

REMEMBER: Daylight savings time ends – set your clocks back 1 hour Saturday

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, October 30, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 198



www.pencitycurrent.com

## County passes 1K COVID cases

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County surpassed 1,000 positive cases of coronavirus on Thursday, and health officials again are cautioning residents heading into the holiday season.

The county's 14-day positivity rate with increased daily testing is now 11.5% in Lee County, up a full 3% since Monday, showing spread is on the rise locally. In the past 24 hours, according to Lee County Health Department, 37 new cases were identified in the county.

LCHD Administrator Michele Ross said that positivity rate puts the county back in a moderate community spread risk level.

Iowa now has a positive rate of 13.1% with just under 115,000 people testing positive for the virus, and 1,693 Iowans have died from complications of the virus, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**LEE CHD** LCHD is reporting **37** additional cases added to the total case count in the last 24 hours.

Total Positive Cases (as of 3:30pm 10/29/2020)	1006
Total Cases Reported as Recovered	672
Current 14-day average Positivity Rate (number of people tested/number tested positive in last 14 days)	11.4%

LCHD continues to encourage the public to practice social distancing, wash your hands, avoid large crowds where social distancing is not possible, and to #MaskUpLeeCounty.

Lee County has seen 12 deaths since reporting began in March.

On Oct. 26 the state saw the highest one day total of positive cases at 2,724. The overall state 14-day positivity rate is 11.9%. In Lee County 32% of those testing positive are in the 18-40 age range, while 34%, are 41-60 years of

age. LCHD is also reporting 672 of the cases have recovered.

"Unfortunately, COVID-19 virus is still spreading and cases are increasing across the county as well as Iowa and the United States," Ross said Thursday.

"Today we have exceeded 1,000 positive cases."

See **VIRUS**, page 2

## DIGITAL RADIO TRANSITION

### 911 board gives \$600k to project

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A move by the 911 Board Thursday night is paving the way to get to the final phase of the digital radio transition in Lee County.

The board voted to give the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Board \$600,000 to offset the costs associated with the project, which carries a \$6.3 million price tag.

The PSAP board is the taxing authority that will pass the cost of the bond on to all taxpayers in the county through a property tax levy.

That bond could be anywhere from \$5,724,346 to \$5,909,346, if the county de-

See **RADIO**s, page 8

## STATE X-COUNTRY PREVIEW

### Gilpin, Pothitakis, Gager, Miller all at Fort Dodge

## Four locals run for first time at state X-C meet

One senior, three juniors represent north Lee County



Fort Madison's Will Gager, left, and Austin Miller, right get in a "fun run" Wednesday afternoon after stretching. The two will compete in Friday's Class 3A State Cross Country meet in Fort Dodge.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Four runners from north Lee County schools will take on the 5K trek through Lakeside Municipal Golf Course this weekend.

All four are first time state qualifiers and all were surprised when they saw their times were fast enough to join

Central Lee senior Amanda Gilpin will wear bib 472 and will start out of the southeast downhill gate in Box 1 at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

She said she hasn't seen the course before, but did get

paperwork sent to her.

"It looks hilly on paper but I'm not afraid of that," Gilpin said on Thursday.

She said she was surprised when she realized her time of 21:20.3 was fast enough to qualify. Gilpin's time was 56th fastest in all of girls Class 2A during qualifying.

"I didn't know, even after all the practicing I've done if I would qualify or not," she said.

Gilpin said her expectations are to set a personal record at the meet and try to break into the top 30.

Fort Madison's Will Gager and Austin Miller have had

See **STATE**, page 4

## NANOVACCINE

### Reynolds puts \$2M aside for U of I/ISU project

DES MOINES – Governor Kim Reynolds today announced she has set aside \$2 million in CARES Act funding to support the development of a next-generation COVID-19 vaccine through a partnership between Iowa State University and the University of Iowa.

