

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 152



www.pencitycurrent.com

SUPERVISORS: Stop short of making public wear masks in county offices

No mask mandate yet

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A move by Lee County Supervisors to toughen up mask requirements fell just short of a mandate Monday morning.

Supervisors voted unanimously on a recommendation from Supervisor Garry Seyb to strongly recommend vaccinated employees and customers at county offices wear a mask as the Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to transmit highly in and around Lee County.

Supervisor Ron Fedler asked that the recommendation be revisited next week to possibly change to a mandate depending on what happens with data numbers coming in from the Centers for

Disease Control and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

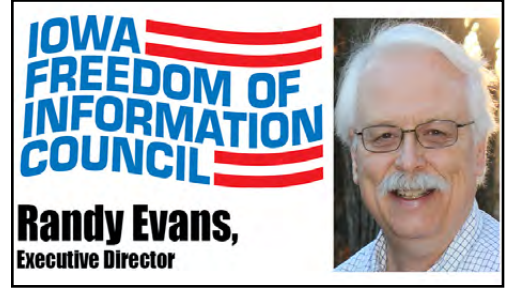
Amy Reasner, the board's attorney from Lynch-Dallas out of Cedar Rapids, said the board needs to clarify policies for county employees to clear up any gray areas in guidance. She said the county also needs to clarify protocols for fully vaccinated staff who have encountered exposure or are showing symptoms.

Reasner said the Iowa Governor passed a law in 2020 that protected entities from lawsuits filed by persons saying they contracted the disease through exposure at their workplace.

"It's called Safe Harbor, if you're following guidance you should be free from civil suits," Reasner said.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross

See COUNTY, page 8



Cuomo, Ernst both knew better

Here is one of the persistent questions rattling around in my head: Why are some well-educated people seemingly so lacking in common sense and good judgment?

I'm thinking about Andrew Cuomo, New York's governor for the past 10 years.

Cuomo is hanging on to his job by a thread. His job security is so precarious I wouldn't recommend buying any green bananas for the governor's mansion.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, herself a Democrat like Cuomo, issued a scathing report last week that found he had created a toxic work environment inside the governor's office. Specifically, she concluded he sexually harassed at least 11 current or former state employees, all women, since 2013.

The harassment included unwanted groping, kissing, hugging, pressing himself against the women and inappropriate comments. The harassment continued because the governor and his senior aides engaged in pressure, cover-up and retaliation against the women to discourage them from speaking up, the attorney general said.

How is it a graduate of a prestigious university, and a lawyer by training, is not wise enough to see this is terribly wrong? Doesn't he remember the litany of prominent men who have been felled by their inability to understand that prominence does not give them the right to treat women like sexual playthings?

There is no question Andrew Cuomo needs to go. President Joe Biden said so. National Democratic Party leaders said that. The entire New York congressional delegation said he should resign. And

See EVANS, page 8



Photos by Krystal Grogan

Above, Theory of A Dead Man wraps up the Saturday Frank Millard and Co., Inc. Main Stage entertainment lineup. Theory was part of a four-band lineup Saturday. At left, local rock scene favorite Ghost of Judas plays in the Buffalo61 Entertainment tent Saturday night.



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WEATHER

WED 11 Aug.....Scattered Clouds, 89° F/ 33° F
 THU 12 Aug.....Hot with Light Rain, 90° F/ 41° F
 FRI 13 Aug.....Light Rain, 83° F/ 28° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 08/09.....2 4 19 35 48, Lucky Ball: 9
 PICK 3 08/09 MIDDAY.....9 4 2
 PICK 3 08/09 EVENING.....3 4 9
 PICK 4 08/09 MIDDAY.....5165
 PICK 4 08/09 EVENING.....3709

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DANIEL F. COONS

Daniel Frank "D.F." Coons, Jr., 98, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:47 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at The Kensington. He was born on August 5, 1923 in Fort Madison, IA to Daniel F. & Jen Kirk Coons, Sr. He married Benita Menke on July 14, 1949 in West Point, IA. She preceded him in death on June 16, 2020. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for many years and served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a member of Holy Family Parish, the V.F.W., and the Knights of Columbus. He loved working in his yard, building trains and making things.



