

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS: Don't forget to Spring Forward 1 hour tomorrow night

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

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12-Plus kids do mock interviews



Courtesy photo

Jim Folkner from Siemens Gamesa interviews Nick Profeta, a senior at Keokuk High School. In the background, JR Derksen with Liberty Utilities interviews Jordan Sisk, a junior at Keokuk.

LCEDG: Students get more real work experience through 12 Plus program

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – Area students got a chance to see what industrial and service interviews look like in the real world Thursday afternoon.

Lee County Economic Development Group's Dana Millard said eight area high school juniors and seniors participated in a mock interview session at Keokuk High School.

The interviews was part of the LCEDG's 12-Plus program, which is an employability class that connects high school students and local careers.

Each student interviewed with two different businesses and received feedback on the sessions.

"These students are learning skills they will use throughout their lives and are interacting with local employers at the same time," Millard said.

This is the 5th year LCEDG has hosted Mock Interview Day as part of the 12-Plus program with several of the mock interviews resulting in internships or job opportunities after students graduate.

Employers included Independent Can Company, Siemens Gamesa, Liberty Utilities, Henniges Automotive, ISU Extension, and Voc. Rehab.

WORK FORCE

Unemployment rate ticks back up prior to spring

DES MOINES - The number of initial unemployment claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 6, was 5,531, an increase of 1,315 from last week's adjusted numbers. There were 4,898 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa,

and 633 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state. The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims was 44,827, a decrease of 3,562 from the previous week. November through February are typically the months IWD sees the

most unemployment claims, driven by increased claims in construction, agriculture, landscaping and manufacturing due to seasonal layoffs. For the week ending March 6, 2021, nearly 59.1% of

See **JOBLESS** , page 10



Nixed tourney was ominous start to year

I was trying the other day to come up with a memory from one year ago, when the world we knew stopped because of a virus we knew little about.

And then from the other room, I heard the ESPN SportsCenter notification ringtone from my phone.

Da-da-da, da-da-da.

It reminded me of every time I heard that, starting on March 11, 2020, when I was on my way to Indianapolis for the Big Ten tournament.

Every notification that day was of more bad news.

The spread of the virus known as COVID-19 had been declared a pandemic.

The NCAA Tournament games played in Ohio would have to be without fans.

The Big Ten tournament wasn't going to have fans. The NBA had positive COVID-19 tests, and would be suspending its season.

Nebraska coach Fred Hoiberg had been taken to the hospital at the Big Ten tournament, and his team was in post-game quarantine.

On and on and on that Wednesday night.

Da-da-da, da-da-da.

I finally put the phone on silent for the rest of the night. But I couldn't stop thinking about the little things that day that were just as creepy.

The traffic reports from Chicago reported less than normal traffic in the middle of the day because offices had been shut-

See **BOHNENKAMP**, page 2

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WEATHER

FRI 12 Mar Overcast, 54° F/ 38° F
SAT 13 Mar Overcast, 51° F/ 42° F
SUN 14 Mar Rain, 47° F/ 42° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 03/10..... 4 15 31 36 39, Star Ball: 6, All Star Bonus: 2
PICK 3 03/10 MIDDAY..... 0 2 4
PICK 3 03/10 EVENING..... 5 6 5
PICK 4 03/10 MIDDAY..... 0 4 8 5
PICK 4 03/10 EVENING..... 6 6 7 0
POWERBALL 03/10..... 17 18 37 44 53, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/From the Front

COVID year rattled sports right from the start

BOHNENKAMP - Continued from Page 1

ting down that week.

Everywhere I stopped, hand sanitizer was readily available.

When I arrived in Indianapolis, I noticed the lack of traffic during rush hour on I-465, the busiest highway in the city.

The lobby in my hotel was empty — the clerk told me within an hour of the Big Ten's decision not to have fans, the occupation rate for the weekend went from 100% to 20%.

I kept the phone on silent until the next morning. There were more notifications, I noticed, but the Big Ten tournament was still on. Iowa was playing that afternoon, so I headed to Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

Downtown was quiet — too quiet, it felt.

I got my credential, set up in the press room, and went to get lunch. The first game of the day was a few minutes away from being played.

I just sat down when someone walked by and held up his phone.

"We're cancelled," he said.

Da-da-da, da-da-da.

There would be a press conference in a few minutes, a guard told me.

"And then you've got an hour to get out of here," he said.

Big Ten commissioner Kevin Warren told us why he made the decision to cancel, and it was clear then that everything was shutting down.

I headed back to the hotel.

I filed a couple of stories, then packed up for the drive home.

The same clerk from the night before was at the desk.

Sure you don't want to stay for the weekend?" she quipped. "Plenty of good rooms are available."

Da-da-da, da-da-da.

No NCAA Tournament. No spring sports for college teams. No Major League Baseball, NHL, PGA, NASCAR.

I passed the sign in Galesburg that said how long the wait was at the emergency room of the local hospital. It said 2 minutes when I drove by a few days earlier.

It said 35 minutes that night.

The suitcase I had packed for four days was heavy as I carried it up the stairs when I got home.

The news of the day had already exhausted me. It was only the beginning.

Da-da-da, da-da-da.

I shut my phone off for the rest of the night.

A long year was ahead.

John Bohnenkamp is an award winning sports writer/editor and is a regular contributor to Pen City Current.

OBITUARIES

CLETA J. BEIMER

Cleta J. Beimer, 86, of Fort Madison, Iowa passed away peacefully on March 10, 2021 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. Born on February 16, 1935 at home in rural Niota, and raised on the family farm Cleta was the daughter of John Daniel and Florence Boeddeker Hogan.