The funding and collaboration with Iowa industry partners, including startups, will help ISU and the U of I leverage their patented technology to advance a COVID-19 nanovaccine candidate that will address the limitations of vaccines already under development.

"Through this important partner-

See **PROJECT**, page 8

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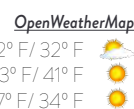
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## WEATHER

FRI 30 Oct.....Partly Cloudy, 52° F/ 32° F  
SAT 31 Oct.....Clear Skies, 63° F/ 41° F  
SUN 01 Nov.....Clear and Chilly, 47° F/ 34° F



## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 10/28.....4 14 35 41 43, Star Ball: 9, All Star Bonus: 2  
PICK 3 10/28 MIDDAY.....9 2 9  
PICK 3 10/28 EVENING.....4 1 9  
PICK 4 10/28 MIDDAY.....18 5 5  
PICK 4 10/28 EVENING.....16 4 1  
POWERBALL 10/28.....11 28 37 40 53, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

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## For the Record/From the Front

# Numbers rise as holidays near

**VIRUS** - Continued from Page 1

itive cases since this began in March 2020. Over the past weeks, cases have been steadily increasing with our current 14-day positivity rate today at 11.5%. This puts us back at moderate community level risk for spread of this virus.”

Ross said bluntly the best way to prevent exposure is to not put yourself in a position to be exposed.

The virus is mainly thought to be spread from person to person when coming into close contact with someone carrying the virus for a total of 15 minutes, even if that 15 minutes is broken up exposure.

Ross said health experts are still promoting a social distance of at least six feet, as well as wearing a mask when outside your own household.

Included in ongoing health safety guidelines are:

- Stay at least six feet from others at all times.
- Wear a mask when in public settings; especially when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Everyone should wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19 such as loss of taste or smell, congestion, headache, runny nose, sore throat, etc. Follow public

health and CDC guidance if symptoms develop and isolate from others.

Ross said LCHD understands the stress and toll the virus has taken on the lives of county residents.

“It has not only threatened our physical health, but has also challenged our mental well-being as well as our economic security and livelihoods,” she said.

“As much as we would all like to return to normal times with friends and family, especially with the upcoming holidays, we all need to remember this pandemic is not over and we should continue to support each other in times of need and practice the recommended public health mitigation guidelines.

“We encourage everyone to make responsible decisions to safe guard not only your own health, but the health of your family members, co-workers, friends, our local businesses, and our community as a whole.”

The following links can be accessed to seek education, support and resources while trying to safe and healthy during these difficult and stressful times.

If members of the public have questions regarding voting while in quarantine or isolation, please contact the Iowa Secretary of State’s Office at 888-767-8683.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/parental-resource-kit/index.html>

Click to access Telehealth%20Guidance%2004242020.pdf

Click to access How%20to%20Cope%20with%20Anxiety%20about%20Novel%20Coronavirus\_1.pdf

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

10/28/20 – no time listed – Fort Madison Police cited Briley Husted, 23, of Montrose in the 2700 block of Avenue I, on a charge of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.  
10/28/20 – 10:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a personal injury accident near the intersection of Avenue A and Cherokee Lane.  
10/28/20 – 4:54 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of 34th Street.

### Lee County Sheriff’s Report

10/28/20 – 3:16 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Elijah Joseph Burris, 27, of Keokuk, near the Keokuk High School on warrants for violation of probation, and charges of eluding, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug para-

phernalia, being a fugitive from justice, no insurance, failure to provide aid/information at an accident scene, and failure to maintain control. Burris was taken to Lee County Jail.  
10/28/20 – 3:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Paul Douglas Bowen, 36, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff’s office on a court ordered hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held.  
10/28/20 – 5:02 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Ashley Marie Dyer, 23, of Burlington, at the sheriff’s office, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to Lee County Jail.  
10/28/20 – 5:27 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Douglas Lee Rice, 48, of Danville, in the 2600 block of Hwy. 218 in Donnellson, on charges of public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

# Prevention 101

## MASK UP



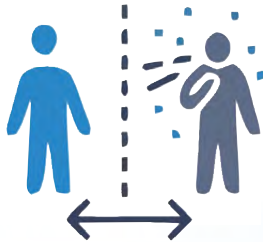
Wearing a mask in public helps stop the spread of infected droplets

## WASH UP



Wash your hands like your life depended on it! Wash frequently touched surfaces often.

## KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



Being in close contact (less than 6’) with others whether inside or outside more easily spreads the virus. Avoid large gatherings or crowded places.

## HANDS DOWN



Try not to touch your face – eyes, nose, and mouth are doorways for germs to enter your body.

These important health care tips are brought to you by



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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# Obituaries/Education News

## OBITUARIES

### ORA J. HALFERTY

Ora J. Halferty, 97, of Grand Prairie, TX and formerly of Ft. Madison, IA passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at The Waterford on Cooper Senior Living.



HALFERTY

She was born on July 31, 1923 in Wyconda, MO to Francis and Mabel O'Day Owen. On December 14, 1946 she married Herbert E. Halferty in Memphis, MO and he preceded her in death on September 14, 1987. Ora retired from Sheaffer Pen Company August 12, 1985. She was a member of the First Christian Church since April 13, 1952, CWF of FCC, Federated Woman's Club and the VFW Auxiliary. She was also a member of RSVP where she volunteered countless hours at the food pantry, CVB, LCHD Hospice, the Newberry Center and helped with bingo parties at The Madison and Holy Trinity. She was also a member of the Silver Steppers for over thirty five years. Ora enjoyed doing word searches, reading and embroidery.

Survivors include two sons, Rick (Brenda) Halferty of Tucson, AZ and Owen (Jane) Halferty of Grand Prairie, TX; three grandchildren, Ashley Halferty of Tucson, AZ, Evan (Sarah) Halferty of Hurst, TX, and Justin (Delaine) Halferty of Tyler, TX; two great grandchildren, Evelyn Halferty and Bobby Halferty of TX; one sister, Ordyth Sandner of Tucson, AZ; a granddaughter in law, Emily Halferty of Tucson, AZ and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sisters, Oleta McNeil and Opal Klein, a grandson, Andrew Halferty, and great grandson, Rowen Halferty.

A private family burial will be held in Soldier's Circle, Oakland Cemetery. King-Lynk Funeral Home is assisting the family.

A memorial has been established for CWF of the First Christian Church. Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

#### Pen City Current obituary policy

The 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.

**Got a news tip?**  
Call Chuck (319)371.1670



Courtesy photo

## HTC inducts 11 into National Honor Society

FORT MADISON - Eleven students were inducted into the Holy Trinity Chapter of the National Honor Society during a special ceremony on October 28th, 2020. The mission of the National Honor Society is "to recognize and encourage academic achievement while also developing the personal characteristics essential for productive, well-rounded members of society." To obtain membership, HTC students must demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

of these qualities and dedicates service time to a variety of projects and organizations; Kids Against Hunger, Hats and Mittens for the local Head Start program, Fort Madison's Lighted Parade, Veterans Day program, and many more.

The 2020 NHS honorees from HTC included from left to right above, Jackson Van Hamme, Jackson Blint, Raquel Schneider, Tessa Gendron, Tina Huang, Lucy Graham, Mitchell Pothitakis, Abby Holtkamp, Kassidy Randolph, Anna Sobczak, Jack Malinski.

The Holy Trinity chapter of NHS strives to fulfill each



"Jeff worked with me and others in Lee County on getting us paid the Unemployment Benefits that were delayed by the state. He wanted to make sure that I was receiving the benefits that I earned that hadn't been paid to me. He did that for any of his constituents that came to him."