COONS

D.F. is survived by: 1-daughter: Carol (Chuck) Helt of Burlington, IA; 3-granddaughters: Nicole Mitchell of North Liberty, IA, Jamie Beckert of West Des Moines, IA & Jessica (Nathan) Clark of Adel, IA; 5-great grandchildren: Landon VanDyke, Rylee Mitchell, Stella Clark, Hannah Clark & Aria Clark & 1-niece: Janet Calvin of Winfield, KS. He was preceded in death by: his parents, wife, 2-sisters: Mary Katherine Kuhlmeier & Jean Coons.



Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A visitation will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church with the funeral mass to immediately follow with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery with the Fort Madison Veterans Honor Guard performing military rites. A memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Online condolences to D.F.'s family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

OBITUARIES

MARY L. WARD

Mary L. Ward, 86, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 12:07 PM at the Donnellson Health Center.



WARD

She was born on December 22, 1934 in Ft. Madison, Iowa to Hiram and Lula Etta Smith Pickard. On September 17, 1953 she married Gilbert Ward and he preceded her in death. Mary was a homemaker and a member of the First Christian Church in Ft. Madison. She lived in California, Hawaii and Florida during her husband's career in the US Navy. They retired in Lakeland, FL and after Gil's death in 1994 Mary moved to Fort Madison.

Survivors include two brothers, Duane Pickard and Jerry (Barbara) Pickard both of Ft. Madison; one sister in law, Anna Ruth Pickard; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gil; two brothers, Bill and Darrell and three sisters, Helen, Shirley and Betty.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. There will be no formal services and burial will take place in Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

A memorial has been established for the First Christian Church and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

ETHEL F. RICHMAN

Ethel F. Richman, 86, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 7:39 a.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at her home. She was born on May 19, 1935 in Honolulu, HI to David & Ayako Okazaki Abe. She marked Kenneth Richman on September 24, 1966 in Cordell, OK. She was a librarian at the Fort Madison Public Library for many years. She enjoyed traveling, reading, and doing crafts.



RICHMAN

Ethel is survived by: her husband: Kenneth Richman of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Adam (Amanda) Richman of Bremen, IN and 3-grandchildren: Hunter, Cal & Reece Richman of Bremen, IN. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 2-brothers & 2-sisters.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and no services are planned at this time. Her ashes will be scattered off the coast of Hawaii in the future. A memorial has been established for the Fort Madison Public Library and may be sent to: Ken Richman, 1102 Old Denmark Hill, Fort Madison, IA 52627. Online condolences to the Richman family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

08/06/21 – 10:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue M. 08/06/21 – 11:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Michael Cain, 44, of Donnellson, in the 3900 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred. 08/06/21 – 3:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Sheldon Saltzgaver, 61, of Fort Madison, in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. 08/06/21 – 3:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Leah Manes, 26, of Burlington, in the 1200 block of Avenue G on a charge of driving under suspension. 08/06/21 – 5:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H. 08/06/21 – 5:55 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Donald Bell, 19, of Fort Madison in the 3100 block of Avenue M, on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 08/07/21 – 12:01 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Justin Barnes, 34, of Fort Madison, in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on a warrant for violation of a no-contact order and 1st-degree harassment. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 08/07/21 – 4:46 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue I. 08/07/21 – 10:20 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Amy Sparkman, 44, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of a false report to a public entity. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 08/07/21 – 11:56 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Catherine Balzer, 26, of Fort Madison, at the police station, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released. 08/07/21 - 3:40 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Tracy Meyers, 53, of Fort Madison in the 2900 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving while barred. 08/07/21 – 3:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Brandon L. Hayes,

30, of Fort Madison in Victory Park, on a charge of driving while barred. 08/07/21 – 4:47 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Toni Inman, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue H, on a warrant for contempt of court. She was taken to Lee County Jail. 08/08/21 – 6:10 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue L. 08/08/21 – 4:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the in the 5200 block of River Valley Road. 08/09/21 – 7:10 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue L.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

08/06/21 – 4:39 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Richard Bruce Campbell, 33, of Ottumwa, at 25 N. 7th Street, on charges of attempted murder, felon in control of a firearm, intimidation with a dangerous weapon and going armed with intent. He was taken to the Lee County Jail. 08/06/21 – 11:54 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Daniel Russell Philp, 37, of Montrose, at the sheriff's office on a court-ordered hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 08/06/21 – 9:31 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sean Scott Alvis, 28, of Keosauqua, no location given, on a charge of contempt of court. He was taken to Lee County Jail. 08/07/21 – 12:58 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jade Alan Holt, 23, of Arbela, Mo., in the 400 block of Avenue D, on a charge of disorderly conduct. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine. 08/07/21 – 5:57 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Seth Alan Troy Malott, 22, of New London, in the 2400 block of Hwy. 103, on a charge of simple assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released after paying a fine. 08/08/21 – 1:26 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident in the 2500 block of Hwy. 103.