BEIMER

On May 14, 1955 Cleta married Kenneth (Kenny) Beimer at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Madison. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in May of 2020. Cleta and Kenny raised 5 children together: Alan Beimer (Pam) of McCook Lake, South Dakota; Jacqueline Lumsden (Jim) of Fort Madison, Iowa; Jennifer Beimer Houser (John) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Jocelyn Beimer of Fort Madison, Iowa; and Jeanna (Ian) Orton of West Point, Iowa.

Cleta is survived by her husband Kenny, their children, and beloved grandchildren: Amy Beimer, Sierra Lumsden, Logan Lumsden (Nicole), Emma Houser, Madelyn Orton, Milo Orton; and great-grandchildren: Kaitlyn Munson and Norah Lumsden. Also surviving are her three sisters; Mary Elizabeth Scheetz of Nauvoo, IL, Cecelia (Dick) Richards of Mount Pleasant, Iowa and Martha Galbraith of Burlington, Iowa; numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

An esteemed real estate agent, Cleta sold homes in Fort Madison for nearly 20 years until she retired in 2007. Prior to her successful real estate career, Cleta answered the phones and performed secretarial duties for Kenny's and his brother, Steve's plumbing business, while gracefully running a bustling household. A woman of unwavering faith, Cleta was a member of Sacred Heart Church and was a proud advocate of catholic education—of which herself and Kenny, along with their 5 children, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild attended. Cleta was also an active fixture and familiar face in the Aquinas school system, and later Holy Trinity. Cleta and Kenny served on Aquinas God's Portion Day Committee. She and Kenny were very active in the Jaycees, where they met lifelong friends, including the Burton and Feinberg families.

Cleta's smile and positive attitude was infectious to all who knew and loved her. She loved playing cards, watching birds and squirrels from her porch, and visiting the Hogan family farm in Niota, IL.

Above all, Cleta was a loving wife, wise mother, and supportive grandmother and friend. From volleyball and tennis matches, to baseball games, FFA banquets, graduations, and dance recitals; Cleta was her grandchildren's biggest fan. She cherished every card game, coloring page, and porch swing with them.

Cleta was preceded in death by, and is now reveling in the reunion with, her parents, three brothers, George, Bernard, and John D; three sisters, Alberta, Irene & Margaret; and several close friends, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

The family will meet with friends from 1-3 PM on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The funeral mass will be held at 10:30 AM on Monday, March 15, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church. Burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery. The family requests that social distancing procedures be followed. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. The family would like to thank the staff at The Kensington and FMCH for the compassionate care they provided.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for Holy Trinity Catholic Schools and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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Lee County News/Scene Around the Area

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

03/10/21 – 7:56 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 5200 block of
 03/10/21 – 9:53 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Anthony Paul Thomas Ourth, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/10/21 – 8:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/10/21 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tony Lee Kellogg, 60, of Winfield, no location listed, on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/10/21 – no time listed – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Tayler Andrew McCall, 21, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's dept., on five warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 03/10/21 – 9:52 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Anthony Paul Thomas Ourth, 29, of Fort Madison, in the 800 block of Avenue G, on a warrant for failure to appear.
 03/10/21 – 11:00 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric John Reid, 44, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's dept. on warrants for violation of probation.
 03/11/21 – 12:01 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jayden Victor Untz, 20, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's dept. on a warrant for a judgment hold.
 03/10/21 – 2:51 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested David Lee Heins, 57, of Donnellson, at the sheriff's dept., on warrants for judgment holds.
 Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/10/21 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to five medical calls, one two-vehicle accident.

Task force nabs Montrose man

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Narcotics Task Force reports the arrest of a Montrose man on felony and misdemeanor drug charges.

Daniel Philp, 36, of Montrose, Iowa was arrested on March 6th, 2021 in the 200 Block of Elm St. in Montrose. Philp was arrested on an outstanding warrant for Violation of Parole. Philp was also charged with possession with intent to deliver more than 5 grams of methamphetamine 2nd or subsequent offense a Class B Felony; violation of drug tax stamp violation a Class D Felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a simple misdemeanor.



PHILP

The arrest of Philp stems from a traffic stop conducted by the Montrose Police Department where Philp was taken into custody on his warrant and traffic offenses. Officers located methamphetamine on Philp's person and contacted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force to assist in furthering the investigation.