—Leslie Brown, Keokuk

**On November 3, Re-elect Jeff Kurtz for State Representative**  
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## Sports/From the Front

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

# Five area girls named 1st team All-Conference

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – A host of girls from the north Lee County area have been named 1st team All-conference for the 2020 volleyball season.

Central Lee's Mya Merschman and Abby Wellman, and Holy Trinity Catholic's Claire Pothitakis and Maria Rauenbuehler were named to the First Team South Division of the Southeast Iowa Superconference, according to a release Wednesday.



BAILEY



POTHITAKIS



RAUENBUEHLER

Fort Madison's Lauren Bailey was also named 1st team of the Southeast Conference in lists released Thursday. All five of the girls are seniors

Merschman led the (22-8) Lady Hawks' hitters with 306 kills on the year. Wellman was named to the team as a utility player with 161 kills and a team high 315 digs.

Pothitakis was 10th in Class 1A among hitters with 311 kills and was fourth in attacking with 865. Rauenbuehler was 5th in Class 1A with 391 digs and made the team as a defensive specialist. Bailey has been an assist specialist

for the Bloodhounds for four years and finished the year with 427, 17th best in the state in Class 4A. Bailey also had 279 digs, second on the squad and had a team high 39 aces to go with 95.8% serving accuracy.

Fort Madison's Nadia Boeding and Reyna Lampe were named 2nd team All-Conference. Madison Pirri and Kailyn Guzman received honorable mention.

Burlington's Madison Bunton and Mt. Pleasant's Karsyn Lamm were named Players of the Year in the Southeast Conference.

In the Southeast Iowa Superconference, HTC's Brooke Mueller and Kassi Randolph were named to the 2nd Team, along with Central Lee's Meghan Hopp, Macy Watkins and Zoe Eschman.

Honorable mention went to the Hawks' Makayla Morrison and Alix Congdon, and Holy Trinity's Taylor Crabtree and Bailey Hellweg.

West Burlington's Sydney Marlow was named Player of the Year. The Falcons' Tom Ferguson was named Coach of the Year.

Receiving Academic All-Conference honors were Fort Madison's Madelyn Swigart, Kendall Beebe, Allison Helmick, Lauren King, Hattie Schrepfer, Taylor Barnes, Olivia Shields, Kylee Cashman, Logan Johnson, Palan Soice, Lampe, Boeding, Bailey, Guzman, and Pirri.

# Friendly rivalry pushes Bloodhounds to state meet

STATE - Continued from Page 1

a fun year chasing each other around events this season.

The two actually traveled to San Diego two years ago and ran a half-marathon together. The friendly competition has proven to be a successful tool this year.

Head Coach Brian Mendez said the two drive each other and that's been seen this year with each of them surpassing the other at different meets.

"It's a friendly competition. They both are happy for each other and they trained all summer together," Mendez said. "I asked them to text me their workouts and they would always text me together, and the workouts would always be the same."

Gager, who placed higher than Miller in most meets in the first half of the season, has seen Miller move in front of him in the second half.

Gager laughed at that turn of play.

"Well I taught him everything he knows," he said. "But we don't look at it like that. We try to get better individually, so the other one can get better, too."

"We definitely feed off each other," Miller said.

Gager will wear 996 and Miller will run with bib 997 coming out of Box 6 at 4 p.m. Friday evening. The Iowa High School Athletic Association changed the format to a two-day event to reduce the number of people at the course at one time to help mitigate spreading of the coronavirus.

"We're just getting ready mentally. We're not going as hard this week, just taking it easy to let our muscles heal up," Miller said.

Neither of the Bloodhounds were focused on where they will place.

"I think I'm just gonna run fast," Gager said with the typical smile on his face. "I'm not focusing too much on placement or times. If I go out and run the best race I can that will take care of itself. But I'm gonna beat him."

The more subdued Miller beat his personal best by a full 14 seconds at the qualifier in Pella finishing 4th overall. His time of 16:48.49 was the 35th fastest in Class 3A during qualifying. Gager finished at 17:05.32

The more subdued Miller said last year he finished 55th at districts and this year's time was 3 minutes faster.

