

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, February 11, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 38



www.pencitycurrent.com

Area man pulled from slough



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison firefighters use an ice sled to pull a man from a slough in southwest Fort Madison Wednesday night. The man was taken by ambulance to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

TRUCK STUCK: Man submerges truck in 3 feet of icy water Wednesday night

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – An area man was pulled from a pickup truck that was partially submerged in a slough in the southwest part of Fort Madison Wednesday night.

Very few details are available but the pickup went into what is known to locals as Winke's Slough about 200 yards southeast of the PAW Animal Shelter on 48th Street.

The truck was submerged in about three feet of icy water and the man was yelling for help before first responders arrived at the scene.

The red arrow shows the approximate location of a pickup truck that partially submerged in about three feet of icy water Wednesday night.



day night. Firefighters were able to pull the man to safety after close to an hour of being in the water. Image from Google Maps

See FMFD, page 8

COVID-19

Lee County 16th best in Iowa at rolling out vaccines

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – According to information from state health officials, Lee County is 16th best out of Iowa's 99 counties in getting vaccination series started.

When combining the efforts of the Lee County Health Department, both county hospitals, and long-term care pharmacy partners, the county has given 4,103 vaccinations and has completed 938 series, which include the booster.

County residents accounted for 3,619 of those vaccinations and 913 series.

The difference would be vaccinations given to employees in the state's phased tier system who work in Lee County, but live outside the county, such as health care professionals and first responders, teachers, and correctional

See DOSES, page 7

Randy Evans,
Executive Director

Questions abound in state's handling of vaccines

Through the years, the Iowa Legislature has chosen an official state flower and a state bird. There's also a state tree and even an official rock.

It may be time for lawmakers to designate an official state punctuation mark, too.

The question mark seems to be an appropriate choice — especially after the troubling news from our state in the past few weeks, news that has left many Iowans asking “why?”

Some examples:

Why does it seem as if state health officials do not have a well-planned strategy for vaccinating people in every nook and cranny of our state?

And why have people basically been left to fend for themselves by making numerous phone calls trying to find a clinic or a pharmacy or a county health office that has appointments for the shots available?

Why does it seem as if no one in a position of responsibility has considered until the past week or two how people who do not have computers or internet access, or people who are working during the day, are supposed to make these appointments — especially when vaccination providers in some communities only allow people to sign up online?

Why did our governor and our United States senators not use their close relationships with President Donald Trump to pressure his administrators to ensure that Iowa received a comparable allotment of vaccine doses, based on population, as other states received?

This is especially vexing because the federal government's data show Iowa ranked 47th among the 50 states last week, per-capita, in its vaccine supply. Iowa was 46th worst among the states in the proportion of its residents who have been vaccinated so far.

That federal data says Iowa has adminis-

See EVANS, page 8

INDEX

BeyondIDo.org.....P.3	Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.2	Pen City Current.....Ps.6-7
Business Directory.....P.6	HEALTH NEWS.....P.7	Pilot Grove Savings Bank.....P.4
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.6-7	IOWA NEWS.....P.7	Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.3
Complete Rental.....P.8	Lee County Health Department.....P.5	Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.....P.8
FOR THE RECORD.....P.2	LEE COUNTY NEWS.....P.7	SPORTS.....P.4
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.7-8	LOCAL NEWS.....P.8	StopTextsStopWrecks.org.....P.6
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.3	OPINION.....Ps.3,8	Tri-State Outdoor Products.....P.8
GradsOfLife.org.....P.7	Old Fort Players.....P.8	Wondra Chiropractic.....P.7

WEATHER

THU 09 Jan.....	Frigid with Light Snow, 8° F/ -4° F	
FRI 10 Jan.....	Frigid with Light Snow, 3° F/ -7° F	
SAT 11 Jan.....	Frigid with Light Snow, 1° F/ -10° F	

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 02/09.....	718 21 31 40, Mega Ball: 9	Megaplier: 4
PICK 3 02/09 MIDDAY.....	057	
PICK 3 02/09 EVENING.....	724	
PICK 4 02/09 MIDDAY.....	4234	
PICK 4 02/09 EVENING.....	0822	

SUBSCRIBE

Scan the code to subscribe today
Paid & Free Options Available!



