

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 93



www.pencitycurrent.com

City watching ambulance bids

FIRE CHIEF: Herren wants city to consider own ambulance service

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison city officials are watching closely the movement of a panel making recommendations on county ambulance services.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Fort Madison City Council, held by tele-and video conference, Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said the city needs to monitor that progress carefully.

"I have a lot of concerns from a city perspective," Bowker said. "The bids they received from (American Medical Response) was looking at 400,000 some dollars and I have some reliability concerns if the county starts to go for that.

It's something to watch closely."

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren said he wasn't on a Thursday meeting call with the committee the Lee County Board of Supervisor's assembled, but said he too believes the city should keep an eye on that situation.

Herren said he believes the council should also "keep on the burner" the idea of the city establishing its own ambulance service.

"We need to keep looking at this," he said. "And keep it on the burner to look at providing ambulance service for the city ourselves because of the way the bids are. We have some concerns with it."

See COUNCIL, page 4

CORONAVIRUS

State passes 200 deaths from COVID

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – As the state surpasses 200 deaths from the COVID-19 illness, Gov. Kim Reynolds said parts of eastern Iowa are starting to see a decline in trends.

At Tuesday's daily press conference at the state's Emergency Operations Center, Reynolds said despite increase case counts in some of the 77 counties, the state is looking at trends.

"We're looking at trends and not just a snapshot in time, so you'll see some things are starting to even decline on the eastern side of the state because of how they entered into it and hit their peak," she said. "And they're starting to trend down."

Lee County has reached 16 cases, but hasn't had an additional confirmed case in three days. Des Moines County has 21 positive cases and one death confirmed. Henry County has 37 confirmed positives and one death. Jefferson and Van Buren counties have a combined 14 positive cases and haven't had a confirmed case in more than a week.

Reynolds says as the state moves into the recovery phase, they can mitigate spikes by the county, community or even zip code.

"It might mean we don't have to do anything other than educate Iowans."

The state also released the names of facility outbreaks, something they've declined to do in the past, as manufacturers, specifically processing plants, also have declined to provided data to the public as to the number of employees having tested positive to the coronavirus.

Iowa Department of Public Health Deputy Director Sarah Reissetter, said the Tyson plant in Columbus Junction has had 221 positive cases or 26% of the workforce there, while the Tyson plant in Perry has had 730 employees or 58% of their workforce test positive. Tyson in Waterloo has had 444 cases or 17%

See REYNOLDS, page 6

Lee County Bank goes solar

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Bank is excited to announce that the Main Bank location at 801 Avenue F in Fort Madison is now utilizing solar energy. Mohrfeld Solar aka Mohrfeld Electric, Inc. was contracted for the solar project. The project started back in September of 2019 as the process included a lengthy number of tasks to be completed.

During the winter months, the project was

See BANK, page 6



Courtesy photo

A drone view from over the top of Lee County Bank shows the two new carports with solar panel roofs that will produce about 90% of the bank's energy needs.

KEOKUK NEWS

DCI task force makes arrest in 2004 Keokuk murder

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – In April of 2017, the Division of Criminal Investigation's (DCI) Major Crime Unit and the Keokuk Police Department reopened the investigation into the June 2004 death of Bonnie Callahan, 73, of Keokuk.

On June 15, 2004, family members reported Callahan missing. Later in the day, Callahan's body was found along the bank of the Mississippi River in Keokuk. The circumstances surrounding Callahan's death were considered suspicious. The investigation identified Nathaniel Leo Ridnour, 34, as a suspect

in Callahan's homicide.

The Keokuk Police Department and the DCI's Major Crime Unit provided an updated case briefing to the Lee County Attorney's Office and the Iowa Attorney General's Office (Area Prosecution).

