

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Thursday, March 25, 2021 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 68



www.pencitycurrent.com

Tornado hits north of FM



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Aaron and Christine Schwerin assess the damage near their home on 4 Seasons Road just north of Fort Madison Wednesday morning.

EF-0: Small twister bangs into home on 4 Seasons Road at about 7:20 p.m. Tuesday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A family living on 4 Seasons Road is cleaning up substantial damage after a twister struck their home just after 7 p.m. Tuesday night as part of line of strong thunderstorms that pushed quickly through from the southwest.

Rich Kinney with the National Weather Service out of the Quad Cities, and Lee County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator Jason Dinwiddie said they believe the damage was caused by an EF-0 tornado, the smallest value on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. EF-0 indicates rotations with

winds in the 65-85 mph.

“We both think it was a small isolated tornado. That’s what our suspicions are. There wasn’t any other real damage and it was very localized,” Dinwiddie said.

Dinwiddie drove the area just north of the Hwy. 61 bypass of 193rd Street last night after the storm. He said no one actually witnessed a twister but damage assessments and photos indicate a small tornado touched down.

Christine Schwerin, who lives in the 2900 block of 4 Seasons Road about 3/4 of a mile north of the Hwy. 61 bypass and a mile west of 303rd Avenue, said her family ran to the

See **STORM**, page 4

HOUSING GRANTS

State to start new renters’ program

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – A new program to help renters and homeowners will launch in the state starting Monday, March 29.

During Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds weekly new conference, Debi Durham, the director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority unveiled the new program that will be open to Iowa residents at 2 p.m. that day.

Durham said the program will focus on past due payments with future month payments in three month requests at a time.

“Eligible renters must have income of no more than 80% of the area median income,” Durham said. “One or more of the individuals in the household must have qualified for unemployment or experienced a reduction of income or other hardship directly or indirectly related to COVID, or be experiencing a risk of homelessness, instability or eviction.”



REYNOLDS

Those interested in the program should visit www.iowahousingrecovery.com to take an eligibility precheck for renters.

She said renters should gather all the necessary income and eligibility information available at the site prior to checking for eligibility. Renters should also inform landlords of their intent to file for assistance as landlords will have to fill out part of the application.

All payments would go directly to the landlords. The funds are coming from a \$195 million federal housing grant.

Reynolds also mentioned the deaths of the nurse and correctional officer at Anamosa State Penitentiary on Tuesday. She said the Department of Criminal Investigation is on the ground at the penitentiary and additional information is planned for release at a press conference set for 3 p.m. Wednesday.

“It’s hard to understand such a senseless loss, but its my hope that the prayers of

See **COVID**, page 4

WEST POINT

Lee County Conservation looking for Pollmiller help

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Conservation Board and Three Rivers Conservation Foundation seek volunteers to help construct a new playground at Pollmiller Park. The construction will occur from Tuesday, April 20th to Friday, April 23rd.

“We are really excited to install this new playground – it is going to be a great addition to Pollmiller Park, especially for families. We look forward to having community members join us on this fun project,” said Tom Pollpeter, Three Rivers Conservation Foundation President.

Volunteers can choose from several four-hour time slots throughout the week and will help with a variety of construction tasks including building the playground structures, lifting and

See **PLAYGROUND**, page 4

INDEX

AG NEWS.....	P.8
BeyondDo.org.....	P.3
Business Directory.....	P.7
CLASSIFIEDS.....	Ps.5-7
Complete Rental.....	P.2
Connection Bank.....	P.8
CURRENT-LEE.....	P.5
Fort Colony Family Restaurant.....	P.8
Fort Madison Community Hospital.....	P.6
Fort Madison Community Neighborhood Watch Groups.....	P.4

FROM THE FRONT.....	P.4
Fullenkamp Insurance.....	P.8
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....	P.3
HEALTH NEWS.....	P.4
IOWA NEWS.....	Ps.2,4
Keyway Management Company.....	P.6
Lee County Auditor.....	P.5
Lee County EMS.....	P.5
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....	Ps.2,4
OBITUARIES.....	P.3
• Doris E. Carson, 95	