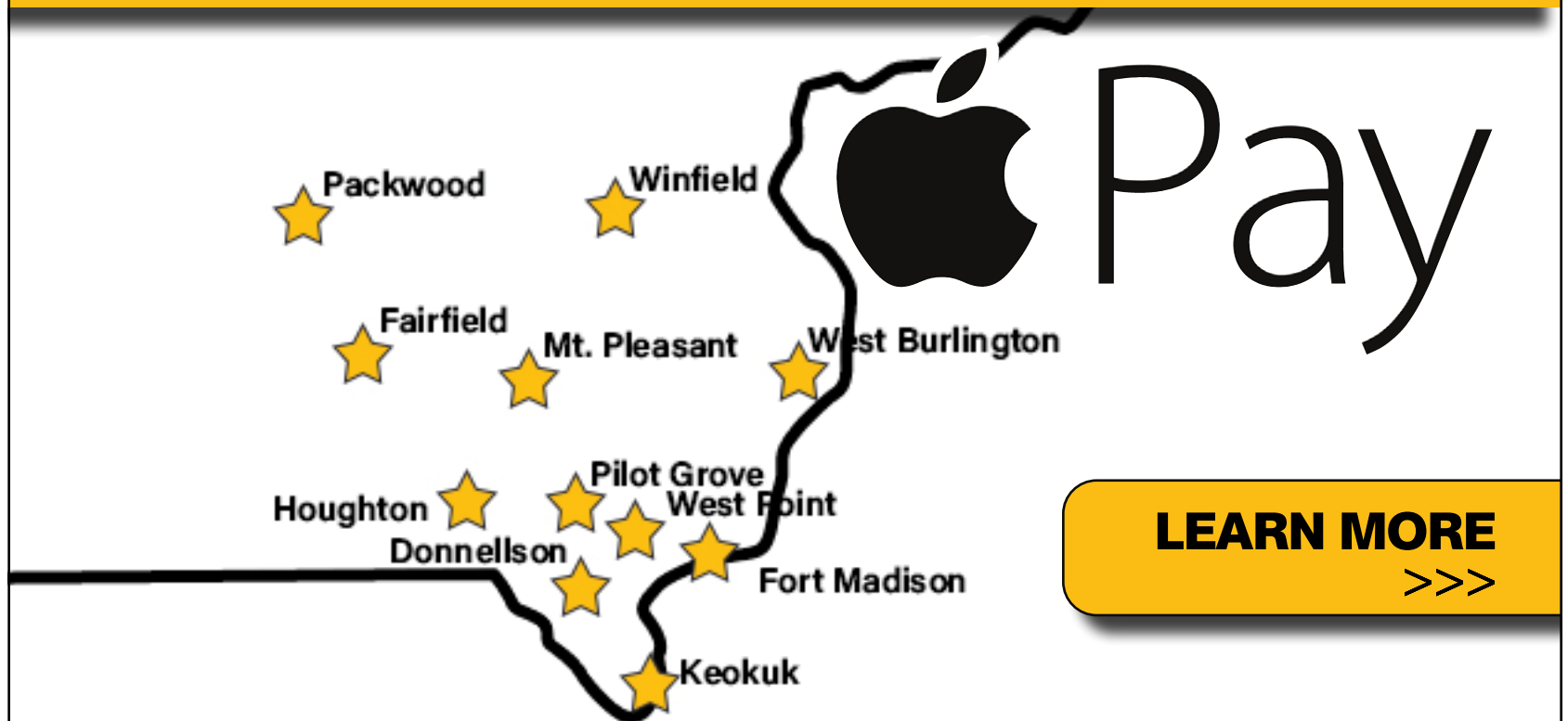
The Montrose Police Department, and the Lee County Attorney's Office, assisted the Lee County Narcotics Task Force in this investigation. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Lee County Narcotics Task Force is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Justice and the funds administered by the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy.



The Central Lee FFA served more than 350 parents, community supporters, and teachers at the annual National FFA week breakfast held recently. Over 75 FFA members began cooking at 5:30AM.

(L-R) Brianna Gruntmeir-chapter Secretary, Avree Tweedy, and Trey Wellman-3rd Vice-President.

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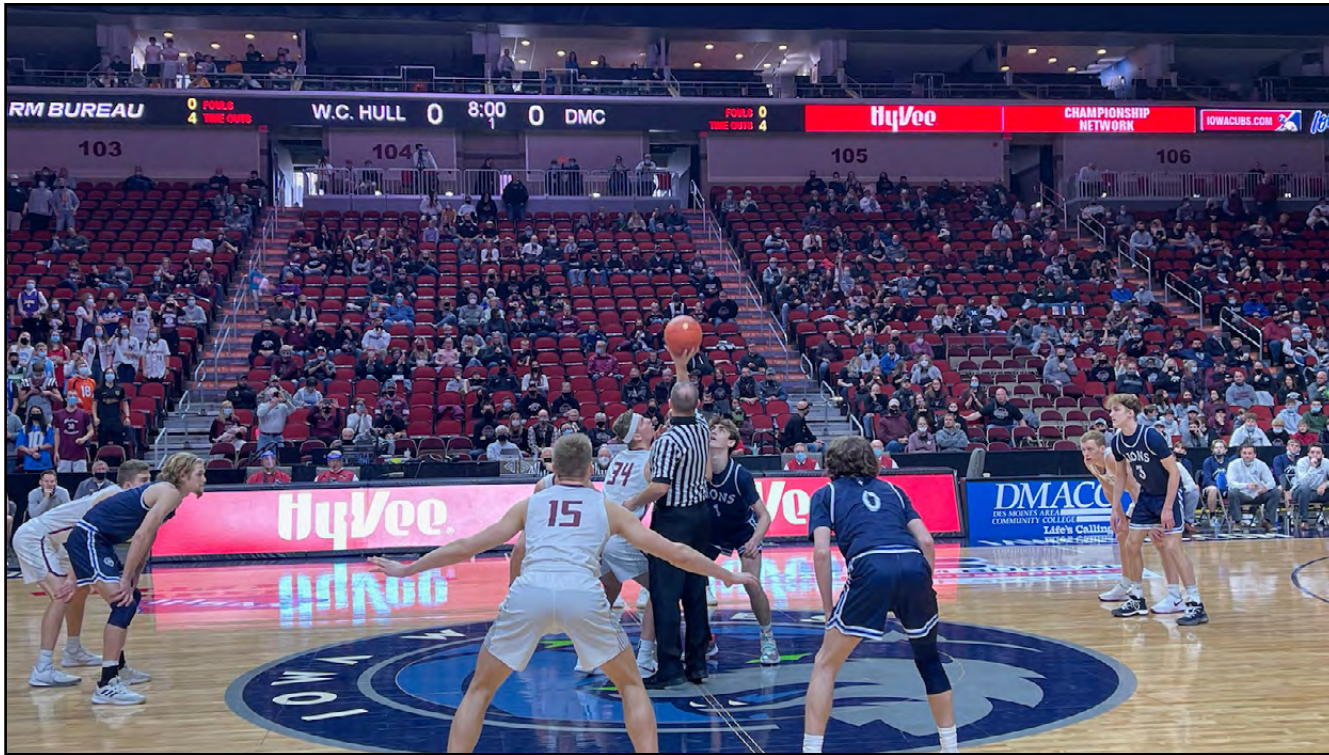
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Lee County News/Sports