See MURDER, page 4

INDEX

Business Directory.....	P.5
BUSINESS NEWS.....	P.6
CLASSIFIEDS.....	P.6
EDUCATION NEWS.....	P.4
Edward Jones – Tony Fullenkamp.....	P.6
Fort Madison Community Hospital.....	P.3
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....	P.6
FROM THE FRONT.....	Ps.4,6
Fullenkamp Insurance.....	P.6
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....	P.2
HEALTH NEWS.....	P.6

IOWA NEWS.....	P.6
JDRF.org.....	P.6
Jeff Reichman for Iowa Senate.....	P.6
Lee County Bank.....	P.4
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....	P.4
LOCAL NEWS.....	Ps.4,6
OBITUARIES.....	P.2,3
• Edward L. Dodds, 75	
• Delmar J. Hirschler, 89	
• Darla J. Newberry, 78	
• Linda C. Uchida, 79	

OPINION.....	P.6
Sonny's Super Market.....	P.3
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....	P.2
Tri-State Outdoor Products.....	P.2

WEATHER

WED 06 May.....	Light Rain, 59.9° F / 45.9° F
THU 07 May.....	Light Rain, 63.1° F / 51.1° F
FRI 08 May.....	Light Rain, 54.2° F / 37.9° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/04.....	15 20 22 37 48, Lucky Ball: 11
PICK 3 05/04 MIDDAY.....	6 9 1
PICK 3 05/04 EVENING.....	7 2 5
PICK 4 05/04 MIDDAY.....	19 6 6
PICK 4 05/04 EVENING.....	9 1 3 1

SUBSCRIBE

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



Obituaries

DELMAR J. HIRSCHLER

Delmar John Hirschler, 89, of rural Donnellson, passed away at 11:15 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2020 at his daughter's home.

He was born June 3, 1930, the son of Erwin G. and Viola C.(Klingler) Hirschler in Keokuk, Iowa. On September 10, 1950 he married Shirley L. Sawin at the home of Glen and Irene Sawin. She preceded him in death.

Survivors include his children: Jennifer (Edward) Crompton of Iowa City, Iowa, Janice (Jerry) McCarty of Donnellson, Iowa, Jill (Kevin) McCabe of New London, Iowa, and Jay D. (Nancy Carroll) Hirschler of Donnellson, Iowa; eight grandchildren: Christopher (Sara) Anderson, Jeremy (April) McCarty, Jaime (Jason) Mueller, Jared (Selah) McCarty, Marcus (Shawna) McCabe, Erin (Joe) Garvey, Josh (Callie) Hirschler, and Jason (Alisa) Hirschler; twenty-five great grandchildren; sister-in-law: Deanna Fuger; and special friend: Jeanne Frueh.

He was preceded in death by parents; wife; daughter in infancy: Jane Louise; grandson: Jacob Hirschler; and brother-in-law: Val Fuger.

Delmar was member of the Zion Mennonite Church in Donnellson. He was graduate of Donnellson High School and served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1951- 1953. He was a life long farmer farming on his family's Century Farm.

A private family service will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 with Pastor Suzanne Ford officiating.

Burial will be at the Zion Mennonite Cemetery, rural Donnellson.

A memorial has been established in his memory for the Zion Mennonite Cemetery or Zion Mennonite Church.

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

LINDA C. UCHIDA

Linda Carolyn Uchida, 79, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away Saturday, May 2, 2020 at LaHarpe Davi-er Health Care Center.



UCHIDA

Linda was born on March 4, 1941 in Burlington, Iowa, the daughter of George and Virginia (Gracey) Kaminski. She married Victor Uchida in 1971.

She was a 1959 graduate of Dallas City Community High School where she was a cheerleader. Following high school, she moved to Chicago where she graduated from the Tabulation Institute of Chicago. She later moved to Oklahoma and eventually settled in Studio City, CA where she worked as the office administrator of South Valley Radiology. Following her retirement, she lived in Las Vegas before returning home to Dallas City.

Linda was a passionate and fiercely independent person. She made friends easily and kept them for a lifetime. She had a razor-sharp wit and laughed easily. She especially loved a double entendre. Linda was extremely generous, wrote terrific letters, never forgot a birthday, and was the best gift-giver. She loved traveling, having visited Hawaii and the Caribbean. She took cruises and toured Egypt and the castles of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. She rubbed elbows with celebrities (including friend, Lee Majors.) Linda lived an exciting life full of travels, adventures, husbands, and friends but her heart always remained in Dallas City. She had a special fondness for our castles.

Survivors include one brother, Gary (Yvonne) Kaminski; one sister, Jan Kaminski; one nephew, Jamie (Tami) Kaminski; one niece, Kristin Kaminski; two great-nieces, Kayla and Katie Kaminski; one great-nephew, Cooper Kaminski, and one very special aunt, Shirley Gracey, all of Dallas City, Illinois.

