

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

September 1, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 159



www.pencitycurrent.com

Positivity rate at 25%

LEE COUNTY: LCHD's Ross "very worried" about the health of the county

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross said she's deeply concerned for the health of Lee County as the Delta variant of COVID continues to transmit at a high rate in the county.

And current numbers from the Centers for Disease Control may bear out her concerns.

As of Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. CDC numbers for Lee County showed a 7-day positivity rating of 25.2% more than 17% over the Iowa Department of Public Health's last reported number of 8.2% on Aug. 26. That means that 1-in-4 COVID



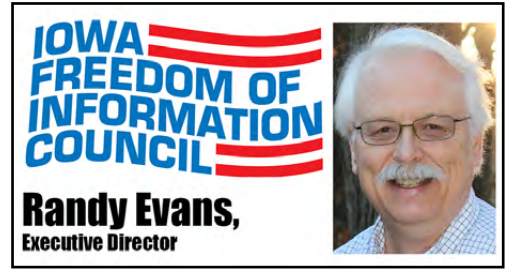
ROSS

tests are currently coming back positive for the virus.

"I am very worried about the health of our community and the growing lack of concern by many," Ross wrote in an email to Pen City Current Tuesday.

"People are just plain tired of COVID and want it to be gone – including me. Our local health care systems and their teams, our dedicated LCHD team, and many wonderful and caring community volunteers have given endless hours of time to this fight – we

See **COVID**, page 8



There's no escaping the chaos of war

The news out of Afghanistan last week about the terrorist bombing at the airport in Kabul brought fresh heartache — and old memories — to Iowa. A native of Red Oak, Marine Cpl. Daegan Page, 23, was among 13 members of the U.S. military who died in the blast. Page and the others were screening U.S. citizens and Afghanistan civilians heading to evacuation flights — among 120,000 people the United States and its allies have airlifted out of Afghanistan after its government collapsed following more than 20 years of civil war. Not surprisingly, there have been many questions since President Joe Biden announced in April American forces would be gone by the end of August. Questions are nothing new about the U.S. presence in Afghanistan — or about our handling of other wars and conflicts.

There were questions when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and again in 2003 when we invaded Iraq. More questions came last year when President Donald Trump released 5,000 Taliban prisoners and said the U.S. military would be out by May 2021.

There have been plenty of been questions about why, after trillions of dollars in U.S. tax money (yes, trillions, with a T) being spent on the war and military equipment, Afghanistan was no closer to having a stable government capable of providing for its own security. But in and around Red Oak last week, those questions were pushed aside, at least temporarily, by news of the death of Daegan Page and by recollections of another war, another example of war's horrific toll and another instance of war-time chaos.

In 1943, the news that shocked Iowa

See **WAR**, page 5



Photo courtesy of Jamie Mesecher

The heat on Sunday pushed dance practice inside and the Fort Madison Eagles Club welcomed the dancers in preparation for this month's Mexican Fiesta Sept. 16-18 in the Mexican Village.

COUNTY NEWS

County auditor says new laws equate to voter suppression

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – New laws passed by the Iowa Legislator have reduced the amount of time and the exposure voters have to absentee ballots, as well as time at the polls, and Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise



FRAISE

said that equates to voter suppression.

A number of new election laws have impacted several facets of voting this year including the time you have to request an absentee ballot, the time you have to

return the ballot, and who can return the ballot on behalf of a voter.

"This is voter suppression. It's sure making it harder for voters," Fraise said.

Fraise is going on her eighth year as county auditor and 25th year overseeing

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WEATHER

WED 01 Sep.....Sunny and Clear, 78° F/ 55° F
THU 02 Sep.....Broken Clouds, 76° F/ 59° F
FRI 03 Sep.....Cool with Light Rain, 65° F/ 61° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/30.....13 22 28 30 44, Lucky Ball: 11
PICK 3 08/30 MIDDAY.....9 4 8
PICK 3 08/30 EVENING.....9 6 2
PICK 4 08/30 MIDDAY.....4 0 7 4
PICK 4 08/30 EVENING.....4 6 6 5
POWERBALL 08/30.....3 15 45 51 61, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2

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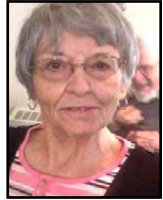
www.LeeCountyHD.org

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

YVONNE L. KAMINSKI

Yvonne L. "Voni" Kaminski, age 78, of Dallas City passed away at 6:06 pm Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at McDonough County Hospital in Macomb, IL after a valiant battle with Non-Alcoholic SteatoHepatitis (NASH). She was reluctantly passed from the arms of the adoring family she created to those of her loving Savior.