Pen City Current.....	Ps.2,5-7
Pothitakis Dentistry.....	P.4
Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.....	P.2
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....	P.3
StopTextsStopWrecks.org.....	P.4
Tri-State Outdoor Products.....	P.4

WEATHER

THU 25 Mar.....	Heavy Rain, 47° F/ 42° F
FRI 26 Mar.....	Overcast, 57° F/ 41° F
SAT 27 Mar.....	Light Rain, 64° F/ 48° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 03/23.....	12 23 35 38 55, Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 03/23 MIDDAY.....	9 0 8
PICK 3 03/23 EVENING.....	4 6 4
PICK 4 03/23 MIDDAY.....	0 7 1 8
PICK 4 03/23 EVENING.....	6 0 2 8

SUBSCRIBE

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



Lee County News/Iowa News

Lee County Auditor encourages student registration on March 30

FORT MADISON – Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise joins Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate and auditors across the state in encouraging Iowa high schools to conduct voter registration drives on Tuesday, March 30.

The date coincides with the 50th anniversary of Iowa ratifying the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. Governor Reynolds plans to issue an official proclamation declaring Tuesday, March 30 as “Iowa High School Voter Registration Day.”

“The Lee County Auditor’s Office encourages all eligible young people to register to vote. But registration is only the first part,” Fraise says, “after registering, it’s just as important to engage and vote.”

State law allows 17-year-olds to register to vote. There are almost 2,000 17-year-olds currently registered in Iowa.

“It’s crucial for young people to learn that registering to vote and participating in elections is the best way to make sure your voice is heard,” Secretary Pate said. “My office is working with schools across the state to help them register eligible students.”

Registering to vote in Iowa has never been easier. There are several options available and it only takes a few minutes. You can register anytime online, through the mail, at various government agency offices, at a voter registration drive, military recruiting centers, and in-person at your polling place on Election Day.

Approximately 90 percent of eligible Iowans are registered to vote, and there are more than two million active registered voters in the state. To check your voter registration status, register to vote or update your information visit VoterReadyIowa.org or www.leecounty.org.

Bridge work to close parts of Hwy. 2 east of Farmington

FAIRFIELD, Iowa – Mar. 22, 2021 – Replacement of the Iowa 2 bridge over Lick Creek (4.3 miles east of the junction with Iowa 81) east of Farmington, and the bridge over Sugar Creek (1.8 miles west of U.S. 218), will require closing the road to traffic over the Lick Creek bridge beginning at 8 a.m. Monday, Mar. 29, until late-June, weather permitting, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Fairfield construction office.

Once the Lick Creek bridge opens, the Sugar Creek bridge will close for construction. The bridge projects will be coordinated so the Iowa 2 bridges are not closed at the same time.

Lick Creek Project: This project involves removing the existing steel girder and floor beam bridge and replacing it with a single span beam bridge. The project will also involve raising the grade, erosion control, paving the shoulders, and installing new guardrail.

Sugar Creek Project: This project involves removing the existing steel I-beam/concrete beam bridge and replacing it with a pretensioned, prestressed concrete beam bridge. The project will also involve raising the grade, erosion control, paving the shoulders, and installing new guardrail.

Detour Route: Through traffic on Iowa 2 will be detoured using U.S. 218, Lee County Road J-40/160th Street, and Lee County Road W-46/100th Avenue. It is anticipated the detour will be in place for most of the construction season. Local traffic will have access to Iowa 2 except for the bridges crossing over Lick Creek and Sugar Creek (see map).

Additional shoulder construction and micro surfacing operations will be active along Iowa 2. Flaggers, pilot cars and signalized lights will be in place to assist motorists in getting around the work zones.

The Iowa DOT reminds motorists to drive with caution, obey the posted speed limit and other signs in the work area, and be aware that traffic fines for moving violations are at least double in work zones. As in all work zones, drivers should stay alert, allow ample space between vehicles, and wear seat belts.

The latest traveler information is available anytime through the 511 system. Visit 511ia.org; call 511 (within Iowa) or 800-288-1047 (nationwide); stay connected with 511 on Facebook or Twitter (find links at <https://iowadot.gov/511/511-social-media-sites>); or download the free app to your mobile device.

Pothitakis Law Firm Recognized for Professional Excellence



Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms” are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, which recognizes the top 5% of private practicing lawyers in the United States. Achieving a tiered ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Mr. Pothitakis has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in 2020 and again in 2021.