Linda was preceded in death by her husband; parents; one son, Mark Bjornsen; and her beloved dogs Georgie Girl and Cheetah Uchida.

A private inurnment will be held in the Harris Cemetery, Dallas City. Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City is assisting the family.



2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



Ft. Madison Main Office:
2092 303rd Ave
Fort Madison, IA
1-319-372-6140

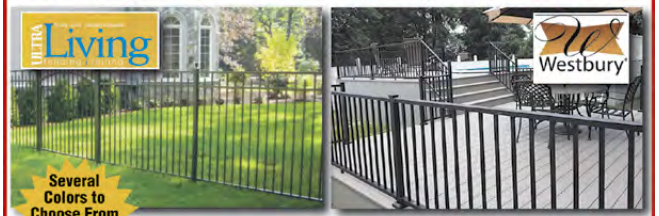
Keokuk Transfer Station:
111 Carbide Lane
Keokuk, IA
1-319-524-6175

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Westbury Aluminum Railing & Ultra Aluminum Fence

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

Maintenance Free • Lifetime Warranty • Powder Coated



Tri State Outdoor Products LLC

Hours: Monday - Friday 9-5 and Saturday 8-Noon
Located 16 miles S. of Mt. Pleasant or 7 miles N. of Donnellson on Hwy. 218
(319) 469-3636 • www.tristateoutdoorproducts.com

STABLE. PREDICTABLE.

That's what you can expect from a Wellmark Medicare supplement plan.

Call today to find coverage that's right for you.

319-372-5201



Tony Wolfe
Insurance Services
Fort Madison, IA
52627
Tony@tawins.com

An Authorized
Independent
Agent for



This is a solicitation of insurance. Wellmark Medicare supplement insurance plans are not affiliated with any government agency. To be eligible, you must reside in the service area of the plan. Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Obituaries

EDWARD L. DODDS

Edward L. Dodds, 75, of Keokuk IA went home to be with Jesus on Friday, May 1, 2020 at his son's home in Warsaw, IL.

He was born on November 11, 1944 in Effingham Illinois the son of Edgar and Dorothy Blankenship Dodds. He graduated from Quincy Senior High in Quincy, IL.



DODDS

Ed was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served his country during the Vietnam War. On November 11, 1967, Ed was united in marriage to Leola "Lana" Ann Yates in Quincy, IL. She preceded him in death on April 3, 2011.

He had been employed at Methode Electronics in Carthage, IL. He loved his family at Living Hope Church in Nauvoo, IL Ed never knew a stranger and made friends everywhere he went. He had a deep love for Jesus and was a bold witness to him with his testimony, generosity and kindness. Ed had a green thumb and surrounded himself with plants and flowers both indoors and out. But nothing brought him more joy than his family.



He is survived by his sister, Lenelle Mewes of Quincy, four sons, Rory Dodds (Deborah) of Arlington, TX, Travis Dodds (Tressa) of Ewing, MO, Jason Dodds (Jennifer) of Warsaw, IL and Brandon Dodds of Keokuk, Ia. Seven grandchildren, Jerrod Dodds, Jacob Dodds, Aaron Dodds, Linkin Dodds, Ashlynn Dodds, Rory Dodds, Jr., April Allen, three great-grandchildren, Brylee Dodds, Jaxon Dodds, Audrey Allen and was looking forward to the arrival of Emmett Dodds. He will also be greatly missed by his loyal dog, Lulu.

Besides his wife, he was also preceded in death by two sons, Christopher Dodds in infancy, Joshua Dodds and one granddaughter, Autumn Dodds. A Graveside service will be held Tuesday May 5th at 3 p.m. at the Scandinavian Cemetery in rural Keokuk.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to your local Food Bank.

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

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

DARLA J. NEWBERRY

Darla Jo Newberry, 78, of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 12:55 a.m. Monday, May 4, 2020 at the Danville Care Center, Danville, Iowa.

Darla was born on September 14, 1941 in Dallas City the daughter of Don and Joan (Curtis) Hancock. On June 10, 1961 she married Jerald W. "Jerry" Newberry in Dallas City. He survives.

Darla was a 1959 graduate of the Dallas City High School. She worked as a teller and bookkeeper at the Bank of Dallas City for 34 years. She served on the Dallas City Celebration Committee and enjoyed working in her yard and flower gardens.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry; one son, Andy (Joyce) Newberry of Dallas City; one daughter, Deanne (Rob Bohn) Hutson of Indianapolis, Indiana; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; one sister, Sharon Sutton of Dallas City and two half-sisters, Terry Poston of Alton, Illinois and Jeri Williams of St. Louis, Missouri.

