PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, January 22, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 5 • Issue 24



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HOUNDS LIKE TO DUAL



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison's Will Larson gets tucked in behind Keokuk's Levi Boudewyn in the 145 lb. match Thursday night in the Hound Dome. The Hounds won the meet 52-22 and are a perfect 4-0 in conference duals and 12-1 overall. See SPORTS inside for more photos and the full story.

VACCINE UPDATE

LCHD readies as state moves next phase to 65 and over

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

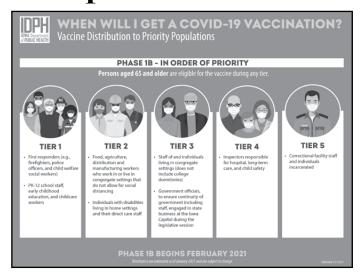
FORT MADISON – Iowa health officials have moved Phase 1B of COVID vaccine rollouts to include Iowans 65 and older, per a Centers for Disease Control recommendation made 10 days ago.

Governor Kim Reynolds made the announcement today as part of a press conference to update the state's vaccine protocols and numbers.

Before Reynolds had finished the presser, Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross issued an updated statement indicating that those in the county 65 and older should be calling LCHD to get on their list of eligible people to receive the vaccine.

The LCHD release is printed in it's entirety below. Lee County Health Department was informed by the state health department at 11:00 am today that persons aged 65 and older will now also be included in Iowa's phase 1B for COVID-19 vaccinations. Phase 1B will start in February 2021.

"LCHD is happy to adjust our local vaccination plans



and will be prepared to include this age group in future scheduling" says Michele Ross, Administrator of LCHD. Currently LCHD has a growing list of over 800 people who have called with their contact information and waiting for an appointment. We will now accept infor-

See **LCHD**, page 2

FACILITY STUDY

School wraps community panels

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Community School district wrapped up a series of four community virtual panels to discuss the district's proposed facility upgrade, on Thursday afternoon.

The scenario currently being proposed is to move all PreK -6th grade into the Fort Madison Middle School with \$10.3 million in additions and site work. Seventh and eighth grade students would be moved into the current Fort Madison High School with \$41.1 million in additions, renovations, site work, and physical needs.

All of the middle school work and \$14.7 million of the high school work

See SCHOOL, page 8

BUDGETS

LCEDG's Fraise earns MEDP certificate

LEE COUNTY – Dennis Fraise, President and CEO of Lee County Economic Development Group recently



FRAISE

completed the two-week
Advanced Economic
Development Leadership executive education
program and was awarded the Master Economic
Development Practitioner
(MEDP) certificate from
the four AEDL partner

universities.

AEDL is a collaboration of Clemson University, The University of Southern Mississippi, Texas Christian University, and the University of New Mexico. These four universities are committed

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From the Front

LCHD says get on list, despite vaccines trickling in

LCHD - Continued from Page 1

mation from those who are 65 years of age and older.

It is important to understand however, that LCHD will only schedule appointments by number of vaccines on hand each week starting in February. We estimate having 200 doses the first week in February therefore only 200 appointments will be scheduled from our call back list. We will schedule appointments every week by the number of vaccines on hand. As weekly vaccine supply increases, other vaccinators in the county will also assist with our campaign.

We will be following a tiered approach throughout all of phase 1B. We ask that everyone please be patient and as vaccine supplies increase, more people or groups will be scheduled accordingly. The infographic further explains this process.

Reynolds said Iowa is currently getting 19,500 vaccines per week, but hopes to have an increase in doses available in the coming weeks.

She said all the state's long-term care centers and assisted living facilities will be vaccinated by the end of the month. However she wasn't clear if that was fully vaccinated with both doses. Montrose Health Center didn't receive vaccinations until last week, so staff and residents there couldn't be ready for the booster injection for a minimum of three weeks, well into February.

Positivity ratings for the virus in Iowa have

steadily dropped over the past several weeks with a current 14-day positivity rate statewide of 11.2% and a 7-day of just 8.4%.

Hospitalizations are down with just 86 Iowans in ICU beds and 74% of those, according to Reynolds are older than 60.