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

The average person is on their device 3+ hours per day.

**Reach your customers
wherever they are
with digital ads.**

Call Lee (319)371.4125 or Chuck (319)371.1670

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Red all over

TENTS & ACCESSORIES



Complete Rental
(319) 372-8105
www.CompleteRentalFM.com

**Save 20%
on your tent rental**

when paid in full during the month of March

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current

All published materials are property of Pen City Current and cannot be used without express written permission.

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Red all over

Member LION Publishers

www.lionpublishers.com



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.

Founded in 2016
P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DORIS E. CARSON

Doris Ellen Carson, 95, of Carthage, passed away on Monday, March 22, 2021, at Maple Grove Silver in Carthage.

Doris was born on October 5, 1925, in Hancock County, Illinois, the daughter of Clifford and Elva (Smith) Carle. On May 1, 1949, she was united in marriage to Carl Stookey Carson in Peoria, Illinois. He preceded her in death on November 1, 1999.



CARSON

A lifelong resident of Hancock County, Doris graduated from Carthage High School and went on to work at the Farmer's State Bank of Ferris and the Hancock County Clerk's office. She also worked with her husband at their family business, the Carson Ford dealership. She enjoyed bowling and bowled with the same group in Carthage and Keokuk for over fifty years. Doris was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church in Carthage and could often be found mowing the lawn or spending time with her family, whom she loved dearly.

Doris is survived by two daughters: Mary Lynn Tucker of Fowler, Illinois, and Carla Sue Yager of Colusa, Illinois; her son Robert Carl (Lori) Carson of Carthage, Illinois; nine grandchildren: Traci (Mark) Harrell, Jennifer (Bryan) Redlich, Nathan (Sherry) Boyer, Katie (Louis) Ferrara, Corey (Chad Todd) Wibbell, Casey (Tia) Yager, Cassie (Ser Whitaker) Yager, Cody (Bali) Carson and Cole (Brittney) Carson; seventeen great-grandchildren: Michael (Maggie), Daniel, Rylie and Megan Harrell, Zachery, Rheana and Colin Fuqua, Carson, Samantha, Ashley and Lauren Boyer, William and Layne Ferrara, Ellie Wibbell, Ryder Todd, and Charley and Rhett Yager; five great-great-grandchildren: Madison, Mya and Macy Harrell and Tatum and Lincoln Ensley; her sister Carol Jean Ogan; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Doris is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Carl; her daughter Jo Ellen; her grandson Wyatt Young; two great-grandchildren: Devon Lee and Drew Carl; and eleven siblings: Dortha Elva, Willard Eugene, Ida Marie, Clifford Junior, Bernice Eloise, William Charles, Hazel Irene, Clifton Gilbert, Robert Jesse, Betty Jo and Vaughn "Corky" Clark.

Funeral services will be held at 1 pm on Friday, March 26, 2021, at Printy Funeral Home in Carthage, with burial to follow at Moss Ridge Cemetery in Carthage. For those unable to attend, the funeral service will be livestreamed on the obituary page at www.printyfuneralhome.com. Visitation will be held from 11 am to 1 pm on Friday at the funeral home directly before the service.

Memorials may be directed to the Legacy Theater or the Carthage Golf Course (Clubhouse Fund).

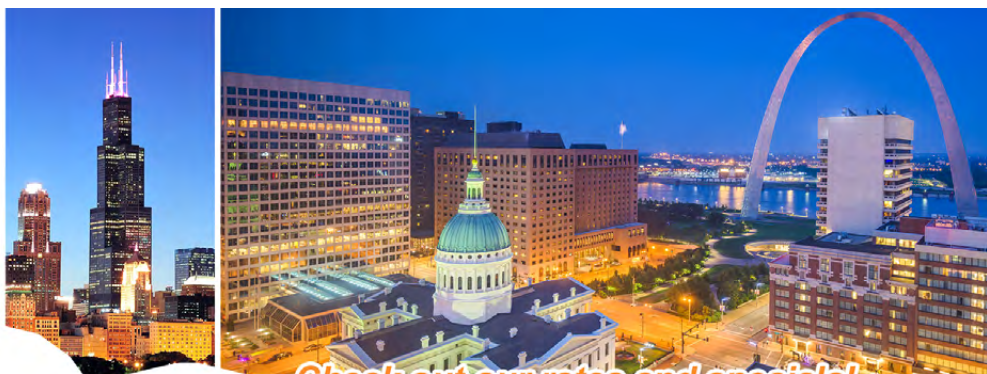
Tributes and condolences may be left at www.printyfuneralhome.com.

