



Agenda: Board of Trustees
August 4, 2022, at 4 pm
Community Room, Ladd Library

Literacy, Access, & Inclusion

Library Board President – Clint Twedt-Ball

- A. Call to Order
- B. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - o Minutes: July 7, 2022
- C. Public Comments and Communications
- D. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
- E. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
- F. Board Education: PressReader – Erin Horst
- G. Library Board Committee Reports
 - o Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - o Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - No Action
 - o Westside Project Committee – Clint Twedt-Ball, Committee Chair
 - No Action
- H. Library Director’s Report
- I. Old Business
- J. New Business
- K. Adjournment

The next Board of Trustees meeting is **September 1, 2022 at 4 pm**, in the Community Room, Ladd Library.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact Jessica Musil, Library Administrative Assistant, at 319.261.7323 or email musilj@crlibrary.org as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Cedar Rapids Public Library
Board of Trustees
July 7, 2022

Board members in attendance: [President] Jade Hart and [Vice President] Clint Twedt-Ball, Susie McDermott, Jeremy Elges, Elisabeth Hepworth, and Chris Casey (all in person); Monica Challenger and Hassan Selim (via Zoom)

Unable to attend: Rafael Jacobo

Staff in attendance: Dara Schmidt, Amber McNamara, Todd Simonson, and Jessica Musil (in person); Patrick Duggan, Todd Simonson, and Erin Horst (via Zoom)

Others: Libby Slappey, President, Friends of the Cedar Rapids Public Library (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order
 - Ms. Hart called the meeting to order at 4 pm.
- B. Nominating Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Member
 - **Action:** Slate of Officers FY23
 - Clint Twedt-Ball (President) & Monica Challenger (Vice President)
 - The committee recommended Mr. Twedt-Ball to serve as President and Ms. Challenger to serve as Vice President. There was no discussion.
The motion to accept the Slate of Officers for FY23 carried with unanimous approval.
 - Recognition of Jade Hart, President. Ms. Hart was appointed the board's president in June 2020. Her term, which was during the pandemic, remained steady with her thoughtful and supportive leadership. Mr. Twedt-Ball and Ms. Schmidt expressed gratitude and thanks to Ms. Hart. She was presented with a gift: her last name spelled out in letter photos taken throughout the library.
 - Welcome of Chris Casey and Elisabeth Hepworth, New Trustees
 - Ms. Casey and Ms. Hepworth were welcomed to the board. Ms. Hepworth is honored to serve on the board, especially focusing on the library's work with immigration and refugee populations. Ms. Casey previously volunteered on the Library Foundation board, and remained passionate about literacy following that term, and is excited to serve in another capacity.

Mr. Selim joined the meeting at 4:09 pm.

- C. Consent Agenda – **Action**
 - Minutes: June 2, 2022
 - Special Event Application
Ms. Hart motioned to accept the consent agenda. Ms. McDermott seconded. The motion carried with unanimous approval.
- D. Public Comments and Communications
 - There being none, the meeting continued
- E. Foundation Report – Charity Tyler
 - Ms. Tyler is traveling. Ms. Schmidt noted updates for the Foundation will be addressed in the Westside Project Committee report.
- F. Friends of the Library Report – Libby Slappey
 - Ms. Slappey reported. The Cherry Building space has been reduced by half, which also reduces their expenses. The Friends earned well during the July Farmers Markets. Sales figures for the Amazon account have also done well.

- The group is planning their annual weekend fall sale in November, which will be hosted at the downtown library for the first time since 2013.
- G. Ms. Casey asked how long the Friends have sold books on Amazon. Ms. Slappey believes the online sales started at least five years ago. She explained how the system works.
- H. Library Board Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – Monica Challenger, Committee Chair
 - Ms. Challenger reviewed the May 2022 financials. The library is slightly below our revenues; however, there is no concern because revenues match the expenditures. Discussion of printing management – lease so we don't have to fix, newer equipment, ADA compliance and more supported languages.
 - **Action:** Access Systems Print Management Agreement
 - The library sought a new print management system to replace and improve aging equipment; reduce staff time, down time, and internal maintenance; and offer ADA compliant machines and language options. The library recommends a lease instead of buying equipment to allow for improvements at the end of the five-year term.

The motion to accept the Access Systems print management agreement, as presented in the packet, carried with unanimous approval.

- Personnel and Policy Committee – Susie McDermott, Committee Chair
 - **Action:** Policy Review. The follow policies were reviewed by the committee.
 - 2.04 Confidentiality of Library Records. The committee recommended clarifying that room reservation contact information is considered public record and is displayed on the screen outside the room. The final sentence was struck because it does not match actual practice.
 - 3.02 Unattended Children. No changes were recommended.

The motion to accept the policies as presented in the board packet was carried with unanimous approval.

- Westside Project Committee – Clint Twedt-Ball, Committee Chair
 - Mr. Twedt-Ball reported. The Foundation board moved to purchase a 27-acre plot of land at the intersection of Wiley Blvd and 20th Street SW. The permanent Ladd Library will take up a portion, and remaining land will be sold. This parcel was not originally for sale but after conversations with the land owner, the Foundation came to an agreement for purchase. The land is very close to Ladd's current location, which is intentional to continue prime impact in that neighborhood.
 - In addition, the Library has released an RFP seeking an architect firm to design, bid, and build the new westside library project. Bids are due Friday, July 22.
 - Ms. Casey asked if the Library worked with the City to select this property. Yes, the City has been involved and helped to identify parcels of land or existing buildings that would meet the project requirements. For example, it must remain in the area, be on the bus route, etc.
 - Mr. Twedt-Ball asked when we should expect to hear from county regarding ARPA funds? Ms. Schmidt anticipates we will know by August. Funds must be spent by the end of 2026. Ms. Casey asked if there are concerns about the expenditure deadline. Ms. Schmidt noted the deadline is tight but projections indicate we have enough time. The financial feasibility study will be done around the same time an architectural firm is hired, so the firm can better understand available funding as the design has to align with the feasibility study.

Mr. Twedt-Ball noted that the Library Board committees' members will change and he'll reach out to individual trustees regarding requests to join committees for the fiscal year.

I. Library Director's Report

- The community's Campaign for Grade Level Reading, called Reading into Success, collaborates with the library to house a Literacy Coordinator position. The current funding stream ends this year, so the library is looking at other funding streams including partial library funding in support of the strategic plan.
 - The Materials department debuted a new resource called PressReader. Users can browse over 7,000 newspapers and magazines in over 60 different languages. Our community can then access more than what we can offer in print.
 - In the last month, over 3,000 patrons have attended off-site and in-building programs. We are excited to serve so many following limited programs in the last two years.
 - The Library has filled a new position, Library Navigator, this fiscal year following a request for personnel increases. The Service Navigator and Library Navigator positions are collaborations with Willis Dady Emergency Services. The positions work together to offer case management and social service navigation for patrons in the library.
 - Strategic Plan – Operational Plan
 - The leadership team reviewed the plan and split it up over the next three years based on variables, such as timing, order, and department availability. Tasks were then assigned to departments and a leader. Strategic plan committees are formed with interested staff who then complete the work. Staff will first create the initiatives and the measures of success.
 - Ms. Schmidt briefly reviewed the year one calendar. Starting in July, a few initiatives will begin. The board will get regular reports as initiatives conclude as well as see reports in the board packet.
 - Ms. McDermott received the American Library Association (ALA) and United for Libraries Trustee Citation at the June ALA conference in Washington, DC. She was selected as the 2022 awardee out of hundreds of applications from across the nation. Ms. Schmidt included an article in the board packet. The article outlines the service and dedication Ms. McDermott has served the library and community as a library volunteer and trustee.
- J. Old Business
- There being no old business, the meeting continued.
- K. New Business
- There being no new business, the meeting continued.
- L. Adjournment
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 4 pm in the Conference Room, Downtown Library