A bill is currently in front of the legislature to mandate in-person learning at Iowa schools. The staff for K-12 schools are included in the tier system for Phase 1B, but Reynolds said she couldn't guarantee vaccinations for that population before in-class

learning is required, because she doesn't know what the supply looks like.

"I can't guarantee that because I don't know what we'll get in the way of vaccines. They are in Tier 1, but there are no guarantees because they can't guarantee me what we will get," Reynolds said.

Reynolds was asked why government officials and staff at the Capitol were moved up in the priority for vaccinations into Phase 1B and Reynolds said many would be caught in the other tiers, but they were moved up due to concerns over continuity of government.

Those working in the Capitol are still not required to wear masks.

The Governor also announced a new round of relief efforts for restaurants and bars. Through the Iowa Economic Development Authority the state will be offering \$40 million in new grants. The application window will open through the IEDA on Feb. 1 and close Feb. 15. Reynolds said more information will be coming on the program next week.

Grants will be available for up to \$25,000 tiered based on the percentage of lost sales in quarters 2 and 3 of 2020.

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Current-Lee/From the Front

Jobless claims dip more than 1,800 last week

DES MOINES - The number of initial unemployment claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, Jan. 10, and Saturday, Jan. 16, was 6,785, a decrease of 581 from last week's adjusted numbers. There were 6,115 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 670 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state. The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims was 46,694, a decrease of 1,859 from the previous week. November through February are typically the months IWD sees the most unemployment claims, driven by increased claims in construction, agriculture, landscaping and manufacturing due to seasonal layoffs. For the week ending Jan. 16, 2021, nearly 63.6% of claimants indicated their claims were not COVID-19 related, which is a decrease from 68.3% the previous week.

The U.S. Department of Labor adjusted last week's initial claim number to 7,366 (a decrease of 272) and continuing claims to 48,553 (a decrease of 898 for a total decrease of 1,170 overall). Iowa Workforce Development relies upon the weekly data released by the U.S. Department of Labor to report its numbers and as such, adopts the revisions to the previously published data.

IowaWORKS Centers are not providing in-person services. Customers are encouraged to log onto <u>IowaWORKS.gov</u> or the mobile application to continue their work search activities. Further assistance can also be received by visiting the website or calling customer service.

On Dec. 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021, reauthorizing and extending the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program. IWD has received the implementing guidance for these programs from the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), and is distributing payments to eligible claimants. There is no need to call or reapply for these programs. The CAA also created the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. IWD has received the implementing guidance from the USDOL for the MEUC program, and is working on the extensive system programming needed to distribute payments to eligible claimants. More information about the MEUC program will be provided on the IWD website as it becomes available. Please call customer service only if you have questions about filing for unemployment benefits. Claimants who have questions about their claim status or benefit payments should email uiclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov.





CURRENT-LEE

Dream Builder Class

The class designed for aspiring entrepreneurs starts on Feb. 3. Applications can be submitted at http://bit.ly/dreambuilderlee or by calling the Keokuk Area Chamber of Commerce at 319-524-5055. Cost is \$120 per person and is fully reimbursable by Climax Molybdenum to all participants who graduate the program.

Legislative Luncheon

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce's first legislative luncheon of 2021 will be held Friday Jan. 22 at noon virtually. You can register at the following link: https://bit.ly/leeleg. Scheduled to be on the virtual meeting are State Sen. Jeff Reichman (R-Montrose), State Rep. Martin Graber (R-FM) and State Rep. Joe Mitchell (R-Wayland). The event starts at noon.

Owl Prowl

Lee County Naturalist Clay Steele will stroll through Pollmiller Park on Sat. Jan. 30 beginning at 6:30 p.m. for a nocturnal hike looking for Iowa's owls. Pre-registration is not necessary and hikers will gather at the first shelter parking lot. Call 319-463-7673 for information.

"The Queen of BINGO"

The Old Fort Players will take to the stage for the first time since the pandemic with The Queen of Bingo. Feb. 5-7 and 12-14. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday matinees. Visit www.oldfortplayers.com for additional details.