For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

02/05/21 – 7:32 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of 9th Street.

02/05/21 – 8:07 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue I.

02/05/21 – 8:34 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.

02/05/21 – 8:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3800 block of Avenue O.

02/05/21 – 8:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.

02/05/21 – 9:45 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue I.

02/05/21 – 10:51 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Donna Kay Dawsey, 50, of Burlington, in the 1800 block of Avenue G, on a charge of driving under suspension.

02/05/21 – 11:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 34th Street.

02/05/21 – 11:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Anthony Paul Thomas Ourth, 29, of Fort Madison in the 1700 block of Avenue D, on a warrant for forgery.

02/05/21 – 12:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Julie Marie Drenner, 35, of Fort Madison, in the 1400 block of 38th Street, on a warrant for failure to appear.

02/05/21 – 4:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Joshua Adam Bowen, 41, of Wever, in the 500 block of 20th Street, on a warrant for trespass.

02/05/21 – 9:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1800 block of Avenue H.

02/05/21 – 9:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 700 block of 9th Street.

02/05/21 – 9:35 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Sunnyside Drive.

02/06/21 – 2:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue I.

02/06/21 – 10:29 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of 23rd Street.

02/06/21 – 3:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a property damage accident in the 2700 block of Avenue L.

02/06/21 – 8:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Sean Lee Crank, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on a charge of violating a no-contact order, eluding, and possession of ammunition by a felon. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/07/21 – 5:59 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of 9th Street.

02/07/21 – 6:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Sarah Jo Hennely-Williams, 24, of Donnellson, in the 600 block of 9th Street, on a charge of OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/07/21 – 10:57 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue G.

02/07/21 – 11:33 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue G.

02/07/21 – 1:26 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue G.

02/07/21 – 5:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of 34th Street.

02/07/21 – 9:41 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue E.

02/08/21 – 12:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 3000 block of Avenue O.

02/08/21 – 8:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 200 block of Avenue H.

02/08/21 – 10:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue G.

02/08/21 – 12:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L.

02/09/21 – 8:08 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1600 block of 20th Street.

02/10/21 – 2:10 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Alexander Kelly, 48, of Fort Madison, in the 3100 block of Avenue N, on a warrant for 3rd-degree theft, driving while barred, possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

02/06/21 – 10:29 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of 23rd Street.

02/06/21 – 3:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded

two-vehicle accident at J48 and near 180th Street. According to the report a vehicle driven by Jennifer Ann Schier, 32, of Denmark was headed west bound, lost control and crossed the center line into eastbound traffic where it collided with a vehicle driven by Karmen Michelle Johnson, 43, of Winfield. Johnson was transported to FMCH for injuries. Two juvenile passengers in Schier's vehicle were also transported to FMCH. Schier was cited for failure to maintain control.

02/08/21 – 12:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 2. According to the report a vehicle driven by Jackie D. Grooms of Colona, Ill., was east bound on Hwy 2, when the trailer being hauled was struck by a vehicle driven by Larry Edwin Beard, 63, of Hamilton, Ill.

Beard was headed northbound on Hwy. 61 and took the ramp for Hwy. 2. Beard was sliding and unable to stop due to road conditions at the intersection. Beard had minor injuries but was not transported to the hospital.

No citations were reported. 02/08/21 – 12:37 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L.

According to the report, Nicholas John Fedler, 28, of Fort Madison, was headed eastbound on Avenue L with emergency lights and siren, when a vehicle driven by Roger Lee Strunk, 45, of West Point, traveling southbound on 24th Street, struck Fedler's Fort Madison Police cruise broadside.

The report indicates Fedler ran a red light while lights and siren flashing when the cruiser was struck.

No injuries were reported, Fedler was cited for failure to exercise caution by a driver of an emergency vehicle.

02/09/21 – 9:26 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at 340th Street and Hwy. 61.

