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Anderson gets \$45M loan for water project

\$12.5M forgivable grant to replace lead lines, design treatment plant

KEN DE LA BASTIDE
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — The city of Anderson will receive a \$45.1 million loan for upgrades to its water system.

The money will come from the Indiana State Revolving Loan Fund. Anderson Mayor Thomas Broderick Jr. recently made the announcement of the loan, which will be used for low-interest financing for the proposed \$130 million project.

Included is a \$12.5 million forgivable grant that will not have to be repaid, provided the funds are used for water system improvements.

The forgivable grant money will be divided three ways: \$5 million to replace lead water lines, \$5 million for the overall project in south Anderson and \$2.5 million for engineering and design costs for the new proposed water treatment plant in south Anderson. The new plant would replace the Wheeler water plant, parts of which are 70 years old, according to Broderick.

"This is a major win for the city and our water utility customers," he said. "This is an extremely competitive process, and our entire team is to be commended for putting together a compelling application for these needed funds that will allow us to save our rate-payers money while allowing us to make our planned major improvements."

A \$5 million portion of the loan will require no interest payments, while \$27.6 million of the loan will be

at interest rates below market rates.

"The Indiana Finance Authority's decision to grant us these new forgivable grants and favorable loans is an indication that they agree with our assessment that these projects are absolutely essential for Anderson," Broderick said.

Earlier this year, the Anderson Board of Public Works approved a \$6 million contract with Patterson Horth, an Indianapolis-based construction contractor, to expand the city's Lafayette water treatment plant capacity from 10 million gallons to 14 million gallons daily.

The expansion of the plant is expected to be completed in a year.

The city plans to issue \$130 million in bonds over the next three years to upgrade the water system.