Courtesy photo

Fort Madison referee Josh Ragar throws up the opening tip at Thursday's Class 2A boys State Semifinal game at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

Central Lee FFA

Congratulations to Sydney Jones and Trey Wellman! They have been elected to represent Southeast Iowa for the 2021-2022 school year as District FFA Officers. Sydney will be serving as the District Vice President and Trey Wellman as the District Secretary. They will have leadership roles at the district and state levels through this experience, as a part of a seven-member officer team that covers all of Southeast Iowa. They will gain valuable leadership experiences and will be able to show off their premier leadership. #FFA #Proud2bCL #CTEworksforCL



LCSO to conduct St. Patrick's day special enforcement

MONTROSE - If you are heading out to a St. Patrick's Day celebration this year, make sure to have more than just the luck o' the Irish on your side. The Lee County Sheriff's Office is joining Iowa's state-wide Traffic Fatality Task Force in an effort to reduce deaths on Iowa roadways. As part of that effort the Lee County Sheriff's Office, will be conducting a special enforcement initiative geared toward seat belt compliance and the reduction of impaired drivers around the St. Patrick's Day holiday. This time period is one of the most deadly in the state according to the past 10 years of crash data.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CAN BE UNLUCKY

- In Iowa, March 17 is typically one of the biggest drinking nights of the year and, unfortunately, means more impaired drivers on the roads.
 - In 2019 in Iowa, there were two crashes over the holiday which killed four people. Drunk driving accounts for nearly one-third of vehicle related fatalities in Iowa and in the United States.
 - Nationally, in 2018 alone, 73 people (39 percent of all crash fatalities) were killed in drunk-driving crashes over the St. Patrick's Day holiday period and 33 percent of the pedestrians aged 16 and older killed in crashes had a blood alcohol concentration over the legal limit.
- The eventual goal for fatalities in Iowa is ZERO, but the incremental goal for 2021 is under 300, down from 338 in 2020. If achieved, this will be the first time Iowa traffic fatalities were under 300 lives since 1925.

Iowa's multi-discipline Traffic Fatality Task Force was created in 2021 to implement educational, enforcement and legislative initiatives to help Iowa achieve the target of less than 300 traffic fatalities annually, with the ultimate goal of zero fatalities. Enforcement is one key element to reduce fatalities.

The task force is led by the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa State Patrol. For more information on the task force and its work, contact Pat Hoye, Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau at 515-725-6120 or hoye@dps.state.ia.us.



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Weeks into vaccine roll out, many Iowans worry about being left behind

BY NATALIE KREBS

Iowa Public Radio and Side Effects Public Media

EASTERN IOWA - Like many states, Iowa is now weeks into distributing the coronavirus vaccine to residents who are 65 or older. With vaccine demand still far outstripping supply, many Iowans are struggling to get an appointment and are frustrated. But some worry the state's most vulnerable residents are also at risk for getting left behind.

Chuck Betts is 74 and lives in eastern Iowa. He says getting an appointment to get vaccinated was anything but easy.

He started by calling 2-1-1.

"And I got an operator in Chicago Cook County. So my 211 call went to Illinois," Betts said.

Betts then put his name on a waiting list with the county health department.

He banded together with friends to search for appointments. One friend found that a Hy-Vee grocery across the river in Illinois had slots. Betts was able to sign up online for himself and his wife.

But during the whole search, one thing kept bothering him.

"Well, one of the questions I kept asking myself and other friends was, 'who's in charge? Who's responsible for centralizing, who's responsible for centralizing all this?'" he said.

That's a question lots of Iowans have asked.

For many people, trying to get vaccinated has meant navigating a patchwork of public and private registration systems.

Earlier this month, Iowa officials said they were partnering with Microsoft to create a centralized registration system. It's something other states like Indiana already have in place.

But last month, Gov. Kim Reynolds announced the state would not be moving forward with it. Instead, the state is launching a simpler online system listing places that offer vaccines. Iowans still have to call around to find an appointment.

Brad Anderson, the state director of AARP, called the new system a "terrific step forward." It includes an option for seniors to get help scheduling an appointment by phone.

Anderson said the patchwork system hasn't worked for older Iowans, especially for those without internet access and those in rural areas.

"They're finding their voicemails being unreturned and many times, they have operators who are unable to help and some of these locations are clearly understaffed," said Anderson.

But Scott Grawe said a centralized system isn't the main linchpin to improve the vaccine rollout.

He is a professor at the Iowa State University College of Business. He said what the state really needs is better communication about the steps needed to find and register for the vaccine.

"When you create a system where you announce the system, and then you change those plans, it creates confusion among the customers and those who are really seeking the vaccine. And they just don't know where to go to get it," said Grawe.

Other rural Midwestern states like North Dakota are among the leaders for vaccine distribution, even without a centralized system.

State officials there took steps like establishing a vast network of distributors early, and that helped get word out to the public. The state even hired contact tracers to sign up people by phone.

Grawe said Iowans haven't had clear direction on where to even find vaccine informa-

See COVID , page 10



IStock Image/IowaWatch

Coronavirus COVID-19 single dose small vials and multi dose in scientist hands concept.