Category	Platform	Metrics	June 2021	June 2022	% Change
Program Attendance	In Person and Virtual	Attendance at Library Programs and Videos	3177	3,213	1%
Digital Collection Use	OverDrive	eBook Circulation	11,012	7,819	-41%
		eAudiobook Circulation	9,097	8,007	-14%
		New Users	210	271	23%
	cloudLibrary	eBook Circulation	1,315	1,649	20%
		eAudiobook Circulation	869	1,036	16%
		New Users	55	48	-15%
	Hoopla	eBook Circulation	715	942	24%
		eAudiobook Circulation	903	1,462	38%
		eMusic Circulation	96	136	29%
		eVideo Circulation	415	455	9%
		New Users	75	72	-4%
	Freegal	eMusic Downloads	1,233	942	-31%
		eMusic Streaming	2,191	2,298	5%
New Users		14	11	-27%	
Kanopy	eVideo Circulation	1,056	1,085	3%	
Total	Total Digital Circulation	28,902	25,831	-12%	
Other Online Use	Databases	Visits	17,129	17,840	4%
	CRLibrary.org	Visits	13,604	16,175	16%
	WiFi	Logins	6,110	11,196	45%
Social Media	Facebook	Followers	10,454	10,811	3%
	Instagram	Followers	3,648	3,855	5%
	YouTube	Views	4,225	8,567	51%
Meeting Room Use	Downtown	Number of Reservations	25	352	93%
	Downtown	Number of People	207	2784	93%
	Ladd	Number of Reservations	24	81	70%
	Ladd	Number of People	178	855	79%
Number of Visitors	Downtown	Door Count - Downtown	15,523	27,299	43%
	Ladd	Door Count - Ladd	6,277	10,186	38%
	Total	Door Count - Total	21,800	37,585	42%
Curbside Holds	Total	Curbside Holds - Number of Patrons	255	134	-90%
*Number of items was not possible after Polaris transition					
Materials Circulation	Circulation	Print Circulation	39,213	54,477	28%
		Total Circulation	64,327	75,402	15%
		MLN Circulation (Print only)	73,802	86,904	15%

Keep your child engaged in learning with just 20 minutes of reading a day

Reading is an ‘access point’ to all other learning and can help kids avoid the ‘summer slide’

By Grace King, for The Gazette

Just 20 minutes of reading a day can help your child be better prepared to return to school this fall.

Like athletes train to keep their muscles strong, children need to flex their brains over the summer months to maintain the knowledge they gained over the last school year. Reading and literacy are the most important skills for children to maintain in order to be ready for learning in all other academic subjects, experts say.

“Think about working out — if you go a period of time without doing that, it takes a long time to get back in shape,” said Kate Stanton, principal at Washington Elementary School in Mount Vernon. “Reading is no different. Our brain forgets, especially at the lower levels of elementary school when we’re just becoming readers.”

Practicing the act of sitting down and focusing on reading is important so children can pick up where they left off in school, Stanton said. Their “bodies are remembering how to read,” she said.

Reading to children also is important to developing and maintaining their listening

comprehension. For children who can’t yet read, it’s valuable for them to look at picture books and create a story based on the pictures they see, Stanton said.

“Just 20 minutes of reading a night is linked to greater student success,” said Deborah Reed, director of the Iowa Reading Research Center.

Choose books that align with a child’s interests and act out the story together.

Use props like stuffed animals, baby dolls and playhouses to help children think critically about characters, setting and plot, according to

the Iowa Reading Research Center.

Make reading a part of family activities. Plan trips to the library as fun events and keep a bag of books in the car to read even if it’s just a 10-minute drive, Reed said.

When reading, ask questions about characters’ feelings, what might happen next in the story and what your child might do if they were in the same situation to encourage thinking skills.

“Yes, we want students to be good readers, but reading and writing are access points to learning,” Reed said. “Many classes are text-based like



Paloma Bribresco, 6, skims a book as she looks for more books to take home in the children’s non-fiction section at the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library on Dec. 27, 2021. (Jim Slosiarek, The Gazette)

social studies or science. It’s a critical skill.”

Another beneficial thing families can do together is make a grocery list: practice sorting by putting the items into categories such as fruits and vegetables and name items in the grocery store to practice vocabulary.

Public libraries are great resources to keep children en-

gaged in reading and learning over the summer.

Children are learning to read from kindergarten to third grade, said Dara Schmidt, director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Fourth grade and beyond is when children are expected to read to learn.

Model the behavior you want to see, Schmidt said.

“Grab a book and sit down with your kids for 10 minutes,” she said.

The library’s mobile technology lab — loaded with laptops, e-readers and tiny robots to help kids learn coding — will be visiting Cedar Rapids parks all summer long.

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com

Intermittent fasting can help you redefine your relationship with food

By Galen Hawthorne, for The Gazette

In the current climate of fad diets, weight loss crazes and increased interest in healthy eating practices, it’s hard to know what’s worth trying. A newer option that’s being explored is intermittent fasting. Intermittent Fasting, has grown in popularity in recent years, much like keto, paleo and other diet trends. Simply put, intermittent fasting is an eating pattern that cycles between periods of fasting and periods of non-restrictive eating. But how does it work and what does it do?

Meg Olsen, a registered dietitian nutritionist at UnityPoint’s Healthy Living Clinic in Cedar Rapids, said that this mindful diet regimen is intended to promote change in our body composition. “Studies suggest it can help insulin resistance, blood pressure, cholesterol and possibly improve longevity,” she said. “It can be a positive eating pattern to try if you’re in a good health state to be doing it.”

There are many ways to get on to an intermittent fasting schedule, but Olsen highlighted the three most common styles: Alternate day, 5:2, and 16/8.

“Alternate day is one day of non-restriction followed by a day of very restricted eating,” says Olsen. In any of these formats, a “restricted eating” day involves reducing your caloric intake to roughly 25 percent of the daily recommendation, typically meaning one meal of 400-500 calories and avoiding drinking beverages that contain calories.

In 5:2 fasting, a person goes through five days of non-fasting, and then has two days of restricted eating. This is an easy schedule to follow for someone who feels unable to pursue mindful eating during the work week, but can restrict their dining options on weekends.

16/8 fasting involves breaking your day up into eating hours and fasting hours. 16/8 is 16 hours of fasting, which factors in sleeping, and 8 hours of non-restricted eating. Another common schedule for hourly restriction is 12/12, which you may be doing already.

“Time-restricted eating is more common of a pattern for people to choose,” says Olsen. “It follows that normal pattern of us eating for a certain time period in the day and then we go to bed.”

Another factor in intermittent fasting is paying attention to the quality and quantity of the foods you choose to eat. UnityPoint’s Healthy Living Clinic may use intermittent fasting but it is not the primary method of weight management at the clinic. For patients who utilize this approach, Olsen works to establish good choices during both restricted and non-restricted periods. “At mealtimes, aim for something that has fiber to it, like fruits, veggies, and whole grains,” Olsen says. “You want



(AdobeStock)

some form of protein, be that from an animal or a plant. Use fats that are heart healthy, like olive oil, avocado oil, nuts and seeds. Have at least three food groups in every meal to have an appropriate balance of calories and nutrition. Avoid ultra-processed foods that only fill you up for a short amount of time. People gravitate toward those things because they’re looking for energy. Their body says, ‘We just need some energy in here.’ You gravitate toward things that are convenient.”