Holy Trinity's Mitchell Pothitakis finished 9th in the Ottumwa qualifier in Class 1A. The junior will wear bib 1060 and take off from the far left in box 22.

The Crusader ran an 18:27.1 in Pekin at the qualifier last week and said he wasn't surprised that he was able to qualify with the top 10 runners. The state moved Class 1A to eight sites instead of five so only the top 10 qualified at each site.

Pothitakis said he doesn't like running a whole lot, but he does it for the social aspect. He said half way through the year he decided he wanted to try and make state.

His goal is simple. To make the top 100.

"I looked at some of the times, and those are some really fast kids," Pothitakis said.

"Running is hard and it's not always fun, but half way through the season I decided to work a bit harder. Now I'm just going to go up and have fun."



# NOW OPEN

Dr. Derek Vogelpohl is now seeing patients in his new Fort Madison office Monday through Friday.

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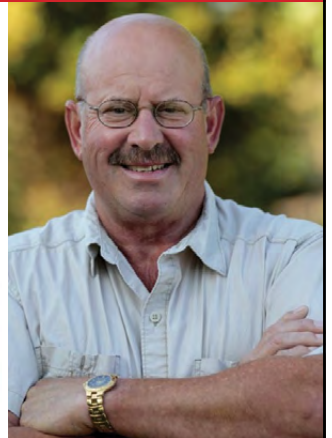
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**Education** – Rich guards against education cuts that harm our students and educators.

**Economic Development** – Rich works with community colleges and unions to assist displaced workers and help businesses with broadband access.

**Healthcare** – Rich will fight to increase access to mental healthcare for all Iowans, for more funding for hospitals, and making ambulance service more

accessible for rural Iowans.

**Veterans** – Rich advocates for veterans on home ownership incentives, tax credits, and job placement programs.

**Rights of Gun Owners** – A responsible gun owner, Rich supported the updated Stand Your Ground Law.

**Collective Bargaining** – Rich will continue to fight for the restoration of full collective bargaining rights of public employees.

Paid for by Lee County Democratic Party

# Current-Lee

## CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of upcoming events and gatherings in North Lee County.

### 34th Street Trunk or Treat

Volunteers with the 34th Street Neighborhood Watch group and other city watch groups are holding a Trunk or Treat on 34th Street and Avenue D from 5 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 31. Cars can either drive up or attendees can park and walk around to volunteers who are handing out candy.

### Montrose Cemetery Cleanup

All plastic flowers that are in the ground must be picked up by Nov. 1. After that date they will be discarded. In addition Memorial Day flowers will now have to be picked up no later than two weeks after the holiday.

### Halloween Dinner and Comedy

The Kingsley Inn will be featuring a Halloween Dinner and Comedy on Oct. 31 beginning at with a social hour at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m, with the show starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be booked in advance by texting 309-221-9803

### FM Beggar's Night

The traditional Beggar's Night will be held on Oct. 31 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Old Settler's Park and the citywide beggar's night will follow from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Vendors will be handing out candy with food and drink specials at the safe event.

### Montrose Trick or Treat

The Montrose City Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Halloween guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health can be found at <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Public>.

### Lighted Parade Work Nights

Work nights for the Fort Madison Lighted Parade are on Monday nights beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Warehouse at 12th Street and Avenue I.

### Conservation online auction

The Lee County Conservation Board is participating in an online auction. The items can be found at <https://www.govdeals.com/index.cfm?fa=Main.AdvSearchResults&myseller=11764>. Any questions can be directed to the Lee

County Conservation Office at 319-463-7673.

### Witch's Walk

Wear your witch costume and come downtown for an evening of fun. This year's event is Oct. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. presented by the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce. More details on this event will be released at a later date.