Printy Funeral Home in Carthage is in charge of arrangements.

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

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

Get the facts at BeyondIDo.org



Check out our rates and specials!

AIRCHOICEONE.COM

DAILY FLIGHTS CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS
SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL AIRPORT

IT'S ILLEGAL!



Great River Regional Waste Authority reminds you that not all **lightbulbs** can go into your household trash.

It's illegal and against DNR regulations.

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



Great River Regional Waste Authority

From the Front

No injuries in Tuesday storm that damaged home

STORM - Continued from Page 1

southwest part of their partially in-ground home when rain was horizontal out the window.

"It was so calm, and then all of a sudden we looked out and it was downpouring, but not making a lot of noise," she said. "Then all of a sudden the rain went sideways and we were outta there, and headed to the safest part of the house."

"Then we heard something hit the house and then all this rustling... and then it was done. Calm... crazy... and then calm."

Fortunately no one in the neighborhood was hurt in the brief storm.

Schwerin and her husband Aaron, were out picking up debris from around the agriculture neighborhood early Wednesday morning. Neighbors and friends helped the Schwerin's until about 1 a.m. tarping up about 35% of their roof that was removed in the storm.

Schwerin said a neighbor saw their trampoline get picked up and swirled around in the air and then crash to the ground.

Kinney said that information is what makes them think there was a tornado involved in the storm.

"Straight line winds aren't going to do that kind of lofting of objects," Kinney said.

"We posted the warning at about 7:11 p.m. and then this was reported at about 7:19."

Denmark Fire & Rescue and Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrived on the scene to make sure everyone was okay.

The Schwerin's said they had already talked to their insurance company and that process was underway.

The family suffered damage to the roof, fencing, some trees on the east side of the property and a children's play area was destroyed. Additional interior rain damage was suffered due to rain after the damage to the roof.

State still on track to open up vaccines to all April 5

COVID - Continued from Page 1

the state will offer some sense of peace and comfort," she said.

"It's an extremely difficult situation. You've lost two of your own and all of us stand united and are ready to support you."

Reynolds said the state has given 1.33 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in Iowa with 86.8% of available vaccines in Iowans' arms with 517,000 Iowans fully vaccinated.

She said Iowa is currently sixth in the nation with 35% of Iowans 18 and older with at least one dose. Iowa also ranks in the top 10 for vaccinating adults 65 and older.

The weekly governor's conference call with the White House task force is showing that the uptick in vaccine production is still going as scheduled and Iowa should be seeing an increase of about 25,000 doses weekly compared to the past two weeks.

The state is planning to open vaccinations to all Iowans starting April 5 due to the increased production.

"We are on target to open vaccination to all Iowans April 5. Once this occurs there will be more demand than supply so we ask for patience. Soon there will be enough vaccine for everyone," she said.

She also said the state is focused on making sure there is equity in vaccinating all Iowans including minority and other vulnerable communities.

"It's critical to ensure equity across the state and there are a variety of services available for those experiencing barriers to getting vaccinated."

LCCD looking for help April 20-23

PLAYGROUND - Continued from Page 1

placing equipment pieces, etc. Volunteers should dress for the weather and wear comfortable footwear. The Three Rivers Conservation Foundation will provide water, soft drinks, and snacks for all volunteers. Masks will be encouraged due to COVID-19.

Nathan Unsworth, Lee County Conservation Director, says, "We hope people will join us for this exciting volunteer opportunity. This is a large project, and we would like to have about 15 people

per time slot. We are also partnering with the United Way of the Great River Region and AmeriCorps Seniors to recruit volunteers."

Volunteers can sign up by completing a form at leecounty.org or by calling the Conservation Office at 319-463-7673.