KAMINSKI

Yvonne was born an actual coal miner's daughter on November 19, 1942 in Emporium, PA to Harry E. and Annie (Smith) Gontero. She was a 1961 graduate of Burlington High School. She married Gary Kaminski March 17, 1963 in Burlington, IA. She worked as a bookkeeper and secretary in the early years of her marriage, but her true calling was as a wife, mother, and grandmother.

When her daughter became paralyzed in a diving accident, she became a fearless advocate and tireless encourager. She spent countless hours driving to rehabilitation centers, to SCI research trials, to colleges and law school. She became an enthusiastic genealogy assistant and treasure hunting partner. She made it her mission to open every door she could to her forever grateful daughter.

Yvonne loved being a grandma. She was a founding member of the large entourage that accompanied her grandchildren to piano recitals, class plays, T-ball games, talent shows, art displays, lemonade stands, etc. She loved to hear every detail of their lives and discussed at great length their every daydream.

Yvonne had a natural curiosity her entire life and firmly believed, "every man I meet is my superior in some way, and in that I learn from him." Because of this, she loved meeting new people and learning new things. She was interested in the lives of everyone she met and never knew a stranger. She maintained decades long friendships while continuing to make new ones. She spent hours on the phone with her brother, sister, and friends. She was generous to a fault in both time and money. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Dallas City.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years; one son Jamie Kaminski (and wife Tami); one daughter Kristin Kaminski; three grandchildren Kayla Hutson (and husband Ross); Katie Kaminski; and Cooper Kaminski, all of Dallas City; one devoted brother Lynn Gontero (and wife Cylda) of Iowa City; three nieces; two nephews; many great nieces, nephews, and great great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one beloved sister and brother-in-law Shirley and Carl Burger; and one brother Teddy Gontero.

Services will be held at 2:00pm Saturday, August 28, 2021 at the First Christian Church in Dallas City. Burial will follow in the Harris Cemetery near Dallas City. Friends may call after 2:00pm Friday at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas city where the family will meet with friends from 5:00 until 7:00p.m. A memorial fund has been established for the Sunbeam Corner in Dallas City or a charity of the donor's choice.

OBITUARIES

DONALD JONES

Donald "DJ" Jones, 69, of Keokuk, Iowa, passed away on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at Donnellson Health Center in Donnellson, Iowa.

DJ was born on January 12, 1952, in Oregon, the son of Helen Hagmeier. He grew up in the Keokuk area, graduating from Hamilton High School. He was employed as an autobody specialist, detailing and pinstriping cars with precision. His free time consisted of day-dreaming, successfully entertaining everyone around him and putting puzzles together.



JONES

DJ was a talented storyteller and a natural comedian, and he never wasted a chance to make a joke. He was a talented craftsman, creating beautiful items like intricate beadwork, homemade clocks and more. In his younger years, you could often find him at flea markets, both as a vendor and collector. Other interests included a love of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, movies, and spending time with friends and family.

DJ is survived by four children: Sarah (Craig) Krogmeier of Kahoka, Missouri, Helena (Tony) Abbey of Keokuk, Donald (Traci) Wright of Fort Madison, Iowa, and Jason (Danielle) Wright of Kahoka, Missouri; fourteen grandchildren: Alexandra Brothers, Kyle Schmitt, Cory McElhoe, Callista Krogmeier, Annastasia Krogmeier, Livinnia Corvaia, Luke Krogmeier, Otylya Krogmeier, Dylan Kite, Colton Kite, Kiawntae Smith, Dejah Smith, Skarlett Hoover and River Wright; eight great-grandchildren; and his brother David Gray of Keokuk.