According to the report, a vehicle driven by Christine Anne Clark, 61, of Keokuk was eastbound on 340th Street and was struck at the intersection of Hwy. 61 by a vehicle driven by Victor Gene Egley, 61, of Keokuk, who was northbound on Hwy. 61.

No citations were issued and no injuries were reported. Clark was tested for OWI and the Iowa State Patrol is investigating.

02/08/21 – 10:10 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a

two-vehicle accident at J48 and near 180th Street. According to the report a vehicle driven by Jennifer Ann Schier, 32, of Denmark was headed west bound, lost control and crossed the center line into eastbound traffic where it collided with a vehicle driven by Karmen Michelle Johnson, 43, of Winfield. Johnson was transported to FMCH for injuries. Two juvenile passengers in Schier's vehicle were also transported to FMCH. Schier was cited for failure to maintain control.

02/08/21 – 12:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident on Hwy. 2. According to the report a vehicle driven by Jackie D. Grooms of Colona, Ill., was east bound on Hwy 2, when the trailer being hauled was struck by a vehicle driven by Larry Edwin Beard, 63, of Hamilton, Ill.

Beard was headed northbound on Hwy. 61 and took the ramp for Hwy. 2. Beard was sliding and unable to stop due to road conditions at the intersection. Beard had minor injuries but was not transported to the hospital.

No citations were reported. 02/08/21 – 12:37 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L.

According to the report, Nicholas John Fedler, 28, of Fort Madison, was headed eastbound on Avenue L with emergency lights and siren, when a vehicle driven by Roger Lee Strunk, 45, of West Point, traveling southbound on 24th Street, struck Fedler's Fort Madison Police cruise broadside.

The report indicates Fedler ran a red light while lights and siren flashing when the cruiser was struck.

No injuries were reported, Fedler was cited for failure to exercise caution by a driver of an emergency vehicle.

02/09/21 – 9:26 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident at 340th Street and Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Christine Anne Clark, 61, of Keokuk was eastbound on 340th Street and was struck at the intersection of Hwy. 61 by a vehicle driven by Victor Gene Egley, 61, of Keokuk, who was northbound on Hwy. 61. No citations were issued and no injuries were reported. Clark was tested for OWI and the Iowa State Patrol is investigating.

IT'S ILLEGAL!



Great River Regional Waste Authority

reminds you

that not all **lightbulbs** can go into your household trash.

It's illegal and against DNR regulations.

Click the ad to learn more or visit www.GRRWA.com.



Lee County Sheriff's Report

02/08/21 – 10:10 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Opinion

Letter to the Editor

Library director offers resources for staying informed

To the Editor:

There has been discussion, recently, about people feeling uninformed about things that are happening in local government. I have also seen the statement that people must choose to be informed. While it is true that residents do need to take the initiative to inform themselves many people may not be sure where to go to find information.

Locally, the Daily Democrat is the paper of record for the city and required city announcements are included as public notices in the classified section. What if you don't subscribe to this newspaper? The Fort Madison Public Library has a subscription and anyone can visit the library to read our copy. You don't need a library card, just walk in the door, pick up the newspaper and sit down in a chair to read it. Additionally, Fort Madison is fortunate to have two local news sources, as many small communities struggle to have even one. The Pen City Current is free for anyone to read but is only available online. If you don't have home internet or a device on which you can easily read this e-newspaper, the library has computers available for the public to use. The library also carries print subscriptions of The Burlington Hawkeye and the Des Moines Daily Register, if you are looking for regional and statewide news.

There is a bulletin board at City Hall where public notices are posted. Also, as public records, physical copies of the minutes of city and county meetings can be

requested. However, more government information is being offered electronically. For example, city and county meeting agendas and minutes can be found online, as well as recordings of Fort Madison City Council meetings.

As an increasing amount of the information needed to stay informed is moving online, it can be easy to begin feeling left behind if you are unfamiliar with computers and online resources. One of the services that the Fort Madison Public Library offers is classes on how to use computers and the internet. Call Sarah Clendineng at (319) 372-5721 to schedule an appointment. You don't have to know a lot about how computers work to learn how to access some of these basic resources to help keep yourself informed.