Wacky Wednesday

A craft day at the Fort Madison Public Library on Jan. 27, 2021 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



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Certificate shows mastery of AEDL

FRAISE - Continued from Page 1

to excellence in economic development and advancing the knowledge, skills, and application of key job creation strategies in America's cities, communities, and counties.

"The AEDL program was challenging and a real opportunity to learn from some of the best economic developers in the United States. We were challenged by the faculty to think strategically, creatively, and to challenge the conventional ways of doing economic development," Fraise said.

AEDL is an immersive and challenging program with an experiential curriculum that enhances key skills necessary for leading successful community and economic development strategies. Led by an experienced world-class faculty, AEDL program topics include negotiation strategies; retail and commercial development; personal/professional development; navigating the new normal in the world of COVID; communications and media relations; marketing in a social media environment; strategic planning & application; successful teamwork; attracting new industry and entrepreneurship.

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Sports

Hounds overcome early losses to take Keokuk 52-22

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON – The Bloodhounds like to dual.

The Fort Madison wrestlers are 12-1 on the year in dual meets, the only loss coming in the early part of the year at a Missouri dual invitational. They are 4-0 in conference matchups with one remaining at Burlington for the Southeast Conference championship.

Thursday was no exception as the Bloodhounds rolled Keokuk 52-22 in the Hound Dome.

The key matchup of the night was at 126 lbs that started things off when 2020 state qualifier Owen Kruse went up against Class 2A's No. 7 Tate O'Shea.

O'Shea set the tone early with a takedown for a 2-0 lead just 12 seconds into the match. Kruse would escape for a point, but at the halfway point of the first O'Shea would get him to the mat again for a 4-1 lead after one.

O"Shea would get Kruse down again at 1:47 of the second, but no other points would be scored as the two wrestled through the second.

Kruse couldn't get anything going against the Chief in the 3rd. Shea scored a takedown and a nearfall for 11-1 lead, but Kruse fought off the pin suffering a 10-1 decision.

"That was their best kid. He's 26-1," Smith said. "He's a good kid and sometimes you gotta give the other guy credit. But Owen's there... it was a tough opponent. Owen's OK."

Keokuk's Alejandro Morales then scored a pin over the Bloodhound's Brock Califf for a quick 10-0 lead. But the Hounds had seen enough at that point.

Class 3A No. 10 Gavin Wiseman had the advantage with Xavier Johnson at 138 for most of the first and second periods building a 12-2 lead before getting the Chief's shoulders to the mat a minute into the 2nd to cut Keokuk's lead to 10-6.

Will Larson stepped in with Keokuk's Levi Boudewyn at 138 and had the upper hand most of the time, despite Boudewyn having the lower toe. Boudewyn didn't let go of Larson's foot for most of the match, so Larson took what he was given and rolled around for most of the match scoring a takedown and a reversal in the final period for a 13-2 major decision to make it 10-10.

"I want him to score more points, but at the same time, you gotta get the win first and try to find a pin along the way. Overall, he played it safe and got the job done," Smith said.

Teague Smith would get a win on a forfeit at 152 and then Mason Schau worked a pin at 160 lbs in one of his most efficient matches of the year, pushing the Hounds to a 22-10 lead.

Schau said he's been battling a physical issue with a nerve, but said he's thinks he's wrestling well and ready for districts in three weeks at Iowa City West.

"At this point I think I'm doing pretty well, I have to heal up a bit," he said.

"I definitely have some room to improve, but I'm ready for districts. I'm ready for it to be now."

Smith said Schau looked good in his win.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mason Schau gets a mat slap from the official as he cradles Keokuk's Dakota Haage at the :47 mark of the 1st period. The Hounds won the dual 52-22 and are one win away from the Southeast Conference title.

"He wrestled smart and stayed on the attack. I think he was pretty determined tonight"

Brandt Booten got a rare dual varsity start at 170 filling in for Ike Thacher and made the most of the night. Booten patiently waited in an uneventful match until the third period and then seized the moment shooting in a grabbing the leg of Zack Glasscock, and sealing the deal with a takedown on the way to 4-0 win to

put the Hounds up 26-10.

Austin Ensminger would work a pin at 182, Levi Lowney would win by forfeit and then Daniel Sokolik would score a fall at 220 lbs over Aydan O'Connor for a commanding 43-10 lead.

