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## Park Board talks pool issues

BY ELAINE LORING | [eloring@iafalls.com](mailto:eloring@iafalls.com)

The Iowa Falls Park and Recreation Board met Tuesday and City Manager Jody Anderson addressed the Meyer Municipal Aquatic Center repair issues noting the pool “needed a lot of TLC.” Anderson said all the pumps need to be replaced, as they are 22 years old. “They have squeezed every bit of use out of them as they can,” he said. “Two of them still function and the third one is being rebuilt.” The one being rebuilt runs one of the pool’s slides, so Anderson said the worst-case scenario is they’d open with only one slide available for use. “Best-case scenario, we’ll get that

(pump) rebuilt and back.” Three new pumps have been ordered and will be replaced in the fall after the pool closes to be ready for the 2024 season. The current pumps are almost obsolete, and it has been hard for the city to order parts for them. “The Federal government had changed the efficiency rating on them, so they had to change the way the pumps are built,” Anderson said. “We’ll just have to find some parts for the one.” The pool needs to be drained to repair the pump, so if the parts do not come before the pool opens for this season, then one slide would be closed.



ELAINE LORING / TIMES CITIZEN

The Meyer Municipal Aquatic Center will open this season, but is in need of repairs.

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## Singing in tune

### Alden Elementary holds spring concert

Alden Elementary students presented their annual Spring Concert in front of packed gymnasium Tuesday evening. A variety of song selections were performed by students ranging from preschool through sixth grade.



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN ITES/TIMES CITIZEN



## In the pipeline

### Summit talks CO2 boons at Eldora council meeting

BY SHAWN DIGITY | [sdigity@iafalls.com](mailto:sdigity@iafalls.com)

While the planned agenda was relatively short for Eldora’s May city council meeting, the public comment section was ripe with pipeline talk.

Representatives from Summit Carbon Solutions, Grant Terry, “one of the two principal project managers responsible for direct oversight of pipeline construction,” and Shari Timmons, Regulatory Affairs Manager for Summit Iowa, were in attendance to present info and answer questions on the economic boons of CO2 pipelines.

“Summit is going to be developing the largest integrative capture, transportation and storage project in the world. And we’re doing that through our partnership with 32 ethanol facilities across the Midwest,” Timmons started.

“I suspect no one in this room is unaware of the fact that the ethanol and agricultural industries are the backbone of our Midwest and Iowa’s economy. At the very national level, the ethanol industry contributes about \$50 billion to the U.S. GDP. Over 400,000 jobs are supported by the ethanol industry, and 40 percent of the corn grown in the U.S. is purchased by the ethanol producers. Looking alone at the five states through which the pipeline is routed, that represents a total economic value of nearly \$38 billion [in] corn production.

“So what’s the connection between the integrated CO2 capture transportation and storage? Well, it’s the fact that this project is going to enable our ethanol partners to sell a product at a premium in a very growing global marketplace,” she asserted.

Timmons also clarified that a report found that nearly “75 percent of ethanol production would cease by 2030 if carbon capture wasn’t a part of the formula.”

She continued, “And that, of course, means many plants are shutting down, and that is also the equivalent of about a billion bushels of corn for market for our local farmers in terms of contributions to the statewide economy.” So with that, she added, around \$10 billion “would likely flow out to other states” from Iowa’s economy if that became the case.

But looking toward the future, she also broke down what the return on investment could look like:

ELDORA COUNCIL Cont'd ▶ P2

## Nimrod Meats enters retail

### Local locker welcomes hundreds at grand opening

BY COREY MEINTS | [cmeints@iafalls.com](mailto:cmeints@iafalls.com)

One year ago this past January, Nimrod Meats was nothing more than a dirt lot on Iowa Falls’ southside. Tuesday, there was a line of hundreds waiting to sample the goods and tour the 9,800-square-foot facility at 214 S. High St. just off Georgetown Road.

Nimrod, owned and operated by Dominick “Rocky” Damiano, actually started processing meat a year ago. Tuesday marked the grand opening of the processing facility and the new 1,760-square-foot retail space that features everything from meat and dairy products to seasonings and BBQ gear.

Guests at the grand opening included members of Iowa Falls Chamber/

Main Street, Miss Iowa Falls Abby Roeske, State Sen. Annette Sweeney and the Damiano family as well as hundreds of people from the community who stood in line for free hamburgers and tours and to celebrate the ribbon cutting.

Damiano said the company served some 400 burgers and couldn’t be happier with the show of support from the community. And while looking for more locally-sourced beef for the Nimrod brand, he announced that they are also doing label and processing jobs for third parties. That includes Iowa Falls’ Gibraltar Farms who just recently began selling the products from what they raise.

