

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, March 18, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 62



www.pencitycurrent.com

Vaccinations for all April 5



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Lee County Health Department staff and volunteers check on vaccinated residents during a drive-thru clinic Wednesday at First Baptist Church in Fort Madison.

GOVERNOR: Reynolds says state could open up vaccines to everyone in three weeks

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said during her weekly COVID-19 press conference, she believes Iowa is “turning the corner” in its battle with the coronavirus, and to that end is opening vaccines to all Iowans starting April 5.

Reynolds said Iowa is getting about 1% of the national weekly supply of vaccines and based on Governor’s calls with the White House this week, the uptick in vaccine availability should allow all Iowans to start scheduling vaccinations in less than three weeks.

While saying getting vaccinated is a personal choice, Reyn-

olds said she would encourage every Iowan to get a vaccine. “Pledge you’ll get vaccinated as soon as you can,” Reynolds said. “We’re all in this together and let’s finish strong.”

The state’s 14-day positivity rating is under 4% for all tests including PCR and Antigen testing. The hospitalization rate is down 90% from its peak in November.

To date 1,346,741 individuals have had the PCR (nasal swab) test, with 285,546 individuals being positive for an overall rate since testing began of 21.2%. However 2,819,981 total tests have been administered with 309,843 of those tests being positive for a rate of 11%.

See **VACCINES**, page 3

UK STRAIN

State Hygienic Lab detecting more coronavirus variant

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has confirmed 38 additional cases of the COVID-19 variant, SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7, in Iowa. The variant is often referred to as the U.K. variant because it was first detected in the United Kingdom.

This increase in the number of detected variants comes in part as a result of increasing the number of tests being sequenced by the State Hygienic Lab (SHL) for the B.1.1.7 variant. This increase further supports that we know this variant is circulating here in the state of Iowa, in addition to being

found across the United States.

IDPH and local public health have initiated contact with these cases to understand their exposures and recommend mitigation measures. The process includes notifying anyone with

See **LAB**, page 9



Not quite the same, but we get a bracket

There was something comforting about filling out an NCAA tournament bracket.

We didn’t get to do that last March. The ramifications on sports as the COVID-19 pandemic hit just days before the 68-team field was going to be announced.

It isn’t going to be a normal tournament. All of the games will be played in and around the Indianapolis metro area. Teams are essentially locked down in their hotels other than for practice — don’t call it a “bubble,” though, because the NCAA doesn’t like that term.

In a year when so many players have essentially quarantined themselves to get to this point, another couple of weeks with a chance to win a championship isn’t something they’re going to balk at being a part of this time of the season.

“I think these are things we’ve been avoiding all year to make sure we stay safe and aren’t exposed, or anything like that,” Iowa center Luka Garza said during Wednesday’s media availability. “I think we’ve gotten used to this lifestyle by this point. We’re all here for a reason. We know what we want to do. We’re very excited about the opportunity to get out to play.”

Iowa is a No. 2 seed in the West Region, tying for the program’s best seed in the tournament since the 1987 tournament. That team reached the Elite Eight, but this group wishes for a trip that will be another weekend longer.

That will mean staying in Indianapolis until early April. Iowa was there

See **IOWA**, page 4

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
THU 18 MarRain and Snow, 45° F/ 33° F
FRI 19 MarClear Skies, 49° F/ 29° F
SAT 20 MarClear Skies, 54° F/ 31° F

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 03/16.....10 41 46 52 69, Mega Ball: 8 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 03/16 MIDDAY.....392
PICK 3 03/16 EVENING.....596
PICK 4 03/16 MIDDAY.....3672
PICK 4 03/16 EVENING.....6605

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/11/21 – 9:36 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of 27th Street.
 03/11/21 – 2:49 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Gavin Blayde Horn, 17, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 28th Street, on a charge of driving while suspended.
 03/11/21 – 3:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1600 block of 27th Street.
 03/11/21 – 4:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2900 block of Avenue M.
 03/11/21 – 9:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested

Vinson C. Wax, 46, of Fort Madison, in the 3000 block of Avenue N., on a charge of 3rd-degree harassment.
 03/12/21 – 4:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue L.
 03/13/21 – 7:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
 03/13/21 – 9:15 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2800 block of Avenue O.
 03/13/21 – 9:57 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2400 block of Avenue H.
 03/14/21 – 12:52 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue E.
 03/14/21 – 3:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Ethan Lee Smutzer, 19, of Fort Madison, at the police station on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/15/21 – 11:24 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3400 block of Avenue L.
 03/15/21 – 4:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2700 block of Avenue N.
 03/15/21 – 3:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Joshua Adam Bowen, 41, of Wever, in the 1100 block of 19th Street on a charge

of driving while barred.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/11/21 – 4:43 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Cassandra Anne Welch, 29, of East St Louis, Ill., no location given, on a charge of driving while barred.
 03/12/21 – 11:57 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Ashley Jessica Ann McGowan, 28, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on 3/13/21 for time served.
 03/12/21 – 2:07 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicole Liana Huffman, 51, of Hamilton, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on 3/15 for time served.
 03/12/21 – 4:43 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 taken to Lee County Jail and released on 3/14/21 for time served.
 03/12/21 – 5:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Taylor William Scott, 28, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on 3/13/21 after posting bond.
 03/12/21 – 5:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Durrell Smith, 34, of Donnellson, no location given, on a charge of eluding. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on 3/13/21 after posting bond.

03/13/21 – 8:15 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gary Eugene Bloome, 74, of Montrose, in the 2200 block of 255th Street, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on a promise to appear.
 03/15/21 – 4:10 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Nicholas Louis Hocker, 38, of Montrose, in the 200 block of Elm Street, Montrose, on a charge of 2nd-degree burglary. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/15/21 – 3:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Scott Gesualdo, 53, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

03/08/21 – Melissa J Scott, age 39, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of No Valid Driver's License. Scott was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 03/09/21 – John A Neally, age 64, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. Neally was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 03/10/21 – Gunnar W Ward, age 27, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested and charged with Disorderly Conduct. Ward was released once time had been served.

03/11/21 – Christina M McMullen, age 30, of Macomb, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. McMullen remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance.
 03/12/21 – Larry C Nelson, 47, of Warsaw, IL was arrested on a Fulton, County Warrant charging him with Unlawful Use of Weapon. Nelson was released and given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.
 03/13/21 – Brandon R Jenkins age 27, of Farmington, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended and Aggravated Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. Jenkins remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 03/14/21 – Ashley M Combs, age 24, of Edina, MO was arrested on a Marion County, MO Warrant charging her with Stealing \$750 or more. Combs remains lodged at the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bond awaiting extradition to Missouri.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/13/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls and one electrical short.
 03/14/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls.
 03/15/21 – Fort Madison firefighters had no activity reported.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Founded in 2016

P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member LION Publishers

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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

Obituaries/Lee County News

Lee County under 1% for 7-day positivity rating

VACCINES - Continued from Page 1

At coronavirus.iowa.gov, Lee County has a 7-day positivity rate listed at .3%. Its 14-day positivity rate is listed at .7%. Since March 1, the county has reported 0 new cases on five different days in its 24-hour report, including Wednesday's. On Tuesday, Lee County Health Department said it will reduce issuing reports to just twice a week, rather than daily Monday through Friday summary.

Fifty-four Lee County residents have suffered COVID-related deaths. That number statewide is 5,666.

Reynolds said she's hearing more and more throughout the state that Iowans think the state is winning the fight with the coronavirus.

"In the last couple of weeks more and more people have commented we've turned a corner and I believe we have. Iowa's recovery is in a strong position," Reynolds said.

"We've proven we can manage the virus while responsibly moving ahead with our daily lives. As vaccine supply increases, getting life back to normal finally seems possible."

Although she couldn't outline exactly how the state will handle the influx of people who want to get vaccinated, Reynolds said state officials are ready to ramp up vaccinations and are looking for partnerships with volunteer groups to help keep up with demand.

The state received 118,000 vaccines the first week of March, 94,900 the second week, and 86,500 this week.

"Next week we'll see that uptick. But right now if we're able to ramp up in a manner they are projecting it will be good news for Iowans. There has been a significant increase in national supply of all three of the vaccines in the last two weeks."

The state's 211 system could be used to help Iowans schedule appointments. To date, that system has been used specifically to help seniors 65 and older without access to the Internet, schedule appointment.

"We're looking at that and what it will look like in the next phase. It makes sense to use that great resource where we can be helpful," she said.

