



Pen City Current

Thursday, July 26, 2018 | 9 pages | Volume 2 • Issue 175

County to look at options for jail kitchen

Estimates for improvements to kitchen too high for sheriff

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A plan to move to a new vendor for meal services may end up becoming an upgrade to the jail.

At Tuesday's Lee County Board of Supervisor's meeting, John Hansen of Midwest Construction Consultants and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber updated the board on the cost of retrofitting the current jail kitchen and possible other alternatives to allow a new vendor to provide meals to inmates at a reduced cost to the county.



FEDLER

Hansen told the board it would cost between a \$140,000 and \$162,000 to upgrade the kitchen to meet the specs of Consolidated Correctional Food Service out of Des Moines, for providing meals to the county.

Currently the Iowa State Penitentiary brings meals to the county jail at a cost of \$3.50 per meal twice a day. Weber said current numbers have the jail population at about 70, but last month they hovered around 100. At 75 meals per day, the jail is spending \$525 a day on meals from the prison, and that figure doesn't include a light breakfast which may include toaster pastries and milk or juice that jail staff purchase locally.

Consolidated would provide meals on a sliding scale and at 70 inmates, the meals would be approximately \$1.65 per meal. However consolidated would provide three meals per day. If the population would drop below 40, the meals would climb to \$2.40, which would still be cheaper at \$7.20 per day then the \$7.00 plus breakfast that is currently being spent. Weber has indicated that ISP has hinted at moving their price per meal to \$3.75.

Consolidated could come in and do the retrofitting for the jail, but would require a five-year commitment and

See **KITCHEN**, page 9



WEBER



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A little summer science

Emma Berry, 12, left, and Sydney Fraise, 11, center work with Richardson Elementary teacher Krys Plate Wednesday morning at the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The class was working on building and then programming Lego Robots for about three hours and were treated to lunch for their efforts by guest chef Madeline Goble. (See Page 3.)

County health survey underway

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Lee County Health Department is looking for more surveys as part of a three-year reboot on a community health needs assessment and improvement plan.

The LCHD in conjunction with Fort Madison Community Hospital and UnityPoint Health in Keokuk, have posted a survey online and through social media to gauge county resident's thoughts on where focus should be placed with regards to health care needs.

The survey can be found on the Internet at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/26FJGJY>.

Michele Ross, the Community Health Program director at LCHD said the survey is intended for

See **SURVEY**, page 9

Gehle takes gold at paralympic junior nationals

2018 FMHS grad wins shot, takes silver in discus, javelin

BY PCC STAFF

FORT WAYNE, Ind. - A 2018 Fort Madison High School graduate earned a gold medal Wednesday at the junior national paralympic competitions in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Caleb Gehle, 18, of Fort Madison won the gold medal in the shot put at the Adaptive USA Junior Nationals on Wednesday morning. Then, after winning gold, Gehle went on to earn silver in the discus and in the

javelin competitions.

The Fort Wayne event is the national paralympic competition for people under 23 and he earned the trip when he qualified in Indiana in April. In 2017 he went to Middleton, Wis., for the same event.

He will be racing in the 200-meter wheelchair race on Thursday and will finish up his events on Friday when he will race in the 100-meter and 400-meter chair races.

In an unexpected turn of events, Gehle met up with a group of racers from Minnesota who asked him to compete with them in the 4x100 meter relay. So Gehle

See **GEHLE**, page 6

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Obituaries/Celebrations



Accident stops trains

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue and Lee County EMS personnel tend to the victim of a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of Avenue H and Sixth Street. The driver lost control and struck the embankment leading up to the tracks, deploying the airbags, and blocking the tracks halting train traffic for about an hour.

Birth Announcement

RYKER HAHNBAUM

WEST BURLINGTON - Tiffani and Connem Hahnbaum are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ryker Hahnbaum, on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at the Great River Medical Center.

Grandparents are Mike and Tammy Wilson, of Fort Madison, Steve and Laura Hahnbaum, of Wapello, and Jackie Wirley, of Burlington.

The Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

DEATH NOTICE

NELLIE RUTH MCKAY

Nellie Ruth McVay, 91 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 7:20 a.m. Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at the Donnellson Health Center, Donnellson, Iowa. Arrangements are pending at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison.