City Council has approved \$9 mil-

See **WATER** on A2



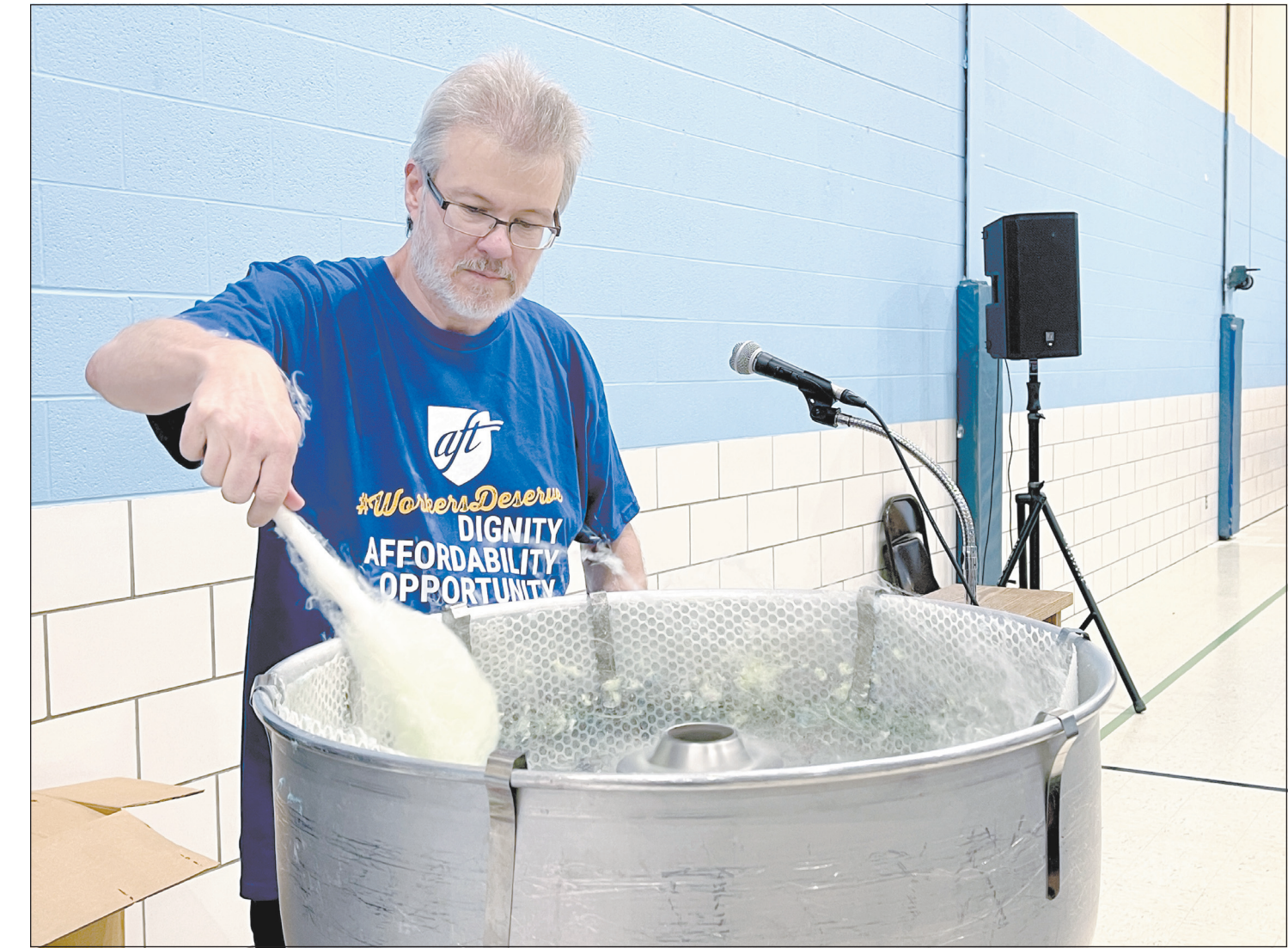
File photo | The Herald Bulletin

Neal McKee, superintendent of the Anderson Water Department, is shown standing in front of the aeration tower at the Lafayette water treatment plant in Anderson in 2024.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND

WORKER APPRECIATION

Anderson Federation of Teachers holds annual Labor Day picnic



Lily Jones | The Herald Bulletin

Patrick Hill, president of the Anderson Community Schools Board of Trustees, twirls cotton candy for those attending the Anderson Federation of Teachers Labor Day picnic inside the Victor and Sophia Reuther Union Hall on Monday afternoon in Anderson.

LILY JONES
THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — More than 500 people gathered Monday to enjoy a Labor Day teachers union picnic — and to push for collective labor rights and student-focused education.

Randy Harrison, president of Anderson Federation of Teachers Local 519, said the event inside the Victor and Sophia Reuther

Union Hall is meant to show appreciation for the middle and working class.

"It's always to celebrate labor and what labor brings to a community," Harrison said of the annual picnic. "It's proven that when labor is active and thriving, the middle class thrives. ...Not only do workers benefit with good wages and benefits, but a community thrives."

VIDEO: See a related video with this story at heraldbulletin.com.

The union hall was stocked Monday with hotdogs, chips, fruit, popcorn, cotton candy, cookies and other food and drink.

Winners of door prizes, as well as a 50/50 raffle ticket drawing and a drawing for a 50-inch smart television, were called out at the end of the event.

See **PICNIC** on A2

PUBLIC HEALTH

Adults 'at elevated risk' of COVID-19

Federal officials tighten access to vaccine

LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

INDIANAPOLIS — Some Hoosiers are sounding the alarm about what could be a harsh COVID-19 and flu season — particularly following a significant change in federal vaccine rules last week.

"Many people are going to encounter barriers in getting a COVID shot," said Indiana Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany. "That is unfortunate and likely to make things worse as we get into the fall and winter."

He was clear that he doesn't support mandates.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday rescinded the Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines and issued marketing authorization focused on "high-risk" Americans. Patients must consult with doctors before getting vaccinated.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., an avowed anti-vaccine activist, spearheaded the changes.

• The virus' presence in Indiana wastewater has already spiked in recent weeks, according to the state's wastewater dashboard.

"Wastewater testing is useful in understanding the spread of COVID-19 since it does not depend on people having access to health care, seeking health care when sick or getting tested for COVID-19," the dashboard notes.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams — also previously Indiana's top health official — posted

See **COVID** on A2



Ed Clere

Postal delivery information:

WEATHER

Today: Sunny. Calm wind.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Calm wind. **Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 81.

81 | 56

Full forecast on Page A8.

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