Finally, if you are reading this and know someone who would like to be more informed, but is unsure where to start, please share this information with them. Your local public library is a great place to start if you ever have any questions,

Sarah Clendineng
Fort Madison Public Library
 1920 Avenue E
 Fort Madison, IA 52627

LET US DO THE MATH!

- 125 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE
- 58 YEARS IN BUSINESS
- 7 LICENSED AGENTS
- OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
- WRITING IN 3 STATES

FI Fullenkamp INSURANCE
 Est. 1963
 307 5th Street West Point
 319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208 | www.fullenkampins.com
 Open M-F 7:30 - 5:00 & Saturday 8:30 - 11

Everyone has the right to marry. **Not everyone** has basic rights.

In 31 states, it's legal to discriminate against LGBT Americans.

Get the facts at BeyondIDo.org

Now Accepting New Patients.

Pothitakis Dentistry
 6 Convenient Locations to Serve You

Fort Madison Family Dentistry 319-372-3614	Fort Madison Family Dentistry West 319-372-4882
Burlington Dental Associates 319-753-2515	Burlington Family Dentistry 319-752-7993
Mediapolis Dental Care 319-394-3255	New London Dental Care 319-367-2311

www.DrMarkDDS.com

Sports

Bloodhounds gearing up for state qualifier Saturday

FM squads captures Southeast title for 3rd straight year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With districts just over two days away and Fort Madison not having wrestled competitively for 13 days, the Hounds are healed up and itching for mat time on Saturday.

The Bloodhounds travel to Iowa City West for the Class 3A District 5 state qualifying meet starting at noon.

Head Coach Ryan Smith said he was disappointed that the Hound seniors didn't get to wrestle on Thursday, but said his approach has always been one day at a time.

He said that philosophy has helped the Hounds through this crazy COVID season.

"We just take things one day at a time. Do the same things today and the same thing tomorrow," Smith said. "Sure this year was different but at the same time you block out the distractions and get the most out of the situations we're dealt. My philosophy is take what we get and make the best of it."

The Hounds made the best of what they had this year notching their third straight conference championship despite the Feb. 4 dual with Burlington being cancelled.

The lack of matches over the past two week presents some problems with the Bloodhounds not seeing competitive action, but it also provided some benefits in allowing the wrestlers to heal up.

"It would've been nice to have a couple more matches in the last few weeks, but that can be a good thing as well," Smith said. "It gives the kids time to heal up, and now they're chomping at the bit to get a match. So there's pros and cons to both situations."

The Hounds join Iowa City High, Iowa City Liberty and Iowa City West, Pella, Oskaloosa, Burlington, and Ottumwa

in the district.

The Bloodhounds will field a wrestler in every weight class, with the exception of 285, where Smith said Brody Fuller is just a couple pounds away from making weight.

"He was just two pounds off last week, and we're hoping he makes it. He's has potential to get in there," Smith said

Mason Schau, a senior wrestling at 160 lbs this year won't make the trip on advice of doctors. Schau has been dealing with a lingering injury for most of the year.

But 2020 state qualifier Owen Kruse will be looking for a return trip this year at 126. Kruse qualified at 120 lbs last year.

The top two finishers at each 8-team district advance to state. Kruse will likely be the No. 2 seed in the draw. Iowa City West's Grant O'Dell is currently 9th in Class 3A at 126 and should draw the top spot.

Gavin Wiseman at 138 is looking for his first trip to Wells Fargo. Wiseman has been ranked No. 10 most of the year at 145 and then 138. The state's top 138 lb. Class 3A wrestler is set to be at the Iowa City gym Saturday in West's Hunter Garvin. Wiseman would also probably see a No 2. seed setting up a potential clash between those two before the day is out.

"It'll be similar to last year. We don't know for sure who's wrestling until the rosters are entered tomorrow night, but we're probably looking at a lot guys in the 2 through 4 spots, and that's where we qualified a couple last year," Smith said.

"I don't see us having any No. 1s unless someone scratches. Owen and Gavin will both be twos and then we'll have a lot of 3s, 4s and 5s and they will need to make their own hay."

