

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 89



www.pencitycurrent.com

City Cemetery Clean-up



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Chris Sorrentino does some light dusting of a headstone in the City Cemetery Saturday. Commission volunteers were at the cemetery as part of the Community Clean-up sprucing up the grounds and straightening some loose headstones.

Vaccine supply now outpacing demand

LEE COUNTY: LCHD planned Saturday clinic for 900, less than 100 showed up

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A drive-up vaccine clinic held Saturday in Lee County administered just under 100 vaccines, when health officials had supplies to vaccinate 900.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross, told the Lee County Board of Supervisors during their regular meeting Monday, that the county had more than 1,000 doses on hand last week in preparation for the clinic, which was originally geared up to be a Johnson & Johnson vaccine clinic.

But the federal order to halt using the vaccines until more information could be obtained on a potential blood clotting issue that happened in just six cases out of more than 7,000,000, forced the county to supplement the clinic with the 2-shot Moderna vaccine.

Those vaccinated on Saturday at the former Iowa State Penitentiary south parking lot were given an appointment for a second dose in 28 days.



ROSS

Ross said the county rate is 2.3% for the past seven days and the 14-day rate is 2.8%. Lee County has vaccinated about 25.3% of residents, while the state average is around 30%.

“We still have a lot of work to do. I am a little concerned that the supply is now exceeding our demand so to speak,” Ross said.

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds pleaded with Iowans during her press conference last week to reconsider not getting vaccinated to help ensure the state can continue to go about business and hopefully put an end to the virus activity.

Ross said the recent trend away from getting vaccinated is a similar trend across the state in the wake of the Johnson & Johnson issue. The Johnson & Johnson issue caused a pause in use of the one-dose vaccine until Friday of last week, when the CDC and FDA again approved usage with updated guidance.

See **VACCINES**, page 4

AMBULANCE

County offers \$5K bonus for paramedics

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A concern for the lack of full-time paramedics available for the July 1 start of the new county-run Lee County EMS has pushed Lee County Supervisors to offer an incentive to those who sign on with the service.

Lee County Supervisor Gary Seyb Jr., who is a liaison to the ambulance oversight committee, said the county has only secured about half the full-time staff needed to run the department efficiently.



SEYB

“We haven’t had a enough applicants for full-time status to fill our July 1 commitment,” Seyb said. “With the bonus we’re looking to inspire some of the people to apply for full-time status. Our starting rate isn’t high enough to encourage others who have been doing this to apply for us.”

See **BONUS** page 4

NEGOTIATIONS

FM schools, union off about \$304K in initial proposals

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison teacher’s union is asking for \$800 on their base pay and an increase in health insurance stipends, while the district is offering \$349 on the base with no step movement, a difference of about \$304,000.

The proposals were shared Monday afternoon to start the negotiation process at Fort Madison’s central office with Fort Madison school board mem-

See **PROPOSALS**, page 8

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
 TUE 27 Apr.....Light Rain, 81° F / 60° F
 WED 28 Apr.....Rain, 74° F / 61° F
 THU 29 Apr.....Rain, 62° F / 50° F

IOWA LOTTERY

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/22/21 - 10:37 a.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Kimberly Ann Lyons, 42, of Keokuk, in the 2300 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 04/22/21 - 4:05 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 04/22/21 - 10:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Heather Dawn Daniels, 41, of Fort Madison, at John Bennett Drive and Avenue G, on a charge of trespassing-1st offense. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/23/21 - 7:41 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue G.
 04/23/21 - 11:04 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Joshua Isaac Daniels, 37, of Fort Madison in the 200 block of Avenue G, on warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/23/21 - 2:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Danae Lee Larpenner, 33, of Fort Madison, in the 2100 block of Avenue B, on a charge of driving while barred.

ison in the 900 block of 24th Street on a charge of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/23/21 - 3:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Jacob William Klesner, 36, of Fort Madison in the 900 block of 24th Street on a charge of driving while barred.
 04/23/21 - 6:33 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jose Maestro-Martinez, 72, of Fort Madison, in the 1800 block of Avenue A, on a charge of public intoxication. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/23/21 - 7:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 200 block of Avenue G.
 04/24/21 - 3:49 a.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Heather Daniels, 38, of Fort Madison in the 200 block of Avenue G, on a charge of trespassing. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/24/21 - 12:31 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue J.
 04/25/21 - 1:46 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue H.