Task force makes felony meth arrest

LEE COUNTY - The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Keokuk man on Felony and Misdemeanor drug charges.

Jacob Anderson, 31, of Keokuk Iowa was arrested on March 16th, 2021 near the intersection of Carbide Lane and Main St. in Keokuk. Anderson was arrested for 3 counts of Delivery of more than 5 grams of Methamphetamine, 1 of those charges being within 1,000 feet of a Public School, each a Class B Felony; Drug Tax Stamp Violation a class D Felony; Possession of a controlled substance-methamphetamine; a Serious Misdemeanor; and Possession of Drug

Paraphernalia, a Simple Misdemeanor.

The arrest of Anderson stems from a traffic stop conducted by the Lee County GHOST (Guns Habitual Offenders Strike Team) during a joint interdiction operation with the Lee County Narcotics Task Force. Anderson's charges stems from an ongoing investigation by the Lee County Narcotics Task Force of Anderson selling methamphetamine in the Lee County area.

The Lee County GHOST, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the Lee County Attorney's Office, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

OBITUARIES

ANTONIA M. GITTINGS

Antonia Marie Gittings, 69, of Keokuk, IA, died Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at the Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, IA.

She was born on July 3, 1951 in Keokuk, the daughter of Harold Edward and Mary Jean Tuttle Gittings. She graduated from Keokuk Senior High School.



GITTINGS

She was baptized at the Messiah Lutheran Church.

Antonia enjoyed working on jigsaw and crossword puzzles, crocheting, making craft projects and collecting elephants and knick-knacks. She was an avid farmer on the computer game Farmtown. Antonia enjoyed being a homemaker and spent her life making a wonderful home for her family. Her grandchildren were the sunshine of her life and she cherished the time she spent with them.

She is survived by four sons, Stanley Gittings (Elizabeth), Timothy DeSherlia, Bill DeSherlia (Michelle Rhodes) and Kevin Fields all of Keokuk, seven grandchildren, Brian Gittings, Samantha Gittings, Shannon DeSherlia, AJ Egly, Emma, Patrick and Colby Lambert-Fields, four great-grandchildren, Charles and Tyler Gittings and Eternity and Wyatt Miller, one brother, Jay Gittings of Carthage, IL, one sister, Barbara Sarro (Vincent) of Independence, MO and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Harold Gittings, and her husband, George Fields.

A Gathering of Remembrance will be held on Saturday from 10 am - 12 noon at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends at that time. Masks are required and social distancing is encouraged.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.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

Garza locked in on tourney

IOWA - Continued from Page 1

last weekend for the Big Ten tournament, then stayed on for COVID-19 tests to clear quarantine and be eligible to play this week.

“It’s pretty much business as usual, except we’re not leaving the facility,” Iowa coach Fran McCaffery said.

The Hawkeyes would have been in last year’s tournament, but never even got one postseason game in — the Big Ten tournament was canceled just a couple of games before Iowa was supposed to play Minnesota in the second round on that Thursday when the sports world shut down.

That disappointment is what fueled Garza’s return after testing the NBA draft process over the summer.

“I came back to play with this team, these guys,” Garza said. “I came back to play in this tournament. It’s something I’ve been locked into for a while now.”

It’s been a strange season for college basketball. Empty arenas, schedule changes, games postponed or canceled.

And yet, we have a postseason. The men are in Indiana, the women’s tournament is being played in a similar format in San Antonio.

The Hawkeyes got to leave their hotel on Wednesday afternoon, getting in a wiffle-ball game at nearby Victory Field, the home of Indianapolis’ Triple-A affiliate.

They also posted a photo on social media — the team standing together with the bracket that covers the outside of the nearby JW Marriott hotel.

Everyone was wearing a mask.

But at least there was a bracket.

John Bohnenkamp is a national award-winning reporter and editor and is regular contributor to Pen City Current.

Prep athletic officials yearning to bring fans back to all sports

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted everyday life for almost a year at this point. There is hardly anyone who would dispute the validity of that statement. In order to survive and continue moving forward during the past 12 months, we have been faced with finding new ways to accomplish our daily tasks.

Instead of meeting face to face with a group of people, we converse with people in rectangles on computer screens.

Instead of sitting together with family and friends in crowded restaurants, we pay someone to bring the food to our homes.