At 106, Henry Wiseman will land in one of the mid-range spots at 12-11 on the year. Class 3A Kael Kurtz should get the top seed there currently ranked 6th in the state.

Emmett Kruse (14-17) will wrestle at 113 and could see an upper half seed. Cale Seaton from Iowa City High is currently ranked 7th in that division and could grab the top spot.

Matthew Steffensmeier (20-15) will also grab a mid-range seed with Parker McBride of Iowa City West currently ranked 8th at 120 in 3A. McBride is the only ranked wrestler in that division.

At 132 senior Brock Califf will try to cap his senior year with a trip to the state tournament in his first year wrestling. Califf is just 10-15 on the year and will probably start with a mid-range draw, but has shown flashes of quickness and freakish strength that could prove troublesome on Saturday. West's Kael Scranton is ranked 8th in that division and will probably draw the top spot.

At 145 Aiden Pennock will wrestle for a chance to finish in the top two. Pennock doesn't have a current state ranked wrestler in that division, so it's an open field.

Freshman Teague Smith (24-12) should get a top five seed but has 3rd ranked Graham Gramball in the draw. Teague qualified for the AAU state meet last year as an 8th grader.

At 160, Brant Booten will representing Fort Madison. Booten is 8-7, but again no one in the district draw there is currently in the top 10 in the state.

Freshman Ike Thacher is back after some injury time over the past few weeks. He brings an 18-10 record into districts, which could reward him with a decent seed. West's Ashton Barker is currently ranked 3rd at 170.

The Hounds' Austin Ensminger (12-19) will go into the 182 lb bracket where no one is currently ranked in the top 10, which could create an interesting day for the senior's last chance to get to Des Moines.

Levi Lowney will go at 195 and should be seeded in the middle of the bracket. Iowa City High's Ben Kueter lurks in the bracket as the top wrestler in the state in 3A at 195.

Daniel Sokolik will wrestle for Fort Madison at 220, another bracket that is wide open with no top 10 wrestlers in the draw.

Smith said he won't single any kids out with expectations, "They wrestle their best and they'll be in the boat. I think we'll have a lot of kids who'll be in it Saturday," he said.



We are where you are.

Pilot Grove
Savings Bank

319-469-3951

www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com

Member FDIC  Equal Housing Lender

Touching the Community with Care



Lee County Health Department Hospice

Your Choice for Compassionate Hospice Care

in Lee, Des Moines, Henry, and Van Buren counties in Iowa
& Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois

Hospice Services include

*24/7 on-call nursing staff • Skilled nursing services
Social worker visits • Music & massage therapy
Homecare aide assistance • Volunteer services
Spiritual & grief support*

Providing comforting end-of-life care since 1989



LEE
CHD

#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
(319) 372-5225 or (800) 458-6672
Medicare Certified

www.LeeCountyHD.org

Classifieds

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY
 Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!



Patrick Profeta
 General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
 We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

1728 Main Keokuk, IA 52632 Office: 319-524-2334 Fax: 319-524-2373

Eternelle Beauté
 FULL SERVICE SALON & SPA

1302 Avenue G
 Fort Madison, Iowa
 319-246-1018



TEXT AND WHATEVER JUST DON'T TEXT AND



STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG



Generations of Great Service

- 24 Hour Service
- Never An Overtime Charge
- FREE Estimates
- Servicing All Makes



Full Service HVAC Company
 Serving Fort Madison, Burlington, and surrounding areas with over 30 Years Experience!

Ft. Madison: 319-372-4328
Burlington: 319-752-4328
All Areas: 877-380-4328

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

- Improved joint mobility, function, and health
- Decreased degeneration of joints and connective tissues
- Improved circulation
- Increased energy, vitality, and improved sleep
- and many, many more

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
 Brockman Chiropractic

2311 Avenue L, Suite 3, Fort Madison • 319-372-3800
<http://brockmanchiropracticdrbob.com/>

Extremity Adjustment Myofascial Relaxation *Cranial Adjustment Muscle Facilitation*

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
 Est. 1877

Business Cards Photo Correction Flyers Office Supplies Vinyl Banners T-Shirt Printing

Coffee Mugs Posters Art Supplies Printing Office Furniture Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 319.372.2721 doddprinting.com

ENJOY FREE DELIVERY TO FORT MADISON, KEOKUK, BURLINGTON & THE SURROUNDING AREAS!