900 block of 34th Street.
 04/25/21 - 11:36 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of Avenue F.
 04/26/21 - 1:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.
 04/26/21 - 7:08 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of personal injury accident at the intersection of 48th Street and Bluff Road.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/22/21 - 12:30 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jeremy Lee Harris, 35, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.
 04/23/21 - 8:18 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Briana Lynn White, 39, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was released after serving the weekend.
 04/23/21 - 4:15 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Nicole Devitt, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was released after serving the weekend.
 04/23/21 - 10:05 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nathan Lee Seaux, 48, of Mt. Pleasant, at the intersection of Hwy. 2 and Hillcrest in Donnellson on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.
 04/24/21 - 7:53 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Adrian Lopez Diaz, 35, of Springfield, Ill., at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 04/25/21 - 1:09 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 16-year-old male, in the 2800 block of 180th Avenue in Argyle on a charge

of operating a vehicle without the owner's consent. He was given a summons for juvenile court and released to family.
 04/25/21 - 6:13 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Troy Abie Gasaway, 56, of Warsaw, Ill., at the sheriff's office, on warrants for domestic assault with bodily injury and violation of a no-contact order. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

04/01/21 - Lynn A Farr, age 76, of Niota, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence. Farr was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/20/21 - Joshua L Wayson, age 36, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, No Valid Registration, Operating Uninsured Vehicle, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Driving While License Revoked, Improper Use of Registration, Attempt to Possess Stolen / Altered Registration, and Obstructing Identification. Wayson released on his own recognizance and given a future court date.
 04/21/21 - Aimee J Nelson, age 43, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Petition to Revoke Probation on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Nelson remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 04/22/21 - Josephine I McVay, age 47, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine and Criminal Trespass to Real Property. McVay remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 04/22/21 - Justin R Bowden,

age 39, of Keokuk, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Bowden was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/23/21 - Hunter J Sorenson, age 24, of Burlington, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Aggravated Fleeing/Eluding a Peace Officer, Driving Under the Influence, Aggravated Fleeing/Eluding, Disobeying Traffic Control Device, Aggravated Reckless Driving, and Speeding. Sorenson remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 04/23/21 - Jeremy M Carter, age 40, of Niota, IL was arrested and charged with Illegal Transportation of Cannabis by a Passenger. Carter was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Theft and Unlawful Possession Drug Paraphernalia. Carter was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/23/21 - Robin L Paul, age 59, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence and Improper Lane Usage. Paul remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her initial court appearance.
 04/24/21 - Dustin T Crawford, age 29, of Pottersville, MO was arrested on a Howell County, MO warrant charging him with Statutory Sodomy or Attempted Statutory Sodomy - Deviate Sexual Intercourse - Person Less than 12 years. Crawford remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting extradition to Missouri.

04/24/21 - Shelly C Bush, age 53, of Alexandria, MO was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence and Illegal Transportation of Alcohol. Bush was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/24/21 - Brandon R Head, age 31, of Carthage, IL was arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear for original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Head was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/25/21 - Jesse E Knowles, age 35, of Plymouth, IL was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct. Knowles was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 04/25/21 - Stacy L Lunt, age 44, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Petition to Revoke or Modify Sentence on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. Lunt remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 04/25/21 - Richard J Schipper, age 41, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Cannabis by Driver and Driving While License Suspended. Schipper was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

04/24/21 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and one false alarm
 04/25/21 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to four medicals.
 04/26/21 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to five medicals.

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04/23/21 - 3:21 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Randy Alan Akers, 49, of Fort Mad-

04/25/21 - 7:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

VIRGINIA M. RIDDLE

Virginia M Riddle, 83, of Plainfield, IL, formerly of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, April 24, 2021 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Unit in Joliet, IL.

Virginia (Hawkins) Riddle was born in Keokuk, IA July 7, 1937. She was raised on the family farm in rural Argyle, IA. She graduated from Argyle High School in 1954. She was very active in school. She was a drummer in the school band, cheerleader, worked on the school newspaper and was active in 4-H.



RIDDLE

She was married to William Riddle for thirty-four years. He preceded her in death on August 14, 1989.

Virginia had been employed at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant in Keokuk and later at Pizza Hut in Keokuk, where she was the assistant manager until her retirement.

