

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 | 10 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 101



www.pencitycurrent.com

County drops masks

SUPERVISORS: Vote to end mandate for masks in county buildings

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Lee County Supervisors have lifted the mask mandate for people using county offices going forward.

At Monday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, supervisors voted unanimously to lift the ban which requires county residents and staff to wear masks inside county office buildings.

The move doesn't preclude anyone choosing to wear a mask from being able to do so obviously, but Supervisor Gary Seyb, Jr. said it should be up to people at this point to

be able to make the choice as to whether they want to wear a face covering or not.

"I'm not saying don't wear a mask. If you want to wear a mask, wear one, I'm just saying drop the mandate," Seyb said.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross said she would like to see the county's vaccination rate, which is just over 31% now, a little higher before everyone starts dropping masks.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he thinks the numbers is higher than that because Lee County residents could have gone

See MASKS, page 9

OPINION



Unmapped steps for 2021 seniors

It's the season for graduations.

A time typically reserved for celebration, family, a small cash infusion, and as my daughter loves to say, "Cake", is sprinkled this year with a little more apprehension.

I spent about two hours with my family at Burlington Golf Club Saturday afternoon as my niece Natalie and friend Sydney Marlow stood in a receiving line hugging and thanking people, sneaking some veggies and the occasional chicken nugget.

The two graduates from my former high school, West Burlington, worked the room in spring dresses while grandparents huddled at tables reminiscing and silently cursing the hands of time. Uncles sit at the bar with Jameson, and talk with friends and classmates about how this year they're really going to get together... not just talk about it.

Marlow is an exceptional athlete with a wonderful family that easily works the room. She's going to Morningside to continue blasting volleyballs mercilessly at people and get an education. I sneaked in at the end of the night to congratulate her on her academic and athletic success and told her I had never seen her run faster than Thursday's district track meet at Mt. Pleasant.

Sydney is known for her infectious smile and ability to make all conference in jai alai if it was offered.

I grabbed moments of time with Nat, as she mingled with a smooth maturity and grace that can only be ascribed personally to her as uncharacteristically common. This kid, who was just nine years old yesterday with her medals and ribbons splayed out on the floor in front of her uncle for picture

See GRADS, page 10



Courtesy photo

Local business people gathered in the Fort Madison Pocket Park in the 800 block of Avenue G Thursday evening to create awareness of the park and its new wi-fi capabilities.

CITY NEWS

Police looking into vandalism to building windows

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Police are looking into incidents of broken windows around Fort Madison in the past four days.

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff said he thinks BB were shot at several windows in Fort Madison

including the Newberry Center downtown, the Fort Madison YMCA, and Fort Madison City Hall.

Rohloff categorized the incidents at BB gun drive-by shootings and they are hoping area security cameras will reveal evidence that can be used to identify suspects.

He said nothing was recovered at the

scenes but several of the windows and glass doors had holes or shatter marks from the BBs or pellets.

Typically he said BBs won't penetrate glass but they will cause a break or chip and then bounce away.

Anyone with information about the vandalism is encouraged to contact the Fort Madison Police Department.

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WEATHER

TUE 18 May.....Light Rain, 71° F/ 58° F
WED 19 May.....Rain, 75° F/ 63° F
THU 20 May.....Rain, 75° F/ 65° F

IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 05/16 MIDDAY.....458
PICK 3 05/16 EVENING.....054
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PICK 4 05/16 EVENING.....1141

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

JOANN R. MESSMER

Joann R. Messmer, 83, of Fort Madison passed away on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 6:52 AM at Oakview Nursing Home.



MESSMER

She was born on April 14, 1938 in Ft. Madison to Woodrow and Belvia Boyer Brown. Joann married Burt Smalley and they later divorced. She then married Raymond Lunn in 1963 and he preceded her in death. Joann and John Messmer married in 1987 and he also preceded her in death. Joann was a cook at several area restaurants and was a member of Burlington Foursquare Church. She enjoyed community bible study, the Gaither's and watching Elvis impersonators. Most of all she loved spending time with her family.

Survivors include; one daughter, Margie (Dennis) Gnann of Wever; two sons, Ralph Smalley of Wisconsin and Jim Smalley of Iowa City; fourteen grandchildren, several great grandchildren and one sister, Ruby Degen of Ft. Madison; one son in law, Jim Boyle of Ft. Madison. She was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands; a son, Bill Lunn and a daughter, Joy Boyle

The memorial service will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 11 AM at Burlington Foursquare Church with Pastor Sam Fratt officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until the time of the service at the church. Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

A memorial has been established for Oakview Care Center and online condolences can be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

KAREN J. NEWMAN

Karen Joyce Newman, 72, passed away on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at her home in Keokuk.

Karen was born on September 26, 1948, in Kirksville, Missouri, the daughter of Wilmer Mohr and Vera Wells. She finished high school in Gorin, Missouri in 1966. On August 29, 1965, she was united in marriage to Ronnie Newman in Etna, Missouri. They were looking forward to their 57th wedding anniversary this year.

Karen was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Keokuk and actively served there since 1978. She was employed at Security State Bank, followed by Norwest and then Wells Fargo. Karen was then a bank manager at the 16th and Main Street Keokuk Saving Bank location. She went on to work for Dr. Schleier at his dental office, followed by State Central Bank and then at the courthouse in the Lee County Recorder's office. Karen had a love for theatre and Broadway shows. She was known for her generous heart and her strong will. Karen enjoyed puzzles, reading, crosswords, and spending time with family. Her grandchildren were her pride and joy. She loved watching them in all of their activities.

Karen is survived by her husband Ronnie Newman; son Kevin (Debbie) Newman of Flower Mound, Texas; daughter Kristen (Robb) Geiger of Ankeny, Iowa; grandchildren Kalesa Newman, Chandler Newman, Kendall Newman, Kenzie Geiger, Quinn Geiger and Zoe Geiger.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents and her sister Linda.