DJ is preceded in death by his mother Helen and his grandson Damon Krogmeier.

DJ's life will be celebrated with a graveside service at 10 am on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk, Iowa. A celebration of life with food and refreshments will be held at the Odd Fellows Lodge in Keokuk directly after the service.

Memorials may be made to the family in care of Jason Wright.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

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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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LINDA K. JOHNSON

Linda Kay Johnson, 73, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 1:26 p.m. on Friday, August 27, 2021 at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City. She was



JOHNSON

born on March 12, 1948 in Quincy, IL to Charles & Marjorie Ruth Nichols Benge. She married Robert Redd and he preceded her in death in 1983. She was a housekeeper and worked in several factories and fast food restaurants over the years. She enjoyed watching soap operas, Purple Rain and the Coal Miner's Daughter. She also enjoyed trucking with Augie. She loved to play Bingo and Word Find with her granddaughter on cell phones. Linda loved her children and the last time she saw her oldest daughter Candy and her son Sean, it made a great impact on her life.

Linda is survived by: 5-children: Candy (Frey) Redd-Maldonado, Robert Redd, Tina Redd, Sean Redd & Angel Redd all of Fort Madison, IA; her fiancé of 22 years: Augie Moreno of Fort Madison, IA; 24-grandchildren; several great grandchildren; 3-brothers: Brad (Julie) Benge of Fort Madison, IA, Chuck Benge of Fairfield, IA & Rick Benge of Fort Madison, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned. Online condolences to Linda's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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OBITUARIES

SANDRA ELLIS

Sandra Ellis, 74, passed away on August 25 at Blessing Hospital, in Quincy, IL after a brief illness.



ELLIS

Sandy was born August 29, 1946 in Keokuk, Iowa, first born daughter of Louis Wilber "Mort" Mortimer and Juanita "Duke" Mortimer (Brown). She attended school in the Keokuk area. Sandra married twice during her lifetime. She had four children with Thomas Greer (deceased) and later married George Ellis (deceased) and had one child. She most recently made her home in Kahoka, MO.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one infant brother, two sons, Thomas Greer II and Lewis Greer.

She is loved and survived by three children, Sunde Nelson (Chris), Martin Greer and Quianna Brookhart (David), a daughter in law that she considered a daughter, Belinda Greer (Moore, Balentine). She also helped raise a loving grand-daughter, Julianna Knowles and her daughter, Aurelia Knowles and a great grandson, Jaedyn Greer, that lovingly refers to Sandy as "Daymom". She is also survived by two grandchildren, James Moore and Brooke Greer, two siblings, Percy "Marty" "Mort" Mortimer and Mona Heger (Mortimer, Bawden).

Sandy's passion was her family and friends. She loved going to the VFW, in Kahoka, to visit with her friends and spending holidays with family and friends, cooking and sharing with everyone.

Sandra's life will be celebrated with a memorial service at 2 pm on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Tuesday, August 31, from 5 to 8 pm, with family meeting friends from 6 to 8 pm.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

JUNIOR R. WHITE

Junior Raymond White, 62, of Keokuk, passed away on Monday, August 23, 2021, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City.



WHITE

Junior was born on June 7, 1959, in Hannibal, Missouri, the son of Raymond "JJ" and Edna Virginia White, later graduating from Keokuk High School.

He was employed at Steel Castings and enjoyed sports and his cell phone. Junior spent much of his life battling chronic illness, which limited his activities for many years.

Junior is survived by his father Ray White of Keokuk; four children: LaMont (Ariel) White, Tyler (Kim) White, Shayla White, and KeyShawn (Jaelyn) White; eleven grandchildren: Sam Ratliff, JaShon, Braylon, Landon, and Amyah White; Adriona, Tymere, and Tykel White; Jaylyn Countryman and Genesis White; and Zaelei White; four brothers: Jerry Anthony Talton of Hannibal, MO; Christopher Ray White, Kenneth D. White and Timmy Lee White, all of Keokuk; three sisters: Virginia Fortson of Chesapeake, Virginia; Regina L. Yates of Keokuk and Contennia M. (Chris) Tripp of Omaha, Nebraska; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Junior is preceded in death by his mother Edna.