Virginia was generous with her time and talents. She volunteered as a teachers aide and was a member of the Torrence Grade School PTA. She was also a member of the Keokuk Art Center, Keokuk Community Fine Art Council and the Ft. Madison Area Art Association. She was a well known artist in the tri-state area. She had an outdoor gallery showing at her home and sponsored an art competition in Keokuk and Ft Madison in 2018. She also produced a music concert at the Grand Theatre in 2016, A Tribute to Willie Nelson with Kevin Kull and Friends to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital and donated her paintings to various charities and organizations in the area. She was a big sister for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America for many years.

She is survived by her children, Randy (Alice) Riddle of Olathe, KS, Teresa (Jim) Bevering of Plainfield, IL and Robert (Barbara) Riddle of Keokuk, IA. She is also survived by her sister, June Hawkins Jobe Nellos of Warsaw, IL and eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Virginia is preceded in death by her, husband, William L Riddle, her parents, Roy and Daisy (Greer) Hawkins, brothers, Leroy Hawkins, Richard Hawkins, Harold "Sonny" Hawkins, Charles Hawkins and sisters, Betty Hawkins Anderson Tallman and Ruth Hawkins Smith.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, at the Church of All Saints in Keokuk with Reverend David Brownfield, Ph.D. officiating. Burial will be in the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk, IA. Social distancing requirements will be in place and masks are recommended at the church and funeral home. The service will be live streamed on Virginia's tribute wall on the Vigen Memorial Home webpage or on the Church of All Saints Facebook page or on their YouTube site which can be found at www.allsaintskeokuk.org/live.

Visitation will be after 1 p.m., Thursday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with family meeting with friends from 6-8 p.m. A Christian vigil service will be held at 6:00 p.m., during visitation.

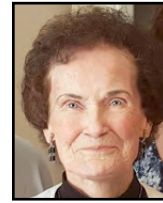
Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

OBITUARIES

ALBERTA R. KNOBBS

Alberta R. Knobbs, 90, of LaHarpe, Illinois, passed away at 5:34 a.m. Sunday, April 25, 2021 at the UnityPoint – Memorial Hospital, Carthage, Illinois.

Alberta was born on May 25, 1930 in LaHarpe, Illinois, the daughter of Harold and Alelia (Chubb) Shoemate. On June 13, 1948 she married William "Bill" Knobbs in LaHarpe. He preceded her in death on September 6, 2013.



KNOBBS

Alberta was a 1948 graduate of LaHarpe High School and still enjoyed getting together with classmates once a week. She was a member of the former LaHarpe United Methodist Church and the LaHarpe Senior Citizens.

Alberta enjoyed working in her flower beds, listening to country music and time spent with friends and family.

Survivors include four daughters: Betty (Robert) Quigle of Smyrna, Tennessee, Susan Keith of Smyrna, Tennessee, Rhonda (Ben) Diewold of Burlington, Iowa and Julie Larson of Ft. Madison, Iowa; eight grandchildren: Andrea (Jamie) Lambert, Robbie (Lisa) Quigle, Katie Larson, Will Larson, Shaye (Daryl) Manley, Shawna (Michael) Wilson and Debi Quigle and seven great-grandchildren.

Alberta was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years: Bill; one brother and sister-in-law: John and Delores Shoemate and one son-in-law: Roger Keith.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, April 29, 2021 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe with Rev. Lee Unger officiating. Burial will follow in the LaHarpe Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until time of services Thursday at Banks & Beals. Mask are recommended. A memorial fund has been established for the LaHarpe American Legion or LaHarpe Senior Citizens.

To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Alberta's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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Sports/From the Front

County opposes Liberty rate hike request

BONUS - Continued from Page 1

Seyb said his concern is that the county would be looking at heavy overtime costs that would surpass the amount of the bonus. He said second- and third-year pay increases put the future county employees in line with other providers.

Lee County Supervisor Chair Matt Pflug asked why the county shouldn't offer the sign-on-bonus up front.

Seyb said the hope was to not only incentivize the position, but encourage people to stick around until the second year where a 20-cent per hour pay increase would then serve as the incentive to keep people on board.

Any employees with one suspension would face a delay in their bonus payment until a full year from the completion of the suspension. Any employee with two suspensions prior to receiving the bonus would lose the bonus.