Don't Let Your Business Slip Away

If someone is hurt on your property, is your business protected?

Umbrella coverage can help reduce the risk of paying claim costs beyond where your business insurance liability limits stop. Schedule a SuperCheck® today because when your world is protected - it's business as usual.

Larry Holtkamp
 1301 37th St
 Fort Madison
 (319) 372-9145
 (319) 470-1927 Cell
LARRYHOLTAMP.COM



Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services PC109 (4-17)

KEMPKER'S

True Value RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm

800-216-2370
 Call for an appointment



Fl. Madison Main Office: 2092 203rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 52625-1400 Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Caroline Lane Keokuk, IA 52624-0176 Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Advertise in a brand new way.
 Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!
Lee (319)371.4125 • Chuck (319)371.1670

PEN CITY CURRENT
 It's Black & White and Read all over

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
 Grand Things Happen Here

Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves

319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd West Point, IA 52656
 Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest smallgrandthings.com

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

Grooming by appointment
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
319-371-9044

2090 250th St
 Donnellson, IA 52625

Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma
 Family owned & operated

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience



General Insects Termites Mice Bed Bugs

Cullen
 PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

Toll Free 1-888-818-7378
 Email: cullenpest@hotmail.com
www.cullenpest.com

Residential Commercial "Cause who needs bugs?"

Classifieds/From the Front

LCHD to go back to 65 and older dosing next week

DOSES - Continued from Page 1

officers.

Conversely, there are employees who work outside the county that have been vaccinated through their workplace, but live in Lee County.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross, said Lee County did utilize 80% of doses received last week, under a new mandate from the Iowa Department of Public Health. Counties that didn't meet that threshold could risk getting reduced supplies.

Iowa has hovered near the bottom of the nation in vaccination efficiency. At the same time, Governor Kim Reynolds has relaxed most safety measures including mask requirements and capacity requirements for the state's businesses.

New cases and hospitalization numbers have been continuing to fall in the state and nationwide. On Tuesday, Lee County only reported four new cases and has a 14-day average positivity rating of 10%, and a 5-day positivity rate of just 5%. On Wednesday, 12 new cases were reported with a total of 3,442 cases reported in the county.

The state currently has a 9.3% positivity rating overall with 3.7 million tests given. The percent of individual's testing positive in the state over the past 14 days is 8.6%. Over the past seven days that percentage drops to 6.4%. But Ross said now is not the time to shrug off safety considerations.

"As far as the Governor's roll back on the proclamation, as public health, we are strongly encouraging and will continue to promote mask use when in public

settings, social distancing where feasible and possible, and of course frequent hand washing and staying home when ill," Ross said.

"We still have virus activity in the county and we want to encourage people to continue with these daily public health mitigation efforts to keep our positivity rates at a low level and protect our most vulnerable."

Ross commended the many local businesses who are continuing to promote public health safety measures that help reduce the spread of the virus for both employees and customers.

"Lee County is currently on the right path for reducing our positivity rates and we would hate to see this move in the wrong direction if people stop taking the necessary steps and measures to protect themselves and our most vulnerable," she said.

LCHD shifted its focus this week under the pressures of severe cold temperatures to vaccinating those in Tier 1 of Phase 1B, that includes educators, child care workers, and first responders. LCHD staff were on hand at Fort Madison Middle School most of the day Tuesday giving vaccinations to Fort Madison Community School District staff. Thursday they will be at Central Lee schools.

Ross said the state is recommending that 50% of all doses be used on Iowans 65 and older, while the other half be used within the tiers.

"We do acknowledge many older adults were willing to get vaccinated this week despite the weather, however we also need to balance both the 65 years of age and older group with ALL others also included in Phase 1B per state recommendations," she said.

"We felt due to the severe temperatures this week, we could work on others also needing to be vaccinated in Phase 1B Tier 1 at their worksites reducing the need for many people to get out and travel in extreme temperatures."