Instead of those shopping sprees at the nearest mall, we order online and provide more business for the army of overnight delivery vehicles in our neighborhoods.

In high school sports and performing arts, everyone from the students to coaches, officials, parents and administrators have had to adjust to new ways of doing things. In many cases, students must wear masks even in competition and isolate from their friends away from school in order to continue playing. And while students and others have been willing to do whatever it takes to provide participation opportunities, everyone is looking for that light at the end of the tunnel.

Hopefully, most of these protocols that limit interaction will vanish when the pandemic subsides, although some aspects of the “new norm” may continue, such as online meetings.

However, there is one thing in the world of high school sports and performing arts that we desire as soon as possible at high schools throughout the state of Iowa and across the country — stadiums and auditoriums with crowds of family, friends and other fans cheering for the 12 million-plus participants in high school activity programs.

While the cardboard cutouts and piped-in music have been creative attempts to make it feel like people are in the stands, nothing can replace parents, students and others in the community lending positive support to high school students involved in sports and performing arts.

We are grateful that the NFHS Network has allowed fans to watch high school events online during the past year. Many schools have taken advantage of the NFHS Network’s High School Support Program that includes

two free automated-production cameras (Pixellots). And while these units will continue to be used going forward as an option for watching events, nothing can replace fans in the stands, gyms and auditoriums.

One of the key differences in education-based activities conducted within the school and out-of-school club sports is the support of fans in the community. Students in high school activities are playing for the love of the game and to be involved in positive programs with their peers.

On a normal Friday night prior to the pandemic, more than seven million fans attended high school football games weekly across the country. And it is estimated that about 350 million people attended high school sports annually prior to the pandemic. While we recognize it may take some time before those numbers are equaled again, things are trending in the right direction.

Recently, several states have increased the number of spectators allowed for winter sports, such as basketball, being conducted indoors. In Tennessee, attendance at games is limited to one-third of the gym’s capacity; in Michigan, attendance is capped at 20 percent. In Arizona and West Virginia, however, the decisions can be made by individual schools with no set restrictions, although social distancing must be maintained. In Iowa, the Governor has asked that event organizers take reasonable measures under the circumstances of each gathering to ensure the health of participants and members of the public. We have asked each school to continue social distancing and to require masks of our spectators.

These are great signs that we are moving the needle in the right direction regarding our return to a semblance of normalcy, and one day soon one of the tenants of education-based high school sports and performing arts — parents and other fans — will be back in full force throughout the state of Iowa to support high school activity programs. We encourage all school and their fans to continue to be diligent in their efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19 so that day comes sooner than later.

By Karissa Niehoff, executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations; Tom Keating, executive director of the Iowa High School Athletic Association; Jean Berger, executive director of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

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Local News/Sports

Clark named FMCH Employee of the Year

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Kayla Clark, ITS, as the 2020 Employee of the Year. Kayla was selected by the FMCH employees through a secure voting process.

Fort Madison Community Hospital traditionally holds an employee banquet in May of each year during National Hospital Week where the employee of the year is recognized. Due to the pandemic situation, the banquet was cancelled and the vote was held in December. Kayla was selected with this nomination:

Kayla exemplifies these Standards of Behavior -positive attitude, commitment to co-workers, and respect for our resources. This person should be the next employee of the month because she is endlessly striving to improve clinic processes and workflows. She goes above and beyond by listening to provider and staff issues/concerns and always tries to find a way to make things easier. If she doesn't know the answer,

Shelby Burchett, FMCH CEO, presents Kayla Clark with the FMCH Employee of the Year award with Shane Tapper, ITS Director, and Eric Morehouse, ITS Manager.



she will find it. The staff can truly count on her. Even with all the frustration that a new system can bring she works continuously with a positive attitude and a smile on her face!

Kayla has been with FMCH for eleven years and has this to say about her experience, "Wendy Matlock, Matt Mullins, Shane Tapper, and everyone I have learned from over the years, which is almost everyone at FMCH, have made a difference in my career here. My favorite part of working at FMCH are the people."

The following employees were recognized as employees of the month for the 2019-2020 time period and were also in the running for employee of the year 2020: Chris Hutson, Carolyn Lobberecht, Erica Huffman, Cory Schmitt, Tricia Weirather, Paul Fraise, Anna Frakes, Brandy Lichtenberger, Marilyn Settles, Heather Oppenheimer Smith and Amanda Burgus, and Samantha Stein.