Supervisor Ron Fedler asked if the committee had considered requiring a two- to three-year commitment as part of the bonus program. He said without that there's really nothing keeping someone from working the first year, taking the bonus, and then leaving.

Lee County Ambulance Director Dennis Cosby said he advocated for just one year. He said the pay increases at years two and three should suffice to keep staff on board, in addition to a better schedule and brand new equipment.

Seyb said it's his understanding that just three paramedics graduated from the Southeastern Community College program last semester.

"Paramedics are very undervalued and in Southeast Iowa, on top of that, there are very few of them. The only thing we could do to inspire them would be to offer an even higher bonus," he said.

"This is the first person on site when someone is having a heart attack or a stroke. I want to see the best people we can get. If we're asking them to take a \$5,000 or \$10,000 pay cut the first year, that's pretty tough for somebody to do."

Cosby said the county needs to hire nine full-time paramedics, in addition to some part-time fill-in positions.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, who also sits on the oversight committee, said the committee is trying to make the positions as attractive as possible working two-day rotations and trying to avoid the 80 and 90 hour work weeks some providers are facing.

Cosby said that potential is what is causing some qualified people to leave the area.

"Some have expressed concern that they were going to have to work 80 to 90 hours a week and they just aren't interested in that. We want to make sure we are fully staffed so they aren't facing that," Cosby said.

Seyb motioned to approve the bonus plan and Fedler seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Supervisor Rick Larkin was out on vacation.

In a related action, the board unanimously approved a policy and agreement around the bonus program. The program only applies to the county's paramedics.

In other action, the board:

- approved a resolution opposing a rate hike proposal from Liberty Utilities for residents in Montrose, Keokuk and southern Lee county. The proposed rate increases include an 11.45% jump for residential customers, a 10.2% increase for commercial and a 2.95% increase on industrial rates in the county. The resolution was passed 4-0.

- approved the hire of a temporary part-time new hire in the conservation department for the summer.



Fort Madison's Vasin Thurman fires a serve in his doubles match with brother Jason Thurman in Friday's matchup with Mt. Pleasant. The Thurmans won both their singles matches and the doubles match to stay perfect on the year.

County to shift to smaller pop-up vaccine clinics

VACCINES - Continued from Page 1

Ross said 50 counties in Iowa declined their weekly allocation last week and an additional 28, including Lee County, only accepted partial allocations.

"Out of 500 available, we could only allocate 200 of those out to other vaccinators in the county. The health department had quite a bit of supply. We received a 1,000 doses last week for this larger clinic," she said.

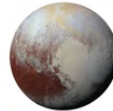
Ross said LCHD will now shift focus from large scale clinics to smaller pop-up clinics going where people have had previous access or transportation issues in

getting vaccinated.

"So we might be going into the community on a smaller scale, trying to get to those hard to reach populations if they're interested in getting their vaccine."

Ross said the focus will also turn back to mitigation and encouraging people to continue following health care measures such as social distancing and face coverings until the county has a larger number of people vaccinated.

"People still need to remember in public settings to be careful, social distance and be mindful that we still have a small amount of virus activity in the county," Ross said.



Thurmans stay perfect as Hounds win at home

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Seniors Jason and Vasin Thurman stayed perfect on the year in singles and doubles tennis as they helped Fort Madison to a 6-3 win over Mt. Pleasant on Friday.

Jason, playing at No. 1 singles, defeated David Nguyen 6-1, 6-1 while Vasin Thurman knocked off Jack Schimmelpfennig 6-1, 6-0. The two then combined for a win at No. 1 doubles with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Schimmelpfennig and Owen Vansickle.

Vansickle handed Fort Madison's Levi Sissel a 6-2, 6-2 loss before Bryce Workman earned his surname with a 10-2 tiebreaker win over the Panther's Levi Graber after winning the first set 6-2 and then dropping the second set 0-6 to force the tiebreaker.

Workman has gone into tiebreakers in his last four matches including doubles play. He went into a tiebreaker again at No. 2 doubles playing with Sissel. The Hounds dropped the first set 3-6, but came back in the second with a 6-2 win breaking the Panthers' Nguyen and Brian Huynh twice. Fort Madison would take the tiebreaker 10-8.

