



JOINING THE RACE

NEW CANDIDATES TO VIE FOR IOWA'S 4TH DISTRICT/INSIDE



GAEL TRILOGY

ST. EDMOND HEADED BACK TO STATE IN SOFTBALL/SPORTS

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Fort Dodge, Iowa

North 15th Street work approved by FD council

Intersection to be rebuilt, four lanes will remain

By BILL SHEA
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A plan for rebuilding the intersection of Second Avenue North and North 15th Street while keeping North 15th Street a four-lane street for most of

its length was approved unanimously by the Fort Dodge City Council Monday evening. After almost two months of controversy that led to packed City Council meetings, the final plan was approved with lit-

tle discussion. The original proposal released in May called for converting 15th Street between Second and 20th avenues north to three lanes, reducing it from the current four lanes. That provoked

intense and widespread opposition. Under the plan approved Monday, the only four-lane section of North 15th Street that will be reduced to three lanes is one block immediately north of the intersection of Second Avenue North and 15th Street.

The reconstruction of the intersection was part of the plan unveiled in May, but it was never controversial. Even some opponents of converting the road from four lanes to three publicly stated that the intersection job needs to be done.

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DART proposes fare hike

Meetings with public set for next week

By KELLI BLOOMQUIST
Dodger Area Rapid Transit (DART) and MIDAS Regional Transit Authority are proposing fare increases for riders throughout the Fort Dodge area.

If approved, the increases would take effect Aug. 1.

“We have a shortage in the budget and we need to raise rates to continue,” said Shelly Mahan, MIDAS transit director.

DART and MIDAS operate the service for the City of Fort Dodge and receive some of their funding from the city property tax levy, as well as receiving state and federal funds.

DART is proposing increasing fares for adults from \$1.50 per ride to \$1.75.

Students and senior rides would increase from \$1 to \$1.25 per ride.

Para-transit would increase from \$3 per ride to \$3.50.

Route passes would increase from \$35 to \$37, while students and seniors would increase from \$15

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-Messenger photo by Bill Shea

BEV POTTER, program coordinator for Golden Day Adult Day, admires a ceramic tray she was given that bears a quote from Walt Disney, which was: “It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.” Potter was given the gift Monday as Golden Day Adult Day celebrated its one-year anniversary.

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

Golden Day Adult Day celebrates one-year anniversary

By BILL SHEA
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There is a group of Fort Dodge residents that looks forward to three special days a week. On those three days, they get to enjoy games, a book club, craft sessions, plus lunch and snacks. Now that may sound like a day camp, but this program is not a typical day camp. It’s called Golden Day Adult Day, and its participants are people

with disabilities striving to live their best lives. On Monday, the Golden Day Adult Day participants and staff celebrated the program’s one-year anniversary with members of the community. The concept of the program had been discussed by parents of adult children with disabilities since at least 2020 with some occasional meetings starting in 2022. The program started in its current form in June 2024.

On Monday afternoon, the participants and staff honored Bev Potter, the Golden Day program coordinator, by presenting her with a ceramic tray with a quote from Walt Disney painted on it. The quote is, “It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.” While she didn’t call the task impossible, state Rep. Ann Meyer, R-Fort Dodge, said leaders of Golden Day accomplished something remarkable

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City seeks sports tourism plan

Hires consultant on Monday

By BILL SHEA
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With the new Pavilion debuting in Corridor Plaza to supplement athletic attractions such as Harlan and Hazel Rogers Sports Complex, Fort Dodge leaders are seeking ways to attract more sports to the community.



David Fierke

To help do that, the City Council on Monday hired Huddle Up Group of Phoenix, Arizona, to prepare a strategic plan for sports tourism. The company will be paid \$35,000.

“The goal of the project is to create an achievable and sustainable strategic plan that will help identify, grow, develop and service the community’s sports tourism efforts in the Fort Dodge area, ensuring a significant economic impact,” City Manager David Fierke wrote in a report to the council.

The council hired the firm on a unanimous vote with no discussion. The company is to complete the plan by the end of this year.

Llama drama

By KELLI BLOOMQUIST
WEBSTER CITY — Hamilton County Deputy Ethan Krieger had anything but an ordinary day last week. While on duty, he was called to assist a vehicle that had broken down on U.S. Highway 20 in Hamilton County. Upon arrival, Krieger found that the Chrysler Town and Country minivan was a self-proclaimed “Llama Uber” and the driver was transporting a llama from Io-

wa to Virginia.

To make the ride more comfortable for the llama being transported, the driver brought along a llama of his own. “Just more shenanigans and llama drama we constantly have to deal with,” the Sheriff’s Office wrote on its Facebook page.

The vehicle was fixed and was able to make its trek to Virginia, but not before Krieger asked for a few photos with one of the llamas.

Hamilton Co. deputy called to aid broken down ‘Llama Uber’

“The Uber was incredibly nice and allowed pictures to be taken,” said Hamilton County Sheriff Alex Pruismann. “It was a good experience for all.” According to Pruismann, the call for assistance was definitely unique. “Not everyday is the same in this line of work and Deputy Krieger can attest to that,” said Pruismann. “When he heard it was a vehicle who needed assistance with llamas involved, he just had to go.”



-Submitted photo

HAMILTON COUNTY DEPUTY Ethan Krieger had quite the surprise last week when he was called to aid a broken down vehicle on U.S. Highway 20. The vehicle was a self-proclaimed “Llama Uber” and was transporting a llama from Iowa to Virginia.