For more information about the project, please contact Nathan Unsworth, Lee County Conservation Board Director, at 319-463-7673 or by emailing nunsworth@leecounty.org.

Do you have time - to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

Join us today to help keep our communities safer!



CAUTION

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS



The Tooth Is... We ♥ Our Patients!

Now Accepting New Patients

Fort Madison
Family Dentistry West
319-372-4882

Dr. David Courtney
Dr. Stephanie Heyland
Dr. Mark Pothitakis

Fort Madison
Family Dentistry East
319-372-3614

Dr. Jonathan Dingeldein

Pothitakis Dentistry

6 Convenient Locations to Serve You

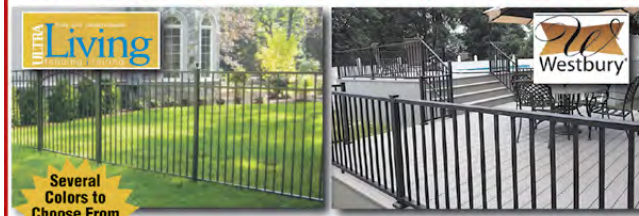
www.DrMarkDDS.com



Westbury Aluminum Railing & Ultra Aluminum Fence

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

Maintenance Free • Lifetime Warranty • Powder Coated



Several Colors to Choose From

Tri State Outdoor Products LLC

Hours: Monday - Friday 9-5 and Saturday 8-Noon

Located 16 miles S. of Mt. Pleasant or 7 miles N. of Donnellson on Hwy. 218

(319) 469-3636 • www.tristateoutdoorproducts.com

TEXT AND
WHATEVER
JUST
DON'T
TEXT
AND 

STOPTEXTSTOPWRECKS.ORG



Current-Lee/Classifieds

CURRENT-LEE

Egg-Stravaganza

FORT MADISON – Shug’s Tiny Town in Fort Madison will be holding a children’s Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 27, from 10 to noon for 4 and under, and from 1 to 3 p.m. for ages 5 to 8. Space is limited and cost is \$25 per child. Prizes and treats for the egg hunters.

Family Fixins

LEE COUNTY – ISU Extension and Outreach will be hosting a one-skillet meal cooking class for the whole family on March 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Fort Madison YMCA. The class is free for the whole family and the family will prepare one recipe to take home. To register, call the ISU Extension office at 319-835-5116.

Understanding Dementia

FORT MADISON – The Kensington will be hosting a virtual event featuring Cheri Theesen on “Understanding Changes as Dementia Advances”. Theesen will offer insights for those who love and care for someone with dementia. The event is Monday, March 29 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. RSVP to Cindy Greer at cgreer@kensington-ever-green.com to receive an event link.

green.com to receive an event link.

Faeth’s Annual Tractor Show

FORT MADISON – The event will be held at Faeth’s Cigar Store in Fort Madison on Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a parade at 1 p.m.

YMCA registering for programs

FORT MADISON – Little Tykes Soccer and Lee County Soccer registration is now open through the Fort Madison YMCA. Call 319-372-2403 to register and for more information. The YMCA is also scheduling private youth gymnastics lessons for boys and girls ages 10 and up.

Y Kids & Company preschool enrollment is now open for the 2021-22 school year. Call the YMCA for additional information.

Blue and Silver Celebration

FORT MADISON – Holy Trinity Catholic will hold it’s annual Blue and Silver celebration, an annual tribute to teachers. This year’s event will be Saturday, March 27, 2021 and limited to teachers and guests only. The HTC Teacher of the Year will be announced.

Community Clean-up

FORT MADISON – The annual community clean up has been set this year for April 24. Contact the Chamber at 319-372-5471.

United Way Golf Outing, Virtual 5K

LEE COUNTY – The United Way annual golf outing will be held on May 7 this year with a noon shotgun start. Registration and sponsorships are now available by contacting Karen at 319-524-4504 or at director@unit-edwaygrr.org. The group is also sponsoring a virtual 5K event from May 21, to May 31. Registration is ongoing with a cost of \$20 per person including a t-shirt, \$15 to participate with no shirt. Shirts can be picked up at 511 Blondeau St. in Keokuk or you can include an additional \$5 to have it shipped to you.