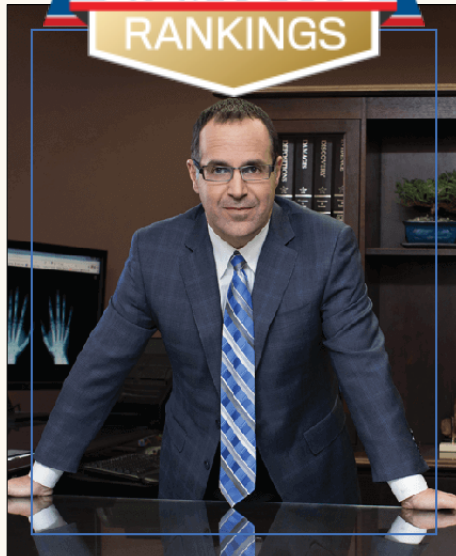
Graber and Lincoln Henrickson won in two over Medland and Horn 6-1, 6-3 at No. 3 doubles.

Henrickson lost to Medland in a marathon No. 5 singles match. Medland won the first set 6-3 and then fell 4-6 in the second. The Bloodhound got down 9-10 and was facing match point, but won the next three points in a row to get the win for Fort Madison.

Horn lost to Jake Ensminger 6-1, 6-0 at No. 6 singles.

Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence

Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in 2020 and again in 2021.



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JOB DESCRIPTION: Correctional officers serve as the backbone to the correctional system. Their careers are both challenging and rewarding as they balance their security mission with the mission of helping those incarcerated reform themselves into a successful, law-abiding citizen upon their reentry. Once fully trained, Correctional Officers can make a lasting impact on an incarcerated person's life while also helping maintain safe and secure correctional facilities. New Correctional Officers earn a full time salary as they go through their training, and the State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the private or public sector. Starting Salary: (\$20.34/\$30.14 [Max])

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Tips for a successful application: Set up an account using current contact information and an email you check regularly. From the menu select "Notify me of Job Openings" select categories you are interested in. Fill out the application completely, attach a resume, and check your account for additional info needed or notices regularly.



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LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

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Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

To apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or request one from the Engineer office, and return your completed application, along with a resume to: Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, IA 52627, or email it to engineer@leecounty.org Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If you have any questions please contact Lee County Engineer, Ben Hull, at (319) 372-2541 or email him at engineer@leecounty.org.



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The Lee County Maintenance Department is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Part-time Custodian, working approximately 28 hours per week. Work involves keeping county buildings clean and orderly; mopping floors; emptying waste baskets; cleaning and restocking restrooms; and dusting, among other tasks. Work requires the safe operation of hand maneuvered vacuum machines, as well as the careful use of cleaning chemicals. Must be capable of performing duties inside the Lee County Correctional Facility Complex.

Application forms and the job description can be downloaded at www.leecounty.org or may be obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor's Office at 319-372-3705

Completed application should be sent or delivered to Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, 933 Avenue H, P.O. Box 190, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or emailed to dfraise@leecounty.org. IPERS and benefits available. All applications should be received by the Auditor's office by 4:30 PM on Friday, May 14, 2021.

Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES April 5, 2021

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Office Building, on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Ron Fedler, Rick Larkin and Garry Seyb.

Present electronically: Rich Harlow

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to ap-

prove the agenda. Motion carried.

At 9:01 a.m. Pflug opened a Public Hearing for approving an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 County Budget.

There were no comments received prior to the hearing and no comments received during the hearing. At 9:02 a.m. it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2021-60. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
2021 - 60**

Resolution - Adoption of Budget Amendment FY2021

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing has been completed concerning the Proposed Lee County Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 in accordance with the Iowa Department of Management guidelines and, per Iowa Code Section 331.434, Subsection 5;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, the Public Hearing is acknowledged and the Budget Amendment as presented is hereby adopted.

Dated at Ft Madison, Iowa on the 5th day of April 2021.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chair-

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AmeriCorps Seniors (formerly known as RSVP 55+ Initiative) at United Way of the Great River Region is seeking volunteers over the age of 55 who are looking to make a difference in their community.

We can help you find a volunteer opportunity in Lee County, Iowa that suits your interests and your time.

