INSIDE: Curt Swarm talks about gardening in "Empty Nest" • See page 5

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

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 97

🄰 🖬 🗖 🖗 🞯

www.pencitycurrent.com

2 positive at FM post office

COVID-19: Postal officials confirm positives; take steps to slow spread of virus

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON – A spokeswoman for the United States Postal Service confirmed Monday that the Fort Madison Post Office has two confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Nicole Hill, a communications specialist with the Northland and Hawkeye Districts of the USPS confirmed the cases via email Monday afternoon and said the employees are currently recovering.

The Pen City Current had received several messages had up to five postal workers out of a staff of 27 at the facility have been put in self-isolation.

As of Sunday evening, Lee County has had 18 confirmed cases of

COVID-19, with no deaths. Thirteen of those cases are classified as recovered. Des Moines County has had 40 confirmed cases and one death with 15 reported as recovered. Henry County now has had 43 confirmed cases with one death and 29 reported recovered.

Hill wrote that under current law, she couldn't comment on any other staff under self isolation.

"We are working in conjunction with the local public health office (and) are following their guidance," Hill wrote. "We believe the risk is low for employees who work at the facility, but we will keep our employees apprised as new information and guidance becomes available."

See MAIL, page 4



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Police Officer Joshua Wade mans a hose while Fort Madison firefighters look for occupants and pets of a house fire Monday night in Fort Madison.

Monday night fire damages FM home

STATE NEWS Reynolds delays word on easing county limits

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – As much of the state anticipated more relaxed restrictions to businesses and services, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds Tuesday delayed any action on that until possibly Wednesday.

At Monday's press conference Reynolds, who's in modified isolation due to possible exposure to the COVID virus when she visited Washington D.C. last week, said additional easing of restrictions would be announced today.

Reynolds didn't provide specifics on what prompted the delay other than to say she wanted an additional day to look at data.

"I'm still reviewing information with the Department of Public Health and will be announcing new changes tomorrow," Reynolds said.

When pressed further on the issue by reporters, Reynolds said the current restrictions don't expire until the 15th.

"We had some time and I want to continue to look at data," she said. "We're seeing good numbers, and downward trends, and hospitalizations stabilize. We're basing it on our ability to manage our resources and not overwhelm our health facilities. So I made the decision to just wait one more day.

"Lifting restrictions is not a mandate, but an opportunity for those that feel they are ready. Each business will determine what's right for them."

Reynolds said the state has also been given 400 vials of Remdesivir, an FDA fast-tracked treatment that is showing some promise at shortening the recovery time of those with severe cases of COVID-19.

Criteria for the release of the 400 vials is being set up at the State Hygenic Lab. Iowa Department of Public Health Deputy Director Sarah Reisetter said patients would require either 6 or 11 vials depending on individual needs. She said the drug will be distributed throughout the state based on the number of hospitalized patients in an area, the number of patients in ICUs in an area, 30 day trends of the virus activity and new cases over the past two weeks. She said resources available See UPDATE, page 2

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters were called to the scene of a home on fire Monday night just after 9 p.m. in the 1900 block of Avenue L.

When firefighters arrived flames were coming from the inside of the home at

1924 Avenue L and had engulfed the front porch due to something catching on fire on a pool table in the home, according to witnesses and LeeComm dispatchers. The fire resulted in an all-call which pulls in all city firefighters. Emergency crews from Lee County Ambulance, as well as Fort Madison police officers at different times were manning hoses as firefighters searched the home for occupants.

Lee County Assessors indicate the home is owned by Denise Kempker and is valued at \$26,650.

Preliminary reports indicated there were no injuries and the exact cause of the fire remains unknown as of this posting.