“Basically, we process their beef under their label and then they sell at places like farmer’s markets or whatever the case may be,” Damiano said. “Ultimately, with third party clients, the nice thing is they are able to control their pricing.”

The ideas haven’t stopped now that



COREY MEINTS / TIMES CITIZEN

Hundreds of people showed up to tour Nimrod Meats, buy products, and enjoy free burgers during the grand opening of the new Iowa Falls locker. Owner Rocky Damiano said he continues to explore new avenues for the business.

the retail portion has started. Damiano said he is still entertaining the idea of having a deli with lunches. He also said he is working on getting the Nimrod label out to an expanded clientele.

“We’re in the process of working with a big cattle farmer to do our own line and get into groceries stores and

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## ▶ PARK BOARD

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Anderson also noted some general issues, including cracking inside the pool, are in the process of being repaired. Parks and Recreation Director Karlie Niedert has also been gathering quotes from contractors to fill in the sand pit area and take out the plants on the zero-entrance side of the pool in an effort to keep sand and plant debris out of the pool.

"We're looking at getting it updated and revamped," Anderson said. "Everybody has done a really good job of trying to make do and keep it going, but there's some stuff that just needs to be replaced and updated."

Currently, concrete work has been done, and the pool will be power-washed and repainted, with some areas just needing touch-up paint. After the paint has dried, the pool will be filled. "The pool can be filled in a day if we don't have a lot of big draws on the water system," Anderson said. The pool holds 391,000 gallons of water and takes 24 hours to fill.

"Not terrible news," Anderson said. "Just some of the stuff you don't see at the pool needs a lot of attention."

## Capital Improvements Plan

The board also reviewed their FY22-23 and FY23-24 Capital Improvements Plans. Anderson noted that there is "quite a bit of money left on the CIP" from the FY22-23 year. He pointed to Chris Kuhnle's retirement and how bids and quotes had not been received on different projects, which the park board had discussed in the past. This left unspent money in the CIP.

"We're going to ask the park board and the city council to reallocate some of those funds," Anderson said. The money will be put on the FY23-24 CIP, which is something typically not done, but if not, it would leave around \$185,000 of unspent money.

The money will be reallocated to some pool repairs, as well as a new bathroom at Assembly Park. If money is left over after those projects are complete, it may go to a new roof on the bandshell.

The city council will have to approve the reallocation at a future meeting. The board approved the CIP changes.

### In other business the board:

- Tabled a decision to add fencing around the pickle ball courts at Assembly Park.
- Heard an update on the Sunnyside Pond project. ■



COREY MEINTS / TIMES CITIZEN

Nimrod Meats owner Rocky Damiano was flanked by VIPs, family and new customers during the ribbon cutting ceremony at Tuesday's grand opening of the new Iowa Falls locker. It was also a celebration of the new retail space at the Georgetown Road facility.

## ▶ NIMROD MEATS

CONTINUED FROM P1

stuff like that," Damiano said. "And the deli is just a matter of getting things set up and getting the retail really going. We'll figure it out from there."

Now that Nimrod is officially open, Damiano said he hopes the name and reputation spread. Though there are not that many lockers in the area or even the state, he knows others are booked further out. It's a mix of his idea for a locker working out as he expected and better than he expected.

"It's a little bit of both," Damiano said. "Right now there's a lull, because farmers are in the field. And there's lockers booked out further than we are right now, but we're still fairly new and people are figuring us out. It's getting there. It's a process and people just need to get to know us. I think the grand opening was a huge success. Iowa Falls really came out and showed its support. That was awesome."

Hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with all processing by appointment. ■

# E-NP buys new digital sign, streamlines communication

BY SHAWN DIGITY  
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The Eldora-New Providence Community School District School Board had the end of the school year in their sights for May's monthly meeting.

In some rapid-fire maneuvers in anticipation for next year, the board approved milk and bread bids for the next school year, along with adopting new and enhanced math curricula for kindergarten through fifth grade and sixth through 12th. Director of Learning Sherri Walker had recommended using the Cengage: Big Ideas for Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 curriculum for the 6-12 group and Bridges 2e and 3e for the K-5 range, which the board signed off on.

Moving forward, E-NP also finalized the Homecoming date for the 2023-2024 academic year now

that the football schedule had been released, which set the celebration for Friday, Sept. 22, against East Marshall.

Next, the board approved bids for two companies regarding work on the new locker rooms: Olberding Floors for \$24,750 and Grays Painting for \$17,300. While the preliminary flooring, painting, and HVAC work will be done beforehand, the lockers themselves are expected to arrive on July 18.

Then, the E-NP board touched on issues with one of the district's digital signs. Citing the broken windows theory in psychology, many board members shared the sentiment that a half-working sign didn't shed the district in an optimal light.