Junior's life will be celebrated with a homegoing celebration at noon on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home in Keokuk, with burial to follow at Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk.

Visitation will be held at the funeral home from 10 am to noon directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the family in care of Raymond White.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

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From the Front

New laws reduce absentee options

ABSENTEE - Continued from Page 1

voting in Lee County. She said this is the most substantial stepping down of voter rights she's seen in her time in public service.

"I've been doing elections since 1996, this is the biggest step down I've ever seen, with the most changes. I just think what they put in there about us being fined \$10,000 or facing jail is just ridiculous. They don't do that to any other elected official if they do something wrong. They're just picking on auditors is what they're doing because of what happened in those three counties."

Fraise was referring to Woodbury, Johnson and Linn counties where county auditors there sent out ballot request forms that had personal information already filled in on the forms.

"That's what set fire to all of this," Fraise said.

"This is a result, I truly believe, of the infractions of those three other counties. That's the way I see it. Iowa wasn't the only state that did this either. Other states did it too and I'm really hoping the feds do something. They last time they did anything was the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 and federal rules would overrule the state in elections."

The Voting Rights Act was the federal government, under President Lyndon Johnson, stepping in to prevent racial discrimination in election processes.

Some of the bigger changes, in addition to language that allows for the fine and jailing of auditors found conducting elections contrary to new and existing state law, is closing all state polling locations at 8 p.m., and new requirement that all ballots be in the county auditor's possession by 8

p.m. on election day.

The county can no longer send out absentee request forms unless voters personally request such a form, and the time that people can request an absentee ballot shrunk from 120 days to just 70 days.

"The first day we can even start to mail out the absentee ballots themselves is now just 20 days before election day," Fraise said.

"So the best advice I can give you is to get that ballot back here right away. Fill it out when you get it, and mail it right back or get it down here."

"We have to have the ballot in our office by 8 p.m. the day of the election. Postmarks on mail mean nothing anymore," she said.

The ballot drop boxes that are attached to the county buildings in Keokuk and Fort Madison will also no longer be in use.

Fraise said she could have used the ballot boxes, but the new law requires that the boxes be checked at least four times per day including weekends.

"I would have had to pay someone to just drive back and forth between Fort Madison and Keokuk checking those boxes seven days a week. I'm not going to do that. And I'm still not entirely sure if I could use both locations or just one."

She said State Sen. Jeff Reichman pushed that issue with the Secretary of State's office and was told the county could use boxes at both locations.

Fraise said anyone that cannot get physically get out of their vehicle to turn in a ballot, can call the auditor's office at 319-372-3705.

Other changes include closing all polls in the state

at 8 p.m. Lee County used to keep polls open until 9 p.m.

All voters must be registered 15 days in advance if they want their names to appear on the registered voter list at the polls. Voters can still vote if not on that list, but they need to bring a proof of identity, which everyone is required to bring, but also a proof of residence.

State law also now prohibits the county from bulk mailing to county residents of an absentee ballot request. All ballot requests must be made personally to the auditor's office.

Fraise said political action committees and parties could still send out absentee ballot request forms through the mail, as has been the case in past elections.

Another change is the only people that can return an absentee ballot for a voter is someone living in the voter's household, an immediate family member, or in the case of a blind voter of voter with another disability, a special delivery agent.

More information on those exceptions can be found at the following link: <https://www.blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6114/2021-Election-Law-Changes-for-Iowa-Voters>.

In addition the city/school elections set for November 2, Keokuk schools has a special school bond election on September 14.

Red Oak no stranger to war tragedy

WAR - Continued from Page 1

was from a place in North Africa called Kasserine Pass. Seventy-eight years later, it still is hard to grasp the magnitude of what occurred there.

American soldiers met the German military in February 1943 in their first major battle. The U.S. suffered an embarrassing defeat underscoring how poorly prepared for combat our forces were.

But it was not until three weeks later, on the evening of March 6, 1943, that the magnitude of the defeat became clear in Red Oak.

Telegrams began arriving at the Western Union office informing someone in town that the secretary of war regretted to inform them their son or their husband was missing in action in North Africa.