DO YOUR PART

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2021
The Lee County Board of Supervisors met electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

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

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

At 9:01 a.m. Pflug opened a Public Hearing to enter into a loan agreement to borrow money and issue not to exceed \$3,200,000.00 General Obligation Bonds to combine debt. There were no comments prior to the hearing and no comments presented at the hearing. At 9:01 a.m. it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to close the Public Hearing. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2021-49.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-49

Resolution taking additional action to enter into a Loan Agreement

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") of Lee County, Iowa (the "County") previously issued its \$650,000 General Obligation Law Enforcement Center Improvement Bond, Series 2013, dated July 18, 2013 (the "2013 Bonds"), a portion of which currently remains outstanding, maturing on such dates and in such amounts and bearing interest at such rates, as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Year | 2021 |
| Principal | \$70,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2022 |
| Principal | \$70,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2023 |
| Principal | \$70,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |

; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to the resolution (the "2013 Bond Resolution") authorizing the issuance of the 2013 Bonds, the County reserved the right to call the 2013 Bonds maturing in the years 2021 through 2023 (the "Callable 2013 Bonds") for optional early redemption on any date on or after June 1, 2018, subject to the provisions of the 2013 Bond Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County also previously issued its \$510,000 General Obligation Conservation Building Bond, Series 2014, dated October 1, 2014 (the "2014 Bonds") a portion of which currently remains outstanding maturing on such dates and in such amounts and bearing interest at such rates as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Year | 2021 |
| Principal | \$52,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.10% |
| Year | 2022 |
| Principal | \$53,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.10% |
| Year | 2023 |
| Principal | \$54,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.10% |
| Year | 2024 |
| Principal | \$55,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.10% |
| Year | 2025 |
| Principal | \$56,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.10% |

; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to the resolution (the "2014 Bond Resolution") authorizing the issuance of the 2014 Bonds, the County reserved the right to call the 2014 Bonds maturing in the years 2021 through 2025 (the "Callable 2014 Bonds") for optional early redemption on any date on or after June 1, 2020, subject to the provisions of the 2014 Bond Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County also previously issued its \$5,885,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016, dated April 1, 2016 (the "2016 Bonds") a portion of which currently remains outstanding maturing on such dates and in such amounts and bearing interest at such rates as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Year | 2021 |
| Principal | \$655,000 |
| Interest Rate | 3.00% |
| Year | 2022 |
| Principal | \$680,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2023 |
| Principal | \$335,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2024 |
| Principal | \$345,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2025 |
| Principal | \$355,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2026 |
| Principal | \$365,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.00% |
| Year | 2027 |
| Principal | \$370,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.25% |
| Year | 2028 |
| Principal | \$380,000 |
| Interest Rate | 2.25% |

; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to the resolution (the "2016 Bond Resolution") authorizing the issuance of the 2016 Bonds, the County reserved the right to call the 2016 Bonds maturing in the years 2022 through 2028 (the "Callable 2016 Bonds") for optional early

redemption on any date on or after June 1, 2021, subject to the provisions of the 2016 Bond Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board, heretofore proposed to enter into one or more loan agreements (the "Project Loan Agreement"), borrow money and issue not to exceed \$6,200,000 general obligation bonds, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402 and 331.441 as amended, of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring, constructing, improving and equipping the County's law enforcement, fire, ambulance and other emergency services communication systems, including without limitation radio equipment, pagers, antennas, and other equipment and infrastructure necessary for the system and paying related costs of issuance, and has published notice of such proposal and has held a hearing thereon on November 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Board heretofore proposed to enter into one or more loan agreements (the "Refunding Loan Agreement"), borrow money and issue not to exceed \$3,200,000 general obligation refunding bonds, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402 and 331.441 as amended, of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of current refunding the Callable 2013 Bonds, the Callable 2014 Bonds and the Callable 2016 Bonds and paying related costs of issuance, and has published notice of such proposal and has held a hearing thereon on February 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends to combine the Project Loan Agreement and the Refunding Loan Agreement into a single loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement");

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. The proposed loan agreements are hereby combined into the Loan Agreement and the Board hereby determines to enter into the Loan Agreement in the future, and determines that this Resolution constitutes the "additional action" required by Section 331.443 of the Code of Iowa.

Section 2. All resolutions and orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this resolution, to the extent of such conflict, are hereby

repealed.

Passed and approved February 22, 2021.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest:/s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to approve an Engagement Letter with Piper Sandler for services related to bond refinancing. Motion carried.

At 9:10 a.m. Pflug opened a Public Hearing for applying for grant funds from the United States Department of Agriculture for the Ambulance Fleet. There were no comments prior to the hearing and no comments presented at the hearing. At 9:11 a.m. it was moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to close the Public Hearing. Roll call: Fedler-aye, Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2021-50. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2021-50

WHEREAS, Lee County, Iowa (hereafter County) needs to purchase ambulances for the purpose of providing emergency ambulance services to its citizens, and;

WHEREAS, The County will assume operations of a county owned and operated municipal ambulance service on July 1, 2021, and;

WHEREAS, The County intends to purchase new ambulances for this service, and;

WHEREAS, The County intends to submit an Application for Federal Assistance to USDA to receive funds to purchase these ambulances, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, This 22nd day of February, 2021,

The County intends to maintain and operate said ambulances for the duration of its useful life and will provide any required local match as part of the project and any awarded grants for the project.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest:/s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve Resolution #2021-48. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2021-48

The undersigned, being the officer identified below of Lee County (the "Lessor"), hereby certifies that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the gov-

erning body of the Lessee at a meeting duly held on February 22, 2021.

WHEREAS, Lee County (the "Lessee") is a political subdivision duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby determined that a true and real need exists for the acquisition of certain vehicles and related equipment for use by the Lessee's Department of Emergency Services (the "Equipment"); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable and in the best interest of the Lessee, as lessee, to enter into an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") with First Capital Equipment Leasing Corp., as lessor (the "Lessor"), and certain related documents, for the purposes described therein, including the leasing of the Equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LEE COUNTY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The agreement, in substantially the same form as presented to this meeting, and the terms and performance thereof are hereby approved, and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the Lessee, (or its designee) is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Lessee, with such changes therein as shall be approved by such officer, such approval to be conclusively evidenced by such officer's execution thereof.