According to reports, a vehicle driven by Mason Schau, 18, of Donnellson, struck cattle that had gotten onto the roadway and were trying to be corralled by the owners who attempted to signal motorists about the upcoming danger. No citations or injuries were reported. 08/08/21 – 10 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Daniel James Burke, 56, of Keokuk in the 600 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on a charge of driving while barred. 08/09/21 - 1:32 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Luke Jacob Steele, 33, of Keokuk, in the 3500 block of Main Street in Keokuk on charges of unlawful possession of prescription drugs and a judgment hold, and a warrant for misdemeanor escape from custody.


Hancock County Sheriff's Report

08/02/21 – William C Beuker, age 36, of Colchester, IL was arrested and charged with Criminal Sexual Assault. Beuker remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court date. 08/02/21 – Xavier A Hatchcroft, age 20, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Driving While License

Suspended. Hatchcroft was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 08/04/21 – Aubrey E C Markley, age 29, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving Under the Influence. Markley was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 08/05/21 – Matthew W Young, age 35, of Niota, IL was arrested and charged with Threatening a Public Official, Trespass to Residence, and Violation of an Order of Protection. Young was also arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Criminal Trespass to a Residence and Criminal Damage to Property. 08/05/21 – Young remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance. Mary F Blanchard, age 42, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Suspended. Blanchard was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. 08/07/21 – Jakob L Corral, age 18,

of Ft. Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Burglary of a Motor Vehicle. Corral remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance. 08/07/21 – Elie M Ahlen, age 18, of Ft. Madison, IA was arrested and charged with Burglary of a Motor Vehicle. Ahlen remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance. 08/08/21 – Nathan L Moulton, age 20, of Macomb, IL was arrested and charged with Obstructing Identification. Moulton was also arrested on an Adams County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear on original charges of Improper Turn at an Intersection. Moulton was also arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging him with failure to Appear on original charges of Theft. Moulton remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail

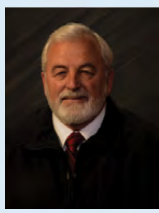
awaiting his next court appearance. 08/08/21 – David M S Bloomer, age 32, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Lee County, IA Warrant charging him Pretrial Release Violation on original charges of Stalking-Violation of Protective Order and Tampering with a Witness or Juror. Bloomer was also arrested on a Lee County, IA Warrant charging him with Pretrial Release Violation on original charges of Burglary. Bloomer remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting extradition to Lee County. 08/08/21 – Matthew E Huling, age 39, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked. Huling was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

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Why: Customer Appreciation Event, as well as the opportunity to buy Tough-Enough-to-Wear Pink Rodeo Shirts

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August 19th, 20th & 21st



"Just Watermelon"

THURS. AUG. 19TH

5-10 p.m.....\$15 Armband Unlimited Rides
 5-10 p.m.....BINGO TENT
 Montrose Youth Activities
5 p.m. FOOD STAND OPENS
 FFA Alumni Butterfly Pork Chop
 Sandwiches
 6 p.m.Princess Contest
 6:30 p.m.Watermelon Eating Contest
 7-10 p.m.....MAIN STAGE
 "Bo Casey - One Man Band"

FRI. AUG. 20TH

5 p.m. FOOD STAND OPENS
 Firefighters Fish Fry
 5-10 p.m.....BINGO TENT
 Montrose Youth Activities
 5:30 p.m.Watermelon Eating Contest
 6 p.m. Music by "St. Barnabas Choir"
 7-9 p.m.....MAIN STAGE
 "Hearsay Band"