Jack Morris Florida of Iowa

LEE COUNTY – After being canceled due to COVID in 2020, the annual Jack Morris Memorial Florida of Iowa Golf Outing is set for June 11. Sponsorships are available and registrations are being taken by contacting the Chamber at 319-372-5471 or by email at chamber@fortmadison.com.

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

NOW HIRING seasonal employees for the greenhouse and delivery route drivers (CDL & non-CDL positions available). Looking for motivated, happy people that enjoy working with plants and don’t mind a little dirt. Are you ready to work and be a part of our team?

For application stop by
2094 303rd Avenue
Fort Madison, IA 52627



Human Service Position

Opportunities Available

Optimae LifeServices, a progressive mental health provider in Iowa, is seeking qualified individuals to fill a variety of roles working with individuals to achieve life goals in their daily living.

Opportunities include Service Coordinator out of our Burlington office, Site Team Leader out of our Keokuk office, and Direct Support Professionals out of our Keokuk, Fort Madison, and Burlington office.

Applicants can apply in office or online at www.optimaelifeservices.com

For questions, please reach out to HR at 319-237-1730 (Burlington) or 319-372-3566 (Lee Co.)

509 Ave. F, Fort Madison
208 Bank St., Keokuk
825 Nth 6th St., Burlington

NOW HIRING

Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Director/Administrator

The Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs is looking to hire a replacement for our current Director/Administrator. Position includes providing assistance on obtaining benefits and services available to local veterans and their families.

High school diploma or equivalent required. Must be certified or able to obtain certification from Federal and State of Iowa Veteran Affairs. Must have excellent computer skills, valid driver’s license, be eligible to work in the United States, reside in or be willing to relocate to Lee County. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Government budget experience is a plus.

Position will start July 6, 2021. Position will be part-time (20 hours per week) until January 1, 2022 then will be a full time position (30 hours per week, per Iowa Code). Certification must be reached by January 1, 2022. Starting wage will be \$14.00/hour and will increase to \$18.00/hour at full time status. Lee County benefits will be available. Veterans will be given preference but all candidates will be considered.

Application and job description may be found online at www.leecounty.org and may also be obtained at the Lee County Auditor’s Office, 933 Avenue H Fort Madison Iowa or by calling the Auditor’s Office at 319-372-3705 or the Lee County Commission on Veteran Affairs Chairperson at 319-470-9434. Please submit cover letter, resume, and completed County application to:

Lee County Auditor
933 Avenue H, PO Box 190
Fort Madison IA 52627
Or email to dfraise@leecounty.org

Applications accepted through May 1, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
Complete background check and post-offer physical required.
Lee County is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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

YOUR AD HERE
for as little as \$50 per month
Call Lee at 319.371.4125
or email classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

Classifieds

SHOP Classifieds

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE AT WWW.PENCITYCURRENT.COM OR CALL (319)371.4125

\$40 Full Page Ads



Delivered Every Tuesday via mobile app & email subscribers with additional online marketing support!



Reserve Your Ad Today!

Chuck Vandenberg 319.371.1670 editor@pencitycurrent.com
Lee K. Vandenberg 319.371.4125 sales@pencitycurrent.com

PENe-SAVER

a market street publishing product

Selling classic cars in a modern way



Up to 200 words
1 photo • 14 days
FREE

Place your ad online 24/7

www.pencitycurrent.com

Email your ad to

classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

Call (319)371.4125

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

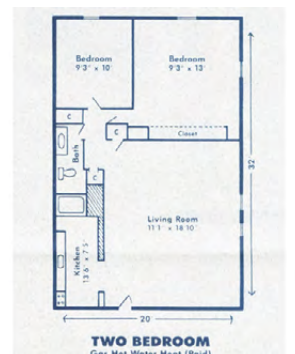
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



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

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



Be Prepared To Get Vaccinated



When you are given the opportunity to get the COVID vaccine, know if this is what you want to do or not – do your research. The opportunity will quickly pass as agencies move onto the next levels.

If you sign up to get vaccinated, be sure to show up during your scheduled time. Once a vial is open, 10 doses must be used within 6 hours – the goal is not to waste any vaccine.

Continue to follow all recommended public health guidelines...for all of us.