Section 2. The Escrow Agreement (the "Escrow Agreement"), among the Lessee, the Lessor and the escrow agent named therein, in substantially the same form as presented to this meeting, and the terms and performance thereof are hereby approved, and the Escrow Agreement is hereby authorized to be executed and delivered on behalf of the Lessee by a duly authorized officer of the Lessee, with such changes therein as shall be approved by such officer, such approval to the conclusively evidenced by such officer's execution thereof.

Section 3. The Lessee shall, and the officers, agents and employees of the Lessee are hereby authorized and directed to take such further action and execute such other documents, certificates and instruments as may be necessary or desirable to carry out and comply with the intent of this Res-

olution, and to carry out, comply with and perform the duties of the Lessee with respect to the agreement and the Escrow Agreement.

Section 4. The Lessee has made certain capital expenditures in connection with the acquisition of the Equipment prior to the date hereof, and the Lessee expects to make additional capital expenditures in connection with the acquisition of the Equipment in the future. The Lessee intends to reimburse itself for all or a portion of such expenditures, to the extent permitted by law, with the proceeds of the Agreement or other tax-exempt obligations expected to be delivered for the Equipment is not expected to exceed \$1,133,548.60.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately after its adoption by the governing body of the Lessee.

I further certify that the foregoing resolution has not been modified, amended or repealed and is in full force and effect as of the date hereof.

Witnessed my hand this 22nd day of February, 2021.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest:/s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Public Input-Travis Abolt, Fort Madison, asked the Board if they would consider establishing a policy similar to Fort Madison or Keokuk's bid policy where they do not take the lowest bidder but award the bid to a local contractor. The Board is obligated by the Code of Iowa to take the lowest bid.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve a Notice to Bidders for the County Wide Pavement Marking Project, M2021-1, with a letting date of March 9, 2021. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a 28E Agreement with Des Moines County for mutual aid for snow removal during the coronavirus pandemic or other emergencies. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve a contract with Lynch Dallas for contract negotiations, grievance counseling and contract administration services for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2021-51. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye.

Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Motion carried.

Resolution #2021-51
WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapter 331.325 states each county board of supervisors may adopt an ordinance assuming jurisdiction and control of pioneer cemeteries in the county;

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors held the required three readings of such ordinance with the final reading being held February 16, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Ordinance was published in the Daily Gate City and the Daily Democrat on February 19, 2021 and;

WHEREAS, it is the Board of Supervisor's desire to name a Pioneer Cemetery Commission to assume jurisdiction and management of Lee County's Pioneer Cemeteries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 22nd day of February, 2021 that the following residents be appointed to serve on the Pioneer Cemetery Commission with terms and officers to be determined at the first official meeting.

Susan Alarie Farmington

Andy Andrews Fort Madison

Kathy Burkhart Fort Madison

James D. Creen Fort Madison

Kim Irvin Montrose

Nancy Kempker West Point

Karen Kester West Point

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest:/s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve replacing the First Deputy in the Recorder's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Larkin, to approve appointing a 2nd Deputy in the Recorder's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to replace a Recorder's Clerk in the Recorder's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to replace a Real Estate Tech II in the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin to approve a step increase for Breanna Kramer-Riesberg, Community Outreach Project Coordinator, from \$18.00/hr. to \$18.36/hr., effective 2/19/21 and a step increase for Christine VanBerkum, First Five Coordinator, from \$22.16/hr. to \$22.60/hr., effective 2/20/21. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to

approve the Tuesday, February 16, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Fedler, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:
Larkin reported on Union Negotiations, a Community Action Board meeting, a Workforce Development Board meeting, a Landfill Commission meeting and a Legislative Forum. Seyb reported on an Economic Development Joint Education Committee meeting and a Farm Bureau meeting.

At 9:55 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be an electronic meeting on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Matt Plug, Chairman
Attest:

Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

Note: To view this meeting please see the link on the FMCS Website Calendar or click on the link below
<https://zoom.us/j/94669890779?pwd=ZnE4ZkZkYc-2thYVlpQlhHdk85ZDV-SUT09>

Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes. Any member of the public who wishes to participate in public comments must be physically present at the meeting and follow the appropriate sign in procedures.

Finance: DiPrima/Menke

AGENDA

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents
- IV. Monthly communications
 - A. Student Rep Report - Lauren Otte and Ivy Arnold
 - B. Curriculum Corner - Standards Based Learning
 - C. "Did You Know?"
 - D. Superintendent Goal Report
 - E. District Presentations
 - Summer Capital Project Update
 - V. Approve the agenda
 - VI. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 1. February 16, 2021

Public Hearing
2. February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting
3. March 1, 2021 Work Session

B. Financial reports
1. February Balance Sheet

2. Revenue Summary Report

3. Expenditure Report

4. Student Activity Report

C. Accounts payable
1. February General Account Board Bills for Approval

2. March General Account Board Bills for Approval

3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval

4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval

5. AMEX Account Board Bills for Approval

D. Consider personnel resignations
1. Christine Boyles, special education associate

2. Carrie Burken, Asst. Girls Varsity Soccer coach

3. Susan Johnson, K-3 Reading Interventionist

4. Beth McClellan, Kindergarten teacher

5. Heather McKasson, Food Service

6. Brian Mendez, HS teacher

7. Rhonda Mueller, 5th grade teacher

8. Haley Norvell, special education associate

9. Danika Roth, special education associate

E. Consider employment of personnel
1. Kim Anderson, Pre-school teacher

2. Carrie Burken, Varsity Girls Soccer coach

3. Andrew Cartwright, Asst. Track Thrower's coach

4. Kyle Doherty, HS Asst. Softball coach

5. Christopher Howe, Sp. Ed. Bus Associate

6. Carissa Marx, Sp. Ed. Assoc.

7. Lurena (Rena) Philp, LE Guidance Coun/Soc. Worker

8. Sarah Tweedy, 7/8 English-Language Arts teacher

F. Consider contract modifications
1. G. Consider leave of absence

H. Consider open enrollment requests
I. Other reports
1. Activity and athletic fundraisers

Director (blank) moved and director (blank) seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.