Darla was preceded in death by her parents and one son, Michael Newberry.

Cremation has been entrusted to Banks & Beals Funeral Homes.

No services are planned. Burial will be held at a later date. A memorial fund has been established for the Dallas City Celebration Committee. Contributions may be mailed to Darla Newberry Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 70, Dallas City, Illinois 62330.

Pen City Current obituary policy

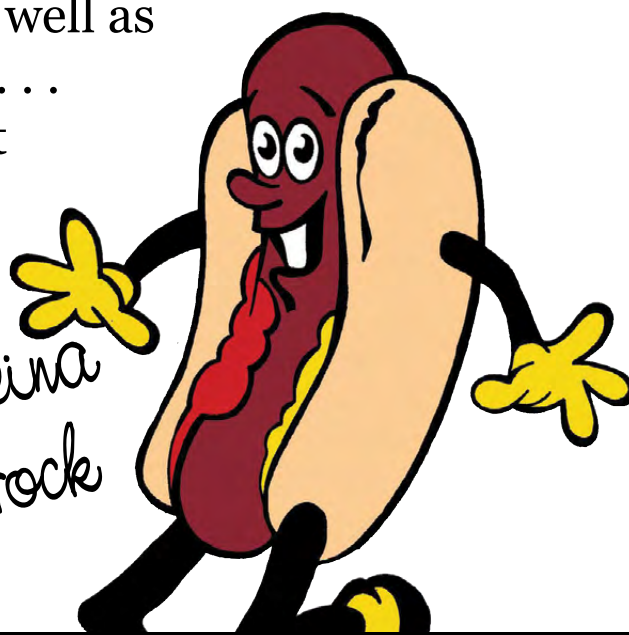
The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

SONNY'S Super Market

The Sonny's staff sends a heartfelt Thank You to our friends, old and new, who have supported us during the COVID-19 situation. As always, we work hard to stay stocked while providing personal service to our customers.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued business during this crazy time, as well as after it passes. . . whenever that may be.

Dale & Deina
Merschbrock



It Takes a Community

- Wash your hands frequently with soap & water - 20 seconds or more
- Cover your coughs & sneezes with your elbow or a tissue
- Keep your hands away from your face - eyes, nose, mouth are doorways for germs
- Stay home when you are ill
- Avoid gatherings of more than 10 people
- Help protect our elderly or those with health conditions

 **Fort Madison**
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
www.fmchosp.com

Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670

editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125

sales@pencitycurrent.com

Copyright © 2016 by Pen City Current

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

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Member LION Publishers

www.lionpublishers.com



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

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

Education News/From the Front

Urbandale firm awarded airport lighting contract

COUNCIL - Continued from Page 1

Herren submitted a proposal to the committee as well, in conjunction with the Keokuk Fire Department, to split the county north and south. Fort Madison's proposal asked for \$966,000 per year from the county to offset the shortfall city staff projected at the outset. It also required close to a \$1 million capital outlay in the form of a 5-year loan to purchase rigs, equipment and supplies to start.

The proposal was set to the side by the committee while they investigate the AMR proposal further on Friday.

Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the city has to have advanced medical services for its residents.

"Here it is and it's simple. When 911 calls we need to respond with paramedic ALS service and if that can't happen with that level of subsidy we're going to have to look at what happens next," he said.

"Bids like this shouldn't swing in million dollar jumps. I do echo what (Joey) says. We need to keep monitoring this situation and see where it progresses."

Herren said he hasn't yet put together what the investment would look like if the city wanted to jump into providing its own service.

"I have not crunched those numbers yet. That's probably something I'll take a look at in the next couple weeks," Herren said.

The council moved ahead with a second reading of an ordinance to rezone property on the west end of the 2300 block of Avenue J to allow a possible warehouse to be built privately that could have room for city ambulance vehicles, including a residence for staff space. The city would lease space as part of that option.

Bowker said the rezoning should be considered separate of the ambulance conversation because Bob Holtkamp, who is considering putting up the building for his family's business Holtkamp's Floors, Decor and Furniture, would ultimately use the warehouse space.