### Sensational Chef

The Fort Madison Chamber's annual fundraiser is set for Nov. 21, at Harvestville Farm beginning at 6 p.m. with first course served at 6:30 p.m. This fine dining event will feature Amy Thacher preparing a 5-course meal. Tickets are \$65 per person and are limited, so call 319-372-5471 for information.

### Tree Planting at Dog Park

Volunteers are still needed for Nov. 13 for a tree planting at the city's new dog park in Rodeo Park. The committee overseeing the park received a grant of trees to plant on the property.



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# Classifieds

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

**LEE  
CHD**

### Dental Assistant

Lee County Health Department is seeking a contracted Dental Assistant, up to 40 hours per week, to provide chairside assistance to hygienists working within the agency's school-based dental sealant program in a multi-county service area. The position also includes office hours to help with follow up calls, care coordination, and data entry for all agency dental programs. Applicant must be an Iowa licensed dental assistant with at least one year of clinical experience. If interested, please send resume to Rachael Patterson-Rahn, Oral Health Program Manager, at LCHD, PO Box 1426, #3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email [rprahn@leecountyhd.org](mailto:rprahn@leecountyhd.org) by October 31, 2020. LCHD is an equal opportunity employer.



### LABORER/OPERATOR POSITION City of Fort Madison Parks and Cemeteries Department

**SUMMARY**  
This is a position within the Parks, Recreation, Docks and Cemeteries Division of Fort Madison. Responsibilities include the maintenance of public parks, cemeteries and their facilities under direct supervision.

**DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**  
Education and Experience:  
• Some experience in building and grounds maintenance.  
• Must have a current Iowa driver's license.  
• Skill in operating some of the listed tools and equipment; power and tractor mowers, backhoe, carpentry and plumbing tools, etc.

Applications can be picked up and submitted at Fort Madison City Hall, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa.

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EOE

### ASSISTANT IT ADMINISTRATOR

Lee County government has an opening in the IT/GIS Department for an Assistant Information Technology Administrator. Job functions include network, computer hardware and software, telephone systems, and Microsoft, IBM and third-party software support and troubleshooting.

Degree in computer science or related field or combination of related experience and education required.

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Deadline to apply is 4:00 pm on Friday, October 30, 2020.

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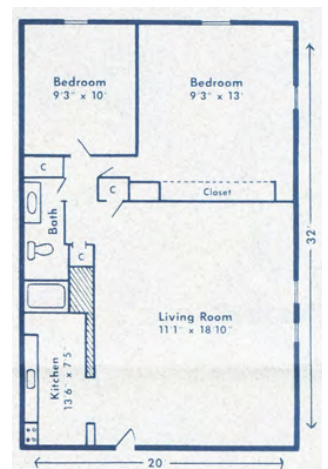
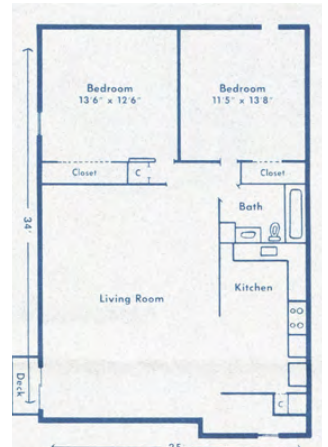


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From the Front

# Project could lead to nasal vaccine

**PROJECT** - Continued from Page 1

ship, Iowa is supporting those on the frontlines of nanovaccine development,” Gov. Kim Reynolds said. “Iowa’s COVID19 nanovaccine candidate will not require needles or refrigeration, and could provide long-term immunity from just a single dose. I am proud of the role Iowa State University and the University of Iowa are playing in this cutting-edge development.”

This approach draws on ISU’s strengths in nanovaccine research and development, nanovaccine platform technology and animal health, as well as the U of I’s expertise in SARS virology, immunity, and unique animal models.