One common pitfall for people trying intermittent fasting is overeating during non-restrictive periods. “They want to go hard, they think there’s no limits, so they’re not being aware of portion sizes or calories or anything like that,” says Olsen. “That’s where you need that guidance, someone to say, ‘This is what you’re aiming for on those days that you’re not fasting,’ so you’re not creating malnutrition.”

An intermittent fasting diet is a good option for people who are trying to be more mindful of their eating patterns. It is frequently offered as a tool to improve health, lower blood pressure, or work toward better cholesterol numbers. While adopting this manner of eating can have positive overall health benefits, it’s not a silver bullet to shed pounds.

“You could use it for weight loss,” Olsen says, “but the effects aren’t that great after three to six months. The effects are the same as if you were doing caloric restriction on its own.”

It’s good practice to consult your primary care physician or a registered dietitian before trying out a new diet, but Olsen noted that some people will need to employ caution before proceeding. “People with Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 with insulin dependence, people with a history of disordered eating or who are pregnant or breastfeeding — we don’t want them doing it,” she said.

When pursued with advice from a medical professional, intermittent fasting can be a safe and healthy way to redefine your relationship with food, but Olsen also offered some warning signs to be aware of.

“If someone who’s not insulin dependent notices trouble with their blood sugar — too high or too low — that can be a problem. If you notice you’re struggling with energy throughout a whole day, feeling nauseous or just not good, it’s time to break that. We don’t want anybody doing this and passing out or harming their health. Increased anxiety or negative feelings about food, that’s not healthy either.”

Mixing intermittent fasting with other diets can cause additional issues, according to Olsen. “My perspective is it’s not a great idea, because you’re adding further restrictions. There’s going to be extra stress on the body. You could lose a food group, or change your timing. People get burned out very fast from that because they’re adding a restriction on a restriction. It’s not setting yourself up for success.”

While many positive effects of intermittent fasting are known, Olsen said that scientific studies into the diet are very new. “A lot of them are done initially on rats and cells. Those studies being short term and not all human research can make it tricky to interpret that data directly to human health. I encourage people to look at the actual research studies and how long they’re running.”

On the whole, Olsen had a positive outlook on the implementation of healthy eating through intermittent fasting, when used as directed. “I hope people will be willing to reach out to people who know more about the effects. If they can be pre-warned, we can plan through it. Being aware of when and how long you’re eating is a powerful tool.”

Restorations

Workshop offers tips on repairing old windows

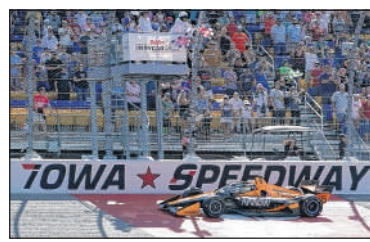
Iowa Today, 2A



Racing in Newton

O'Ward wins; another driver hospitalized

Sports, 1B



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Mostly cloudy. H 79 L 61 9B

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Plugging into new SUMMERTIME FUN



Andrew Cejakemig (right), 12, plays musical notes on a cardboard guitar he made and programmed, while Logan Bieber, 12, works on his coding on Wednesday during a Circuits and Coding Camp at the Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids. Jen Eilers, programming librarian at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, watches them work. The free weeklong camp, sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Public Library, gives children hands-on experience doing circuitry and coding projects. (Jim Slosiarek photos/The Gazette)

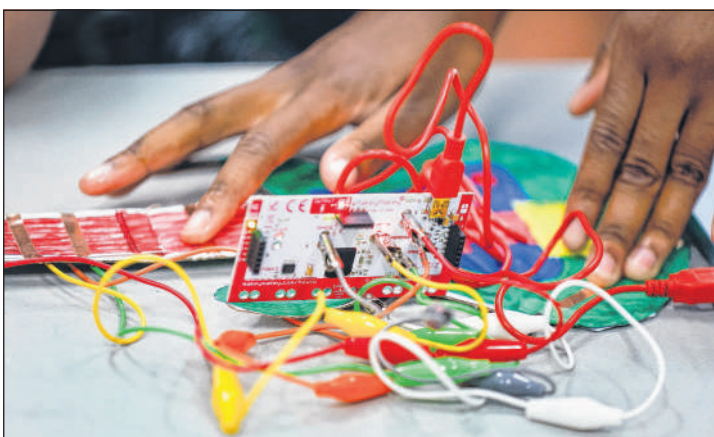
C.R. library exploring effective summertime STEM activities

By Grace King, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Madison Strickland, 13, colored a cardboard cutout of an electric guitar hot pink, wiring it with conductive copper tape and programming musical sounds on a computer, so she can play the cardboard like an electric guitar.

The rising eighth-grader at Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy did this using a Makey Makey — technology that connects objects to computer keys using a circuit board, clips and a USB cable to send the computer a signal — at a free, weeklong Circuits and Coding Camp she attended last week through the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

The Circuits and Coding Camp is one of three science, technology, engineering and math-based summer



Olivia Calvin, an AmeriCorps volunteer, tries out a cardboard guitar as she works with Scout Weiler, 12, on Wednesday during a Circuits and Coding Camp at the Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids.

programs through the Cedar Rapids Public Library as a part of an initiative through the Urban Libraries Council to explore effective summer learning activities for underserved youth.

The Cedar Rapids Public Library was selected to be one of 22 libraries across the United States and Canada — including the New York, Chicago and Los Angeles public libraries — to be part of the

The programs target middle-school students who may not have opportunities to pursue their passions.

initiative.

After the summer session, the participating libraries will come together to discuss what worked and what can be improved to produce recommendations for best practices to be shared with other libraries.

The Urban Libraries Council has worked for more than 50 years to drive research and form strategic

► LIBRARY, PAGE 10A

Mail to Iowa prisons must go through Las Vegas company

Change intended to reduce drugs and other contraband getting into state prisons

By Erin Jordan, The Gazette

People sending mail to Iowa prisoners will wait longer for their loved ones to receive it since the Iowa Department of Corrections hired a Las Vegas company to process mail.

The state decided to outsource personal mail processing to Pigeonly Corrections after an increase in contraband, including drugs, coming into the state prisons through mail.

But some family and friends worry the new service will deter correspondence that helps keep incarcerated people stay connected to the outside world.

“Pigeonly does delay mail,” Mindy Campbell, who has a loved one at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, said in an email to The Gazette.

“The service that one can subscribe to has taken, in my experience, five to seven days just to print the items I have submitted. Then they mail from Las Vegas. Then the (prison) mailroom still has to go through everything to make sure it’s approved.”

Campbell said she is concerned the state is working with a company that has an F grade with the Better Business Bureau for having more than 230 complaints, including many alleging fraudulent billing through an optional subscriber service.

“I personally had my credit card charged nine times in seven days totaling a little under \$300,” she said.

Starting this week, family and friends who want to send personal mail — letters, greeting cards, postcards — must send it to Pigeonly’s headquarters in Las Vegas. Pigeonly will scan the mail and make color copies. The company will physically mail the copies to each of Iowa’s nine prisons.

People who create an account with Pigeonly may create and send digital letters, photos, cards and web articles. They can send one letter and one postcard per month for free or upgrade to unlimited correspondence for \$9.99 a

► MAIL, PAGE 10A

New Iowa regent Risewick appointed from among 7 applicants

He submitted only a bare-bones application

By Vanessa Miller, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Iowa’s newest regent — James “J.C.” Risewick, president of Des Moines-based Seneca Cos. — was chosen from among seven applicants for the recent state Board of Regents vacancy, although he submitted a bare-bones application that didn’t

include his education or employment history.

All other applicants for the regent seat — vacated by longtime member Milt Dakovich’s death Feb. 24 — offered details about their education and employment backgrounds, some providing resumes and information about jobs they



James “J.C.” Risewick

held as far back as 1994.