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Pen City Current
Founded in 2016



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For the Record/Scene Around Town

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

7/24/2018 - 9:52 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 5000 block of Ave. O.
 7/24/2018 - 11:08 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 400 block of Ave. E.
 7/24/2018 - 11:49 a.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Ave. O.
 7/24/2018 - 2:44 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 11000 block of Ave. I.
 7/24/2018 - 2:44 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a gas drive off in the 1700 block of Ave. H.

7/24/2018 - 4:14 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/ theft in the 1900 block of Ave. H.
 7/24/2018 - 5:54 p.m - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2600 block of Ave. H.
 7/24/2018 - 10:07 p.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Jessica Jean Downey, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of River Valley Rd., on a charge of driving while barred. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on promise to appear.

arrested Cresten Allen Downey, 39, of Mount Sterling, at the Sheriff's office on a charge of failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
 7/25/2018 - 6:55 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Amy Lynn Bunker, 33, of Wayland, Mo., at the Sheriff's office, on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and held.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

7/25/2018 - 1:12 a.m - Lee County Sheriff's deputies

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

07/24/18 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.



Chef for a day

Madeline Gobble, puts the last layer of meat sauce over freshly cooked raviolis Wednesday at the Elliott Test Kitchen. Gobble made lunch and snacks for about 20 youth that were working on Lego Robotics for about three hours with Fort Madison teachers Krys and Jim Plate.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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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



7/24
 1 2 4 19 29
 Mega Ball: 20
 Megaplier: 3



7/24 MID-DAY
 3 6 8
7/24 EVENING
 1 2 7



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7/24 EVENING
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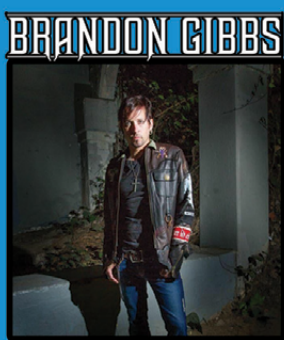
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Beer Pong Open Play: 4pm - 6pm
Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close
Entertainment Area Open: 4:00pm - Close
Beer Pong Tournament: 6pm - 10pm

Friday:

Volleyball Practice: 3pm - 6pm
Dragon Boat Practice: 3pm - 7pm
Commercial & Craft Open: 4pm - 7pm
Food Vendors Open: 4pm - Close
Entertainment Area Open: 4pm - Close
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 5pm - 5:15pm
TEEN STREET DANCE (Live DJ): 9:30pm - 11pm

Saturday:

5k Fun Run/Walk: 6:30am - 8:30am
Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 5pm
Food Vendors Open: 11am - Close
Dragon Boat Races: 9am - Close
Kan-Jam Tournament: 10am - 2pm
Pickleball Tournament: 10am - 2pm
Volleyball Tournament: 10am - 2pm
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 12pm - 12:15pm
Entertainment Area Open: 3:00pm - Close
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 4:45pm - 5pm

Sunday:

Legion Charity Breakfast (benefiting area veterans): 8am - Noon
Motorcycle Stunt Show: 8am - Noon
Commercial & Craft Open: 8am - 3pm
Food Vendors Open: 11am - 7pm
RiverFest Float Trip (Kayak, Canoe, SUP Float): 9am - Noon
Harmony Sunday Services: 10:30am - Noon
Captives Set Free (Christian Rock Band): Noon - 1pm
Bags Tournament: 2pm - 6pm
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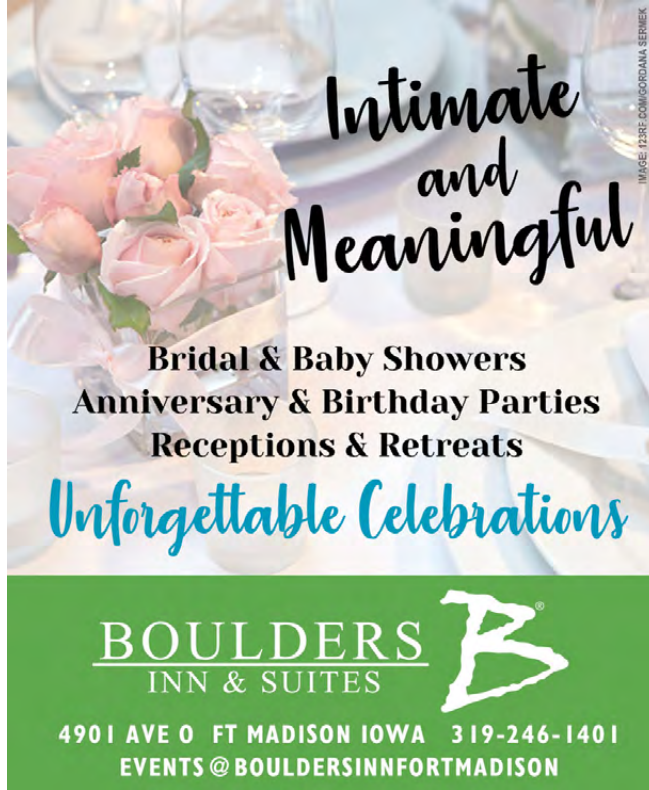
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Current-Lee/Classifieds

