundations that meet strict guidelines set forth by The National Council of Community Foundations based in Washington D.C., and both can accept affiliates.

Earlier this year, the Des Moines County Community Foundation, based in Burlington, Iowa left The

Quad Cities to join Keokuk as well.

Since it was established, North Lee and the Quad Cities have had a mutual agreement to equally share an annual 1% administrative fee assessed to all funds. In 2016, The Quad Cities voted to eliminate North Lee's portion, their only source of income.

"We had to re-affiliate or simply fold" said Steve Koellner, President.

"The entire board feels that we can provide an avenue for one to leave a legacy which in time will benefit many local charities. Our numbers are proof that this Foundation is working the way it was intended."

The local Foundation's portfolio consists of 88 endowment funds totaling \$16 million that have distributed just shy of \$4 million to local charities since 2005. A donor can contribute to one of many established community impact funds, or simply create a "named fund" with a specific non-profit being the beneficiary.

The North Lee Foundation is in the process of

transferring their funds to Pilot Grove Savings Bank, where they will be managed and invested by the bank's investment center.

Along with the transfer will come a newly designed website and the hiring of a part-time executive director. The group hopes to get all of this accomplished by third quarter of 2020.

The State of Iowa offers a 25% tax credit to contributions made to any Iowa based Community Foundation. This credit is in addition to Federal charitable deductions. For one to receive this tax credit, the money must be endowed into perpetuity and benefit an Iowa-based charity.

The board meets quarterly and consists of Steve Koellner as President, Jan Woodroffe as Vice President, and Jane Krebill as Secretary. Other board members include, Tim Gobble, Chuck Holmes, Joe Kowzan, Laurie Breen, Josh Denning, Chad Ward, Jared Reed, Matt Hayes, Dianne Hope, and Dick Fehseke.

Hwy 218 NB bridge closure starts forces 58-mile detour Saturday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MOUNT PLEASANT – Local officials are concerned that a bridge closure on Hwy. 218 near Salem will send heavy traffic on secondary roads and bridges in Lee County.

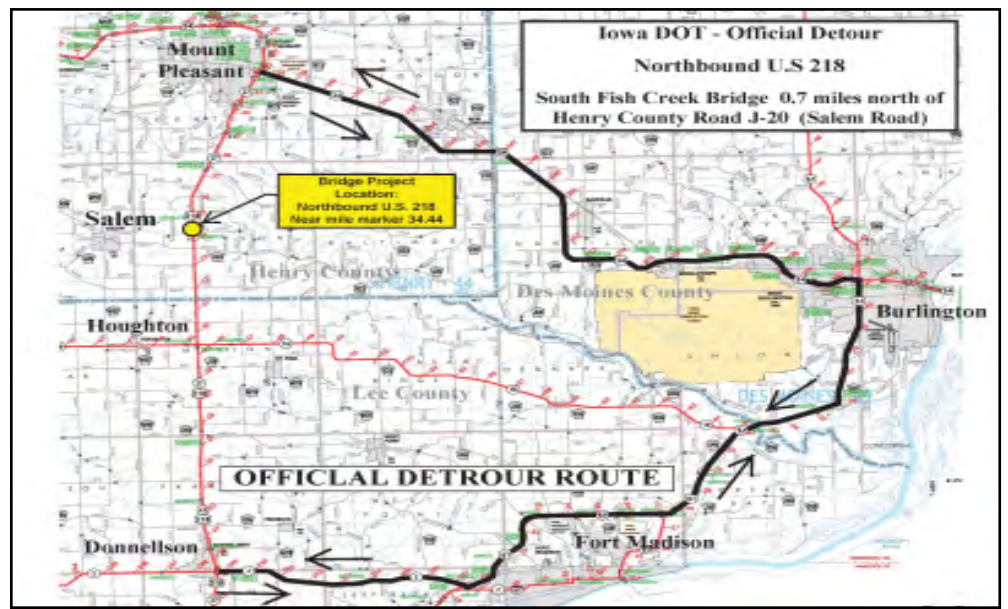
Bridge repairs to the northbound U.S. 218 bridge over South Fish Creek in Henry County will begin on Saturday and will require closing the bridge for approximately two weeks, weather permitting, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation's Mount Pleasant construction office.

Dynamic Message Signs will be in place along state highway routes to alert motorists of the pending bridge closure.