Davis put on sports writers' 3rd team in 3A

PCC STAFF

DES MOINES - Fort Madison junior Dayton Davis was named to the 2021 3rd team Class 3A All-State team by Iowa's print sports writers.



DAVIS

Davis has already been named to the Southeast Iowa 1st-team All Conference and the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Substate All-State team.

Davis scored 326 points in 20 games for the 8-12 Bloodhounds. The junior was third in the state in Class 3A in rebounds with 226. That number includes 96 offensive rebounds, which was tops in Class 3A and eighth best in the state in all classes. He was also fourth in 3A in steals with 59.

Fairfield sophomore Max Wheaton was also named to the third team in Class 3A.

The Iowa Print Sports Writers Association took over the All-State awards program in 2018.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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FORT MADISON
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Date: Thursday,
March 18, 2021
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Place: Sheaffer Meeting
Room and Online

via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (892 8290 6108) when prompted. If you have trouble connecting to the meeting, please call (319) 372-5721.

- I. Excused absences
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Public Comments
- IV. Approval of minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting February 18
 - V. Approval of the Bills
 - a. Approval of March 2021 Bills
 - VI. Correspondence
 - VII. Director's Report
 - a. Financial
 - b. Personnel

- c. Programming
- d. Collection Development
- e. Operations
- f. Facilities - landscaping
- g. Professional
 - VIII. New Business
 - a. Approve 2021-2022 Holidays
 - b. Adult Summer Reading Program Spending from County Fund
 - IX. Unfinished Business
 - a. Follow-up discussion and possible action from February discussion of Special Library Levy
 - b. Aarin Guzman Donation Project Presentations
 - X. Trustee Education
 - a. Trustee Handbook
 - XI. Upcoming Events and Information

a. Money Smart Week
April 11-17
Next Meeting, Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5:30.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY**
DATE: March 18, 2021
CONVENING TIME:
3:00 P.M. (CDT)
---AGENDA---
Special Board of Supervisors Meeting
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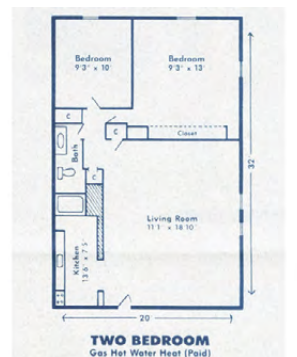
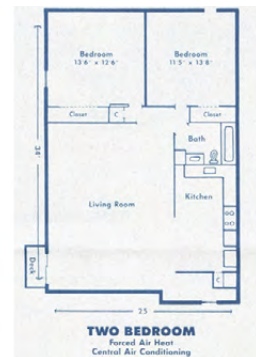
You can also dial in using your phone.
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Approve Agenda
Closed Session Pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)(c) Consider Approval of Contract with Lynch Dallas
Adjourn

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HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Lee County Attorney is accepting applications for a full-time Assistant County Attorney. Primary duties involve all aspects of trial work including daily court appearances, assistance with investigations; charging of criminal cases; interaction and training with law enforcement, victim and witness contact, representing the State at hearings, trials, and in other legal proceedings; and other duties as assigned. The duties of this position may change as determined by the County Attorney.

REQUIREMENTS:

Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial caseload.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

SALARY:

Salary range to start at \$71,300.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden
Lee County Attorney
710 Avenue F
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
rbraden@leecounty.org

Applications must be received by March 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

Lee County is an equal opportunity employer



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ASSISTANT TO ENGINEER

Lee County is taking applications for an Assistant to Engineer to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include conducting National Bridge Inspection Standards inspections of in-service bridges, preparing engineering plans and specifications for road-related construction or maintenance projects and serving as project lead inspector on construction projects, including directing and supervising contractors and County employees. Wage based on experience and qualifications.

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 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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



LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR

Lee County is taking applications for an Engineering Technician Supervisor to work out of our Fort Madison, Iowa office. Duties will include: to direct and oversee the work of a small crew of engineering technicians, perform research and fieldwork for land surveys, engineering surveys, and construction surveys; drawing plans and preparing specifications, conduct inspections of work performed by contractors, and preparing right-of-way descriptions and drawings for the purchase of land to improve and construct roadways and operate survey equipment.