Gehle prepping now for World Games in Barcelona

GEHLE - Continued from Page 1

will be competing in that event on Friday as well.

Gehle competed in several events at the State Track meet in Des Moines this year, including a 5th-place finish in the shot put and sixth place finishes in three wheel chair races.

After a short return trip home, Gehle and his family will be headed to Barcelona, Spain where he will compete in the Cerebral Palsy World Games from Aug. 5th-12th.

The Pen City Current will have a full recap of Gehle's performance for the week when the junior nationals conclude on Friday.

CURRENT-LEE

FORT MADISON - The following is a list of events in and around north Lee County as submitted to Pen City Current.

LCHD Immunization Clinic

The Lee County Health Department will hold a children's immunization clinic on Thursday, July 26 at LCHD's facility on John Bennett Drive from noon to 5:30. The clinic is open to children with no insurance, those insured by Iowa Medicaid/MCO or those with private insurance that doesn't cover vaccines. Call 319-372-5225 with questions.

Old Settler's Summer Concert Series

"Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's on Friday, July 27th when the Pork Producers will be ready to serve you at 5 pm at the Old Settler's Park in Fort Madison.

Kensington Cheese Cake Sale

The Kensington in Fort Madison is now taking orders for cheesecake jars to raise funds for its Relay for Life team. The 16 oz. cheesecake jars are available through Friday for delivery or carryout by calling 319-372-4233 or by message on The Kensington Facebook page.

CAMP WANNAMORRA

The Fort Madison YMCA will be holding a four-day camp focusing on basic life skills, safe use of social media, peer problem solving and basic cooking for area youth ages 11 to 15 years old. Cost of the camp is \$100 for members, \$125 for non members and runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily. To register contact the YMCA at 319-372-2403.

Siemens Gamesa Blood Drive


Thursday, July 26 from 6:30am - 8:30am OR 11:30am - 3:30pm

MVRBC Donor Bus - 2597 Hwy 61. To donate, call Susan Beckman at (319) 463-2184.

Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

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SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2018

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Area News/Weather

Weber wants out-of-county inmate revenues to pay for kitchen

KITCHEN - Continued from Page 1

the prices of the meals would go to \$2.03 per meal, at a minimum, to pay for the upgrade of the kitchen. Lower inmate populations, again, would result in a higher per meal rate.

"I talked with John yesterday, I'm disappointed in how much the expense would be to put the kitchen in," Weber said. "There's another avenue we could take if we want to move forward and that's the expansion area next to the kitchen. In reality, if we changed that into a cell block area we'd probably only get about four cells in there anyway, so as far as actually making a difference in space for inmates, it really doesn't do that much for us."

The expansion area Weber was referring to is a partially finished 300 ft by 300 ft room with a garage door, that was originally planned to be used for jail expansion when and if needed. But Weber said a better cell expansion area would be the swing-dorm area where sex offenders are currently kept. Weber said that space would probably be enough to add room for 12 more inmates.

The new kitchen would require a grease reclamation and venting systems that would require heavy renovations including going through two roofs in the current kitchen and concrete floors to the sanitary sewer underneath for the grease reclaimers. The alternative location only has a single roof and part of the floor is still gravel with the sanitary sewer lines less than two feet underground, which Hansen said would be substantially easier and cheaper to deal with.