Risewick — who over the past two years has donated \$59,517, both in cash and plane flights, to Gov. Kim Reynolds — reported he’s not currently employed, according to application documents provided to The Gazette in response to an open-records request.

In announcing his appointment to the Board of Regents on June 21, Reynolds said Risewick is president and chief operating officer of Sen-

eca Cos., which also lists him as its leader on its website, with the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office and in his new bio posted on the Board of Regents website.

“With a background in human resources recruiting, sales training, management and field sales, he has been able to leverage his experience to effectively grow and operate Seneca Companies Inc., a business consisting of approximately 400 employees span-

ning over 18 states,” according to his regents bio, boasting his nearly 20 years of experience in human resources, sales and executive-level leadership.

“He is currently the president and chief operating officer of Seneca Companies, a family-owned company providing a variety of services and solutions around the fuel systems industry.”

Although Risewick didn’t

► RISEWICK, PAGE 10A





Jen Eilers, programming librarian with the Cedar Rapids Public Library, works with Gabe Scott, 12, as he puts copper tape onto the frets of his cardboard guitar Wednesday during a STEM camp at Northwest Recreation Center. (Jim Slosiarek photos/The Gazette)

Library/Initiative to move toward learning programs

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partnerships to help libraries achieve stronger outcomes in education, workforce and economic development, digital equity and race and social equity.

Coding — which is communicating with a computer to tell it what actions to take — is one of Madison's favorite hobbies, she said. She started learning how to code in an elective class she took as a sixth-grader and has been passionate about it ever since.

When she heard about the summer camp at the library, Madison said, "Sign me up. I want to do this," she said. "I feel so lucky to be a part of this."

Kevin Delecki, Cedar Rapids Public Library programming manager, applied for the library to be a part of this Urban Libraries Council initiative, saying it closely aligns with the goals the library already has established.

Those include understanding the library's role in social equity and working toward becoming intentionally anti-racist, he said. The initiative is a two-year commitment, ending in December 2023.

The initiative is part of helping libraries transition away from summer reading programs to summer learning programs, Delecki said. Participating libraries will take what they learned this summer, evaluate what went well and what could be improved, and apply it to summer programs in 2023, Delecki said.

The Cedar Rapids Public Library is offering programs for middle-school students because "that's where we start to lose kids," Delecki said.

"In elementary school, they're excited about everything. In high school, they can explore what



Madison Strickland, 13, cuts out the neck of her soon-to-be cardboard guitar Wednesday during a STEM camp at the Northwest Recreation Center in Cedar Rapids. Madison wired the guitar with conductive copper tape and programmed musical sounds that play when a circuit is closed.

they're passionate and excited about," Delecki said. "Middle school is a 'lost area' where they're not always given the freedom or opportunity to explore what they're passionate about."

The camps strive to present science, technology, engineering and math in a way that's engaging students, Delecki said.

Up to 15 children can participate in each camp. The library is no longer accepting applications for participants.

Another activity students did at the Circuits and Coding Camp last week was writing instructions for how to make a simple peanut butter and jelly sandwich. This was made more challenging because when writing code for a computer, you have to think of

every step, said Jen Eilers, programming librarian at the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

"It wasn't as easy as they thought," Eilers said. The students forgot to include instructions for tasks such as taking the lid off the jelly jar, opening the bread bag and taking a slice of bread out of the bag, she said.

During the first camp of the summer, in June, campers learned about sustainability at Noelridge Park in Cedar Rapids. Children calculated their carbon footprint, learned about ways to reuse items and native plants and how to identify them, and collected trash, which they used to create art now on display at the library.

"How can you take something like an old T-shirt and make it in to something new?" Eilers said. "We don't often think about the reuse part of 'reduce, reuse, recycle.'"

"My sustainability kids were so plugged in to helping the Earth and helping each other, it made me feel hope for the future," Eilers said. "There's so much bad news out there, and working with those kiddos made me feel like maybe we're going to be OK."

During the final camp — Art and Technology Camp at McKinley STEM Academy, today through Friday — campers will create stop motion videos. They will write a storyline, create figures and the set for the videos and learn how to edit.

At camp, children can focus on fun, play and experimentation without worrying about grades, Eilers said.

"I hope what we do inspires them," Eilers said.

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com

Risewick/Donated flights on private plane to Reynolds

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include any educational history in his regent application, his new board bio reports he graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a bachelor of science in business administration and attended the executive education program at the Carlson School of Management through the University of Minnesota.

All six other applicants, according to educational information they provided, earned degrees from Drake University — three getting law degrees and three earning some form of business degree. Two received undergraduate degrees from one of the regent universities.

OTHER APPLICANTS

Other applicants included longtime Des Moines City Council member Christine Lee Hensley, a Republican who served on the City Council from 1994 to 2017. Hensley is listed as chairwoman of the board of directors for Iowa Student Loan, a not-for-profit offering private student loans for families.

Serving alongside regent Nancy Dunkel, who represents Iowa's public universities on the student loan board, Hensley in her application reported having served on 20-plus boards over the past decade.

Nicholas Ryan — a Republican and CEO of Concordia Group, founder of Global Direct Mail and Marketing, and president of Thomas Capital Advisors — also applied, according to the Governor's Office. He's currently serving on the Iowa State Board of Health, a policymaking body for the Iowa Department of Public Health.

In her application, Republican Cheryl Weisheit cited a long list of volunteer and board experience — such as with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central Iowa, Fort Dodge Chamber of Commerce, Des Moines Chamber Alliance and Iowa Energy Center.

The group of applicants included four Republicans, two Democrats and one Independent — a point of interest, as Iowa Code requires the nine-member volunteer board to maintain political balance, with no more than five members associating with the same political party.

The current board — with all members appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds — is Republican heavy, with five Republican members, three identifying as independent and one Democrat. Dakovich was a Republican, and his successor Risewick is, too.

The board, also needing gender balance, has five women and four men. All are white.

The small pool of applicants to fill Dakovich's vacancy included two women and five men, one of whom is Black and identifies as Liberian. That applicant, Webster Kranto of Des Moines, is a Democrat who attended both Iowa State University and Drake.

He chairs the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission and is vice chairman of the Iowa Board of Corrections.

Although all applications provided by the Governor's Office included the Board of Re-

gents heading, one applicant — Nathan Borland, a lawyer in Des Moines — told The Gazette he didn't specifically apply to be a regent and isn't sure he would have accepted an offer.

DONATIONS

None of the applicants have made significant political donations in recent years on par with Risewick; regent David Barker, who has donated \$250,180 in monetary and in-kind donations to Republicans since 2019; or board President Michael Richards, who has given \$28,552 to Republicans since that year, according to a review of state documents.

A few did give some, however. Applicant Hensley contributed \$1,350 to Republican candidates since 2020 — including \$1,000 to Reynolds. Ryan gave \$3,550 to mostly Republican candidates over that period — although none to Reynolds.

And Weisheit has given \$4,406 to Republicans since 2020 — including \$450 to Reynolds.

Of Risewick's \$59,517 in campaign contributions to Reynolds since 2020, \$39,517 has been in-kind donations in the form of flights on his company's private airplane. His father, Christopher Risewick, also donated \$35,807 to Reynolds in 2020, including a \$25,807 flight on June 26, 2020.

The governor's schedule, according to records provided to The Gazette in response to an open-records request, shows she flew that day to Washington, D.C., for a "workforce budget meeting" in the White House.

Although the Governor's Office didn't produce details of all four flights J.C. Risewick donated to the governor over the past two years, portions of Reynolds' calendar that were made public — paired with flight records — show the new regent flew the governor to Prairie du Chien, Wis., on Oct. 27, 2021, to get her within a 30-minute drive of the funeral for Iowa State Trooper Ted Benda.