“The Nanovaccine Institute based at Iowa State was established in 2013 with this kind of global health challenge in mind,” said Iowa State’s Balaji Narasimhan, the project leader, director of the Nanovaccine Institute and an Anson Marston Distinguished Professor in Engineering. “We’ve created a team that can innovate and move our ideas beyond the lab. We’re ready to meet the ur-

gent need for a COVID-19 vaccine.”

Michael Wannemuehler, associate director of the Nanovaccine Institute and a professor of veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine, is also leading the project at Iowa State.

The UI effort is being led by Kevin L. Legge, Ph.D., professor of pathology and director of the Pathology Research Flow Cytometry Core in the UI Carver College of Medicine, along with co-investigators Stanley Perlman, Ph.D., MD, professor of microbiology and immunology, and of pediatrics, in the UI Carver College of Medicine, and Thomas Waldschmidt, Ph.D., Clement T. and Sylvia H. Hanson Chair in Immunology in the Department of Pathology.

“This important funding will build on our existing successful partnership between the University of Iowa and Iowa State University and greatly aid in our efforts to bring safe, effective, mucosal-based nanoparticle vaccines against respiratory virus infections to the community,” Legge said.

# Radio project carries \$6.6M price tag

**RADIOS** - Continued from Page 1

cides to include in the bond Phase 3 engineering costs on the project as a reimbursement to the 911 board.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren originally asked for \$750,000 to be allocated from the 911 board, but Houghton Fire Chief Jerry Bentler expressed concerns the board could be faced with shortfalls considering future maintenance costs and the new ambulance service coming to the county.

“Asking for \$750K is a decision the board can’t make because we don’t know what kind of costs were going to incur. Potentially we’d be maxed out on the budget,” Bentler said.

The project cost comes with a 3-year warranty, in addition to the 18-month timeline of getting the project complete. The transition will bring in all new radios, pagers and infrastructure to convert the county from an analog system that has been giving first responders fits since narrowbanding by the FCC occurred eight years ago.

“We had a chase yesterday in town in Keokuk and our deputies couldn’t talk with dispatch,” said Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber. “We need to move on this now.”

Weber suggested reducing the amount for \$750,000 to \$600,000 to keep some money in 911 reserve funds. His suggestion was made into a motion by board member Brett Davis and seconded by West Point Police Chief Brad Roberts.

The motion passed 14-0 with three representative absent.

Discussion on the bonding and the project now goes in front of the Lee County Board of Supervisors at their Tuesday meeting.

Supervisor Matt Pflug sits on the 911 board and voted in favor of the \$600,000 payment.

Herren said the amount of the bond would still be in the range of what he had proposed in presentations to city councils in the county.

“When I went to all the city councils and presented, this was in the range that we presented to those folks. We wanted to do this so we wouldn’t have to bond as much and we could keep the mill levy down,” Herren said.

After the warranty runs out in three years, maintenance costs are a minimum of \$50,000 per year which is required to keep software congruent with the State of Iowa’s software.

After that the board can pay up to an average of \$179,000 in additional maintenance coverages, but has the option of selecting which coverages they want so that amount could be reduced.

## RE-ELECT GARY FOLLUO NOVEMBER 3RD

### Lee County Board of Supervisors

As a lifelong resident of Lee County, a former Labor Representative with Local #148 I.U.O.E, past Mayor of Keokuk, former General Manager of Withers Broadcasting, and past business owner, alongside my wife Nancy, of 34 years, my priority has and always will be the people of Lee County.



With my experience in government, business, and public service, I understand that public input, availability, and enthusiasm is essential for creating quality representative government.

*“I will continue working hard to maintain county services for all Lee County residents, continue updating security measures in our buildings, and protecting citizen’s property rights while continuing to support our hospitals so they are able to provide services needed for our industries and citizens. In addition, I will be working to attract new economic development and expand our industrial base and I will support expanding rural broadband, identifying under-served areas and trying to find grants to remedy the situation.”*

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