Supervisor chair Don Hunold told Weber and Hansen to have some contractors come in and give an accurate bid for the work in the alternative area.

Weber also talked to the board about funding the project with revenues received from housing inmates from other counties. He said currently the county is receiving upwards of \$20,000 a month from Henry and Des Moines counties for housing inmates from those areas.

"We have their back, because they've had ours, but I would prefer whatever money we spend on this we let Des Moines and Henry County pay for because we're making this income from holding their inmates," Weber said. "If we haven't done so, let's set that money aside to pay for it. That's around \$20,000 a month."

County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said Wednesday that the county does have a revenue line in the sheriff's budget for the incoming revenue from other counties.

"We have their backs because they've had ours, but I'd prefer whatever money we spend on this we let Des Moines and Henry County pay for because we're making this income from holding their inmates."

-Stacy Weber,
Lee County Sheriff

But she said that revenue goes over the general fund. Weber cited Iowa Code 356.7 to the supervisors which indicates that 60% of all revenue from housing inmates whether local or state or federal has to be earmarked for jail expenses in the county that received the revenue.

"I'll have to get with him and work on that because, when he says it - his revenues don't cover his budget," Renstrom said on Wednesday.

Supervisor Matt Pflug asked Weber at Tuesday's meeting, what he thought would happen with the inmate population trends.

Weber said he thinks the business from Henry County is going to end because they've broken ground on a new jail, which would be up and running in about a year and half.

"But I think the Des Moines County board is pretty satisfied the way things are going now. That's how I interpret their outlook on this. I think they've had one or two bond issues that weren't successful," Weber said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he agreed with Weber that the money for housing other counties' inmates should stay with the jail. Fedler told Weber and Hansen that he thought having a contractor come in give a solid bid on the project is the best way to go.

"I like your idea of getting contractors to come in and get estimates and then we'll have a more accurate idea of costs instead of trying to do it ourselves and then contractors come in with a lot higher amount, which has happened in the past," Fedler said.

Survey will help plan with county goals

SURVEY - Continued from Page 1

a wide range of county residents including high school students.

"We take care of everybody in the county, so everyone's opinion is welcome in this."

She said the assessment used to be done every five years by the health department but the hospitals are required to do it every three years so LCHD aligned with them to get a more comprehensive look at the needs.

"It just makes sense when you look at the gobs and gobs of data that we have to go through to do this all together," Ross said. "It's very important because we want to know what people throughout the county think are the health care needs of the county."

Some of the programs that have been born out of the assessment include the Live Health Lee County Initiative and another task force that looked at transportation needs in the county.

The survey will remain open until Aug. 31 and Ross said although 850 surveys have already been completed, the county had set a target of 1,000 surveys. The link became live earlier this summer and LCHD staff has been working at senior health fairs and other clinics and

interactions to direct people to the survey. She said the last assessment drew about 750 responses.

Both hospitals also use the data to program their facilities.

Ross in previous assessments residents have identified such issues as mental health, obesity, chronic health problems, and promoting healthy behaviors as important issues in the county.

"It's the residents way of giving their input of needs. We will be looking at what the people feel are our biggest needs and what kind of impact we can make with the priorities coming out strongest," she said. "Basically we just want community input. We hope to have targeted focus groups and when we go to senior health clinics we do some things in person and then we tell them about the survey monkey."

Once the data has been received and poured through, Ross said a large meeting will be held to prioritize the responses and make a plan of action.

"Once we determine what our needs are, we'll have a large meeting and prioritize," she said. "We'll probably narrow it down to three focus areas. When you do five or six goals, that focus tends to get too wide."

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 26 Jul



Light Rain
High - 76.4° F | Low - 63.4° F

FRI 27 Jul



Few Clouds
High - 74.5° F | Low - 59.9° F

SAT 28 Jul



Light Rain
High - 77.8° F | Low - 59.9° F

SUN 29 Jul



Light Rain
High - 80.6° F | Low - 67.1° F

MON 30 Jul



Heavy Rain
High - 77.2° F | Low - 65.4° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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