Through traffic will be directed onto a 56-mile marked detour route (see map) using Iowa 2 (east and west for approx. 8.4 miles), U.S. 61 (south and north approx. 22.4 miles), and U.S. 34 (east and west approx. 25.4 miles). Local traffic will have access to U.S. 218 except for the northbound lanes crossing the bridge over South Fish Creek (mile marker 34.44) during the temporary bridge closure.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said at Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisor's meetings that he has a concern for heavier traffic using backroads to avoid the long detour.

"I'm worried about semis using their locators to find shorter routes that would include roads and bridges that aren't made for that extra weight," he said.



Fox THEATRE

NOV 11

OPERATION PACIFIC

JOHN WAYNE
PATRICIA NEAL

NOV 25

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Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm

11/19
22 43 44 47 66
Mega Ball: 22
Megaplier: 3

11/19 MID-DAY
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11/19 EVENING
2 5 2

11/19 MID-DAY
8 4 4 6
11/19 EVENING
1 4 3 8

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Local News/Sports

Potowonok Circle gives Wyatt donation

FORT MADISON - Potowonok Circle of King's Daughters is pleased to announce the gift of a small memorial fund to honor the memory of Carol Wyatt, who passed away on September 29 of this year. Carol was the Area Program Coordinator for the Senior Meal program administered through Milestones Area Agency on Aging at the Newberry Center in Fort Madison, Iowa. King's Daughters had a long relationship with Carol. For many years, members of the Circle have coordinated with her to provide volunteers to deliver meals two days a month, along with some additional coverage as needed.

The members of King's Daughters were shocked and saddened to learn of the loss of such a wonderful person. Carol was dedicated to the aging individuals she served through her position with Milestones at the Newberry Center. She was an absolute joy to work with and she will be missed.

"It was proposed at our October meeting that we do something to honor Carol and bring attention to the wonderful contribution she made to this community. We had a few discussions among ourselves to determine what we were trying to accomplish with this memorial. The consensus was that we wanted to provide funds that would directly benefit members of the Fort Madison community," indicates a spokesperson for King's Daughters.

After a few discussions with Pam Taylor of Milestones regarding the intentions of the memorial, King's Daughters decided at their November meeting a dollar amount that their budget would allow. A check in the amount of \$160 for the Memorial will be delivered to the Newberry Center on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 11am and will be earmarked for special services related to recipients of Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Barnes leads FMMS 7th graders in win

BY PCC STAFF

FAIRFIELD – The Fort Madison boys 7th grade basketball team won again Tuesday night in Fairfield.

Caden Barnes threw in 12 points to lead the Hounds. Julian Dear had 10 points. Dayton Lamar lead Fort Madison in rebounds with eight on the night in the 'A' game.

Lamar also had eight points followed by Marcus Guzman with seven, Aiden Mitchell with five and Brody Cashman added a bucket and six boards.

In the 'B' game, Fort Madison fell 9-24. Kalib Heibrey led Fort Madison with four points and six rebounds. Tatum Schelich and Joseph Fuller each had two points. Noah Swigart added a free throw in the loss.

The 'C' team lost 4-33 with Jake Ehlers and Brady Wade scoring the two baskets for Fort Madison. Ehlers also had four rebounds.

Randolph leads HTC girls with 14 in win

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Holy Trinity Catholic 8th grade girls team has moved to 5-0 on the year with a 31-14 win over New London Monday night.

Natalie Randolph led the Crusaders with 14 points followed by Mary Kate Bendlage with 10. Reagan Holvoet had six points and Jenna Hellman added two.

The 7th grade girls also won Monday 23-11 to move to 4 -1 on the year. Isabella Callison had 10 points for HTC. Teagan Snaadt added eight and Anna Bendlage fired in five.

The girls travel to Notre Dame on Thursday night.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 21 Nov	Light Rain High- 53.2° F Low - 33.4° F
FRI 22 Nov	Snow High- 40.2° F Low - 31.6° F
SAT 23 Nov	Partly Cloudy High- 40.0° F Low - 32.6° F
SUN 24 Nov	Overcast High- 42.8° F Low - 38.1° F
Mon 25 Nov	Clouds High-51.6° F Low - 44.2° F

OpenWeatherMap

Current-Lee/Opinion

CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Fort Madison Wine & Beer Walk

Glasses go on sale this Friday at River Rocks from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$10. The event will be held in downtown Fort Madison on Friday, Nov. 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Memorial Turkey Shuffle

The annual Alice and Leo Schiller Memorial Turkey Shuffle will take place Nov. 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Ernie and Cheryl Schiller's house 2224 204th Avenue just east of Donnellson off Hwy. 2. Visit the following link for registration <http://livehealthyleecounty.org/index.php/community-events>

Community Thanksgiving

The annual Community Thanksgiving will be held Nov. 28th beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Fort Madison High School. Dine in is available and carryouts are available after 12:30 p.m. Call 319-371-5706 between Nov. 18th and 25 for deliveries or to volunteer. You can also contact the chamber at 372-5471 or by email at chamber@fortmadison.com.