"I have confidence in him getting the job done," Smith said. "It's sometimes a matter of them getting confidence in themselves, and that was a good chance for him to see he could do it." Jorday Salyers would grab up the Hounds' Nathan Leasch at 285 in the first period and pull him down for a pin at about the halfway mark to give Keokuk six more

At 106 Henry Wiseman would score at tight 4-0 decision over Rylee Moore, Emmett Kruse won by forfeit at 113 for the Hounds' 52 points. Keokuk's Nolan Riddle would score a pin over Matthew Steffensmeier at 120.

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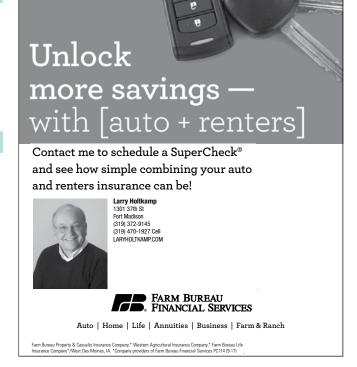
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. D-071

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 9, TRAFFIC, CHAPTER 7, STANDING,
STOPPING, PARKING, SECTION 6, PARKING PROHIBITED OF THE CODE OF
THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, SO AS TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE
OF AVENUE E, FROM 2nd TO 26th STREET

Be it Enacted by the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Fort Madison does hereby amend Title 9, Chapter 7, Section 6 of the Code, entitled "Parking Prohibited" by adding the following:

Street	<u>Side</u>	<u>Area</u>
Avenue E	South	2nd Street to 26th

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Fort Madison does hereby amend Title 9, Chapter 7, Section 6 of the Code, entitled "Parking Prohibited" by removing the following:

Street	<u>Side</u>	<u>Area</u>
Avenue E	South	From a point 51 feet west of the centerline of 13th Street, east to the west right of way line of 13th Street
Avenue E	South	From 13th Street to a point 150 feet west
Avenue E	South	From 24th Street to 26th Street

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any section, provision, or part thereof not judged invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be in effect on February 1, 2021, following it's final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council this 5th day of January 5, 2021.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. D-072

AN ORDINANCE
VACATING A PORTION
OF RIGHT-OF-WAY
LOCATED BETWEEN
2601 AVENUE L AND
DRY CREEK

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Fort Madison does hereby vacate a portion of the right-of-way in the 3500 Block of Avenue L, in the City of Fort Madison, described as:

Being a portion of undeveloped 26th Street (formerly Frederichs Avenue), lying between Block #2 and Block #5 of Frederichs Addition and between Avenue "L" (formerly Keokuk Road) and Avenue "J" (formerly Webster Street) in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa, and being more particularly de-

scribed as follows: Commencing, as a point of reference, at the Northeast Corner of Lot #1 in said Block #2; thence Southerly along the Westerly line of said 26th Street 127.34 feet to a point 92.99 feet Northerly of the Northerly line of Avenue "L" as now established and the point of beginning of the following described tract of land; thence Southeasterly 22.41 feet to a point 14.92 feet perpendicular distant Easterly from the Westerly line of said 26th Street; thence Southeasterly 9.34 feet to a point 17.00 feet perpendicular distant Easterly from the Westerly line of said 26th Street: thence Southerly 66.29 feet on a line parallel with the Westerly line of said 26th Street to a point on the Northerly line of said Avenue "L'; thence Westerly 17.02 feet along said Northerly line to a point on the Westerly line of said 26th Street; thence Northerly 92.99 feet along the Westerly line of said 26th Street to the point of beginning, containing 0.03 acres (1404.43 square feet), more or less, being subject to easements of record or by prescription.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND AP-PROVED by the City Council this 19th day of January, 2021.

/s/Rusty Andrews, Mayor Pro Tem

City of Fort Madison, Iowa

ATTEST:

/s/Melinda L. Blind, City

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORK SESSION
February 1, 2021
6:00 P.M.
AGENDA

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum

II. Recognition of guests
III. Approve the agenda
IV. Ad Hoc Committee
discussion

V. Announcements February 15, 2021, no school – President's Day February 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Public Hearing, Board Room, Central

February 16, 2021, 6:05 p.m., Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office

VI. Adjourn

Office

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING NOTICE

The Green Bay Levee & Drainage District will hold a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 28, 2021, at Heartland Co-op, east of Wever.