INDEX

Business Directory	P.6
BUSINESS NEWS	P.5
CLASSIFIEDS	P. 6
Edward Jones - Tony Fullenkamp	P.7
EDUCATION NEWS	
FOR THE RECORD	P.3
Fort Madison Family YMCA	P.3
FROM THE FRONT	Ps.2,4
Fullenkamp Insurance	P.5
Great River Regional Waste Authority	P.7

HEALTH NEWS	P.2
IOWA NEWS	P.2
Jeff Reichman for Iowa Senate	P.3
Lee County Bank	P.2
Lee County Health Department	
LEE COUNTY NEWS	P.7
LOCAL NEWS	Ps.4-5
OBITUARIES	P.2
 Sharon K. Bode, 75 	
 Michael P. Mauzy, 91 	

OPINION	Ps.4-5
Pen City Current	P.6
Pothitakis Dentistry	P.3
Rashid Pharmacy & Wellness	
Ron Fedler for District 1	
Board of Supervisors	P.7
SCENE AROUND TOWN	
Sonny's Super Market	P.5
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services	

WEATHER

WED 13 MayLight Rain, 58.4° F/ 53	3.1º E 😚
THU 14 May Heavy Intensity Rain, 70.1º F/ 62	
FRI 15 MayOvercast, 70.1º F/ 55	

IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 05/11	124 28 36 45, Lucky Ball: 7
PICK 3 05/11 MIDDAY	
PICK 3 05/11 EVENING	
PICK 4 05/11 MIDDAY	
PICK 4 05/11 EVENING	

SUBSCRIBE

OpenWeatherMap

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



Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL P. MAUZY

Michael "Mike" Philip Mauzy, 91, of Hamilton, IL, died Monday, May 4, 2020 at Montebello HealthCare Center in Hamilton.

He was born on November 14, 1928 in Keyser, WV, the son of Frank and Margery Ola Nelson Mauzy. He graduated from Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, VA with the



Class of 1946. He continued his education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree. He then studied at the University of Tennessee and obtained his Master of Science degree.

MAUZY

On March 27, 1949, Mike was united in marriage to Nancy Shepherd Watson in Blacksburg, VA. She preceded him in death on June 6, 2009.

Mike was a veteran of the United States Army and proudly served his country during the Korean War, obtaining the rank of First Lieutenant.

While he was in the service he built the major portion of a biological nerve gas facility. Later, when he worked for Monsanto, Mike was the consultant for dismantling that same facility.

He had been employed as a Research Chemical Engineer and Manager at Monsanto in Alabama, Massachusetts and St. Louis for over nineteen years. He then worked at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for nine years including time served as Director. Following that position, he was Vice President, Division Manager at Weston Consulting Corporation for fifteen years, retiring in 1999.

He was a member of the Harper Chapel United Methodist Church in Osage Beach, MO. He was also a member of The Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators where he served two terms as President, the American Legion, and the Boy



Scouts of America. He served as a Scoutmaster and Explorer Advisor for Troop 742 in Florissant, MO.

Mike enjoyed working on home repairs and remodeling projects. He loved to travel and was an avid reader. While in high school, Mike ran track and while in college he ran in the Boston Marathon.

He is survived by one son, Michael P. Mauzy, Jr. (Rebecca Bliss) of Hamilton, IL, one daughter, Rebecca A. Mauzy of Keokuk, one daughter-in-law, Rebecca Mauzy of Osage Beach, MO, ten grandchildren, Michael B. Mauzy (Erin), Matthew M. Mauzy, Kelly Miholic (Kyle), Karl Mauzy (Carrie), Heather Smith, Kathleen Mauzy, James Peek (Lisa), Lauren Koehler (Brandon), Ryan Bliss (Yvette), Dan Bliss (Jami) and Kathryn Gardner (Gavin) and twenty great-grandchildren.

Besides his wife, he was also preceded in death by one son, Jeffery Alan Mauzy and one sister, Rebecca Allyn Mauzy.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at a later date in the Memorial Park Cemetery in Columbia, MO. The Vigen Memorial Home is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome. com. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Central Missouri Humane Society/ ASPCA at <u>cmhspets.org/donate/</u>.