No services will be held at this time.

Memorials may be directed to Trinity United Methodist Church.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongs-funeralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

BEULAH L. WRIGHT WINEMILLER-OGILVIE

Beulah Louise Wright-Winemiller-Ogilvie, age 93, passed away peacefully in the home of her granddaughter Dawn VanBrooker-Harriott in Donnellson, Iowa.

Beulah was born April 28, 1928 in Clinton, Illinois to George Wright and Arva Swartz Wright.

She graduated from Clinton High School in 1946 and graduated from Rock Valley College certified nursing program in 1984.

She spent 10 years in the nursing field, worked 8 yrs at Swedish American Hospital and 10 years at Doughboys Donut Shop. She became known as "Grandma" at the donut shop and greeted people with smiles, hope, donuts, and coffee.

She collected jewelry, favoring turquoise, she also collected teddy bears, roosters, and chickens. She was extremely compassionate towards animals. In her time on earth she fostered hundreds of strays.

Beulah is survived by her daughters: Robin (Gary) Weigel and Cathy (Troy) Anderson; her two sons: Dale (Krys) Winemiller and Mark (Judi) Winemiller; 25 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Beulah is greeted into heaven preceded by her husband: John Ogilvie; her parents; her grandparents; 4 step-children; 4 grandchildren, and 1 great grandson.

Family and friends are invited to a graveside ceremony at Croninger Cemetery in Cisco, Illinois, preceded by a celebration of life at the Cisco Center 325 N. Main, Cisco.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with local arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneral-homes.com.

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It's Black & White and Read all over

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

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/14/21 – 12:35 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 600 block of Crescent Lane.
 05/14/21 – 6:58 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1900 block of Avenue G.
 05/14/21 – 9:33 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2300 block of Avenue H.
 05/14/21 – 2:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue J.
 05/14/21 – 2:46 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Thomas Jeremiah Raines, 44, of Fort Madison, in the 700 block of Avenue E, on a charge of driving while barred.
 05/14/21 – 6:07 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2200 block of Avenue G.
 05/14/21 – 8:52 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Michael John Goldensoph, 53, of Fort Madison, in the 900 block of 34th Street. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/15/21 – 6:13 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue G.
 05/15/21 – 10:59 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Cody Scott Glasgow, 29, of Montrose in the 5300 block of Avenue O, on a charge of driving while barred.
 05/15/21 – 1:19 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4500 block of Avenue O.
 05/15/21 – 3:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited William Paul Cochenour, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 2200 block of Avenue F, on a charge of driving while barred.
 05/15/21 – 4:44 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue H.
 05/15/21 – 5:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2900 block of Avenue M.
 05/15/21 – 5:49 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2200 block of Avenue H.
 05/15/21 – 7:25 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Nichole Ivana Grandbouche, 45, of Fort Madison, in the 600 block of 8th Street, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
 05/16/21 – 10:06 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 05/16/21 – 10:23 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 700 block of Avenue G.
 05/16/21 – 11:18 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
 05/16/21 – 12:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in

the 2900 block of Avenue M.
 05/17/21 – 6:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1600 block of Avenue H.
 05/17/21 – 7:06 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Avenue E.
 05/17/21 – 8:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/14/21 – 12:50 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a two-vehicle accident near mile marker 18 on Hwy. 218. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Robert Allan McMurray, 35, of Donnellson was following a semi trailer driven by Michael Cooper O'Bryan, 37, of Las Vegas, Nev. O'Bryan slowed to make a left hand turn and McMurray tried to slow but swerved into the left lane was to avoid the collision and was struck in the rear right side. McMurray was cited for failure to maintain control. No injuries were reported at the scene.
 05/14/21 – 6:10 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshawa Robert Gillham, 41, Keokuk, in the 1000 block of Main Street in Keokuk, on warrants for failure to appear and 3rd-degree attempted burglary and charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying weapons. He was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/14/21 – 6:11 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Allen Wagner, 37, of Keokuk, at Lee County Jail on a judgment hold. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released for servicing weekends.
 05/14/21 – 8:03 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Ethan Joseph Krueger, 23, of Fort Madison, near milemarker 10 on Hwy. 61 on a charge of OWI-1st offense.
 05/14/21 – 8:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kody Michael Saar, 27, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office, on a warrant for domestic assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.
 05/15/21 – 6:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Terrance Tykee Tyshawn Brown, 20, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Hwy. 218, on charges of possession of a controlled substance – marijuana and driving while barred.
 05/15/21 – 7:02 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Sierra Renee Helenthal, 29, of Keokuk, in the 2600 block of Hwy. 2, on a charge of OWI. She was taken to Lee County Jail and released on her recognizance.
 05/15/21 – 10:59 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Josie Linn Douthart Poe, 28, of Bonaparte, in the 2000 block of Hwy. 2,

on a charge of OWI-2nd offense. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/16/21 – 4:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Stephanie Nicole Devitt, 29, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a judgment hold. She was taken to Lee County Jail.
 05/16/21 – 7:28 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Adam Robert Cloyed, 33, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office, on a charge of OWI-1st offense.
 05/17/21 – 8:35 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Christopher Eugene Sparks, 27, of La Grange, Mo, no location given, on warrants for being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to Lee County Jail.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

05/10/21 – Justin N Schamberger, age 30, of Mackinaw, IL was arrested on a Tazewell County, IL Warrant charging him with Violation Order of Protection. Schamberger was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 05/11/21 – Zachary R Sherman, age 31, of Fort Dodge, IA was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Obstructing Identification, Operating an Uninsured Vehicle, and Driving While License Suspended. Sherman remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail awaiting his next court appearance.
 05/14/21 – Anthony L Sprinkle, age 31, of Augusta, IL was arrested on a McDonough County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. Sprinkle was also arrested on a Schuyler County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Pay on original charges of Traffic charges. Sprinkle was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
 05/15/21 – Kody M Saar, age 27, of Keokuk, IA was arrested and charged with Driving while License Suspended. Saar also was arrested on a Lee County, IA Warrant charging him with Domestic Abuse Assault. Saar was released to Lee County, IA Authorities. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

05/14/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, two false alarms, and one burn complaint.
 05/15/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call.
 05/16/21 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call..