"I don't want the two tied if Holtkamps still want the warehouse space," she said.

In an unrelated issue, the council also approved a \$214,569 dollar bid to replace the lighting and wind cone at the Fort Madison Airport.

The bid was awarded to a firm out of Urbandale who had the lowest bid. The money for the work will come from the Federal Aviation Administration and CARES Act funding.

Councilman Bob Morawitz said if it didn't impact the city's contribution, he would like to see the work go to someone local. Mohrfeld Electric and Frank Millard both bid on the work.

Because it's a federally funded project, the lowest bid has to be taken unless disqualified, Mohrfeld said.

In other action, the council:

- approved a request from the Historical Preservation Commission to apply to put the city's historic locomotive on the National Register of Historic Places.
- approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the zoning code regarding floodplain management to reflect new FEMA mapping changes. City Manager David Varley said the changes are minor changes and won't impact property owners.
- heard from Mayor Matt Mohrfeld on a plan for a city appreciation cruise/parade set for May 23 to honor 2020 graduates of Fort Madison High School and Holy Trinity Catholic High School, in partnership with Shottenkirk Automotive.



Courtesy Photo

Julie Freesmeier wins HTC Teacher of the Year

WEST POINT - Each year HTC students and families are invited to nominate a teacher for a special recognition as HTC Teacher of the Year. Typically, the award is announced and celebrated at HTC's Blue and Silver Celebration in mid March.

Unfortunately, the Blue and Silver Celebration had to be cancelled in light of Covid 19. While teachers, staff, and parents could not gather together, HTC wanted to kick off Teacher Appreciation Week with announcing our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Julie Freesmeier.

Julie Freesmeier, a first grade teacher at Holy Trinity Catholic, was honored as the system's Teacher of the Year. Freesmeier would have been honored at the annual Blue & Silver celebration, but the event had to be canceled in the wake of the pandemic. Courtesy photo.

Julie Freesmeier is a first grade teacher at the Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School in West Point. She has been a dedicated and caring teacher in the Catholic System for 39 years. Mrs. Freesmeier graduated from Aquinas High School in 1975. After earning her elementary education degree at Iowa Wesleyan, she began teaching in the Aquinas school system and then at Holy Trinity Catholic.

Mrs. Freesmeier was nominated by Emma Menke, Layne Schmitt, Aria Peitz, Jessica Peitz, and Mindy Ward. Emma, a 4th grade student at HTC, stated that 1st grade will be the best of her life because of Mrs. Freesmeier. Each nomination that was submitted for Mrs. Freesmeier reflected on how sweet and caring she is with her students.

DCI's Major Crimes unit leads arrest

MURDER - Continued from Page 1

cutions). On May 4, 2020, an arrest warrant was issued for Ridnour for the murder of Callahan. Murder in the First Degree is a violation of Section

707.2(1) of the Code of Iowa, a Class A Felony. If convicted, the charge carries a life sentence without the possibility of parole. On May 5, 2020,

Ridnour was taken into custody by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office on the arrest warrant.

This was a joint investigation by the DCI's Major Crime Unit, the Keokuk Police Department, the DCI Crime Scene Team, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the Iowa State Medical Examiner's Office, the Lee County Attorney's Office and the Iowa Attorney General's Office (Area Prosecutions).

Ridnour's arrest is the eighth arrest related to the DCI Major Crime Unit conducting cold case homicide investigations in a three-year period in the southeast Iowa area. These investigative results are a combined effort between a DCI Major Crime Unit initiative and local law enforcement partnership focusing on cold case investigations.

Financially savvy **kids** = financially successful

ADULTS

Anytime is a good time to start teaching financial responsibility.

Ask us how to open a savings account for the children in your life and invest in their future!

LEE COUNTY BANK
MEMBER FDIC
You'll Thank a Bank Like Us ...



Classifieds

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



It's possible to achieve the retirement of your dreams.

Prepare now, so that when the time comes, you can enjoy retirement on your own terms.



Schedule a SuperCheck® so we can discuss your world and your future today.
Larry Holtkamp
 1301 37th St
 Fort Madison
 (319) 372-9145
 LARRYHOLTkamp.COM



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

Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, Western Agricultural Insurance Company, West Des Moines, IA. *Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services U178 (8-17)

How can chiropractic therapy help you?