Contact Tammy Hudson, AmeriCorps Seniors Director at 319-372-8043 or rsvp@unitedwaygrr.org to set up a time to talk.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

man. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.
 Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2021-61. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

2021 - 61
 Resolution for Amended Appropriations FY2021
 Whereas, Resolution #2020-103, dated October 6, 2020 must be updated to correctly reflect the adjustments to appropriations for each of the different county officers and departments

for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, in accordance with Section 331.434, Subsection 6, Code of Iowa.
 Now, Therefore, be it resolved, by the Lee County Board of Supervisors to amend Resolution #2020-103 as stated below:

Paul Menke, Fort Madison
 Gary Peitz, West Point
 Rodger Whitaker, Keokuk
 Dated this 5th day of April, 2021.
 /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2021-63. Roll call: Larkin-aye,

Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.
RESOLUTION #2021-63
 WHEREAS, on January 2, 2021 the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution #2021-11 naming depositories and limits for County funds;
 WHEREAS, the County has bonded for

\$9,245,000 to purchase Communication Equipment and refinance previous bonds;
 WHEREAS, it is necessary to raise the limit on funds deposited in Connections Bank;
 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 5th day of April 2021, that the following limits be established:

LEE COUNTY IOWA Expenditures by Department FY2021 100%			
Department	Budget	Appropriation	Amended Appropriation
Board of Supervisors	2,138,235	2,138,235	2,138,235
Auditor	879,473	879,473	879,473
Treasurer	783,576	783,576	783,576
County Attorney	1,053,200	1,053,200	1,053,200
Sheriff	4,403,919	4,403,919	4,403,919
Recorder	572,727	572,727	572,727
Secondary Roads	8,736,583	8,736,583	8,736,583
Veteran Affairs	132,418	132,418	132,418
Conservation	1,791,421	1,791,421	1,791,421
Board of Health	4,046,338	4,046,338	4,046,338
GR/CPC/Court/Comm. Housing	2,168,824	2,168,824	2,168,824
Human Services	78,058	78,058	78,058
Medical Examiner	200,000	200,000	200,000
Lee County EMS	67,433	67,433	67,433
Maintenance	652,315	652,315	652,315
Building Repair & Maintenance	489,474	489,474	489,474
Non-Departmental (Includes Transfers)	10,269,207	5,914,869	10,269,207
TOTAL	38,463,201	34,108,863	38,463,201

Dated at Ft Madison, Iowa on the 5th day of April 2021.
 /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.
 There was no Public Input.
 Arin Jones, Coordinator with Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, read a proclamation naming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to proclaim April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Motion carried.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise administered the Oath of Office to Deborah Courtney as 2nd Deputy and Health Billings as 1st Deputy in the Recorder's Office.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve Resolution #2021-62. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.
Resolution #2021-62
 WHEREAS, the United State Department of

Commerce conducts the United States Census every ten years;
 WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 331.210A states that a Temporary County Redistricting Commission shall be established to adopt the County's precinct boundaries;
 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following named individuals shall be appointed to the Lee County Temporary Redistricting Commission:
 Jerry A Kearns, Keokuk
 Larry Kruse, Donnellson

TREASURER	LOCATION	MAX DEPOSIT
Connections Bank	Fort Madison	\$20,000,000.00
Lee County Bank	Fort Madison	1,000,000.00
Midwestone	Fort Madison	2,000,000.00
Farmers Savings Bank	Wever	5,000,000.00
Connections Bank	Keokuk	5,000,000.00
Two Rivers Bank	Keokuk	5,000,000.00
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	Fort Madison	15,000,000.00
AUDITOR		
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	Pilot Grove	100,000.00
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	Fort Madison	5,000,000.00
SHERIFF		
Connections Bank	Keokuk	400,000.00
Lee County Bank	Fort Madison	400,000.00
RECORDER		
Connections Bank	Fort Madison	100,000.00
Pilot Grove Savings Bank	Keokuk	100,000.00
CONSERVATION		
Two Rivers Bank	Keokuk	7,500.00

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Monday, March 29, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Seyb, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.
 Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a promotion for Heather Billings, from Auditor's Office Real Estate Technician II, \$18.83/hr. to First Deputy Recorder, \$47,272.34/annual, effective 4/5/21; a promotion for Sean Malcolm, from Engineering Technician, \$27.24/hr. to Assistant to Engineer, \$76,283.78/annual, effective 4/10/21; new hire for the Health Department, Lily Cadwallader, Home Health Aide, \$13.11/hr., effective