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

ELEANOR S. GORDON SCHRADER

Eleanor Susannah "Sue" Gordon Schrader, 92, of Carthage, IL, formerly of Hamilton, IL died Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at the Memorial Hospital in Carthage, IL.



SCHRADER

She was born on May 21, 1928 in Keokuk, IA the daughter of Donald R. and Veta Mae Thompson Gordon. Sue graduated from the Hamilton High School with the Class of 1946.

Sue was united in marriage to Melvin W. Schrader in 1947 and he preceded her in death in 1983.

Sue and her husband Melvin owned and operated Schrader's Store in Sutter, IL for 30 years. After the death of her husband in 1983, she moved back to Hamilton, IL.

Sue had been a member of the Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Sutter, IL since 1947.

Sue enjoyed traveling and doing volunteer work in her community. She had been a volunteer with the Hancock County Red Cross since 1972. She served on the Board of Directors of the Security State Bank from 1985-1994. Sue joined Chapter U. of P.E.O. in 1985. She was a charter member of the VFW Auxiliary 5256 and a member of the Entre Nous Club. In 1990 she joined

Security Stars and in 1994 she joined RSVP. She formed a grief support group in Hamilton in 2005 and helped many people deal with their grief after a death. Sue brought sunshine into the lives of all who met her and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Sue is survived by one brother in law, Emmett Schrader, four sisters-in-law, Dorthy Limkeman, Alice Schrader, Audene Schrader and Linda Schrader and numerous nieces and nephews.

Sue was also preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Lynn Gordon Schrader and Brian Melvin Schrader, her sister, Laveta Morris, two nephews, one great nephew and three cousins.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 22, 2021 at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ Cemetery in Sutter, IL with Reverend Mark Binder officiating.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to the Hickory Grove Activity Department, 404 S. Adams Carthage, IL.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

OBITUARIES

ROSEMARY HURLEY

Rosemary Hurley, 87 years, of West Point, Iowa died at 9:15 am Friday, May 14, 2021 at her home. She was born January 18, 1934 in Franklin Township, Lee



HURLEY

County, Iowa, the daughter of Donald and Mamie (Austin) Sylvester. On December 15, 1955, she married Edgar Lavern "Shorty" Hurley. He preceded her in death.

She graduated from Montrose High School. Rosemary was a homemaker.

Before she was married she worked at Sheaffer Pen, and later she worked at Foster's Grocery Store in Donnellson. She was a former member of Calvary First Assembly of God Church, Fort Madison. She enjoyed gardening, flowers, birds, crocheting, reading, traveling, yard sales, summer festivals, and her pets.

She is survived by two daughters, Debra (Michael) Albright of Keokuk, Iowa and Rebecca Yi of Des Moines, Iowa; two brothers, Robert (Coni) Sylvester of Milton, Florida and Harry (Karen) Sylvester of Fort Madison; three grandchildren: Ed Tory, Coleman Yi, and Amber Yi; one great granddaughter BrookLynn Tory; and two great great grandchildren, Serenity and Emerson. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and one brother.

The Hurley family has requested Barr Memorial Chapel to care for her cremation. A graveside service and burial is pending. A memorial has been established for PAW Animal Shelter, contributions may be made directly to Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Hurley family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

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

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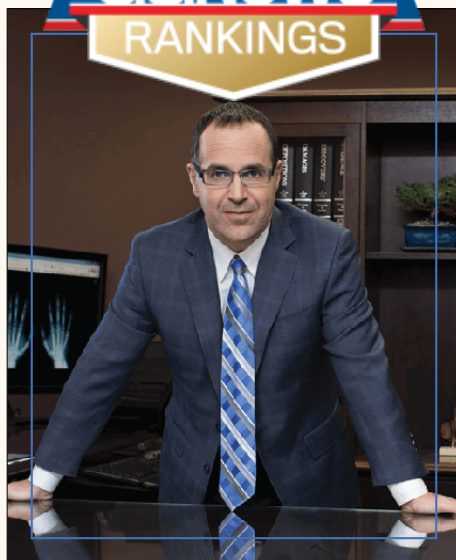
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Firms included in the 2021 Edition of U.S. News-Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized 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.



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Opinion/Health News

Brighton woman learns lesson trapped in pantry

You know you've been in the insurance business a long time when you go to a home for an appointment, realize you've been in the home before, but with a different family. (Deja vu all over again, as Yogi Berra would say?) Such was the case for me in Brighton. It was a nice brick ranch home. We sat in the same dining room, looked out the same picture window, at the same beautiful backyard, but with different people.

The lady, 75-year old Pat Hagist, was baby sitting her nearly two-year old Great Grandson, Waylon, that day, a beautiful child. She explained that he was born with three holes in his heart, but the defect had been repaired surgically. Waylon now pushes her heavy furniture around like toys.

Pat pointed at two side-by-side doors in the kitchen. One door was to a bathroom, the other a pantry. The pantry had been a closet but her kids built shelves and made it into a pantry for her.

Last November, she was taking care of Waylon and was in the pantry getting something. Waylon, being a helpful child, shut the pantry door. No problem, except there was no door handle on the inside of the pantry door. Fortunately, the pantry had a light. Pat kept her cool. She spoke to Waylon through the door and tried to get him to open it. Nothing doing. He just gurgled.

Pat is a resourceful woman, and tried to fashion a screwdriver out of a pop-top can lid. Attempting to turn the door handle with the crude tool, all she managed to do was knock the door handle off the other side of the door. She bent down and looked through the hole trying to see what Waylon was up to. But he was too short to see the top of his head.