BENEFITS OF CHIROPRACTIC

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

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

Extremity Adjustment **Cranial Adjustment**
Myofascial Relaxation **Muscle Facilitation**

Stewart Automotive

- Transmission Repair
- Alignments
- Coolant/Transmission Flush
- Major/Minor Engine Repair
- Tune-Up

3136 Avenue M
 Ft. Madison, IA
 Junior Stewart, Owner
 (319) 371-4509

HELP WANTED

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Family Support Worker to provide in-home parent education and support services to families enrolled in our Healthy Families America home visiting program model. Bachelor's degree is required with knowledge/experience in early childhood development; skills in promoting positive parent-child interactions, and ability to use a family-centered approach with culturally diverse population. Extensive data collection and documentation is required. Please send or email resume to Missy Park, Program Manager at LCHD Box 1426, Ft. Madison, IA 52627 or to mimagee@leecountyhd.org by May 15, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.

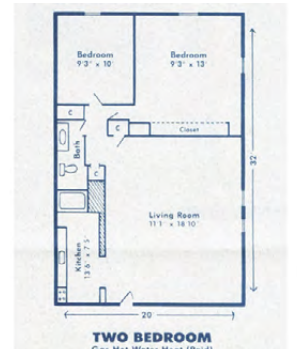


APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



Patrick Profeta
 General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit

We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments

www.keokukautocredit.com

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

Bridge Cafe & Supper Club

101 Olive Street
 Farmington, IA 52626

Rick Saunders
 Owner (319) 878-4000

WEDDING & EVENT CENTER

Small GRAND Things
 Grand Things Happen Here

Danielle Neaves & Ann Newton Neaves

319.837.8132

1903 West Point Rd West Point, IA 52656
 Facebook/Instagram/Pinterest smallgrandthings.com

KEMPKER'S

True Value RENTAL

Treating our customers like family since 1970

Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com

General Insects Mice Bed Bugs
 Termites

Cullen

PEST CONTROL

(319) 372-1060

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

Residential "Cause who needs bugs?"
 Commercial

Dirty Dog Detailing & Boarding

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

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

Over 51 Years Combined Professional Animal Experience

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Here to help you retire.

Thomas Klann CLU RICP FSCP LTCP LUTCF.
 Agent
 2623 Avenue L
 Fort Madison, IA 52627
 Business: 319-372-5982
www.fortmadisoninsurance.com

I'm not just here for insurance. I can also help you look at your retirement goals and build a plan for tomorrow. Let's start today.

Here to help life go right.®



State Farm
 Bloomington, IL

Darwin Bunger
 Attorney At Law

Saunders/ Bunger
 An Association of Sole Practitioners

610 Eighth St., Suite A, Fort Madison, IA 52627
 Ph: 319-372-2100/ Fax: 319-372-2200

320 N. 3rd Floor 6, PO Box 223, Burlington, IA 52601
 Ph: 319-671-7187
 DB.Esquire@outlook.com

Visit: www.darwinbungerlaw.com for more info.

Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!

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

800-216-2370

Call for an appointment

Visit Us Online! www.grrwa.com facebook.com/grrwa

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2090 250th Ave Fort Madison, IA 52625 319-372-6140
 Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbine Lane Keokuk, IA 52621 319-526-6175

DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY

Est. 1877

Logo Design Posters Art Supplies
 Photo Correction Business Forms
 Flyers Office Furniture
 Office Supplies Trifold Brochures
 Vinyl Banners Ink & Toner

621 Avenue G
 Fort Madison, IA 319.372.2721
doddprinting.com

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

community

HEATING & COOLING

SALES * SERVICE * INSTALLATION

ICE MACHINE LEASING

319-372-1095

Opinion/From the Front

State releases plant outbreak numbers

REYNOLDS - Continued from Page 1

positive, while Iowa Premium National Beef in Tama County has had 258 employees or 39% of the workforce test positive and TPI Composite in Newton had 131 positive tests for a 13% total.

When pressed as to whether or not the facilities have handled the outbreaks well on their own, Reynolds said the state has maintained constant contact with the facilities, almost on a daily basis, and is confident they are doing the proper employee screenings and have taken other significant steps to reduce the spread of the disease.

The state doesn't release private information unless the company exceeds a 10% threshold of employees testing positive or exposed to someone positive, or a 10% absenteeism due to illness. Reisetter said it's the same threshold used for influenza reporting.