Within days, the toll of those missing or killed in action spread across southwest Iowa: In Red Oak, it was 45 men. In Atlantic, 46; Clarinda, 41; Council Bluffs, 36; Glenwood, 39; Shenandoah, 23; and Villisca, 9.

Mae Stifle received two telegrams within 15 minutes. One said her son Frank was missing in action. Then another said her son Dean was missing, too. The next morning, a third telegram arrived with news her son-in-law, Darrell Wolfe, also was missing.

Telegrams arrived for Vern Bierbaum, informing him his sons Cleo and Harold were missing. His son-in-law and his son-in-law's brother also were MIA.

Red Oak's casualties in one battle were among the highest of any community during World War II, measured as a proportion of the city's population. If New York City were to suffer losses in the same proportion as Red Oak did, New York's list would have 17,000 names, a reporter calculated.

It was not all bad news, however. Iowans' prayers were answered, and many of the soldiers first listed as missing later were found in German POW camps. Another early miracle also occurred in

February in North Africa and involved southwest Iowa soldiers.

Lt. Col. Robert Moore was a druggist from Villisca before the town's National Guard unit was mobilized. He was given command of an infantry battalion in Tunisia in the fight for control of North Africa. Better trained Germans encircled the U.S. soldiers and were intent on starving the Americans into submission.

But under the cover of darkness, Moore directed his men through German lines, sometimes inching along on their bellies, until they reached U.S. troops.

Later that year, when Moore arrived back in Villisca to visit his family, the town's fire bells rang, streets were lined with America flags and hundreds of people turned out to greet the hero who led 500 men to safety.

Communities in southwest Iowa were hit hard in the early months of the war because they had been home to National Guard units that were called to active duty to be part of the 34th Infantry Division. The 34th was the first American division sent to Europe after Pearl Harbor.

But its soldiers did not get the intensive training later units received before deploying to the war zone. The result: The 34th was badly disorganized in North Africa.

While debate over the Afghanistan pullout has been heated, there were no pointed public debates in 1943 over the U.S. military's tactics or training.

Moore made an observation in historian Rick Atkinson's book, "An Army at Dawn," that has been proven true this month in Afghanistan: "Battlefields are inherently chaotic," Moore said. "Every moment held risk, and every man was mortal."

Atkinson wrote of the people back home in Iowa in 1943 after the terrible news from North Africa, "Everyone soldiered on."

Randy Evans is the director of Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DMRevans2810@gmail.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
August 19, 2021
500 N. 20th Street
6:30 P.M.**

The City Council of the City of Keokuk met in regular session on August 19, 2021 at 500 N. 20th Street. Mayor Thomas

L. Richardson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were eight council members present, one absent. Mike O'Connor, Linda Altheide, Roslyn Garcia, John Henthall, Devon Dade, Steve Andrews, Linda Marsden, and Roger Bryant were present. Susan Dunek was absent. Staff in attendance: City Admin-

istrator Cole O'Donnell, City Clerk Jean Ludwig, Community Development Director Pam Broomhall, Bridge, Park, Cemetery and Sanitation Manager Bob Weis, and Fire Chief Gabe Rose.
MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE: Announced Rollin' on the River this weekend and Big Dam Street Festival

August 26-28.
CITIZEN'S REQUEST: Mike Greenslaugh asked budget questions. Dorothy Cackley questioned City Administrator's employment agreement, Fire Department fees and a public hearing on franchise fees.
Motion made by Dade, second by Altheide to approve the agenda,

including the consent agenda. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.
• Minutes of the Council Workshop & Regular City Council meeting of August 5, 2021;
• Cash Receipts & Treasurer's Report for July 2021;
• RESOLUTION NO. 294-21: Approving a change in ownership to

Dr. Get Wells Bar & Grill's Liquor License;
• RESOLUTION NO. 295-21: Approving a Liquor License for Kayvan's Sports Bar & Grill, 18 South 5th Street, effective August 22, 2021 – Class C Liquor License with Outdoor Service & Sunday Sales;
• RESOLUTION NO.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