She took a heavy can and tried to beat the door open. If she broke the door, she would replace it. The door wouldn't budge.

What to do? The hinges to the door were on the other side. Drat. And she had left her cell phone in the kitchen. Waylon was in the house all by himself! But she could hear him on the other side

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



of the door, jabbering. She talked to him in a soothing voice, and he actually laid down on the carpeted kitchen floor and went to sleep on the other side of the door. She could hear him breathing.

Her kids wouldn't be home for some time. They had gone to Menards in Burlington to get her a new vanity for her bathroom. She had no choice, she would have to wait it out. The pantry was so small, she could hardly sit down on the floor.

After about two hours, Waylon woke up from his nap, and she shoved saltine crackers under the door for him so he would have something to eat. She could hear the Brighton town siren go off indicating it was noon. She had been in the pantry three hours!

Finally, she could hear and feel the vibration of the garage door opening. Her son was home. She hollered, "I need some help here!"

He hollered back, "I need some help here unloading this vanity!"

But she was rescued—a 75-year old woman finally coming out of the closet, she joked.

There is now a door handle on both sides of the pantry door. Her kids have instructed her to always have her cell-phone on her, and there is a miniature tool kit in the pantry. They discussed getting her a life-alert line, and as her insurance agent, I was able to show her how her insurance would provide one, no charge.

Were there some personal issues she had to take care of while she was trapped in the pantry? Only God and Pat Hagist know.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

CDC says no masks required for fully vaccinated individuals

LEE COUNTY - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released yesterday interim public health recommendations for people who are fully vaccinated. Those fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. For someone to be considered fully vaccinated it would be two weeks after either their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Currently, Lee County stands at 30.3% of the population being fully vaccinated.

"As a public health agency, we continue to encourage residents and visitors of the county to reduce risks of further spread of COVID-19 and to get fully vaccinated," states Michele Ross, Lee County Health Department (LCHD) Administrator.

"We want Lee County to move forward with the rest of the country, and see more people become fully vaccinated." Those not fully vaccinated still pose a risk and should consider their own personal situation and risks to themselves, their family and other community members when in public settings.

LCHD is offering several COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics throughout the county:

Tuesday, May 18 at the First Christian Church in Keokuk from 4:00pm-7:00pm and on Saturday, May 22 at LCHD in Fort Madison from 8:00am-Noon – both of these clinics will be a drive-thru with both the Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines available. The full pop-up clinic schedule can be found at www.leeconomyhd.org or on the LCHD Facebook page.

LCHD is also aware that the Pfizer is now available to those 12-years of age and older. The Pfizer vaccine requires ultra-cold storage if maintaining inventory for more than two weeks, which is something LCHD does not have. "We are currently working with our public health partners in the state to obtain Pfizer vaccine on a small scale to hold specialty clinics. We ask people to continue to watch our facebook page and the media for when we announce those clinic dates in the near future." added Ross.

In the meantime, for those who are not fully vaccinated LCHD encourages everyone to reduce risks of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and to continue following prevention mitigation strategies – wear a mask when in public, stay 6-feet apart, wash hands frequently, stay home when ill, and schedule your COVID-19 vaccine appointment. We can do this Lee County!

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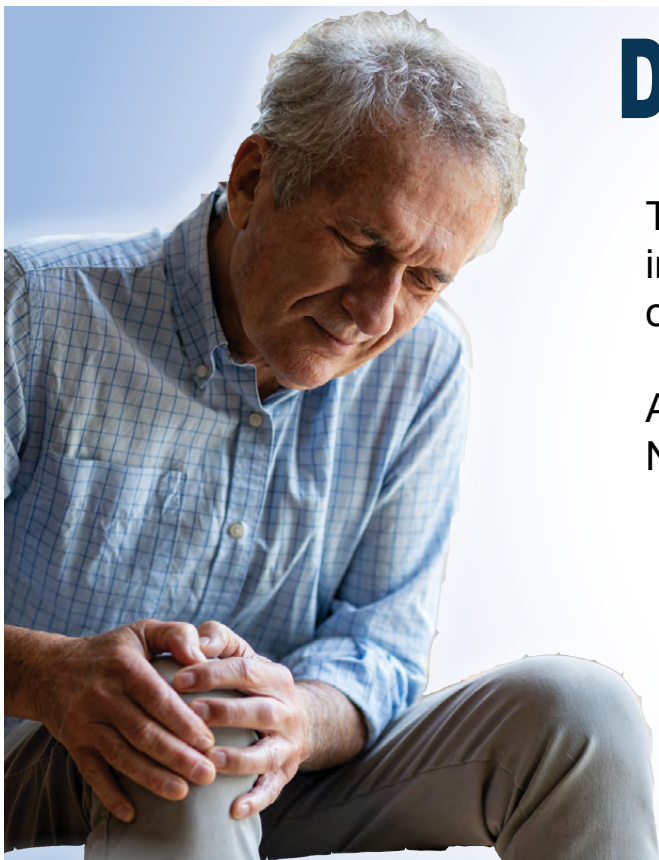
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WEST POINT
CITY COUNCIL
WEST POINT, IOWA
52656
MAY 11, 2021**

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the Conference Room of the Public Library, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 on May 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjuergen; Dan Waters; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Upon invitation Police Chief Brad Roberts presented the Police Department report. Mayor reported the following: downtown walk around will be held May 20, 2021; Holy Trinity Catholic will host a cornhole tournament and picnic on June 6, 2021; city-wide garage sales will be held June 12, 2021; Father's Day breakfast will be held June 20,

2021; Farmers Market will be held June 25, 2021; Fireworks Celebration will be held June 26, 2021 (with a rain date of June 27, 2021); meeting date and time for upcoming meetings of Library Board, Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of June 14, 2021. Upon invitation Dennis McGregor presented City Administrator's report. Upon invitation Councilor Loving reported a disc golf area will be set up between Pollmiller and South Park. Upon invitation Councilor Meierotto reported the American Legion is needing assistance for the set up and taking down of flags in St. Mary's Cemetery for Memorial Day. Upon invitation Councilor Stuekerjuergen thanked the community for supporting the Mother's Day breakfast hosted by the Fireworks Committee. On motion approved liquor license application from 4th Street Bar and Grill (with outdoor service). On motion approved Resolution No. 809-21 authorizing applying for a recreational trails grant. On motion approved urban revitalization tax exemption for Greg & Shelley

Jochims at 910 Avenue D. On motion approved urban revitalization tax exemption for Nathan & Kristine Clark at 49 Seventh Street. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of April 12, 2021 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for April 2021 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for May 2021 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m., May 11, 2020.