SAT. AUG. 21ST

7-10 a.m.....BREAKFAST
 Sponsored by Central Lee Music Group
 8 a.m.Watermelon 5k Crawl
 Sponsored by Central Lee Cheerleaders
 Registration 7 a.m.
 12 p.m..... Festival Parade
 Theme "Just Watermelon"
 Lineup 11:30 a.m.
1 p.m. FOOD STAND OPENS
 1 p.m.Performance
 Central Lee Impulse Dance Team
 2 p.m.Timed Event
 (Info. to follow; Registration 1:30 p.m.)
 2 p.m.Performance
 "McNamara Band"

3-10 p.m.....BINGO TENT
 Montrose Youth Activities
 3 p.m.Live on Stage
 "Deb Frank"
4 p.m. FFA Alumni
 Ribeye Sandwich - Ivor Fowler Center
 5-7 p.m.....Live on Stage
 "Kathy Dye"
 7 p.m.Presentations
 Volunteer Award Presentation
 Heritage Award Presentation
 7-9 p.m.....MAIN STAGE
 "Hissem Family Campfire"
 9:30 p.m.....50/50 Raffle Drawing
 Montrose Youth Activities, Main Stage

VENDOR/ FLEA MARKET

Thursday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Friday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Saturday 12 - 10 p.m.

50/50 Raffle Drawing

Tickets will be available from
 Montrose Youth Activities
 all weekend.
 Drawing Sat., Aug. 21, 2021
 9:30 p.m. on stage

BINGO

Thursday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Friday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Saturday 3 - 10 p.m.

Sports

Leathernecks heating up for fall football season

It's all about the heat, Jared Elliott said.

Five practices into preseason football camp at Western Illinois University, the Leathernecks will be facing some good old-fashioned August weather this week with high temperatures and high humidity.

That's fine, said Elliott, the Leathernecks' head coach, during Monday's media day.

Because the last time the Leathernecks were getting ready to open the season, five practices into camp they were worried about the worst cold weather of the winter.

Teams in the NCAA's Football Championship Subdivision, like Western Illinois, didn't play a fall season in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, they played an abbreviated spring schedule, which meant starting in the winter.

Given the choice between chipping ice off the artificial surface at



Hanson Field, or taking a few extra water breaks because of the hot temperatures, Elliott knew how he would choose.

I know we're starting to get some heat coming this week," he said, laughing. "That's a good thing for us. Our guys need to get acclimated to that." The players are ready for it.

"I'd rather practice now," wide receiver Tony Tate said. "That cold was pretty brutal."

"Personally, I like the heat," linebacker Greg Benton Jr. said. "I'm not really a 'cold' guy. I prefer the heat."

The hot weather means a normal schedule for the Leathernecks. It's back to the routine of practices and team meetings — Monday was a day for film work.

"It definitely felt good getting back to a normal summer," quarterback Connor Sampson said. "Normal lifting, throwing with the guys. It's good to be back in that routine."

"COVID really messed a lot of things up for us," safety Michael Lawson said.

"Now that we have a chance to be in the play-

book, actually have a chance to ask questions, I think we'll be all right."

Western Illinois went 1-5 in the spring season. The Leathernecks defeated Youngstown State on April 3, then their final two games against Southern Illinois and South Dakota were canceled because of injuries and the resulting lack of depth, especially on the offensive line.

"We didn't get what we wanted in the spring in terms of wins," Elliott said. "We're in the business of winning here, and our players know that. There's certain things that it takes to win. For us it's consistency, it's execution, and it's production."

"The biggest thing that I walked away with from the spring, and I say this with a lot of pride, is this team doesn't have any quit in

them. We had a lot of adversity, like a lot of teams did. We've been there, we've dealt with all of that."

"Especially with finishing the spring season with a win, we're trying to build on that momentum that we had, and capitalize on that," Tate said.

The Leathernecks had the Missouri Valley Football Conference's best passing offense last spring, throwing for 293.5 yards per game. But they were last in the conference in rushing offense, scoring defense, and total defense.

There isn't much expected of them this season — the Leathernecks were picked 10th in the 10-team Valley's preseason poll. It's built a chip-on-the-shoulder mentality, the players said.

"What I've really liked

is the competitive aspect of this football team," Elliott said. "Great mentality, great intensity. We haven't felt like we've had to pull teeth at this point."

The schedule is brutal — the Leathernecks open at Ball State before playing perennial national powers Eastern Washington at home and Montana on the road in the nonconference portion, and then going through the conference schedule in a league considered one of the best in FCS play.