His company plane also flew Reynolds to and from Dubuque the afternoon and evening of Aug. 12, 2021, for the "Field of Dreams" game, according to the governor's schedule and flight records.

SERVICE

Risewick in his application did mention his service on the board of Impact Iowa's Heroes and with ChildServe's board of trustees. And he cited that service and his ownership of Seneca in his recently filed Board of Regents conflict-of-interest forms.

To the question of whether he or any member of his family beginning June 21 did or will receive any gifts or loans from any source from which a regent institution or board buys goods or services or has business dealings, Risewick reported receiving \$3.1 million in commercial loans from GreenState Credit Union.

No other regent reported receiving any gifts or loans on their disclosure forms.

The board did not immediately provide details of its dealings with GreenState Credit Union.

Comments: (319) 339-3158; vanessa.miller@thegazette.com

Mail/State to pay 42 cents per piece

► FROM PAGE 1A

month, Frederick Hutson, a Pigeonly founder, told The Gazette on Friday.

"We've been in business close to 10 years now," he said. "When it comes to any consumer business, it's impossible to have a perfect review record. For any negative review as we have, we have just as many or more positive reviews. Our focus is always to resolve any complaint or concern we come across."

The state will pay Pigeonly 42 cents per piece of mail processed, which at about 1,800 piece of mail per day, is more than \$275,000 a

year, according to a contract that goes through Feb. 27, 2024.

Corrections spokesman Nick Crawford said the agency signed the deal in May to "curb the introduction of contraband into our facilities through the non-legal mail process."

The prison system is particularly concerned about drugs, including Suboxone and K2, coming into the prisons through the mail. These drugs, contained on small strips, can be smuggled in under postage stamps, stickers or tape, according to Corrections1, a website for corrections-based information.

"This new process will safe-

guard our institutions, staff, and inmates by significantly reducing the opportunity for those who look to introduce K2, and other contraband, into Iowa's correctional facilities," Crawford said in an email.

The Corrections Department still will receive and process mail from offenders' lawyers; official documents, such as driver's licenses, welfare cards and checks; and printed materials sent directly from a publisher or commercial dealer, such as magazines and paperback books.

Comments: (319) 339-3157; erin.jordan@thegazette.com

Miami-bound boat capsizes off Bahamas, killing 17

Miami Herald

MIAMI — A boat capsized in Bahamian waters in Sunday's first hours, killing 17 "suspected irregular Haitian migrants," Bahamas Prime Minister Philip Davis said at a Sunday afternoon news conference.

"It is believed their final destination was Miami, Fla.," Davis said.

Though officials said they had reached out to the Haitian Embassy in Nassau, it wasn't clear whether all those aboard the boat were Haitian. Davis said the investigation will determine that.

Aubynette Rolle, managing director of the Bahamas' Public Hospitals Authority, described the 17 victims as 15 adult women, one man and one child, a girl around 4 to 5 years old.

Officials said they believe the passengers paid \$3,000 to \$8,000 to be on the boat.

Iowa confirms brain-eating amoeba, reopens beach

State posts warning at Lake of Three Fires, considers others

By Erin Jordan, The Gazette

Tests have confirmed a brain-eating amoeba was present in a southwest Iowa lake where a Missouri resident was sickened last month.

That person, who swam at Lake of Three Fires State Park in the last two weeks of June, died of the parasitic infection July 7.

Several state agencies completed testing of the water at Lake of Three Fires, 25 miles east of Clarinda, and confirmed the presence of Naegleria fowleri, amoeba that can cause a rare and often fatal brain infection called primary amebic

meningoencephalitis, the agencies confirmed Wednesday.

The brain infection is rare — only 154 cases occurred in the United States since 1962 — but it's nearly always fatal.

Naegleria fowleri can be present in warm, freshwater lakes and ponds. Infection occurs when water is forced up a swimmer's nose and the organism travels to the brain, where it destroys brain tissue. The infection can't be spread from one person to another and can't be contracted by swallowing contaminated water.

Now that testing is complete, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources will reopen the beach at Lake of Three Fires, which has been closed since July 8. The

beach will be posted with signs warning swimmers of the presence of the parasite in the water and the risk of infection.

The state does not plan to test other recreational waters.

"There is no rapid, standardized test to detect Naegleria fowleri in water, which is why HHS (Iowa Health and Human Services) and DNR recommend that Iowans assume the parasite is present and limit the amount of water that goes up your nose to help reduce your risk of infection," the agencies said in a news release.

State officials do not plan to retest the Lake of Three Fires to see if Naegleria fowleri still is present at a later date, Iowa DNR spokeswoman Tammie Krausman said.

This decision is based on U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance against routine testing because "there is no established relationship between detection or concentration of Naegleria fowleri and risk of infection," Krausman said.

The Iowa DNR still is deciding how long to leave up warning signs at the beach and whether any sort of warning should be posted at other state park beaches, she said.

Christopher Rice, a research scientist in the Center for Drug Discovery at the University of Georgia who studies Naegleria fowleri, told The Gazette earlier this month the parasite feeds on algae and bacteria in the water.

The Lake of Three Fires has frequently been closed to swimming in past summers because of harmful algae that create toxic microcystins that can sicken swimmers. Algae are fed by phosphorus that washes from farm fields into streams and lakes.

The Iowa DNR issued swim warnings at Lake of Three Fires for three weekends in 2021, with two for E. coli bacteria and one for E. coli and microcystins. In 2020, the state advised against swimming there three weeks because of microcystins.

While Missouri has provided no details about the person who died of primary amebic meningoencephalitis after swimming at Lake of Three Fires, Rice said

most deaths from the disease have been children and young adults.

A 13-year-old Florida boy was hospitalized with an infection from the brain-eating amoeba earlier this month after swimming July 1 at the Port Charlotte Beach, about 100 miles south of Tampa.

Behaviors associated with the infection include diving or jumping into the water or submerging the head under water, the Iowa DNR reported. Swimmers can reduce their risk by keeping their head out of the water and using nose clips or plugging their nose when going underwater.

Comments: (319) 339-3157; erin.jordan@thegazette.com

Former GOP congressman endorses 2 Democrats

Jim Leach says he's looking for 'decency' in candidates

By Sarah Watson, Quad-City Times

Former Eastern Iowa Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Leach is endorsing and voting for Democrats in Congress this election cycle.

Leach represented Iowa in the U.S. House, in districts that included Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, as a moderate Republican for 30 years until he lost re-election to former Rep. Dave Loebsack, a Democrat, in 2006.

Leach endorsed Joe Biden in 2020, and, for the first time, switched his party registration from Republican to Democrat to vote in the 2022 June primary.

Leach said the switch was prompted by a Republican Party that he sees as lurching to the right in its support for former President Donald Trump, leading up to lying about the 2020 election results and the Jan. 6 insurrection.

"My own view is that

there is no excuse whatsoever for an insurrection," Leach said. "And that we're in one of the most profound challenges to American democracy ever, excepting the Civil War."

He added his switch was more of a rebuke to the national Republican Party than particular



Jim Leach
UI law professor and former congressman

Iowa Republican members of Congress, whom he said he respects.

"Today, the Republican Party that I spent so many years with has really let the country down," Leach said. "And we need to have a political party that operates in a way that both parties can participate."

"The Republican Party has just torn itself apart, and it's got to pull itself together. I'll lean toward the Democratic Party as long as excellent people are running."

BOHANNAN ENDORSED

In particular, Leach said he wanted to endorse a University of

Iowa College of Law colleague, Christina Bohannon, the Democrat running for the newly drawn 1st District because of her credentials as a law professor.