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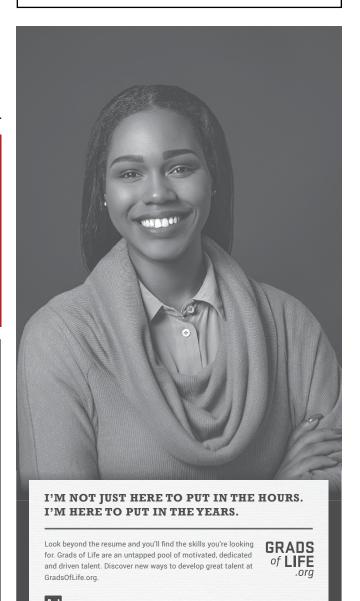


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PEN CITY CURRENT



From the Front

District would need additional financing to finish Phase 2

SCHOOL - Continued from Page 1

would be done the first phase of the project. That would be funded with the \$8.8 million of the current voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, and about \$16 million from an extension of the SAVE funds through 2051.

This phase would require no additional tax burden on district tax payers.

The second phase, which includes the remainder of the high school work, would require additional

Options for that funding would be a possible third extension of the SAVE funds by the state, another voted PPEL levy, a general obligation bond, or the district's cash reserves – or a combination of options.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said everything would be on the table at that point, including another shot at a general obligation bond, which would be for approximately \$26.5 million.

District voters have shot down the previous four attempts at g.o. bond referendums due in part to the state's requirement for a super-majority of 60%+1.

"The voted PPEL and SAVE money would fund phase 1. And then once phase 1 is conplete, or maybe

throughout phase 1, we will re-examine district finances to see what opportunities there are for funding We take pride in providing the best service and repair to our customers! Join them in choosing us for your automotive needs in 2021 and Experience the Difference of high quality, transparent auto repair and service! OIL CHANGE SPECIAL **\$10 OFF** Any Oil Change Brake Check
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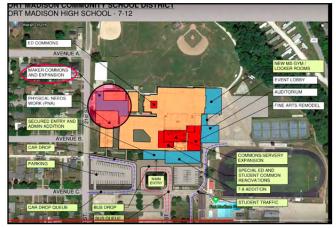
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in phase 2," Slater said.

"It could be a g.o. bond or other finances of those categories. This would be a couple years out so we need to see where our district finances are then, and at that point everything will be on the table to fund

Slater said the district will be able to function in the PreK-6th grade and 7-12 models within Phase 1.

"Everything needed for the transition to PreK-6 and 7-12 for programs and learning space is accomplished in Phase 1," she said.

Slater said she feels the enhanced facilities study and the ad hoc committees considerations have yielded a scenario that is better than building a new elementary, which has been the focus of the last refer-

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The ad hoc committee will be making a presentation to the school board on Feb. 1. The board will then vote on the project at it's March 15 meeting, 13 days after voters have decided on a Revenue Purpose Statement ballot, March 2.

If approved with 50%+1 majority, the RPS will give the district the capability to issue bonds against the 1-cent SAVE tax funds through 2051. Currently, the district's control over those funds ends in 2031.

The district will still receive the funds from the state, but must use the funds in state mandated priorites, which do include facility improvements.

The ad-hoc committee has been meeting for two months going over data produced by the facilities assessment and pared down six different scenarios.

Committee member Joni Mclees said she got on the board to help get the new elementary built, but now sees this as a better option for the district.

"I went into this committee focused on getting that elementary built out there by the Middle School. And through this process I learned so much, and I'm almost thankful that it forced us to focus on everything and come up with this better solution."

Slater said she sees the new idea as a better alternative to a new elementary school.

"This is a better solution. If you asked me that a couple years ago, I wouldn't have said that," Slater said.

"The Prek-3 option didn't allow for anything to happen at the High School or Middle School. This impacts improvements for every child in this district. We aren't settling – this is a better plan based on data."

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