Elliott said the concern for now is just getting better.

It's just all part of the heat of August.

John Bohnenkamp is a national award-winning writer and editor, and a regular contributor to the Pen City Current. He can be reached at [edi-tor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com).

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- ⇒ It typically takes 2 weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- ⇒ If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did before the pandemic.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Fort Madison City Council will meet in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at which time and place a hearing will be conducted concerning an application for CDBG Housing Upper Story Conversion monies through the 2022 CDBG

YARD SALES

Yard Sales Country Club Lane

Fri. Aug. 13 • 1PM-5PM
Sat. Aug. 14 • 8AM-?

Antique dishes, antique furniture, children's toys, clothes, small bicycles, glass vases, furniture, women's clothes, men's jeans, small kitchen appliances.

Look for balloons on mailboxes

Housing Fund program in the amount of \$500,000 for the rehabilitation of the upper story of the property at 802 Avenue G of the City of Fort Madison.

Persons may obtain further information or express their views concerning this issue either in person or through an authorized representative at the public hearing. Persons may also provide a written statement prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at mblind@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on August 17, 2021.
Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk

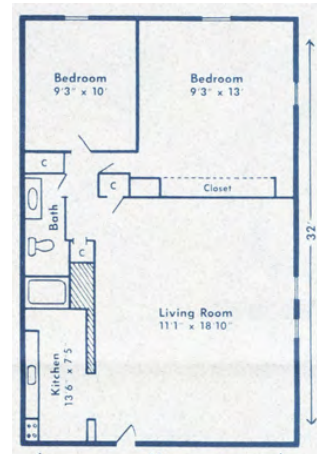
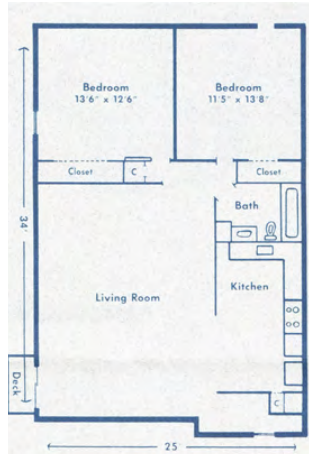
PUBLIC NOTICE FALL CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The Fort Madison Cemetery Department will begin Fall Clean Up at Sacred Heart, Elmwood, Oakland & City Cemeteries on Monday, August 16 through Friday, August

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202 15th St.
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 Hostess: Jill Kruse

412 23rd St.
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 Hostess: Kara Morrow

404 8th St.
Ft. Madison
 Host: Nicole Panther

430 Ave. F
Ft. Madison
 Hostess: Tammy Rea

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 Hostess: Jean Neuweg

1906 Ave. G
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 Hostess: Judy Holterhaus



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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

20, 2021. ALL items must be removed from the gravesites before Monday, August 16. Any items left will be disposed of during cemetery clean-up. No items are to be placed on the graves until Monday, August 23, 2021.

For further information, call (319) 372-7700, ext. 206 or email mblind@fort-madison-ia.com. Thank you for your cooperation!

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 811 AVENUE E, FORT MADISON

AGENDA

- MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
- ROLL CALL
- VISITORS COMMENTS
- APPROVE AUGUST 16, 2021 AGENDA
- APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2021 MEETING
- OLD BUSINESS:
 1. City Cemetery Rehabilitation
- NEW BUSINESS:
 2. 731 Avenue G Re-model
 3. Recommendations on future of Historic Preservation Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE FORT MADISON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
 Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021
 Time: 5:30 P.M.

HELP WANTED

LEE COUNTY SECONDARY ROADS HELP WANTED ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Lee County is taking applications for a Road Maintenance Worker II, to work at the West Point Maintenance Shop. Duties will include the operation of light and heavy equipment and trucks to perform road maintenance and construction projects, occasionally plowing snow, and the performance of manual labor as required. Requires a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent and must possess a valid Class A commercial driver's license with air brake and tanker endorsements. Lee County provides equal opportunity in employment to all persons regardless of age, race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion or disability.

For a job description and to apply, download an application from our county website, www.leecounty.org or you can pick an application up at the Engineer's office and return your completed application along with a resume to Lee County Engineer, P.O. Box 158, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627, or email it to bhull@leecounty.org and copy it to shartson@leecounty.org. Applications will be accepted until August 23, 2021.