"This particular year could not be more appropriate for a law-school professor to run," Leach said, referencing the U.S. House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Bohannon, who is running to unseat Republican Rep. Marianne Miller-Meeks, is a law professor with expertise in intellectual property law, the First Amendment and competition law, according to the UI College of Law biography. Bohannon ran in 2020 for the Statehouse, defeating a longtime Democratic incumbent.

The Miller-Meeks campaign did not comment on the endorsement Wednesday



Christina Bohannon
Running for Congress

Leach said he didn't hold any specific grievances with Miller-Meeks as a representative.

"She's intelligent and not an embarrassment to the state or anything," he said of Miller-Meeks.

"She's a decent person. I just don't see anyone standing up to Christina."

Miller-Meeks was one of 35 House Republicans to vote to create the bipartisan House

committee investigating the events of Jan. 6, which Leach applauded her for.

Bohannon, in a statement, said she was "honored" by Leach's endorsement.

"I have tremendous respect for Jim Leach and am honored to have his endorsement," Bohannon said. "As a congressman, he told the truth, served with honor and integrity, and put the people of southeast Iowa ahead of party

politics."

FRANKEN ENDORSED

Leach also said he also would support Mike Franken, a former Navy admiral and Democrat running to unseat long-time U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley.

Leach cited Franken's naval experience as being valuable to congressional proceedings and took issue with Grassley's role in ushering through conservative picks for the U.S. Supreme Court that led to the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Iowa has trended red in recent years, and Leach said it would be "awfully, awfully hard" for a Republican to win in a GOP primary.

Leach said he wasn't sure whether he'd keep his Democrat registration, nor who he would vote for in down-ballot races, but he would vote for candidates he considered to have "decency."

"We have an obligation to pull together and vote for anyone who has a moral capacity to lead in a credible way," Leach said.

Light fixture fire closes downtown C.R. library

By Emily Andersen, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library is closed until further notice after a fire broke out in a light fixture above the Commons area Wednesday, according to a news release.

The sprinkler system activated and the fire was quickly extinguished. The extent of damage to the building is not yet known, but books and other library materials do not appear to have been damaged by the water, the release states.

The library was safely evacuated, and no one was injured.

The library will remain closed through today, and possibly longer, depending on how much cleanup is necessary.

Hold times and due dates will be extended accordingly.

Comments: (319) 398-8328; emily.andersen@thegazette.com

CAMPAIGN ALMANAC

ATTORNEY GENERAL POLL: The campaign to be Iowa's next attorney general is statistically tied, according to a new poll commissioned by a conservative tax policy organization.

Democratic incumbent Tom Miller, the longest-serving state attorney general in U.S. history, is tied with Republican challenger Brenna Bird, a former legal counsel to then-Gov. Terry Branstad, according to the poll that was commissioned by the Iowans for Tax Relief Foundation.

Miller was chosen by 44.5 percent of poll respondents and Bird 44 percent, according to the poll results.

The polling firm Cygnal surveyed 600 likely Iowa voters on July 13 and July 14. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.95 percentage points.

Gazette Des Moines Bureau

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IOWA TODAY



Former Cedar Rapids City Council member Chuck Swore (left) speaks with a police chief candidate in 2014. Swore died Wednesday at age 79. He served on the City Council for six years. (Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette)

Chuck Swore remembered for contributions to Cedar Rapids

Former City Council member dies at 79

By Emily Andersen, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Chuck Swore will be remembered as a man who loved the city of Cedar Rapids and was always looking for new ideas to improve the lives of its residents.

Swore, who died Wednesday at age 79, spent six years on the Cedar Rapids City Council. He proposed and supported a variety of city projects, including the purchasing and renovation of the Cedar Rapids downtown convention center.

“He was a tremendous idea person,” City Manager Jeff Pomeranz said. “He always had new projects and new ways that the city could improve the services that we deliver. He had a lot of friends throughout the community, and he was well liked and well respected.”

“He was definitely a person that made a significant positive impact on the community.”

Swore joined the council in 2005 and served for two years before being voted out in 2007. He successfully ran for an open seat on the council in 2009 and served until 2013, when he was lost a runoff election.

“As corny as it sounds, I enjoy serving on the council,” Swore told The Gazette during his re-election campaign in 2013. “I enjoy being part of that decision-making process. And I’ve certainly enjoyed being a small part in what I feel the council has accomplished in the last four years. We’ve done some very aggressive, progressive things.”

Before joining the council, Swore was the vice president and general manager at Acme Electric Co. and ran his one-man consulting business while he was on the council.

He also was chairman of the city’s Five Seasons Commission for many years and also served on the City Planning Commission.

“He was a very good

person who cared deeply and loved Cedar Rapids. He was always an advocate for Cedar Rapids,” Pomeranz said. Ron Corbett, Cedar Rapids mayor from 2010 to 2018, said he was always impressed with how straightforward Swore was and that he wasn’t afraid to speak his mind.

“He was always a strong advocate for moving Cedar Rapids forward. He was never afraid to talk about any ideas,” Corbett said. “People may not have always agreed with him on the issues, but at least they appreciated the fact that he was always an advocate for Cedar Rapids.”

Corbett said he worked with Swore during the time when Cedar Rapids was rebuilding after the 2008 flood, and the two became good friends — even though they didn’t always agree on political issues.

Corbett said he had visited Swore on Monday and was surprised to hear about Swore’s death a couple of days later.

Current Cedar Rapids Mayor Tiffany O’Donnell said that even though she never worked with Swore on the council, she knew him through her previous job as a television reporter, and she was grateful to consider him a colleague and a friend.

“Chuck was a servant leader, advocating for projects with or without a title of city council member. He was passionate about his city, its people and its future up until his last days. What a rich and wonderful legacy he leaves,” O’Donnell said in a statement sent to The Gazette.

“We are a better city because he was here. My thoughts and prayers for peace are with Chuck and his family.”

Swore and his wife, Carol, had four children and many grandchildren. His family has not yet released details about funeral services, but his daughter, Trisha Young, said in a Facebook post that they will likely be held Monday.

Comments: (319) 398-8328; emily.andersen@thegazette.com

Two dozen graduate from Urban Dreams program

High school students learn how to interview

By Grace King, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Washington High School junior Lavelle Dawson started his first job this summer working for the city of Cedar Rapids in its parks and recreation department.

Dawson, 16, mowed the lawn at Noelridge Park, trimmed trees and overall kept it looking nice. Although there were some hot, “tedious” days, Dawson enjoyed the work.

“Professionalism sets the groundwork for anything and everything you do,” he said.

Dawson is one of 24 Cedar Rapids high school students who graduated from the Urban Dreams summer employment program Wednesday — some with job experience under their belt.

Izaah Knox, executive director of Urban Dreams, said the program seeks to reduce barriers and open doors for students who don’t have access to summer employment. The program is for high school students ages 16 and older.

“Why would a 16-year-old kid know how to get a job unless someone teaches them and helps them along the way?” Knox said. “We’re not trying to say, ‘Here’s a career.’ Here’s a job. Learn how to work.”

This is the second year of Urban Dreams summer youth employment program in Cedar Rapids. The program has been operating in Des Moines for the last several decades, Knox said. Students are interviewed by both Urban Dreams and their employer.

Most students who apply for the program get pre-interviews with Urban



Daniel Johnson of the Children of Promise Mentoring program on Wednesday shakes the hand of Naiauna Leech of Cedar Rapids after she graduated from the Urban Dreams program at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

Dreams, where they can learn more about the interview process.

Urban Dreams also works with employers to provide cultural competency training and other assistance. Many of the companies have never hired a high school student before, Knox said.

Getting employers involved with the program takes “a lot of phone calls and a lot of conversations,” Knox said. They trust Urban Dreams to send students who will be successful in their organizations.