Ross said the county is planning on using all the doses expected to arrive next week for vaccinating off the current 65 and older list. More than 500 doses were administered during the two drive-thru clinics held last week.

She said next week, with temperatures still in single digits, LCHD will be vaccinating indoors. People will be contacted by the LCHD staff for appointments. Ross said there is no need to contact the department unless you aren't on the list. The number to get on the list is 319-376-1077.

"We are planning on resuming drive thru clinics when the weather returns to safer and warmer conditions as we believe this is the most convenient and lowest risk for possible exposure for our older population," Ross said.

She said if individuals have the opportunity to receive their vaccination by another provider, they should take that opportunity.

Lee County currently has six vaccine sites outside of the hospitals in Keokuk and Fort Madison listed at [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://www.coronavirus.iowa.gov). Those are LCHD, Walgreens in both Keokuk and Fort Madison, Hy-Vees in both Keokuk and Fort Madison, and Rashid Pharmacy in Fort Madison.

Supplies are still very limited, and it is recommended to call the sites to check on appointment and vaccine availability.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

HOMES FOR SALE

3 BR Home For Sale By Owner



This beautiful three bedroom home sits on 4 lots, has a huge beautiful front deck, with a 2 car garage and 4 outer buildings that sit on the lots, great solid starter home for any family. The home has an open concept kitchen with dining area, beautiful family room with fireplace with beams in the ceiling, huge living room, one bath, full basement. This is a must-see piece of property and is located on the edge of Colusa, IL.

To set up a time for a showing please contact Dixie Lung, at 319-316-3467 after 4pm on weekdays.

\$70,000 selling outright

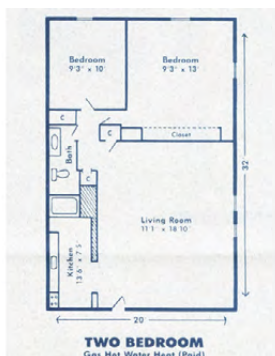
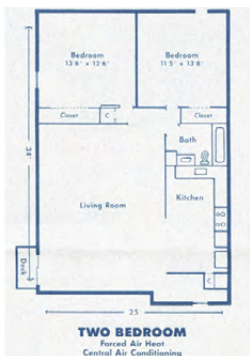
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large

backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



Subscribe to #PCC today

Free and Paid Options Available.



PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

HELP WANTED

Office Assistant Wanted

We are looking for a new team member to enhance the patient experience at our clinic. High energy, motivated, self-starter with great communication skills is a must.

Job duties include but not limited to the following:

- Greeting patients and handle patients flow
- Answer phones and schedule appointments
- Payment accountability
- Patient relations

Please complete application or email resume by February 12th to:
Wondra Chiropractic & Acupuncture
319-372-7898
wondrachiropractic@gmail.com
Applications available onsite



#ShopLocal
Support your local business community!

Advertise in a brand new way.

Message your customers where they spend their time - **online!**

Call Lee
(319)371.4125

PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

Got a news tip? Call Chuck (319)371.1670



AS AN ENTRY LEVEL EMPLOYEE, I'LL GIVE YOU SENIOR LEVEL DEDICATION.

Look beyond the resume and you'll find the skills you're looking for. Grads of Life are an untapped pool of motivated, dedicated and driven talent. Discover new ways to develop great talent at [GradsOfLife.org](https://www.GradsOfLife.org).

GRADS of LIFE .org



From the Front

State's missteps bring attention

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

tered 64 percent of its vaccine so far — a percentage that is lower than surrounding states. South Dakota, by contrast, has injected 82 percent of its doses.

Why in the world did Pat Grassley, the speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives, say he lacked the means to require members of the Iowa House to wear masks in the chamber as a health precaution — when lawmakers have to adhere to a dress code that dictates how they appear?

And with that backdrop, why did Grassley think it was a fight worth having when Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell of Ames wore blue jeans onto the House floor and Grassley refused to allow her to speak during debate to punish her for her principled fashion faux pas?