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

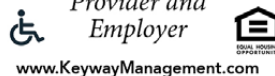
Deer Meadows

APARTMENTS

715 Cleveland Ave.
Keokuk, IA 52632
Call for information

319-376-1311

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



www.KeywayManagement.com

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

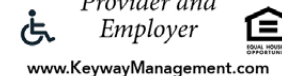
Ft. Madison Park

APARTMENTS

1125 48th St.
Ft. Madison, IA 52627
Call for information

319-376-1311

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



www.KeywayManagement.com

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Affordable housing for persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled, regardless of age.

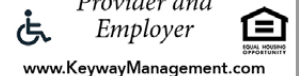
Eagle Bluff

APARTMENTS

2803 Ave. A
Ft. Madison, IA 52627
Call for information

319-376-1311

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



www.KeywayManagement.com

Follow Us @pencitycurrent



Classifieds

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Call Lee at 319.371.4125 today to advertise!

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!



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

800-216-2370
Call for an appointment

GRRWA
Great River Regional Waste Authority

Fort Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-8140
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Corbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-8175
Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Eternelle Beauté
FULL SERVICE SALON & SPA

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



Generations of Great Service

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

YOUR Heat & Air guy

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

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

www.YourHeatAndAirGuy.com

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY
Est. 1877

Business Cards, Photo Correction, Flyers, Office Supplies, Vinyl Banners, T-Shirt Printing, Coffee Mugs, Posters, Art Supplies, Printing, Office Furniture, Trifold Brochures

621 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

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

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
Grand Things Happen Here

Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves
319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd West Point, IA 52656
[Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest](https://facebook.com/smallgrandthings) smallgrandthings.com

Patrick Profeta
General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit
We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments
www.keokukautocredit.com

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

YOUR AD HERE
for as little as \$50 per month

Call Lee at 319.371.4125
or email classifieds@pencitycurrent.com

KEMPKER'S
True Value RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

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

DR. ROBERT BROCKMAN
Brockman Chiropractic

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

Extremity Adjustment Cranial Adjustment
Myofascial Relaxation Muscle Facilitation

Don't Let Your Business Slip Away

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

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

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

FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services FC109 (4-17)

General Insects Termites Mice Bed Bugs

Cullen
PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

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

Residential Commercial "Cause who needs bugs?"

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

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

2090 250th St Donnellson, IA 52625 Owners Barb Ball & Natalie Dauma Family owned & operated

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

Advertise in a brand new way.
Reach thousands of potential customers each day & grow your business. Call today!

Lee (319)371.4125 • Chuck (319)371.1670

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

Ag News

USDA resets pandemic aid programs due to equity issues

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is establishing new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. The new initiative – USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers – will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs. USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new programs.

USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021. The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has committed at least \$2.5 million to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will establish partnerships with organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

The payments announced today (under Part 3, below) will go out under the existing CFAP rules; however, future opportunities for USDA Pandemic Assistance will be reviewed for verified need and during the rulemaking process, USDA will look to make eligibility more consistent with the Farm Bill. Moving forward, USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers will utilize existing programs, such as the Local Agricultural Marketing Program, Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach, and Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and others to enhance educational and market opportunities for agricultural producers.

The four parts of the program were released Wednesday.

Part 1: Investing \$6 Billion to Expand Help & Assistance to More Producers

USDA will dedicate at least \$6 billion to develop a number of new programs or modify existing proposals using discretionary funding from the Consolidated Appropriations Act and other coronavirus funding that went unspent by the previous administration. Where rulemaking is required, it will commence this spring. These efforts will include assistance for:

- Dairy farmers through the Dairy Donation Program or other means;
- Euthanized livestock and poultry;
- Biofuels;
- Specialty crops, beginning farmers, local, urban and organic farms;
- Costs for organic certification or to continue or add conservation activities

Other possible expansion and corrections to CFAP that were not part of today's announcement such as to support dairy or other livestock producers;

- Timber harvesting and hauling;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other pro-

ductive measures for food and farm workers and specialty crop and seafood producers, processors and distributors;

- Improving the resilience of the food supply chain, including assistance to meat and poultry operations to facilitate interstate shipment;
- Developing infrastructure to support donation and distribution of perishable commodities, including food donation and distribution through farm-to-school, restaurants or other community organizations; and
- Reducing food waste.