**EXPENDITURES FOR
APRIL 2021**

Delta Dental, premiums101.02
L J Neuweg Rental, fees65.00
Mastercard, supplies302.84
Mediacom, telephone261.65
Midamerican Energy, utilities.....83.01
Sun Life Financial, premiums.....248.13
Verizon, data plans120.03
West Point Prof Group, fees.....685.00
West Point Utilities, utilities2452.58
Jet Gas, fuel 1196.85
Menke Prof Auto, supplies77.37
Wellmark BC/BS, premiums2726.89
SYNCB/Amazon, supplies459.89
Demco Inc, supplies

.....91.46
Drake Hardware, consulting.....427.50
Micromarketing LLC, books27.98
Paul's Plumbing, repair777.22
Petty Cash, supplies18.84
Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning198.00
RICOH, copier135.99
Windstream, telephone197.32
Armstrong Small Engine, supplies72.98
Daily Democrat, publications73.72
Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash hauling47.00
Hawk Eye, subscription83.20
IMFOA, fees62.50
McFarland-Swan, supplies20.00
Baker & Taylor, books931.19
Pioneer Heritage Library, DVD2.00
Illinois Library Assoc, program298.70
Cessford Construction, rock.....646.66
City Clerk - FM, dues320.00
IAMU, dues.....581.34
Iowa Dept of Revenue, taxes223.00
U P S, fees74.14
U S Cellular, telephone66.25
U S Postal Service, postage.....20.62
Huffman Welding, supplies83.96
West Point Lumber, supplies37.78
West Point & St Paul Fire, allotment.....162.87

GRRWA, fees432.00
Wex Bank, fuel682.50

RECAPITULATION

FUND: PREV BAL, RCPTS, DSBSD, CUR BAL: Gen. Govt.: 357281.54, 126409.48, 25011.75, 458679.27; Grants: 1045.26, ---, ---, 1045.26; Cap Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---, 4127.06; Lib County: 7136.35, ---, 661.92, 6474.43; Lib Mem: 17169.15, 677.95, 1443.81, 16403.29; Hoenig Estate: 551712.24, 24.55, ---, 551736.79; Road Use: 10080.58, 25960.18, 4923.57, 31117.19; LOS: ---, 7648.03, 7648.03, ---; Sewer: 27498.49, 21273.95, 15695.31, 33077.13; Sewer Sinking: 69365.31, 7809.86, ---, 77175.17; Landfill: 259.53, ---, ---, 259.53

/s/ Paul Walker, Mayor
Attest: Diane E. Smith,
City Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE
WEST POINT UTILITY
SYSTEM
WEST POINT, IOWA
May 11th, 2020**

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at, West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa 52656 on May 11th, 2021.

Board Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Member Ted Vonderhaar was present. Board Member Brian Schmitz was absent. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. Status of delinquent accounts was discussed and considered by Board Members in detail. Field operations report, as prepared by

Utility Superintendent, was discussed by Board Members in detail.

Board Member Ted Vonderhaar approved, and Board Member Brian Schmitz seconded the approval of Resolution 201-21 'A Resolution Establishing Investment Directives for the Water Fund.'

Board Member Ted Vonderhaar approved, and Board Member Brian Schmitz seconded the approval of Resolution 202-21 'A Resolution Establishing Investment Directives for the Electric Fund'

Board Chairman was reported on the following:

The next regular Utility System Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 15th, 2021 at West Point City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of April 13th, 2021 was approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for May 2021 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m., May 11th, 2021.

**EXPENDITURES FOR
MAY 2018**

3rd GENERATION ELECTRIC - TRENCHING150.00
AGRINEED- HERBICIDE145.08
ALTORFER INC - V BELT SET.....56.66
AMAZON- FACE COVER29.99
DAILY DEMOCRAT - LEGAL PUBLICATION183.33
DELTA DENTAL - INSURANCE.....148.60
EFTPS- FED/FICA TAX TAXES4,982.30
FLETCHER REINHARDT - CONDUCTOR SUP- PORTS1,349.76
FLOYDS- TRASH PICK UP127.00
FULLENKAMP INS. - PREMIUMS64.00
HAWKEYE - ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.....83.20

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PUBLIC NOTICES

HOLTKAMP AUTO REPAIR - LP TANK,OIL29.18
 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE- PARTS205.62
 IA ASSOC OF MUN UTILITIES - SEIS-G:APR-JUNE 2021290.98
 IMFOA-2021 SPRING CONF. D. SMITH....62.50
 INDUSTRIAL MOTORS - SAW238.07
 IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE- EXCISE,CONSUMER.....3,493.00
 IOWA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION -2,178.65
 IPERS -RETIREMENT2,890.56
 MCFARLAND - OFFICE SUPPLIES19.99
 MEDIACOM - TELE / INTERNET.....241.26
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INS. - REPAIR CLAMPS1,707.65
 PETTY CASH - CAR WASH.....14.00
 RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER ASSOC5,796.00
 RESALE POWER GROUP OF IOWA - WHOLESALE ELEC52,659.75
 RICOH - COPIER / COPIES.....64.55
 SCHMITZ, BRIAN-MEETINGS.....105.00
 SKARSHAUG TESTING LAB - TESTING130.76
 SONNY'S SUPERMARKET - SUPPLIES....13.38
 STATE HYGIENIC LAB - LAB FEES13.50
 STUART C. IRBY-SERVISAVOR W/ CART4,023.83
 SUN LIFE FINANCIAL-INSURANCE120.97
 TESCO- PAGER SERVICE301.70
 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA - STATE TAX730.20
 UPS- CHARGES54.78
 US POSTAL SERVICE - MAILING.....185.65
 VAN METER - COUPLINGS164.13
 VONDERHAAR TED-MEETINGS.....80.00
 WELDING, RANDY-MEETINGS.....187.50
 WELLMARK BC/BS OF IOWA - INSURANCE2,577.55
 WEST POINT LUMBER -