Holiday Window competition

Businesses are being encouraged to take part in the Fort Madison Partner's Holiday Window Display Competition. Decorate a window, send a picture, get likes on Facebook and the business with the most hits wins. Deadline to sign up is Nov. 27. Windows will go on Facebook starting Dec. 4 with voting from Dec. 4-11th. The winner will be announced Dec. 13.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Lighted Parade Float Work Nights

Float work nights for the annual holiday lighted parade are held every Monday starting Sept. 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at 1200 Avenue I. Entrance is through the back. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Mistletoe on Main

This year's event will be held on Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in downtown Fort Madison. Shop local, and enjoy a day of Christmas cheer. Special treats, carriage rides, the North Pole Express and Santa!

PORT Ugly Sweater Fun Run

The annual fundraiser for the P.O.R.T. committee will be held on Dec. 1, 2019 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at noon.

Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's Enchanted Forest will be held in the Lee County Bank building following the Lighted Parade, and on Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Santa expected from 10 a.m. noon. The Forest will also be open on Saturdays Dec. 7, 14, and 21 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Businesses are encouraged to bring and decorate a tree for \$25.

Christmas Lighted Parade

The annual lighted parade will be held on Nov. 29 at 6:30 p.m. Call the Chamber at 319-372-5471 for more information.

Food Drive

The Keokuk Salvation Army is looking for donations to stock the Food and Soap Pantry from Nov. 1 -18th. Drop off locations locally include American Eyecare

Letter to the Editor

Rotary thanks those who helped with park fundraiser

Dear Editor:

About 13 years ago, Fort Madison Rotary adopted Central Park. In partnership with the City of Fort Madison, we have maintained it, landscaped it, repaired it and installed the children's playground. We have purchased the sound system for the bandstand, used by weddings and the Community Band. We also annually sponsor one Sunday performance.

This year, it was discovered that the bandstand needed more than routine repair as it was extensively damaged by termites and needed a complete overhaul. Even with Rotary Funds, Grants that we applied for and were awarded, and in-kind donations, we were unable to finance the costly repairs alone.

Under the leadership of current president Heather Huebner, the Rotary Central Park Maintenance Chair Gene Enke and with the help of the city, and local media, Daily Democrat and Pen City Current, we began a \$100,000 in 100 days for our 100th year of Rotary in Fort Madison. Together with Rotary Funds, Grants, local businesses and many many individuals, the goal was met.

The needed repairs to save the Bandstand are complete. Painting will be completed once warmer weather arrives. New period lighting has been installed, and the Statue of Liberty has been renovated. Remaining funds are in a special account to be used for future maintenance.

Fort Madison Rotary wishes to thank the city for partnering with us, the leaders, the volunteers, those who donated labor and equipment, and those who financially donated to a cause that is dear to all of Fort Madison – our beautiful Central Park. Thank you.

Jan Garza
2018-2019 President
Fort Madison Rotary

\$50,000

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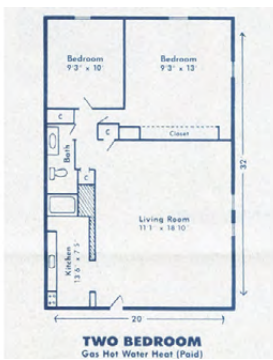
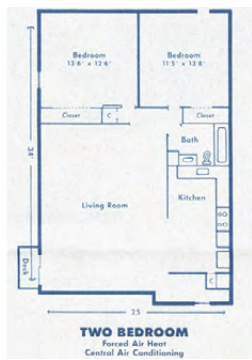
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From the Front

Engineer to take a second look at 6th-18th streets

HIGHWAY - Continued from Page 1

two years straight. He also asked if HR Green could look at the option without additional charges.

“Does this \$451,000 include you telling us what that would look like?” he asked Cutsforth.

“We can build it, and we can phase it, it’s just that you guys will have to take the phone calls,” Cutsforth said.

Mohrfeld said the design and build out won’t be any different if it’s two phases or one.

Andrews said people are going to complain when a guy is putting storm sewer in on 7th Street and no one is working the other six blocks. He also said it would be hard on contractors to leave several blocks open along the route to access downtown.