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 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2021.

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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NOW HIRING LEE COUNTY CERTIFIED EMS PROVIDERS

Lee County is now accepting applications for full and part-time Iowa certified EMS providers. We are a county owned and operated ambulance service providing emergency services to Lee County, Iowa as well as critical care transport services. Our primary full-time schedule is based on a 24-48 rotation with a Kelly Day, flexible scheduling for part-time employment. Strong progressive protocols, new fleet power load equipped. Starting wage EMT \$15.82 per hour, \$42,777.28 per year. Starting wage paramedic \$20.16 per hour, \$54,512.64 per year, based on a 48-hour full-time work week. 2% wage increases annually for three years. 10 cents per hour increase for every year of EMS experience after your first year. Benefit package includes health insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield (80/20 plan), chiropractic, prescription plan, annual wellness, vision, dental, life, protection class IPERS, optional 401K, Aflac, Lee County Credit Union. Annual uniform allowance provided. In house continuing education provided. Positions will start July 1, 2021.

Paramedic Qualifications:

- High School Diploma (GED or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- Current IDPH-BETS EMS Certification at the Paramedic level
- Valid Driver's License/insurable
- Current BLS
- Current ACLS
- Current PALS

EMT Qualifications:

- High School Diploma (GED or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- Current IDPH-BETS EMS Certification at the EMT level
- Valid Driver's License/insurable
- Current BLS

Applicants must be eligible to work in the U.S. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered. Applications and job descriptions may be found online at www.leecounty.org and may be also obtained at the Lee County Auditor's Office, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison Iowa. Applications accepted through April 5, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Complete background check, drug screening and post-offer physical required. Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please mail or email applications to or for more information:



Lee County EMS
Attn: Dennis Cosby, EMS Director
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627
dcosby@leecounty.org

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From the Front/Education News

State Lab sequencing more positive cases

LAB - Continued from Page 1

whom these individuals have been in close contact. The individuals will be advised to isolate in accordance with IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.

“Because current evidence shows the current vaccines are effective against the B.1.1.7 variant, it’s absolutely critical for Iowans to get the vaccine when one is made available to them. As viruses are known to change a bit over time and variants can sometimes be more easily transmissible, reaching herd immunity will be very important in reducing virus activity. Public health will continue to work with our partners at SHL to monitor these trends and it is very important that we all keep practicing good public health protective measures,” shared Dr. Caitlin Pedati, State Medical Director and Epidemiologist.

For more information on vaccine eligibility and to find a provider, visit: <https://vaccinate.iowa.gov/>.

The emergence of new variants underscores that it remains critical for Iowans to continue the mitigation efforts that we know work to slow the spread of COVID-19:

- Wear a mask or face covering
- Practice social distancing with those outside your household
- Clean your hands frequently with soap and water
- Stay home if you feel sick
- Get tested if you are exposed to, or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine when it’s available to you.

Caruso, Graham win Belin honors

IOWA CITY - The Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa has announced the regional award recipients of the 2021 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Presented by the non-profit organization, the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the country’s longest-running and most prestigious scholarship and recognition program for creative students in grades 7–12. This program year, more than 330,000 works of art and writing were submitted to 100 Affiliate regions across the country. As one of the largest national affiliates, the Belin-Blank Center adjudicated over

7,000 pieces of art and writing from the Iowa and Midwest Regions. Creative teens from Iowa and the Midwest received regional honors, including Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mentions, and/or American Visions & Voices nominations, including:

Danny Caruso, a senior at Holy Trinity High School, earned a Silver Key in the Humor category for writing: “A Funnyman’s Folly.”

Lucy Graham, a junior at Holy Trinity High School, earned an Honorable Mention for her painting titled: “On the Roof.”

Since the program’s founding in 1923, the Awards have fostered



Lucy Graham and Danny Caruso both received awards at the University of Iowa’s Belin-Blank Center for young artists and writers.


the creativity and talent of millions of students, including renowned alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their fields, including Andy Warhol, Truman Capote, Richard Ave-

don, Philip Pearlstein, and Sylvia Plath. More recently, Stephen King, Richard Linklater, Zac Posen, and Lena Dunham received Scholastic Art & Writing Awards when they were teens.

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