Throughout the summer, Knox sees students become “more confident, diligent, secure. They show up, answer questions and have adult conversations and put their phones down.”

Students were hired to work at Casey’s, Chick-fil-A, Gianna’s Italian Beef, Godfather’s Pizza, Hy-Vee, Jiffy Lube, Lion Bridge Brewery, McDonald’s, Need Pizza and Trees Forever and for the city of Cedar Rapids.

Naiauna Leech, 16, a

senior-to-be at Washington High who works at Casey’s, said she needed to learn teamwork. The youth employment program “looks good on a resume,” she said. She wants to explore a career in health care and is considering becoming a paramedic or ER doctor.

Yauna Keith, 18, an upcoming senior at Metro High School, was unable to work this summer because she was also attending summer school. However, Yauna said she feels she learned better money management in the summer program and how to ask her manager for help if she needs it.

In addition to a summer job, students met every Wednesday for professional development where they learned skills such as communication, networking, time management and financial literacy.

Grant funding from Bank of America ensured each student was paid \$12 an hour. If a company couldn’t offer \$12 an hour, their sal-

ary was subsidized by the grant. Students also were paid for the time they spent in class.

“One of the goals of the summer youth employment program is to provide the services, teach the skills and offer role models for youth in our community who may not have easy access to these jobs,” said Daniel Johnson, president and CEO of Children of Promise Mentoring, who taught the Wednesday classes.

Some students have never had an interview, never had a work crisis and want to quit because they don’t know how to solve a problem, Johnson said. He coaches them on how to navigate the workplace to be successful.

Some students also didn’t have bank accounts. They opened accounts at Dupaco Credit Union and received their first debit card.

“Hats off to them for coming for eight weeks,” Johnson said.

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com

Former jailer accused of having sex with inmate

She is charged with 3 misdemeanors; trial is set for next month

By Trish Mehaffey, The Gazette

TOLEDO — Trial has been set for Aug. 12 for a former Tama County jailer who was charged earlier this year with having sex with a jail inmate in 2020 and 2021 while she was working at the jail.

Kayla Mae Bergom, 27, of Belle Plaine, was charged in May with three counts of sexual misconduct with an offender, which is a misdemeanor, following an investigation by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation, according to a criminal complaint.

She is accused of having sex with a 29-year-old man who was an inmate for a period of months in 2020 and in April of last year.

Bergom engaged in sex acts with the defendant in a utility closet during October 2020 and in the recreation yard in September 2020 and April 2021, the complaints stated.

Tama County Sheriff Dennis Kucera said Bergom resigned immediately. She had worked for the department for three years, he said.

Bergom pleaded not guilty to the charges in May. Her trial is set for Aug. 12.

If convicted, she faces up to six years in prison.

Comments: (319) 398-8318; trish.mehaffey@thegazette.com

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In this April photo, Jeremy Goodale speaks with defense attorney J. Nicole Jensen during a court hearing on this murder case in Fairfield. A new trial date has been set for Goodale. (Nick Rohlman/The Gazette)

Goodale murder trial moved to December

He and another teen are accused of killing Fairfield teacher

By Trish Mehaffey, The Gazette

FAIRFIELD — Trial for one of two teens accused of killing a Fairfield High School Spanish teacher with a baseball bat has been reset to December in Scott County District Court.

Eighth Judicial District Judge Shawn Showers reset the trial from Aug. 23 to Dec. 5 for Jeremy Everett Goodale, 17.

Last week, Showers moved the trial to Scott

County, citing extensive pretrial publicity. Showers granted a similar motion for Willard Noble

Chaiden Miller, 16, also charged in the slaying of Nohema Graber, 66, on Nov. 2, 2021, and moved his trial to Council Bluffs. Miller's trial remains set for Nov. 1.



Both teens are charged as adults with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit a forcible felony. If convicted, they face life in prison but would have the opportunity for parole because they are juveniles.

According to a search warrant unsealed in March, Miller told investigators he provided a wheelbarrow used to hide Graber's body. A witness who lived near the park where Graber's body was found told police he saw a male pushing a wheelbarrow toward the park about midnight Nov. 2, 2021.

The teens schemed over social media to kill Graber, who had taught at Fairfield High since 2012, according to court documents. They monitored her routine before ambushing her on her daily walk in the park, killing her with a baseball bat and later hiding her body, according to court documents.

Comments: (319) 398-8318; trish.mehaffey@thegazette.com

CAPITOL NOTEBOOK

Iowa part of \$2.4B multistate settlement with opioid maker

It is the second settlement this week

Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — For the second time this week, Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller announced the state and others have reached a preliminary billion-dollar settlement with a drug company to address the opioid crisis.

Miller's office announced former opioid-maker Allergan has agreed to pay up to \$2.37 billion to participating states and local governments to settle lawsuits.

The Attorney General's Office announced Wednesday that drug-maker Teva has agreed to contribute more than \$4.2 billion in cash and medications to settle lawsuits in various states, including Iowa, that claimed the company contributed to the U.S. opioid epidemic.

If finalized, the settlements announced this week would provide as much as \$6.6 billion nationwide, including to abate and help Iowans and other Americans recover from addiction through prevention and treatment.

AbbVie, which acquired Allergan in 2020, disclosed the agreement in its earnings announcement Friday.

Details of the settlements remain subject to ongoing negotiations, according to Miller's office, including terms requiring business practice changes and transparency.

"We continue to make it a priority to hold manufacturers responsible, while ensuring victims of this epidemic receive the help they need," Miller said in a statement.

Ireland-based Allergan formerly made Norco- and Kadian-branded and generic opioids. The company sold its

opioid products to Teva in 2016.

Iowa and more than a dozen other states allege Allergan downplayed the addiction risks and overstated the benefits of its former Norco- and Kadian-branded and generic opioids; encouraged doctors to treat

patients showing signs addiction by prescribing them more opioids; and failed to maintain effective controls

to prevent diversion of opioids.

The \$2.37 billion figure includes money that Allergan has already agreed to pay under settlements with individual states.

Earlier this week, Miller announced his office is suing tobacco companies to recover \$133 million in withheld payments stemming from a 1998 settlement.



Tom Miller
Attorney general

LOTTERY BOOM: The Iowa Lottery's financial numbers will finish near the previous year's record highs, the lottery said.

According to preliminary figures for the state budget year that ended June 30, the Iowa Lottery generated \$433 million in total sales, \$274 million in prizes were paid to players, and \$98 million in proceeds went to state causes.

Iowa Lottery CEO Matt Strawn in a news release said June 30 closed the books on the most successful two-year period of sales, proceeds and prizes in Iowa Lottery history. Total sales in the previous state budget year reached a record \$453 million.

"Combined with last year's more than 20 percent increase in sales and proceeds, the Iowa Lottery continues to responsibly generate significant revenues for important Iowa causes — even in the face of increasingly challenging economic conditions," Strawn said.

Downtown C.R. library remains closed after fire

By Emily Andersen, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The Downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library does not yet have an estimate of how long it will take to reopen after a small fire in a light fixture closed the building

Wednesday.

The library will continue to send its Mobile Technology Lab out to Cedar Rapids parks for various events, but some library programming has been canceled, according to Facebook posts from the

library.

A regularly updated calendar of events is available on the library's website.

The library is working with the city of Cedar Rapids to identify and share information about alternative cool-

ing stations to escape hot weather, according to a news release from the library.

More updates will be available next week, the news release stated.

Comments: (319) 398-8328; emily.andersen@thegazette.com

Judge gives I.C. teen deferred judgment in armed robbery

By Trish Mehaffey, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — A judge gave an Iowa City teen charged and convicted in adult court for armed robbery a deferred judgment and probation Friday in Johnson County District Court.