VII. Action Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services - Kim Harmon
1. Consider approval of

K-12 Math & Language Arts materials purchase for 2021-2022

B. Superintendent - Erin Slater

1. Consider approval of AD HOC Committee Recommendation

2. Consider approval of the dissolution of the AD HOC Committee

3. Online Learning Stipend Board Memo 3/15/2021

4. Consider recommendation for E-Rate Internet Service Provider

5. Consider recommendation for 1:1 Refresh

Cycle devices

6. Consider request for out of state travel for National School Safety Conference

7. Consider Girls soccer sharing agreement with HTC for the 2020-2021 spring season

8. Consider football sharing agreement with HTC for the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school years

9. Policy changes:
• 403.8 Bloodborne

HELP WANTED

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.

HELP WANTED

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.



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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 case-load.

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.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Pathogens - **ours only; recommend to delete**

- 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 404-R-1 Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Regulation - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 404-R-2 Code of Rights and Responsibilities Regulation - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 405.1 Licensed Employee Defined - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 405.2a Appointment

of Professional Personnel - **ours only; recommend to delete**

- 405.2b Selection of Department Head(s), Department Chair(s), Vacation Chair - **ours only; recommend to delete**
- 405.2c Qualifications for School Nurses - **ours only; recommend to delete**
- 405.3 Licensed Employee Individual Contracts - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 405.4 Licensed Employee Continuing Contracts - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 405.5 Licensed Employee Work Day - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**

C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore

1. Set Public Hearing Date for Certified Budget - April 5, 2021
2. Set Public Hearing Date for ISL - April 5, 2021
3. Consider Approval of Budget Guarantee Resolution

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon

1. Superintendent – Erin Slater
1. Consider Policy Changes
 - 403.5-E-1 Substance-Free Workplace Notice to Employees - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
 - 405.5b School Closure and Employee Attendance - **ours only; recommend to delete**
 - 405.6 Licensed Employee Assignment - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
 - 405.7 Licensed Employee Transfers - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
 - 405.8 Licensed Employee Evaluation - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
 - 405.8-R Observation and Evaluation License - **ours only; recommend to delete**
 - 405.8-E Pre-observation Form - **ours only; recommend to delete**
 - 405.9 Licensed Employee Probationary Status - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
 - 406.1 Licensed Employee Salary Schedule - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**
 - 406.2 Licensed Em-

ployee Salary Schedule Advancement - **changes; recommend move to IASB model**

- 406.3 Licensed Employee Continued Education Credit - **new policy; recommend adopt IASB model**
- 406.5 Licensed Employee Group Insurance Benefits (Option I) - **new policy; recommend adopt IASB model**
- 406.6 Licensed Employee Tax Shelter Programs - **new policy; recommend move to IASB model**
- 406.7 Market Factor Teacher Salaries - **ours only; recommend to delete**
- 407.1 Licensed Employee Resignation - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 407.2 Licensed Employee Contract Release - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**
- 407.3 Licensed Employee Retirement - **minor changes; recommend move to IASB model**

3. Certified Staff Attendance
4. Board Member Attendance

C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore

1. Certified Budget FY2021-2022 discussion
- IX. Comments from the audience
- X. Legislative update
- XI. Announcements
 - March 17 - 19, 2021 No School - Spring Break
 - April 1, 2021 No School - Professional Development
 - April 2, 2021 No School - Holiday
 - April 5, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. Public Hearings/Special Meeting/Work Session Board Room, Central Office
 - April 19, 2021 - 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
 - XII. Adjourn

seconded by Seyb, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

At 9:01 a.m. Pflug opened a Public Hearing to approve the County's maximum levy on the General and Rural Funds. There were no comments prior to the hearing and no comments presented at the hearing. At 9:02 a.m. it was moved by Harlow, seconded by Seyb, to close the Public Hearing. Roll call: Harlow-aye, Seyb-aye, Fedler-aye, Larkin-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2021-52.

Resolution #2021-52
MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS
 WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors have considered the proposed FY21/22 county maximum property tax dollars for both General County Services and Rural County Services, and

WHEREAS, a notice concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was published as required and posted on county web site and/or social media accounts if applicable,
 WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was held on March 1, 2021,
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County that the maximum property tax dollars for General County Services and Rural County Services for FY21/22 shall not exceed the following:

- General County Services: \$10,858,839; an increase of 2.00% from the prior year
- Rural County Services: \$2,083,417; an increase of 2.00% from the prior year

Passed and adopted this 1st day of March, 2021.

/s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest:/s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve replacing an Assistant County Attorney due to a resignation. Seyb-aye, Fedler-aye, Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Chair signing a grant application with Iowa's Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust for 2 single axle dump

trucks. Motion carried.
 Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve an Addendum to the County's Pandemic Policy regarding quarantining after full vaccination. Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion on reopening the Senior Centers. It was decided to open just a few days a week for a few hours.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve the Family Farm Credits for 2020. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Monday, February 22, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Harlow, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Larkin to approve a promotion in the Recorder's Office-Debbie Courtney, from Administrative Assistant \$20.41/hr. to Second Deputy Recorder \$43,895.75/annually. Motion carried.