Part 2: Adding \$500 Million of New Funding to Existing Programs

USDA expects to begin investing approximately \$500 million in expedited assistance through several existing programs this spring, with most by April 30. This new assistance includes:

\$100 million in additional funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which enhances the competitiveness of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops.

\$75 million in additional funding for the Farmers Opportunities Training and Outreach program, administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement, which encourages and assists socially disadvantaged, veteran, and beginning farmers and ranchers in the ownership and operation of farms and ranches.

\$100 million in additional funding for the Local Agricultural Marketing Program, administered by the AMS and Rural Development, which supports the development, coordination and expansion of direct producer-to-consumer marketing, local and regional food markets and enterprises and value-added agricultural products.

\$75 million in additional funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, administered by the NIFA, which provides funding opportunities to conduct and evaluate projects providing incentives to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers

\$20 million for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to improve and maintain animal disease prevention and response capacity, including the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

\$20 million for the Agricultural Research Service to work collaboratively with Texas A&M on the critical intersection between responsive agriculture, food production, and human nutrition and health.

\$28 million for NIFA to provide grants to state

departments of agriculture to expand or sustain existing farm stress assistance programs.

Part 3: Carrying Out Formula Payments under CFAP 1, CFAP 2, CFAP AA

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted December 2020 requires FSA to make certain payments to producers according to a mandated formula. USDA is now expediting these provisions because there is no discretion involved in interpreting such directives, they are self-enacting.

• An increase in CFAP 1 payment rates for cattle. Cattle producers with approved CFAP 1 applications will automatically receive these payments beginning in April. Information on the additional payment rates for cattle can be found onfarmers.gov/cfap. Eligible producers do not need to submit new applications, since payments are based on previously approved CFAP 1 applications. USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$1.1 billion to more than 410,000 producers, according to the mandated formula.

• Additional CFAP assistance of \$20 per acre for producers of eligible crops identified as CFAP 2 flat-rate or price-trigger crops beginning in April. This includes alfalfa, corn, cotton, hemp, peanuts, rice, sorghum, soybeans, sugar beets and wheat, among other crops. FSA will automatically issue payments to eligible price trigger and flat-rate crop producers based on the eligible acres included on their CFAP 2 applications. Eligible producers do not need to submit a new CFAP 2 application. For a list of all eligible row-crops, visit farmers.gov/cfap.

USDA estimates additional payments of more than \$4.5 billion to more than 560,000 producers, according to the mandated formula

• USDA will finalize routine decisions and minor formula adjustments on applications and begin processing payments for certain applications filed as part of the CFAP Additional Assistance program in the following categories: Applications filed for pullets and turfgrass sod;

A formula correction for row-crop producer applications to allow producers with a non-Actual Production History (APH) insurance policy to use 100% of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield in the calculation;

Sales commodity applications revised to include insurance indemnities, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payments, and Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus payments, as required by statute; and

Additional payments for swine producers and contract growers under CFAP Additional Assistance remain on hold and are likely to require modifications to the regulation as part of the broader evaluation and future assistance; however, FSA will continue to accept applications from interested producers.

Part 4: Reopening CFAP 2 Sign-Up to Improve Access & Outreach to Underserved Producers

As noted above, USDA will re-open sign-up for of CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning on April 5, 2021.

FSA has committed at least \$2.5 million to establish partnerships and direct outreach efforts intended to improve outreach for CFAP 2 and will cooperate with grassroots organizations with strong connections to socially disadvantaged communities to ensure they are informed and aware of the application process.

Please stay tuned for additional information and announcements under the USDA Pandemic Assistance to Producers initiative, which will help to expand and more equitably distribute financial assistance to producers and farming operations during the COVID-19 national emergency. Please visit www.farmers.gov for more information on the details of today's announcement.



CONNECTION BANK

We've got this.

www.myconnectionbank.com

Burlington • Fort Madison • Montrose • Keokuk

Member FDIC



Fullenkamp
INSURANCE
Est. 1963



307 5th Street West Point

319-837-6178 or 800-292-2208 | www.fullenkampins.com
Open M-F 7:30 - 5:00 & Saturday 8:30 - 11

LET US DO THE MATH!

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