Reynolds said the state's public schools can start applying tomorrow for close to \$62 million in federal aid

to help with expenses incurred due to the pandemic. The state received \$71.6 million in federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds under the CARES Act with 10% going to the state.

The application process will close at the end of the day on May 11 and funds will be accessible on May 13. Dept. of Education Director Ann Lebo said public districts must use some of the funds to provide services to non-public schools in those areas.

The funds are retroactive to expenses incurred back to March 13, and must be used by Sept. 30, 2022. The funds can be used for a wide array of services, activities, technology, and supplies related to the closure and future planning for similar closures.

With Tuesday's reporting there were 408 new positive tests taking the state over 10,000 total. Reynolds said 80% of the new positive tests were from the 22 counties still under tighter restrictions. There were 19 deaths reported in the last reporting cycle leaving the state with 207 deaths currently.

Project will produce 90% of bank's energy usage

BANK - Continued from Page 1

on a standstill and once the weather changed, Mohrfeld Solar was onsite and proceeding as expected. The parking lot has two car ports with solar panels. The solar system ties to the bank and the utility grid, producing approximately 90% of the bank's annual energy usage.

"Once the soil report came back and we were forced to drill 19' deep piers, I thought the hard part was over," said Mohrfeld Electric Inc., owner and president Michael Mohrfeld.

"Tip toeing around trying to figure out if we should start the project back up in the spring and run the risk of getting forced to stop due to COVID-19 was a challenge by itself."

Luckily, COVID-19 did not impact the solar project

for Mohrfeld or for Lee County Bank.

"Lee County Bank has been pondering the "green" aspect for several years and the Board of Directors decided in September of 2019 to move forward with the solar project," said Mike Culbertson, Lee County Bank president/CEO.

"The solar car port aspect is not as common, and we were excited to venture into this project. It was a great partnership with our local vendor - Mohrfeld Electric, Inc. / Mohrfeld Solar and they were fabulous to work with. Michael Mohrfeld was a great help in our process and planning. He has a great crew that worked on this project and we are excited to show it off."

The final phase of the project was completed on April 29, 2020 and took roughly two hours to complete. Alliant Energy and Mohrfeld Solar were both on site at 6 a.m. to start the switchover. By the time employees started arriving for the day, the Main Bank was converted to solar power which ties into the bank and the utility grid.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

County turning their back on Lee County EMS services

Dear Editor;

Lee County EMS service has been here for so long and it feels like the county just wants to say bye and turn their backs on them on us and find a cheaper route. What about all of us who have given time up with our families to be here who have worked through this pandemic risking getting sick just so the county can say thanks but we are going to go with these people because they gave the right number a lower number a number that we can't refuse. EMS it's more than that it's more than a number it's more than just having any service and anyone come and fill the boots we do every-day. AMR they don't know us Lee County EMS and we don't know them, but what I do know is that communities stick together and right now it doesn't feel that way. It feels like when asking for help or saying what we need is too much and that we are not a priority. There are ways to get money to help Lee County EMS and keep the community whole but without Lee County EMS you cut a part of the community. I don't know about you but we have pride and people know us when they see Lee County EMS that will all change when an outsider comes and people see AMR. Lee County EMS may not be the best, but I can tell you that we are a family that when it comes to a call we put our heart into those calls to help your loved ones. We are not just a service that goes to the lowest bidder because we are family and families are supposed to stick together in good times and bad just like a marriage. So Lee County has had some problems, but that doesn't mean you just trade us in for a newer, younger model. We give our blood sweat and tears into this job into this company for what - to be told we don't have a voice - to be told that we are just a item that goes wherever? No we have a right to stand up for what we believe in and stand for. Let me ask you, How would you or they the people feel if we just all walked out and said screw it we aren't gonna work anymore cuz it will happen with AMR. How would they feel if the council had emergency at the next meeting and called 911 and nobody answered or nobody came. That could very well happen with AMR. But with Lee County we were asked to keep coming to work even though we didn't know where the money was coming from or if their would be a check. We did it out of respect we did it for the people we did it because it's what we do. And how are we thanked by pushing us out the door for someone else. I think this needs to be thought out a little more before you all decide on AMR. I thank you for your time and hearing me on this matter and pray that you all make the right choice and not one that you regret 6 months down the road.

Dustin Sperry,
Danville