HELP WANTED

296-21: Approving a Liquor License for Meyer's Courtyard, 629 Blondeau Street, effective August 27, 2021 – Class C

Liquor License with Living Quarters;
 • Motion to pay bills and transfers listed in Register No.'s 5224-5226;

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Bryant to approve the third reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 2.90-Fire Service fees.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7) AYES – Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, and Bryant. (1) NAY – O'Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Dade to adopt & give final approval of ORDINANCE NO. 2015 Amending Chapter 2.90 Fire Service fees. (7) AYES, (1) NAY – O'Connor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mars-

den, second by Garcia to approve initial reading of an Ordinance repealing section 7.10.120 to remove permit fees from ordinance and set by resolution for keeping chickens within Keokuk City limits.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8) AYES – O'Connor, Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, and Bryant. (0) NAY. Motion carried.

Motion made by O'Connor, second by Helenthal to waive the second/third (final) reading of an Ordinance repealing section 7.10.120 to remove permit fees from ordinance and set by resolution for keeping chickens within Keokuk City limits.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (8) AYES – O'Connor, Altheide, Garcia, Dade, Helenthal, Andrews, Marsden, and Bryant. (0) NAY. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Marsden

to adopt and give final approval of ORDINANCE NO. 2016 Repealing section 7.10.120 to remove permit fees from ordinance and set by resolution for keeping chickens within Keokuk City limits. Roll Call Vote (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion to table made by Garcia, second by Helenthal a resolution setting fire service fees. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. TABLED.

Motion made by Marsden, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 297-21: "A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PERMIT FEES TO KEEP URBAN CHICKENS IN THE CITY LIMITS OF KEOKUK, IOWA. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Garcia to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 298-21: "A RESOLUTION SETTING A

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FRANCHISE FEES ON NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICES." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Helenthal, second by Bryant to approve the following proposed RESOLUTION NO. 299-21: "A RESOLUTION APPROVING LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT EXTENSION WITH HALL & ASSOCIATES." (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Marsden, second by Bryant approve adjusting sewer bill regarding filling of private pool. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion made by Garcia, second by Dade to accept the FY 2020-2021 fourth quarter financial report. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. Motion carried.

Motion to table made by Helenthal, second by Marsden approving two ad hoc committees,

one being the Personnel Committee and the other being ARPA Committee. (8) AYES, (0) NAYS. TABLED.

BOARDS & COMMISSION: Motion by Marsden, second by Garcia to approve the three-year terms of Dev Kiedaisch and Drake Custer to the Human Right Commission, terms to expire 9/19/24 and two-year terms of Brenda Best, Brent Haage and Jay Kruse to the Keokuk Housing Authority, terms to expire 9/5/2023. All ayes, motion approved

STAFF REPORTS: Broomhall explained some rules on campaign signage. O'Donnell reported on the following: City Hall project, Covid protocols, Sid Center, Elkem site.

There being no further business, Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.



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HELP WANTED

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This person will accompany the choir for the 9:00am traditional worship service. A strong candidate will have experience in accompanying and have knowledge of a wide variety of musical styles. Piano/keyboard proficiency required. Candidate must have good organizational skills and have music prepared for practice held each Wednesday evening (September-May). Candidate will collaborate with both the Choir director and support First Christian Church's music ministry.

Please send cover letter and resume to
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 Attn: Personnel Committee
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To reach our goals, we are seeking qualified individuals to apply for this senior-level position. Each captain supervises a single, 12-hour shift, working cycles of 7 rotating days in a 2-week period. The department is composed of 20 sworn positions and 3 civilian staff members, including a drug task force, community service, and a school resource officer.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must be law enforcement certified and meet ILEA standards for fitness, medical, and psychological requirements. Must possess an Iowa driver's license and have abilities as defined in the department job description. A bachelor's degree in criminal justice or a related field is preferred, along with 10 years of job experience and supervisory background. Supplemental supervisory training certification, such as FBI-NA or Northwestern SPSC is desired. For the right individual, any combination of education, experience, and demonstrated abilities may be considered.