Sixth Judicial District Judge Paul Miller sentenced Tavarion Herron, now 18, to three years' probation. If Herron completes probation without serious violations, the conviction could be expunged — removed — from his record. He was 17 when the robbery occurred.

Herron previously pleaded to conspiracy to commit a forcible felony and going armed with intent. He originally was charged with first-degree robbery.

The two convictions carried up to 15 years in prison and if Herron has

violations, a judge could revoke his probation and sentence him up to 15 years.

The prosecution asked the court to deny the deferred judgment and sentence Herron to prison.

Herron and another teen, Laron Gadlen Jr., 16, were both charged in the robbery, but Gadlen's case was moved to juvenile court.

According to criminal complaints, police responded about 11 p.m. Dec. 21, 2021, to a robbery at GreenState Credit Union on the city's west side.

A man was using the drive-thru ATM when Herron and Gadlen, both armed, approached him. One of the teens pointed a gun at the man's head, according to the complaints, but he drove away unharmed.

People who knew Gadlen identified him

through surveillance video of the robbery, the complaint stated.

Social media accounts showed Gadlen wearing the same clothes and having a firearm that matched the description — a black pistol with an extended magazine — around the same time of the robbery, according to a complaint.

Video footage also showed Herron armed with a pistol, wearing a gray NASA sweatshirt. Herron was wearing the same sweatshirt when police obtained a search warrant for his residence, the complaint stated.

During a police interview, Herron admitted to being involved in the robbery but would not say what he did with the firearm.

Comments: (319) 398-8318; trish.mehaffey@thegazette.com

Man killed in C.R. stabbing identified

By Emily Andersen, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — The Cedar Rapids Police Department has identified the man killed in a stabbing Wednesday as Christopher Anson, 52.

Police were called Wednesday afternoon to the 1500 block of Fifth

Avenue SE, where they found Anson, of Cedar Rapids, on the floor of an apartment building common area with a stab wound in his chest.

Police began CPR, but Anson was declared dead at the scene.

Two males were transported to the police de-

partment for interviews, according to a news release.

Police said the attack was not random and the public is not considered at risk.

The investigation continues, police said.

Comments: (319) 398-8328; emily.andersen@thegazette.com



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Director's Report
August 4, 2022

Department Updates

Community Relations has been busy preparing for fall while supporting all the good things happening this summer at the library. The team is in the midst of design and development of the Fall *OPEN+* magazine. The team is also in the process of transitioning the library to a new website, which will launch late summer/early fall. Much work is yet to be done, but the team is working hard to make it as user friendly and easy to navigate as possible.

The events team has been busy with rooms and special events, hosting a wedding this month, as well as a corporate dinner on the LivingLearning Roof. They've also been busy with a lot of walk-throughs and meetings in preparation for events this fall. We have nearly completed the transition with technology in our spaces to make most of them very easy and user-friendly for virtual or hybrid meetings.

This summer, volunteers assisted with a series of Summer Dare events including the Summer Dare Kickoff Party at Ladd and the Summer Dare Celebration Downtown. They inflated over 600 balloons, handed out snacks, prizes, and books at large events, and helped with the Harry Potter Family Fun and Read to Dogs programs. Our Summer VISTA members – Olivia Calvin, Olivia Tobin, and Rachel Maly – continue to support our programming team and lead the Summer Dare Everywhere outreach to Jane Boyd Community House. We are grateful for the support of our volunteers and Summer VISTA members that assist the Library in our outreach efforts. Volunteer Hours in June 2022: 405 hours

The *Materials* department is expanding our Spark Kit collection. Look out for new crafts, wellness, and hobby kits coming soon. There's been an enthusiastic response to adding PressReader to our services with several thousand articles accessed in a few weeks of use.

The *Technology Solutions* team is planning a phased deployment of new printing technology and hardware. Patrons will begin to see new services introduced gradually to minimize any downtime and give staff time to learn how to use the new hardware.

Programming. Summer was busy and successful in the Programming Department. Helped by an incredible crew of seven seasonal staff and AmeriCorp VISTA members, the department served Cedar Rapids at dozens of different locations, reaching residents with services ranging from early learning story times to job searching and resume writing. We were also able to hold a number of very popular programs at our two libraries, and, in the final two weeks of July, outdoors at our libraries to ensure safety with a rise in COVID-19 cases and a return to indoor masking. As we look forward to the fall, our biggest priorities are workforce development, the expansion of services in the Maker Room, and the beginning of intentional school outreach within the Cedar Rapids Community School District.

Public Service. Over the past few months – we have seen an increase in visitors to the library. Staff have done a fantastic job building connections with many members of our community. Of particular success are patrons in our teen and tween age range. We have several individuals who come into the library on a regular basis and staff have taken time to build positive connections with this group, which has really helped the library be proactive in preventing behavior issues we were seeing from this group prior to the pandemic.

Another exciting addition that was made to our internal communication program (Microsoft Teams) was creating an emergency alert process. This process will be used for extreme weather events and serious behavior incidents. The notification uses our existing program and allows the library communicate with staff in an effective manner. This suggestion was brought to management's attention by staff. Staff went through a training in July to understand the process.

Disaster Response

On Wednesday, July 27th at approximately 3:45 pm, the amoeba light in the center of the Downtown Library caught fire. Staff and patrons reacted quickly and no one was injured. The Fire Department arrived swiftly and fire damage was not extensive. The initial clean-up process has begun, but there is a lot of soot and fire suppression discharge all over the library. It will take weeks not days before the Downtown Library can return to full operations.

Library managers are working on ways to provide additional service to the community while the building remains closed. Additional updates will be provided at our Thursday meeting.

Great Stories

I was helping a patron print and fax some documents, one of which was too dark in the fax and not readable when we checked what was sent. He was very concerned that he was taking up too much of my time, mentioning that he could go to Staples if it was taking too long. I assured him time was not an issue (really the whole interaction was probably only about 10 minutes) and that we'd figure out how to get his documents where they needed to go. He said emailing the documents was an option as well, so I helped him scan and send them to the necessary email. He continuously thanked me for my help during our interaction. When I finished helping him, he said "Every time I come here for help you guys are so helpful. You guys are angels." I've helped him a couple of times prior to this and he always displays this incredible gratitude and I wanted to make sure he knew that we'd always try to help him as best we can. – Damian Klinkenberg, Patron Services Specialist

I was making a card for a patron who recently moved to the area. As I chatted with her about how she had enjoyed Cedar Rapids so far, a few regular teen patrons wandered by. I greeted them by name as they passed by. (They grunted back at me, which I count as a success.)

The new patron smiled and asked if we knew the younger ones by name. I replied that we do our best. She said she was a retired teacher, and that the library is such an important place for teenagers, especially those that may not have a different place to stay. I agreed and helped her complete her new card.

As we were wrapping up, she thanked me and said, "It was great being here. This place has such good vibes, you know?" First impressions are formed quickly and instinctively. It's good to hear that we are making the right one. – Tait Larson, Patron Services Specialist

I sent the following email to Assistant Fire Chief Oleson after our fire last week:

"Hi, Andy. Thanks again for the amazing work of you and your team. You were so fabulously reassuring, and your communication throughout the entire process was wonderful. I really, really hope we never have another fire...but if we do it's great knowing you all are out there to help."

And he responded with:

"Thanks Dara. The work your staff did to evacuate was outstanding, whoever put the extinguisher on the fire, and the sprinkler all contributed to as good of outcome as you can get. Hopefully you will be back open again soon."

Special kudos to all the Downtown staff for keeping our patrons safe, and to Todd Simonson and Zachary Stout for their fire extinguisher work! – Dara Schmidt, Library Director

