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Gas line extension to benefit River Road

BY ELAINE LORING
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The Iowa Falls City Council conditionally approved the extension of a gas line extension on River Road, hearing from Alliant Energy representatives.

"Tentatively we were looking at about \$525,000, in that ballpark," said Iowa Falls City Manager Jody Anderson. "The reason it is a conditional approval is because easements."

The extension of gas utilities would go underneath the river and come up by the Palisades LLC development, who are seeking the easement, Anderson said.

"The extension would start on the south side by Hackberry and Weyrauch," said Alliant project manager J.D. Katzenmeier, adding that they would "up-size" the gas main from 2-inch to 4-inch from that area down to the river.

A 4-inch steel main would travel underneath the river, then it would come up on the north side and back down to River Road, where the 4-inch would stop. The pipe would be drilled.

Katzenmeier said a drone survey of the river and land was used, and they also drilled holes in the ice of the river to measure depth. "We would be approximately 19 feet deep under the deepest part of the river, and as our gas pipe start coming up, we'd be about 28 feet deep under River Road."

That size would meet all

GAS LINE Cont'd ▶ P2



An ice jam formed on the Iowa River Monday, and by Tuesday evening, it covered a large span of water, pictured to the north of River Oaks Road.

SHAWN DIGITY / TIMES CITIZEN

SLOW MOVER

Ice jam stalls at Weaver's Cove

BY ELAINE LORING
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An ice jam formed on the Iowa River earlier this week, and Monday, Mayor Michael Emerson released a proclamation stating that "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen due to the threat of an ice jam and possible flooding on the Iowa River."

On Tuesday morning this ice jam was behind the Iowa Falls Evangelical Free Church and had only moved 50 yards downstream overnight.

By Wednesday, the chunks of ice had traveled and stalled just to the west of Weaver's Cove, however, Emerson's proclamation was still in effect until the ice runs over the dam, City Manager Jody Anderson had said that morning.

"They haven't had a lot of rain up north," Anderson continued, adding that the extra push of water from a northern rain event would have moved the jam along more quickly.

Several hundred yards of ice were behind the initial jam, but by Thursday, that water had opened up.

"The water backing up behind the jam is forcing the ice to crack," Anderson said on Thursday. "That will push it forward."

Friday morning Anderson was pleased to say water was now moving through the jam, meaning ice chunks could flow down the river.

"With warmer temperatures and no rain, we should be OK," he affirmed.

The last time Iowa Falls experienced an ice jam on the Iowa River was in March of 2019, when ice pieces the size of cars piled up on roads, parking lots and property along the river. ■



ELAINE LORING / TIMES CITIZEN

On Wednesday, ice chunks started piling up on the Iowa River just to the west of Weaver's Cove. However, by Friday, water was flowing through the ice jam.

Dane in the Glass

ECC hosts visiting Clear Lake artist

BY COREY MEINTS | cmeints@iafalls.com

Clear Lake's Chris White isn't a typical artist. Though she has dabbled in drawing and painting, glass is what she settled on.

But the latest Ellsworth Community College Visiting Artist isn't what most associate with when thinking glass art. She doesn't work with stained glass. Instead, White works with fused glass and mosaics.

White was in Iowa Falls Thursday and Friday, hosted by ECC Art Students and friends of the Pat Clark Art Collection, as part of the 21st such program. Her visit started Tuesday with a discussion at ECC with students. She also spoke at the Barlow Library that afternoon. She shared her work and process with Rock Run Elementary students on Wednesday, and did the same at AGWSR on Thursday and Iowa Falls-Alden High School on Thursday and Friday. It culminated with the PCAC Art Exhibit at the Carnegie Library which featured works from local students.

Glass art came to White relatively late in life. She had a career already

in education as a speech and language pathologist. She discovered glasswork at the age of 50 - 21 years ago. She was very-nearly an artist much earlier, however.

"I won an art scholarship out of high school and didn't take it because I thought it didn't sound like a real job and I wouldn't make any money," White said. "But when I turned 50, I thought 'are you never going to look at that?' So I went on the summer of what I called my 'passion quest.' I took nothing but art classes."

During that journey, White re-discovered her love for art. She worked in such mediums as stained glass, pottery, paper marbling, book making, painting and drawing. She loved them all, but it was a suggestion that she didn't take to at first that changed everything.

"My friend John, who is a stained glass artist, called me one day and said he was going to teach a bead class and wanted me to take it," White said. "But I told him I didn't care about beads and had no interest. He convinced me and the second I turned on the torch to melt the glass, everything in my body just said 'I'm home.' So, for a while, I just made beads."



COREY MEINTS / TIMES CITIZEN

Chris White was in the area this week as the PCAC and ECC Visiting Artist. She shared her glass art work with local students.

CHRIS WHITE Cont'd ▶ P2