SUPPLIES375.94
 WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES945.75
 WEX BANK - GASOLINE363.85
 /s/ Randy Welding, Chairman
 Attest: Dawn M. Holtkamp, Billing & Collection

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Lee County Board of Review will meet Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the South Lee County Office Building, Board Room 25 N 7th St, Keokuk, Iowa.

Agenda:
 Open Session
 Approve May 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 Hold and Rule on Oral/ Non Oral Hearings
 Adjourn

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2021
 The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Office Building, on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Matt Pflug, Ron Fedler and Garry Seyb. Present electronically was Rich Harlow.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

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

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

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to approve Resolution #2021-65. Roll call: Seyb-aye, Harlow-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution #2021-65

WHEREAS: The Board of Supervisors of Lee

County, Iowa met to consider placing load limits on selected road segments of the Lee County Road System, to enhance safety and to reduce surface and base failures.

And
 WHEREAS: This authority is granted under Iowa Code Section 321.471

And
 WHEREAS: The Board desires that the County Engineer be empowered to establish and lift, at his discretion, load limits, on specific designated roads. Travel on these roads will be load limited allowing only trucks and other commercial vehicles with a gross weight of less than the limit designated by the posted signs to travel upon them.

THEREFORE: The Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County Engineer to exercise his discretion in posting load limits of ten (10) tons on selected roads and as necessary to enhance safe travel and/or reduce base failure. These load limits shall become effective whenever the signs are erected and shall remain in effect at all times they remain erected. School busses, emergency vehicles, vehicles hauling home heating fuel to residences, vehicles hauling animal feed to a feeding yard, and commercial garbage haulers are exempt from these limitations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors, may authorize permits of exception for loads not already exempt under the previous paragraph of this resolution. Any such permit must be specific to the excepted vehicle and its load, and must bear the signature, in, of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors or County Engineer. Exception requests will be considered and approved or denied by the County Engineer. Resolved this 19th day

of April, 2021
 /s/ Matt Pflug, Chairman. Attest:/s/ Denise Fraise, County Auditor.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to approve paying \$2,000 towards paving of the First Baptist Parking Lot across the street from the Courthouse

in Keokuk. Motion carried. The County employees and customers use this parking lot frequently.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to appoint Richard Moore of Keokuk to finish out the term of a vacancy on the Conservation Board, term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to appoint John Dunlap, Janet Fife-LaFrenz and Jerry Kearns to the County Magistrate Appointing Commission for a 6 year term ending December 31, 2026. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Harlow, to allow the Sheriff's Office to fill a Correctional Officer vacancy. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve an Employment Agreement with Dennis Cosby, Lee County EMS Director. Motion carried.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to hire a part-time custodian. Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion on the Mask Mandate currently in effect for the County

Buildings. Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to continue with the mask mandate for now. Motion carried with Seyb abstaining.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, April 12, 2021 Board minutes. Motion carried.

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

Received and filed the Sheriff's Monthly Report for March 2021.

Committee Reports: Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting. Seyb reported that interviews for EMS personnel continue. He also reported on a Career Exploration Center Board meeting and a Regional

Planning Commission meeting. Pflug reported on a Conservation Board meeting.

At 9:55 a.m. a motion was made by Fedler, seconded by Seyb, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Claims paid

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April 19, 2021

Access Enrgy, svcs 1104.59
 Ace Hrdwr, splys.....82.51
 Adv Crctnl Hlth, svcs10747.02
 Alliant, svcs9337.29
 Am Hm Fndng, svcs886.35
 E Andries, exps.....3.60
 Jim Baier, svcs2449.98
 Bank/America, svcs..20.00

Barco Mncpl, splys603.88
 Bates Sntatm, svcs225.00
 E Biddenstadt, exps23.85
 J Booth, exps.....286.20
 R Braden, svcs80.00
 Ray Bradley, svcs...130.00
 Brozene Hydrlic, svcs436.51
 Buford Dozng, svcs92147.88
 Burl Hwky, publ....684.34
 CenturyLink, svcs.....62.66
 Clrk Co Shrrf, svcs ...14.20
 Commerce Bank Asphalt Paving Assoc, svcs150.00
 A Cook, exps66.60

M Cook, exps.....189.45
 Culligan, wtr.....27.99
 Dnls Jntrl, svcs4328.41
 RK Dixon, equip93.08
 Dodd Prtg, splys ...195.00
 Dnnlsln Tire, svcs ...744.00
 E Ellison, svcs3514.51
 B Fader, exps348.75
 Frstry Spplrs, svcs..193.89
 T Forseen, svcs.....2.70
 FMCH, svcs1067.00
 Galls, splys66.99
 Garner FdMart, fuel662.97
 GRRWA, svcs.....1700.00
 Grntd Cln, svcs.....2379.00
 A Hayes, exps.....99.45
 Hlth Sol, svcs.....262.50
 hibu Inc, publ143.00
 J Hudson, exps.....109.35