What was Gov. Kim Reynolds thinking last Friday afternoon when she lifted the state's limited restrictions on public gatherings and cancelled requirements for people to wear masks in certain public spaces — a change that came at a time when cases of a highly contagious new strain of coronavirus has been confirmed in Iowa?

Public health advocates in our state, and national experts, too, all had been warning people to avoid large Super Bowl gatherings out of concern that such events would fuel a new surge in infections.

Why was state government not better prepared for dealing with the growing frustrations of Iowans, Republi-

cans as well as Democrats, seniors as well as younger child care workers and teachers, about the lack of a coordinated sign-up process for Covid inoculations — a failing that left people repeatedly dialing pharmacies and clinics in the hope of finding an available appointment time?

And why did the governor wait until February before starting to build a system for the public to call one number for statewide information on where appointments for vaccination are available?

Why wasn't such a centralized system created and ready to go last fall, after the president's coronavirus task force directed the states to be prepared to swiftly begin shots as soon as Covid vaccines received final government approval?

Or this, the ultimate question: Has there ever been such a string of embarrassing missteps by Iowa government officials that have brought such widespread national ridicule to our state and such frustration to our citizens?

No one expects Iowa government's response to the massive coronavirus tragedy to run without a hiccup. This is a life-or-death problem. Most Iowans care little whether the services they expect from their government are provided by officials with a D behind their names or an R.

These ordinary folks wonder why government in our state has been so clumsy throughout this pandemic.

Most Iowans I know are more focused on getting through this pandemic so life gets back to normal. These Iowans are focused more on their children and their grandchildren, their churches, their jobs and their friends — and not on petty politics.

So far, more than 5,100 of our friends, neighbors and relatives have died from this disease.

That is the reason Governor Reynolds' handling of the pandemic and the rollout of vaccinations has led to so many questions. People are hoping the death toll doesn't continue to climb — and getting Iowans vaccinated as quickly as possible is the surest way to make sure that does not happen.

Randy Evans is the director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and his weekly column appears courtesy of the IFOIC. He can be reached at DMRevs2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

Man taken to hospital following rescue

FMFD - Continued from Page 1

Fort Madison firefighters had to take 35th Street behind Pipeline Cleaners and along the railroad tracks about a mile back to just past the railroad bridge and then get out an ice sled and go about 150 yards out to the truck.

Three firefighters tethered to the sled by a rope anchored to a firetruck went over the ice to the victim, loaded him out onto the sled, and then pushed and pulled him to safety over the ice.

Lee County EMS first responders were on hand to tend to the man once he reached the shore and transported him to Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Fort Madison firefighters said there was just the one person in the vehicle. Fort Madison Police were on scene investigating the incident and details haven't been released as to why the man was more than 100 yards from any bank of the water.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

FM firefighters try to assess the situation of a truck submerged in a slough southwest of town Wednesday evening.

NEEDING A TENT for your event?



Reserve your tent now
and get **25% off**
your next tent rental
if paid in full during
the month of February!

CR Complete Rental

www.CompleteRentalFM.com
5636 Avenue O, Fort Madison, IA
(319) 372-8105

LEE COUNTY BANK and OLD FORT PLAYERS
725 Ave G, Fort Madison, IA

Proudly present

The Queen of Bingo

by Jeanne Michels & Phyllis Murphy

February 5-7 & 12-14, 2021

7:30 pm except for Sunday matinee at 2 pm

www.oldfortplayers.com

The Queen of Bingo is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Westbury Aluminum Railing & Ultra Aluminum Fence

Adding a level of beauty, distinction and lasting value to your home

Maintenance Free • Lifetime Warranty • Powder Coated

Several Colors to Choose From

Tri State Outdoor Products LLC
Hours: Monday - Friday 9-5 and Saturday 8-Noon
Located 16 miles S. of Mt. Pleasant or 7 miles N. of Donnellson on Hwy. 218
(319) 469-3636 • www.tristateoutdoorproducts.com

Best Lawyers
BEST LAW FIRMS
A WORLD REPORT
USNews RANKINGS

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.

320 North 3rd Street, Suite 100, Burlington, Iowa 52601-0337
1603 Main Street, Keokuk, IA 52632
www.PothitakisLaw.com