Received and filed a Manure Management Annual Update for Lost Creek LLLP in Marion Township and the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for January 2021.

Committee Reports: Harlow reported receiving phone calls on gravel roads and reported on a Children First Board meeting. Seyb reported he also has received calls on roads and is taking online classes with the Iowa State Association of Counties to become a certified Supervisor. Larkin reported on an Economic Development Board meeting, a meeting with Milestones Agency on Aging and the Assessor/EMA Budget meeting. Fedler and Pflug attended the Assessor/EMA meeting.

At 9:55 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be an electronic meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Matt Pflug, Chairman
 Attest: Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

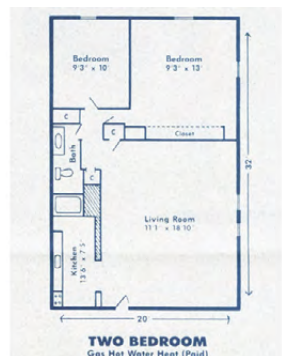
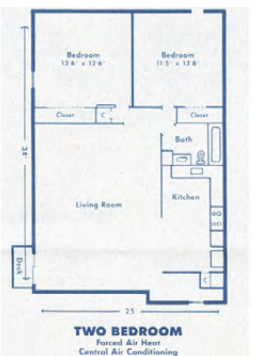
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PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2021
 The Lee County Board of Supervisors met electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
 Present: Matt Pflug, Rich Harlow, Ron Fedler, Rick Larkin and Garry Seyb.
 All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.
 The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
 Moved by Fedler,

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Great River Regional Waste Authority

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Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbine Lane Keokuk, IA 52624 5319-524-4175
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From the Front

Continuing claims falling in state

JOBLESS - Continued from Page 1

claimants indicated their claims were not COVID-19 related, which is a decrease from 62.2% the previous week.

The U.S. Department of Labor adjusted last week's initial claim number to 4,216 (a decrease of 236) and continuing claims to 48,389 (a decrease of 751 for a total decrease of 987 overall). Iowa Workforce Development relies upon the weekly data released by the U.S. Department of Labor to report its numbers and as such, adopts the revisions to the previously published data.

IowaWORKS centers and satellite offices are providing limited in-person services to assist customers with work search activities and basic employment assistance. Services include assistance with job searches, applications, resume preparation, and other services to help Iowans with their employment needs. Individuals should telephone their local office first to schedule an appointment as walk-in services may be limited in order to follow social distancing recommendations. Workshops and classes will not be offered at this time. Customers with questions regarding unemployment insurance benefits should continue to contact the IWD call center at 1-866-239-0843 or email uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov to obtain information about their claims.

For the week ending March 6, 2021, unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$15,781,866.67. The following industries had the most claims:

- Manufacturing (1,505)
- Industry Not Available - Self-employed, Independent Contractors, etc (874)
- Construction (457)
- Retail Trade (435)
- Health Care & Social Assistance (309)

A total of \$27,375,300 in FPUC benefits was paid, which include retroactive payments and reauthorized

payments that went into effect on Dec. 27, 2020. Since April 4, 2020, a total of \$1,805,089,033 in FPUC benefits has been paid.

A total of \$3,724,526.00 was paid in PUA benefits. Since April 13, 2020, a total of \$214,319,456.54 in PUA benefits has been paid.

A total of \$12,491,318.49 in benefits has been paid in PEUC benefits this week. Since May 27, 2020, a total of \$260,344,103.88 in PEUC benefits have been paid.

Claimants receiving unemployment are required to perform weekly work searches. Those who will be required to begin work searches will be notified by IWD. We have also posted updates on our website regarding this requirement. There are currently almost 66,000 job openings at <https://www.iowaworks.gov>. Not all claimants will be required to begin work searches, including for example, those who are receiving PUA benefits due to a medical condition or lack of childcare.

Employers are required to notify their employees about Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code Section 871-22.19. The requirement ensures that workers are aware of the benefits they may be eligible for if they become unemployed or experience a reduction in hours.

Employees and employers who have questions regarding returning to work should review the Frequently Asked Questions for each group on our website. Assistance for employers can be found here: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/covid19-information-employers>.

Employees can find assistance here: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/covid19-information-workers>.

For more information on the total data for this week's unemployment claims, please visit <https://www.iowal-mi.gov/unemployment-insurance-statistics>.

Iowa getting better with vaccine communication

COVID - Continued from Page 5

tion.

"I mean, the communication has been downright awful. In terms of knowing where to go get the vaccine, and how to go get that vaccine," Grawe said.

But Iowa appears to be trying to improve communication with its new system. Reynolds told reporters last week that the state will also use vaccine navigators to help Iowans 65 and older schedule appointments.

She said navigators will start contacting seniors who have reached out to the state's Area Agencies on Aging — also known as triple A — for help.

Joe Sample heads the state's six triple A locations. Before the state's recent move, he said calls have nearly tripled at some locations. But they can't do what the overwhelming majority of callers want: to schedule an appointment. Instead, he said they tell people where to call, starting with local pharmacies.

Sample said he appreciates the state is now giving more attention to scheduling seniors. He said the state's localized system has put older, vulnerable Iowans at risk of being left behind.

"Or be so late to the game that they continue to have enhanced risk for not only the virus, but then just, you know, the mental health effects of social isolation," said Sample.

Shuva Rahim said her senior parents in eastern Iowa are computer-savvy, but still struggled to chase down appointments — even with her help.

Rahim said she feels the state's rollout has been very reactive, not proactive.

"But I also wish there was — the setup was already there, like, where are you going to hold your clinics? And when are they going to be and who's the contact?" said Rahim.

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