ICS Jail Splys, splys95.04
 Investgtns/JD, svcs101.00
 IA Brdg/Civrt, mtrl225.23
 IA Co Attys Assc, dues889.00
 IA Dpt Pblic Sfty, splys300.00
 IA St Pen, meals19579.00
 J&S Elec Bus, splys36.02
 Jays Auto, svcs.....46.73
 S Jeffries, exps.....49.50
 Jet Gas, fuel7595.87
 Jireh Inc, fuel371.38
 C Johnson, exps...315.00
 J Johnson, exps.....68.85
 Keltek, svcs.....374.00
 Kempkers, splys.....30.94
 Keo Med Equip, splys19.20
 Rvrfrnt Brdctg, publ200.00
 Kieslers Police, equip3758.80
 Kirchner Trkg, svcs225.00
 P Knustrom, exps531.45
 B Krmr-Rsbrg, exps48.60

LeeCo Adtr, trfs14200.36
 LeeCo Adtr, CtrlPur746.45
 LeeCo Treas, fees256720.36
 LeeCo Treas, costs22259.10
 P Lohf, rent.....21.00
 LouisaCo Clrk, svcs..32.51
 Lynch Dallas, svcs5694.50
 L Mehl, exps43.65
 Meyers Plmbng, svcs205.17
 MidAm Enrgy, gas497.26
 MW Grp Bnfts, svcs901.60
 O Miller, exps.....343.80
 MPH Indst, equip.....66.95
 L Mullins, exps.....23.85
 OMG MW, svcs ..33036.58
 Optum Rx, splys1097.37
 M Park, exps.....298.23
 R PttsrnRhn, exps2.25
 Pen Cty Crrmt, publ1349.98
 Prairie Farms, splys314.88
 R OHerron, unif119.51
 RedLion Rnwbl, svcs2047.20

Reg Util Svcs, svcs2101.84
 RicohUSA, splys.....17.57
 Rck Villy PT, svcs....260.00
 J Saunders, exps..128.70
 T Schroeder, exps ..52.65
 Shred-It, splys.....73.78
 T Smith, exps.....800.00
 Spnsr Prgm Acct, svcs12426.72
 Stalker radar, equip52.00
 Stericycle, svcs.....935.88
 R Swainey, exps.....29.25
 TMobile, svcs76.14
 Tallgrass Bus, splys54.28
 M Terhune, exps ...505.80
 TriSt Crt Rpr, svcs ..253.00
 US Bnk Equip, svcs221.59
 VB Co Shrrf, svcs47.62
 VMtr Instrl, splys.....32.64
 J Vradenburg, exps28.80
 L Wallingford, svcs340.72
 J Wessel, exps462.60
 T Wilson, exps128.70
 Windstream, svcs....255.51
 Yng Hse Fmly Svcs, svcs1446.15
 B Zinnert, exps588.15

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From the Front/Opinion

Supervisors move to end mask mandate

MASKS - Continued from Page 1

out of state being on the border of two other states, to get vaccinated. Chair Matt Pflug said he was vaccinated in Hamilton, Ill., across the river from Keokuk.

"I would like the public to know that those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to use those personal protective measures we've been promoting all along," she said. "And those vaccinated but immuno-compromised should consult with health care provider."

Ross said the Centers for Disease Control updated guidance last week loosening recommendations for face coverings at outdoor events and certain indoor events.

"We still need to work together protecting everyone," she said. "The CDC did come out with these recommendations. It was a little quick I think and without a little warning that it was coming out. Local public health is working with the state to see how we should continue working with communities based on our numbers that we are still keeping an eye on."

Lee County Recorded Nancy Booten said she was still "a little leery". Booten's office is in the north Lee County office building.

"I would go with what you say, but I'm still going to wear my mask," Booten said.

Lee County Treasurer Chris Spann, who has offices in both the north and south Lee County office buildings said she won't be wearing her mask all the time.

Ross said those who've been vaccinated should feel a little more confident, but there is still concern for exposure.

"I'd like to see (vaccination rates) higher before people are just feeling they are just fine," Ross said.

"Those vaccinated should feel a little bit more comfortable, but my concern is if businesses start dropping mask (requirements), those that aren't vaccinated are going to be at risk of possibly being exposed. So make good decisions and choices for yourself.

"It's important for people to realize that even though we might be coming out on the other side of this, we do have to stay vigilant."

She said there isn't a shortage of vaccines so anyone 16 and over who wants a vaccine locally can get one.

"The problems is there is hesitancy on some people's part to take the vaccine. I would encourage those hesitant or with concerns to talk with their health care providers or local health department. These are effective and that's why CDC is changing recommendations," Ross said.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said the plexiglass barriers that were put up at the outset of the pandemic will probably stay up permanently.

OPINION

CDC needs to update guidance to allow for children summer camps

This year, due to unnecessary guidelines restrict-

ing outdoor activities, many children will be stuck inside when they should be outdoors in the sunlight playing, learning new skills, making friends, and enjoying their childhoods.

This is not only important for their mental health but also their physical health and enhancing their immune system. Attending summer camps is a huge part of this growth.

Earlier this week, the New York Times reported that the CDC had "hugely exaggerated" their guidelines by saying that less than 10% of COVID-19 transmission occurs outdoors and that the actual estimate of outdoor transmission is somewhere between 0.1% to 1%.

We have known for quite a long time that the risk of transmitting COVID-19 outside is small. And in Iowa, there was not a requirement to wear masks outdoors; however, physical separation and maintaining small group size was encouraged.

Iowa is home to several great summer camps including Forest Lake Baptist Camp in my home county; Hertko Hollow, a camp for children with diabetes; and Camp Courageous, a camp specifically for children with disabilities.

Due to shelter-at-home orders and school closures, the numbers of youth depression, anxiety, attempted suicides, suicide, increased drug use and hospitalizations have continued to increase despite the decrease in new COVID cases, hospitalizations, and mortality rates. A staggering report from the CDC found from March to October 2020, mental health-related emergency department visits from adolescents had



MILLER-MEEKS

increased 31% from the same time in 2019.

As a doctor, former President of the Iowa Medical Society, and former Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I have addressed the severity of COVID-19 and have been a strong and consistent advocate for all three

of the safe and effective vaccines developed through Operation Warp Speed, and just finished attending and administering vaccines at clinics in all 24 counties in my district.