So with that, Eldora-New Providence approved a proposal from Nagle Signs Inc. for a brand new digital sign at \$40,594.

Theoretically, the new sign should last upward of at least 10 years, according to the board.

And as mentioned in a joint meeting earlier this year, ParentSquare, a mass communication tool, worked back into the conversation after all parties were able to get on the same wavelength with a proposal.

ParentSquare offers a gamut of digital and communication services: a mobile app and web portal, language translation, an alert system, newsletters, social media and website consolidation, and many others.

Now approved, the ParentSquare tools should allow teachers, coaches, and administrators to contact parents with updates and announcements more efficiently.

As part of the renovation of the elementary's lower levels, E-NP also approved the purchase of smart, touch panels for the elementary students for \$81,891.

And before adjourning, the school board briefly updated on some summer projects, with the 11th Avenue reconstruction project "moving right along," stated Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adam Zellmer.

Sherri Walker also mentioned that the middle school had been approved for a new STEM grant for a drone class. With that, the school would receive the new curriculum and two accompanying drones as part of the grant.

The school board will continue to meet at 7 p.m. through the summer, and its next session is set for Monday, June 12, at the district office. ■

## ▶ ELDORA COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM P1

"Talking about the investments in the future, the total project build or infrastructure, private investment is about \$4.5 billion across the five-state footprint. Iowa's investment is \$987 million, and by an average by county in terms of investment made as a result of this bill is about \$45 million per county. Economic development always talks about high-quality jobs and jobs that contribute to the economy. This project will require over 11,000 jobs during the two-year construction period. And as we move into steady operations, over 1,100 jobs will be sustained by ongoing operations."

Summit estimated about \$371 million in "new taxes paid" during ongoing operations and around \$97 million across the pipeline's length. For Iowa, particularly, it's \$36 million in Summit-paid taxes for the 30 participating counties and \$2 million in Hardin County alone.

Branching into the safety aspect, Timmons noted that carbon capture's track record has been sterling, with zero deaths "associated with the operation of CO2 pipelines" in their 15 years of usage. "We know that pipeline transportation of CO2 is the safest mode," she added. "There are 5,000 miles of CO2 pipelines operated across the U.S. And as an element, CO2 is both nonflammable and noncombustible."

More so, she stated on the progress thus far, "Project-wide, we secured about 67 percent of the route with 4,421 easements signed. Here in Iowa, we're sitting at 69 percent."

However, Eldora's council had several questions on the matter. Mayor David Dunn asked about the proximity of the project's footprint to the city limits. While it will pass within a mile of Eldora's corporation limits, Terry added it would not require any "road-processing permits or temporary use permits."

Councilman Jerry Kramer inquired on the potential role Eldora would play in emergency events or a "worst-case situation, asking what — or if any — situational training and reimbursement would be offered by Summit.

"My understanding is yes," Timmons responded, but Terry took over to confirm that there would eventually be paid training sessions (comped by Summit) for local first responders that would report to a pipeline crisis. He also verified that training costs would

be reimbursed for the initial and any ongoing sessions.

"As we get closer to construction, there's going to be paid trainings that are set in place that will educate... We will be reimbursing the law enforcement, emergency response, any first responders that would be necessary in an emergency response effort," Terry explained.

Kramer rebutted, "My concern is the long-term impact to the city [from] a cost standpoint potentially if something were to happen and ongoing training is required, who's going to pay for all that... and time away from the job?"

"But my concern is longer than that," the councilman continued. "It boils down to the budget standpoint. If we incur additional expense of any type because of the pipeline, I believe you folks [Summit] should be responsible for reimbursing us indefinitely."

In so many words, Timmons acknowledged Kramer's perspective and added that Summit would be open to more "detailed discussions" to be forthcoming in their project.

Kramer also brought another critique to the forefront, asking, "A lot of the stories I hear are [that] many farmers are opposed to it. Why are they opposed?"

Timmons and Terry both replied that numerous personal and ideological reasons have factored into farmers wanting to or not wanting to support. "It just varies from landowner to landowner. If they're against it, it could be just a variety of reasons," Terry clarified.

Kramer continued, "And if you don't get everybody to sign on, what is your plan?"

"Well, we have been committed since day one to do this through cooperation," Timmons shared. "And we will remain committed to treating landowners and anyone associated with this project with respect and integrity. It's just the way we do business."

Citing the railroad derailment crisis in East Palestine, Ohio, Kramer then asked how Eldora and its community would be able to trust Summit and its claims — even decades down the road. Timmons expressed, "The fact of the matter is it shouldn't have happened... However, the safety in terms of the mode of transportation, I think you're talking apples and oranges when you compare CO2 pipelines to other pipelines... CO2 pipelines are the safest." ■

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