ANDREWS

“You’re gonna guarantee a contractor out of Des Moines is gonna come in here with 13 excavators one on every block putting storm sewer system in?” Andrews said.

Mohrfeld said the city hasn’t had a lot of luck getting contractors on four block chunks.

“If we keep doing the same thing, do we get the same result? Do we have a different bidding pool, then?” he said.

The money Mohrfeld is referring to is the money the state gave to Fort Madison when it turned over jurisdiction of the highway to the city back in 2013 in exchange for \$13.9 million when the bypass was constructed. The city has also secured federal grants to help pay for the work.



MOHRFELD

The project also included redoing several intersections such as the 27th Street and Avenue L intersection, which was completed in 2018, and straightening the curve in the 3500 and 3600 blocks of Avenue L, which was completed this year.

Cutsforth said the city will need to start showing some work on remaining phases to hold onto the grant money.

The city council voted 6-0, to pay HR Green just over \$450,000 for design and construction management of the second phase of the project which will run from 6th Street to 10th Street.

Randolph suggested that the cost might go up some doing the 12-block stretch, but it would probably be cheaper than the 20% the city would pay engineers for design and construction management for Phase III,

which is from 10th to 18th streets.

Plans include removing the current roadway and replacing it with concrete, including curbing and sidewalks. The road will be converted to a three-lane highway with a center turning lane.

Phase 1, from 2nd to 6th Streets and the one-way pairs on 18th and 20th Street should be completed by Thanksgiving 2020. The phase from 6th to 10th should be bid next year with construction set for April 1 in 2021.

But Mohrfeld said increasing the project from 6th to 18th might entice more bidders from further away which could make the price tag more competitive.

Randolph asked Cutsforth to come back at the beginning of the year with a brief synopsis on what doing the 12-block stretch would look like.

In other action, the council:

- voted 6-0, to refinance approximately \$11 million in water revenue bonds at a lower interest rate. The move could save the city more than \$1 million over the remainder of the term.

- voted 6-0, to accept completion of the Avenue L reconstruction from 35th to 36th streets.

- voted 6-0, to approve the first reading of vacating a portion of city-owned right of way in the 3500 block of Avenue L.

At least three are still wanted on indictments in federal round up

DRUG - Continued from Page 1

County, Iowa, Sheriff’s Office; Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Police Department; West Burlington, Iowa, Police Department; Keokuk, Iowa, Police Department; Ft. Madison, Iowa, Police Department; Lee County, Iowa, Sheriff’s Office; Iowa City, Iowa, Police Department; Johnson County, Iowa, Sheriff’s Office; North Liberty, Iowa, Police Department; Coralville, Iowa, Police Department; Muscatine County, Iowa, Sheriff’s Office; Louisa County, Iowa, Sheriff’s Office; Washington County, Iowa, Sheriff’s Office; Bettendorf, Iowa, Police Department; Illinois State Police; Monmouth, Illinois,

Police Department; Macomb, Illinois, Police Department; Galesburg, Illinois, Police Department; Adams County, Illinois, Sheriff’s Office; and Fulton County, Illinois, Sheriff’s Office.

Eight defendants were charged by complaint in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, stemming from a years-long investigation of this drug trafficking organization. Those arrested include Kendrick Page, Breon Raquon Armstrong, Lamar Harris, Tristan Davis and James Lewis Miles, Jr.

The identities of those who have not yet been arrested remain sealed at this time. Additionally, search warrants were executed at multiple locations in the Southern

District of Iowa, Northern District of Illinois, and Northern District of Texas. Others involved in this drug trafficking organization have previously been arrested in both the Southern District of Iowa, and the Central District of Illinois.

The charges in the complaints carry maximum penalties of between 40 years and life imprisonment. If convicted, the court must impose reasonable sentences under federal sentencing statutes and the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines. There is no parole in the federal court system.

The public is reminded that charges contain only accusations and are not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed in-

nocent and entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

These cases are part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. The Department of Justice reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department’s renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney’s Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally based strategies to reduce violent crime.



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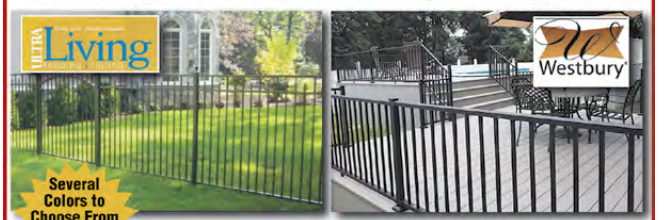
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