TO APPLY:

Interested persons may submit requests for a PDF application packet to: fmpd@fortmadisonpd.com or, obtained in person M-F 7:00 AM-4:30 PM at the Police Department lobby at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, IA 52627. The City of Fort Madison is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The deadline for applications is October 1st, 2021 at 4:30 PM, or until the position is filled.

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From the Front

Area schools have 60 kids out due to viral spread

COVID - Continued from Page 1

are not giving up! It is our hope that everyone will get involved to help decrease community spread, promote vaccinations, and work together from all sectors of the community to win this fight.”

Hospitalizations across the state are up almost 300% since a month ago. The state’s Aug. 26 report had 362 Iowans hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of COVID-19 up from 92 on July 26. A total of 439 Iowans were hospitalized with a primary or secondary diagnosis of COVID, according to Iowa’s [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.iowa.gov) website.

That site also shows, again as of Aug. 26, that there were 269 beds still available in the 14-county Region 5 of southeast Iowa, with 39 ICU beds and 159 ventilators. Ross said she expects those numbers to worsen with Wednesday’s state report, based on phone calls and reports to her staff.

CDC numbers show 154 active cases of COVID in Lee County in the past seven days with three new hospitalizations.

The data can be a bit of a shell game when comparing federal and state numbers and that’s been a frustration in reporting accurate data. Ross said IDPH numbers likely won’t match CDC numbers when the state’s new numbers come out Wednesday morning.

She said it won’t be long, if it isn’t here already, that medical teams and resources will be overrun again.

“I believe many are done and over it and just want to move on. The problem is we are surging again and its not over. Before long our local resources will be overwhelmed again – if not already,” Ross said.

“The more cases we see and continued exposures – the easier the virus can mutate and develop other variants.”

Lee County schools are also again starting to see an impact from the virus and the Delta variant.

Dr. Andy Crozier said Central Lee sent home 43 kids on Monday to quarantine due to eight positive family tests in the district.

“We have had eight COVID-19 positives reported to us by parents as of the end of the day (Monday). With those eight positives, 43 students have been recommended to quarantine. We force students to quarantine if someone in the household is positive of COVID-19,” Crozier said Tuesday.

“Our nurses are scrambling to alert parents. Monday mornings are difficult because of the positive cases known over the weekend.”

Crozier said the district is in a difficult position without authorization to take

control of the protocols.

“I will say that the state has put us in a difficult position. Without the authority to put additional mitigation strategies in place, we will struggle to prevent COVID-19 spread in any school,” he said.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater at Fort Madison said the district has had one staff member absent due to the virus and 24 students absent as of Friday last week. She said if there is a potential exposure in a classroom, parents are notified.

Holy Trinity Catholic Principal Craig Huebner said that system had one family with a positive test prior to the school year, but the quarantine period ended before school started. He said currently the district has no students absent due to the virus.

The IDPH ended individual contact tracing in July, but there are still recommendations in place for those who are symptomatic or who test positive and those who are exposed, Ross said.

“You will see in the news many schools across the country are already experiencing outbreaks. We expect this to continue as schools in Iowa will have many individuals in close proximity in an indoor setting for lengthy periods of time and they are opting to not wear masks nor are they vaccinated due to their age or personal beliefs or other reasons,” Ross said.

LCHD provided updated guidance on isolation and quarantine recommendations from IDPH prior to school starting, as well as sharing CDC recommendations for K-12 schools for recommended mitigation strategies.

She said the Delta variant is the prominent COVID virus in Lee County and is highly contagious and people should take as many precautions as they can to protect themselves and others around them.

In a letter to district residents, Crozier said the district strongly recommended wearing masks if students or staff exposed to the virus haven’t been vaccinated.

Ross said due to Iowa law masks cannot be mandated in schools, but said from a local health perspective, she hopes families are doing everything they can to slow the spread of the virus.

“We hope all families and individuals are taking current community transmission risks seriously and doing everything they can to help reduce spread and exposure of this virus that is threatening our population’s health,” Ross said.

“We recommend families opt to have their children (especially those who are not of age to be vaccinated) to wear masks when in indoor public settings. Its effective and reduces risks of exposure and spread. We also encourage vaccinations for anyone eligible and of age.”

DO YOUR PART

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS



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