4/6/21 and new hire for the Recorder's Office, Shauna Stuart, Records Clerk, \$15.17/hr., effective 4/19/21. Motion carried.
 Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of February 2021 .
 Committee Reports:
 Larkin reported on a Regional Mental Health Board meeting and a Workforce Development Board meeting. Harlow reported on a Children First Board meeting. Seyb reported on an Economic Development Joint Education Committee meeting. Lee County Health Department Director Michele Ross gave the Board an update on the County's Covid vaccine program.
 At 9:40 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 Matt Pflug, Chairman
 Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor
 Dated April 5, 2021

Dnnllsn Tire, svcs	20.00
Drsy/Whntny, svcs	9500.00
Estrn IA Tire, tires	
.....	1606.56
R Fedler, exps	86.54
T Forseen, svcs	30.35
TO Haas Tire, svcs	
.....	103.49
HnckCo Hlth, svcs	
.....	1905.00
Hrtrcks Lmbr, svcs	254.58
Hmtwn Plg, svcs	
.....	25848.82
Hot Cling Sys, svcs	
.....	18100.00
ISACA, reg	125.00
J&S Elec Bus, splys	
.....	59.47
Jays Auto, svcs	180.00
J Deere Fncl, svcs	362.85
B Johnson, exps	20.25
JW Medical, equip	
.....	6230.00
T Keefe, exps	110.25
J Kemper, exps	348.20
Kempkers, splys	73.96
Lrning Tree, svcs	1345.45
LeeCo Bnk, splys	111.34
LeeCo EMS, svcs	
.....	75000.00
LeeCo Treas, pstg	
.....	1200.00
Martin Equip, equip	
.....	682.93
MidAm Enrgy, gas	
.....	1062.12
OMG MW, svcs	2367.83
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From the Front

District offers increase in base, no step movement

PROPOSALS - Continued from Page 1

bers Dianne Hope and Josh Wykert, Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater, and Emily Ellingson, the district's attorney, on hand for the district.

Kerry Cooper, Fort Madison Education Association's chief negotiator, outlined the initial proposal with six other committee members and about 24 other teachers all adorned in black FMEA T-shirts that read FMEA Proud/Strong/Unified.

Step increases are gradual increases for teachers based on tenure and increased education up to a maximum amount. For example, a teacher with a master's degree would be on a separate step increment scale than a teacher with a bachelor's degree. Both get increased pay based on years of service thresholds.

"If ever there was a time to show educators grace and professional courtesy, it is now," Cooper said, referring to the obstacles created by the COVID pandem-

ic. "Teachers have gone to extraordinary lengths to keep students engaged academically and socially, risking their own health and putting aside time with their own families to ensure their students have the support they need."

Cooper said for three out of the past four years the district has presented an initial offering of \$0 on the base.

"We are here to negotiate with the district to reach a settlement agreement that reflects the work the teachers are doing," Cooper said.

Citing Basic Educational Data Survey (BEDS) numbers, Cooper said the Fort Madison district ranks 322 out of 372 in the state as far as health coverage benefits. She also pointed to state data that showed Fort Madison teachers' contract settlement has been below the state average for the past four years at a 1.6% overall increase in compensation, while the state average has

been 2.4%.

After the proposals were offered, Cooper said it's important for younger teachers to get step increases because it affects their IPERS, which is the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System. Those contributions and ultimate payouts are based on formulas derived in part on individual employees compensation over their tenure with the state.

"That's the thing. We have to keep going on our steps. That's where it hurts our IPERS," Cooper said. "I understand where they're trying to make it better for older teachers like me that are (maxed), but our younger teachers - they have to keep moving across that pay scale," she said.

The union also asked for an increase in the stipend that covers the Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa's Blue Choice Insurance Plan offered to union employees.

FMCSB Board President Dianne Hope declined to comment after



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Members of the Fort Madison Education Association joined Monday at the Fort Madison School district central office as proposals were shared to start the negotiating process for the 2021-22 union contracts.

the initial meeting other than to say the process will be routine.

"I just appreciate everything our teachers are doing," she said.

The two sides took a five-minute break before convening in closed session to begin the negotiation process.

District Business Manager Sandy Elmore did some quick calculating before the initial meeting broke up and said the teachers' union proposal amounts to a 3.67% increase or \$422,645 with the health benefits request included. The union said they had that calculated at 3.5%.

Ellingson said the dis-

trict was providing the initial proposal because of requirements of the state's Public Employee Relations Board with the understanding that the district isn't planning on settling on their number.