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



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From the Front

Ernst amendment would have hurt all of NYC

EVANS - Continued from Page 1

the Democrats' super-majority in the New York State Assembly has signaled that impeachment will begin if Cuomo does not leave.

They all recognize that a politician cannot pretend to lead 20 million people after a parade of women have accused him of breaking the law by sexually harassing them — especially after the top law enforcement official in New York concluded there is sufficient evidence to believe the women.

If that were not devastating enough, an assistant to Cuomo filed a criminal complaint last week that he reached under her blouse and grabbed her breast when she was sent to his office at the governor's mansion back in November.

For his part, Cuomo sounds just like many prominent men against whom similar allegations have been made: The investigation was biased. None of the allegations are true. The women misinterpreted innocent gestures. Some of the women initiated the interactions they later complained about.

This mess will either end in Cuomo's resignation or impeachment. For baffling reasons, U.S. Senator Joni Ernst decided last week to try to inject the federal government into the middle of a state government matter.

She introduced an amendment to Congress' bipartisan infrastructure bill. The amendment would prevent money allocated by the legislation from going to "any state in which the governor ... has been found, by the relevant state or federal authorities, to have sexually harassed employees."

Ernst said of her amendment, "It's one way he can be held accountable because obviously nobody's stepping up and holding him accountable."

Just as Cuomo never adequately contemplated where his brazen conduct could lead, it appears Ernst never adequately considered the ramifications of her hastily drafted amendment, either.

Withholding infrastructure money from New York

would not just affect Cuomo. It would also punish the one-third of New Yorkers who identify as Republicans, as well as people from other states who travel through New York.

They drive on the same roads and bridges as Democrats. They use the same transit systems as Democrats. They ride Amtrak and use airports just like Democrats. They rely on the same water and sewage systems as Democrats.

Blessedly, the Ernst amendment died quickly. Her proposal could have led to wide-ranging consequences that are not good for a two-party system of government.

Would Ernst think it is appropriate for Congress to keep federal farm program payments from going to states where the governor "has been found, by relevant state or federal authorities," to have refused to allow cities, counties and local schools to impose mask requirements to fight Covid's Delta variant?

Would Ernst think it should be permissible for Congress to block federal aid to colleges and universities in any state where its two U.S. senators "have been found, by relevant state or federal authorities," to have voted against creating a special commission to investigate the riot at the U.S. Capitol?

Would Ernst think it is appropriate for Congress to keep states from participating in the federal renewable fuel incentives if a state's governor "has been found, by relevant state or federal authorities," to have failed to set water quality standards that are comparable for agricultural runoff wastes and for wastes from manufacturing plants?

That's why Ernst's amendment is ill advised.

But Joni Ernest and I do agree sometimes. We both share the same opinion of Andrew Cuomo, and we both have the same view of what should happen to him.

Randy Evans is Executive Director of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council and can be reached at DM-Revans2810@gmail.com. Pen City Current is a member of the IFOIC.

Ross says data shows COVID vaccinated aren't getting as sick

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

said she was very concerned about the lack of vaccination in Lee County and the growing presence of the Delta variant, and the board should do whatever it could to encourage vaccinations and to keep everyone coming into contact with county staff safe.

"Current trackers establish green, yellow and red spread zones. Lee County is in the red or high transmission zone. That is based on positive cases and community spread. Lee County and nearly all the counties surrounding us are in a red zone," Ross said.

Currently, unvaccinated county employees are required to wear a mask at work.

Reasner said Cedar Rapids is in Linn county and that county is in the red, but many counties around it are green or yellow.

"That may mean that people just aren't testing. Data is only as good as the folks

collecting it and people participating and testing," she said.

Ross said IDPH is only reporting data weekly on Wednesdays and she continues to reflect that information in local reporting. However, she said the CDC is showing Lee County with a 300% increase in the positivity rating over the past several weeks, with 179 current positive cases in the county. IDPH is reporting 109 new cases as of last Wednesday.

"There's no consistency in the data sets, but we continue to monitor IDPH public health data because they base it on test results reported to the state Hygienic Lab. It's still required by Iowa law that health providers and now pharmacies offering test kits report test results to the state," Ross said.

Ross said the most important thing is to get the vaccine rate up in the county.

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