We can see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, and as the number of Americans who are vaccinated continues to grow, coupled with those who have natural immunity from having the disease, I expect to see a return to normalcy and pre-pandemic life very soon. A return to normal includes allowing our kids to be kids.

With the CDC's new mask and distancing guidance, I would urge them to update their summer camp guidance immediately so that our children can have the experience and opportunities they deserve this summer.

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, a resident of Ottumwa, represents Iowa's Second District in the United States

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Business News/From the Front

Legit debate exists in ending federal jobless benefits

GRADS - Continued from Page 1

time, has heaps of that stuff and may not realize it yet.

I didn't take pictures this time. I usually do, but I went thinking of sunflowers, a new cellphone wallpaper of a 10-year-old Kelsey cheek-to-cheek with dad, and how I won't see her graduate college this year.

But thanks to Dr. Mike Maher of Counseling Associates in Fort Madison, a guy I hedged on mentioning by name out of respect to him, I didn't cry today and I continue to write today. He deserves the mention.

Yes, I see a therapist. Two years ago, not only would I never have thought I would need to have someone untangle the cerebral knots that were blocking out my sun, but I also would have never admitted it.

Grieving is a wicked thing and I know I will grieve for the rest of my life. It's a tough lesson that comes in daily snippets and chapters, friends and readers. Tom Gendron, Stacy Weber and Derek Doherty and many others that have "just checked in" on me for the past 16 months, are all part of the unlacing in my head.

On Saturday I did my best to not dominate Natalie's time. She came up to me after getting a majority of the receiving line emptied and showed me her mortarboard. A message of optimism was adorned with Kelsey's favorite sunflowers. A belt of the Irish whiskey kept the emotion from creeping up into my Adam's apple.

I squeezed her and she told me the hat made my wife cry, but she made amends with a hug and kiss on the Lee's cheek. My niece felt bad for the tears - she should have felt great. She's repeatedly helped keep Kelsey's memory alive.

The two were good friends and Kelsey was fiercely protective of her cousin. Most of the time from afar, but Natalie was never far from Kelsey's thoughts.

So I sit on this day and wonder about these young ladies future with all the wonderment, anticipation, and fear that comes with looking ahead.

We live in a world where we're trying to come out of the pandemic and get back to life.

Natalie wants to be a teacher, which is extremely brave

considering she's celebrating the end of her high school career, only to go back to school for four more years, so she can go... back to school. This is where I have to stop pondering out loud about my niece's and nephew's future. It ticks my brother off.

I guess the point of this rambling is simple. The future may not be scary for these girls, but it's certainly a time of apprehension and maybe a little anxiety of what lies beyond this summer.

For Syd and Nat and many just like them, it's college and work, friends and parties, love and life. That may seem like a lot, but in reality it's just steps out a door. Unmapped steps.

All the best girls.

Have fun and follow your own breeze. But occasionally turn your head in the direction of those who may carry your future in their past. After all, we've taken our steps, too.

I got a lot of requests this week to write on the workforce and Gov. Kim Reynolds' shutting the door on federal unemployment benefit programs. I kicked that around a bit and couldn't find an LZ. We definitely need to safely get back to work and stop relying on federal tax dollars to pay our bills, Especially with so many employers needing help right now. I think the social implications of unemployment on steroids will have lingering effects.

But there's a legitimate debate in whether the issue is - are people being lazy and not going back to work thinking the government is paying them more to stay home, or as I've said before, did the federal government just establish a living wage and we're in a proletariat protest of sorts?

If they said you need this much money plus this much more money to live your lives while you can't work, the federal government kind of set the bar... and it ain't \$7.25 an hour.

But that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

Hy-Vee now offering vaccinations to youth ages 12 and up

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (May 13, 2021) — Hy-Vee, Inc. announces today that all Hy-Vee pharmacy locations are now administering free COVID-19 vaccines to individuals ages 12 to 15, per the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recent approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for this age group. Hy-Vee has been offering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to individuals 16 and older for several weeks.

Minors must have parental or guardian consent in order to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Hy-Vee asks that a parent or guardian accompany minors to both their first and second dose COVID-19 vaccinations. Individuals can walk in to receive the vaccine, or make an appointment in advance online.

For those who prefer to make a vaccine appointment in advance, they can visit www.hy-vee.com/covidvaccine, select "Find Appointments" and complete the digital vaccine informed consent form and appointment selection. COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone, regardless of whether they have insurance or Medicare Part B coverage.

Strunk takes over HTC's early childhood program

FORT MADISON - Holy Trinity Catholic Schools is pleased to announce that Mrs. Savannah Strunk has accepted the role of Early Childhood Centers Director effective July 1, 2021. Mrs. Stefanie Drollinger, the current Early Childhood Centers Director will take on a new role at Holy Trinity as a kindergarten teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Strunk has been an outstanding Child Care Supervisor at the Holy Trinity Early Childhood Center in Fort Madison since 2016. She has her degree in Elementary Education. She is looking forward to this opportunity and is pleased to uphold the high standards of care and education that children receive in child care, preschool, pre-kindergarten, and school age care.

Holy Trinity Catholic Schools operates two Early Childhood Centers; one in Ft. Madison that offers programs for children 2-10 years of age. The other center is in West Point and offers programs for ages 3-5.

Lee County Health Department Drive-thru COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic

Tuesday, May 18
4:00pm-7:00pm

First Christian Church
3476 Main Street, Keokuk

Saturday, May 22
8:00am-Noon

Lee County Health Department
#3, John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison

No appointment necessary

Moderna & Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be available

The vaccine is **FREE** to anyone 18 years and older.

Paperwork is located on LCHD website (www.leecountyhd.org). Everyone is encouraged to have paperwork filled out prior to arriving at the clinic.

For more information visit www.leecountyhd.org or the LCHD Facebook page.

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