The two entities will negotiate the contract over the next several weeks. The final step should an agreement not be reached between the two would be binding arbitration. According to PERB, the maximum amount allowable under non-public safety arbitration for April would be the corresponding Consumer Price Index of 1%.

Ellingson said the reason behind not offering step increases is to create a more equitable distribution to increases that also reflect the

teachers who've been with the district the longest.

The activities and nursing schedule would reflect the same offer of the base increase with no step movement. Supplemental contracts would remain the same as the current contract.

Ellingson said the district's proposal reflects a 1.03% increase in base wages or about \$118,960.

According to the Chapter 20 changes that took place in 2017, the district isn't under any mandate to negotiate anything other than pay.

Slater added that she would like to keep the labor management committee the district got going in 2018 to help foster relations between the union and the district.



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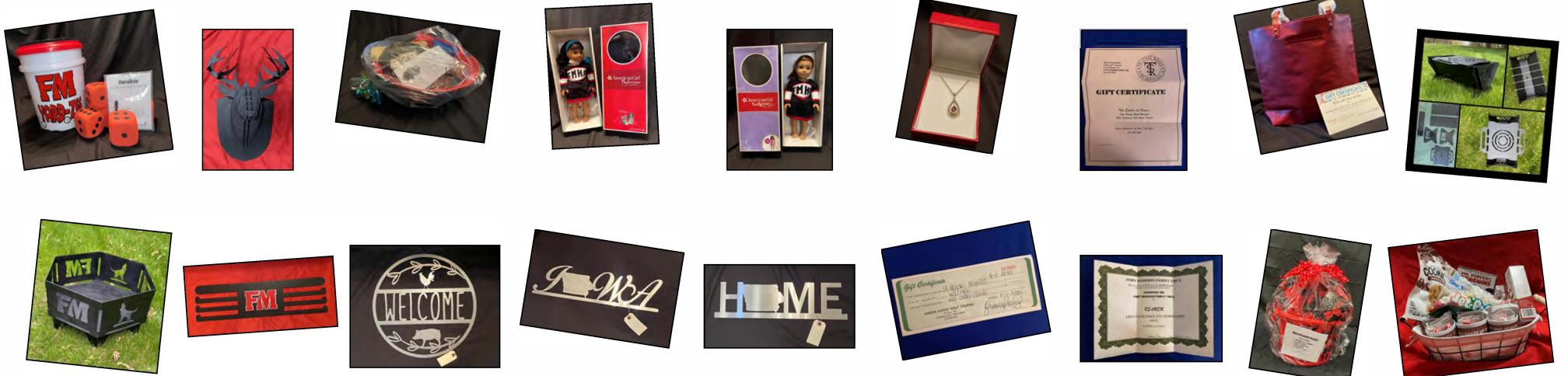
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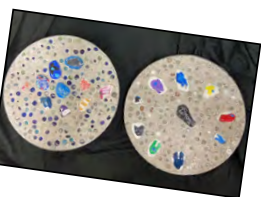
 Mrs. Billingsley's 1st Grade Cookbook


 Mrs. Cashman's 2nd Grade Tote Bag (2019-20)

 Mrs. Terrell's 3rd Grade Jenga Set


 Library Handmade Bean Bag and Book Basket by Mrs. Carter

 Mrs. Bailey's 1st Grade Coffee Mug Set and Hot Cocoa Basket (2019-20)




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Classroom Projects


 Ms. Martin's Kindergarten Dr Seuss Basket and Portrait


 Ms. Howard's 1st Grade Jenga Set W/ Photo Project

 Mrs. Wheeler's 2nd Grade Classroom Faces Blanket


 Mrs. Wibbell's 3rd Grade Student Photography Collage

 Mrs. Woolever's 3rd Grade American Flag Painting


 Movie Night Basket Created by Lincoln's Ms. Loots, Ms. Pollpeter, & Ms. Settles


 Bloodhound Basket Created by Ms. Forbes


 Mrs. Hellige's Kindergarten Barn Quilts (2020-21 AND 2019-20)

 Mrs. Cashman's 2nd Grade Classroom Guess Who Game

 Ms. Nagel's 2nd Grade Checkers Set


 Mrs. Bothell's 3rd Grade Stepping Stones


 Mrs. Saathoff and Mrs. Ridgeway's Online Students Outdoor Fun Basket


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