OBITUARIES

SHARON K. BODE

Sharon Kay Bode, 75, of Keokuk, IA, died Friday, May 8, 2020 at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City, IA.

She was born on May 1, 1945 in Macomb, IL, the daughter of Russell and Betty Bennett Spees. Sharon graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1963.

On October 2, 1964, Sharon was united in marriage to Ron Bode in Keokuk. He survives.

She is also survived by one son, Brad Bode of Keokuk, one sister, Patty Spees Means and her husband David of Grand Junction, CO and one brother, Rusty Spees of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Sharon had been employed as a bookkeeper at several businesses in Keokuk. She enjoyed making ceramics in her younger years. Sharon loved her dogs, Benji and Annie who were her constant companions.

There will be no services.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Dept. of Ed task force looking at contract days for next year

UPDATE - Continued from Page 1

to properly manage the use of the medicine are also a factor.

The U.S. Department of Public Health is distributing 14,400 vials across the nation.

Reynolds said the state's coronavirus page at http:// coronavirus.iowa.gov

showed 539 new cases as of Monday night, but 319 were tied to a testing done April 28-30 at a processing plant in Nebraska where Iowans worked and that data was just made available to Iowa

on Monday.

"The reporting of that back to the state of Iowa was delayed, but they are included in today's counts," Reynolds said.

Reynolds also said validation of Test Iowa results should happen today and the state will be able to ramp up testing even further once that is complete. She said after starting with just 300 tests per day the state is now at over 3,000 tests per day.

A Department of Educa-

tion task force has been set up that is working on plans for the upcoming school year, including looking into using contract days from the current year in the next year to extend the school year.

"The Department of Education is working with school districts and are looking at things they can utilize to transfer contract days to the next fiscal year in limited amounts," Reynolds said. "So we're reviewing ways to implement that."

The governor waived the state's official school start date of Aug. 23 to allow schools to have some flexibility in remediating the loss of school days this year.

As of Monday evening, Lee County is holding at 18 positive cases with 13 reported recovered. Des Moines County increased to 43 positive cases with 19 reportedly recovered and one death. Henry County also has 43 positive cases. 30 recovered with one death. Jefferson and Van Buren county have combined for 16 positive cases with all but one listed as recovered, and have reported no deaths.



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!



In total, 289 Iowans have died from the disease as of Monday night.

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.

Founded in 2016 P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA **Member LION Publishers** www.lionpublishers.com

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

y f 🗖 🔊 🖸

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.

For the Record

05/07/20 - 9:56 a.m.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

05/06/20 - 10:19 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue J. 05/07/20 - 6:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Jason Scott Coulter, 39, of Fort Madison in the 5400 block of Avenue O, on a charge of disorderly conduct and a warrant service. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/07/20 - 3:01 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1400 block of Avenue H. 05/07/20 – 6:15 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft on Richards Drive. 05/07/20 – 7:53 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 200 block of Avenue E. 05/07/20 - 8:22 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Avenue G. 05/08/20 - 10:52 a.m.

- Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2300 block if Avenue J. 05/08/20 - 2:18 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larcenv/theft in the 2500 block of Avenue H. 05/08/20 - 3:07 p.m.-Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1700 block of Avenue B. 05/08/20 - 3:40 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle reported at the police station. 05/10/20 - 8:03 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Bradley Michael Dettmers Jr., 35, of Fort Madison in the 2100 block of Avenue N, on a two counts of enhanced felony domestic abuse assault. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/11/20 - 10:26 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1000 block of Avenue G. 05/11/20 - 10:54 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600

block of 22nd Street. 05/11/20 - 11:25 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2000 block of Avenue M. 05/11/20 – 12:26 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 6000 block of Avenue O. 05/12/20 - 8:33 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue D.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

05/06/20 - 12:39 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Gerald Jerome Green, 54, of Keokuk, at the Lee County Jail on a warrant for violation of parole. He was held in custody. 05/07/20 - 12:46 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jacob Dustan Mills, 33, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on warrants for violation of parole, violation of probation, 1st-degree theft and 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

- Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Isaac Rayond Patino, 40, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/07/20 - 8:16 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jefferey Williams Collier, 44, of Middleburg, Fla., in the 2500 block of 280th Street on a charges of 2nd-degree OWI and carrying weapons. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/08/20 - 9:39 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jason Scott Coulter, 39, Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/09/20 - 12:13 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Tyler Scott Hedger, 28, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of 240th Street on a charge of driving while barred. He was released. 05/09/20 - 1:18 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's

deputies arrested Nathan James Kull, 41, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. 05/11/20 – No reports/ accidents listed.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

05/05/20 - Holly Lewis, age 43, of Warsaw, IL was arrested and charged with Criminal Trespass to Land, Disorderly Conduct, Resisting a Peace Officer. Lewis remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her next court appearance. 05/06/20 - Steve A Leverton, age 57, of Bowen, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of a Stolen Vehicle. Leverton remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 05/06/20 - Nathan R Cadwell, age 25, of

Elvaston, IL was arrested and charged with Driving Whi e License Revoked, Possession of a Controlled Substance. Cadwell remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. 05/06/20 - Lacy D Hutton, age 27, of Elvaston, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance. Hutton was released on her own recognizance and given a future court date. 05/10/20 - Timothy J Sampson, age 21, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear I Failure to Pay on original charges of Speeding. Sampson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

9 IN 10 * * * * * * * * * * * *

That's how many people stay with a Wellmark Medicare supplement plan year after year.

Call today to find the plan that's right for you.

319-372-5201



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

An Authorized Independent Agent for Iowa

This is a solicitation of insurance, Wellmark Medicare supplement insurance plans are not attiliated with any government agency. To be eligible, you must react in the service area of the plan, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Sheld of Jowe is an independent fictmene of the Blue Cross and Blue Sheld Association.





Ready to Fight For Southeast Iowa

Like us on Facebook at Jeff Reichman for Iowa Senate



Welcome (back)

We are honored to be joined by Dr. Courtney on June 1, after more than three decades of private practice. Dr. Courtney will be seeing patients at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.



POTHITAKIS Dentistry

Opinion/From the Front

Postal official says mail and public are safe from spread of coronavirus

MAIL - Continued from Page 1

"The mail and the public is safe. Coronaviruses are thought to be spread primarily through air-borne respiratory droplets resulting from a sneeze, cough or ordinary speech. Although the virus can survive for a short period of time on some surfaces, both (Centers for Disease Control) and the United States Surgeon General have indicated that it is unlikely to be spread from domestic or international mail, products or packaging."

Hill said the Postal Service is also currently working to overcome the challenges in securing hand sanitizer, surgical masks and gloves, as well as reinforcing workplace behaviors to ensure that contact between workers, and the public is minimized.

Heather Trimble, the postmaster at the Fort Madison office declined to comment on the situation when reached Thursday afternoon. She directed all questions to the district office in St. Paul, Minn. However Trimble did submit a letter to Pen City Current that can be located at the following link: <u>https://www.pencitycurrent.com/2020/05/11/postmaster-keep-ing-postal-employees-safe-letter-to-the-editor/</u>

As of last week, the Fort Madison post office has posted recommendations that all patrons where masks and stay six feet apart with lines taped on the floor. They are also utilizing barriers between customer service workers and the public and only allow pens to be used one time between cleanings. They also have hand sanitizer on the customer service counters.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross said she couldn't comment on any specifics related to the Fort Madison Post Office, but did outline how the LCHD staff is conducting contact tracing in general. Ross said LCHD follows up with contact tracing in all confirmed cases in the county.

Some counties in the state are using Iowa National guard servicemen and servicewomen to conduct the tracing, but Ross confirmed Monday that LCHD is still handling those responsibilities internally.

Ross wrote via email Monday, speaking generally, that LCHD staff works to identify all people who may have come in contact with any confirmed positive cases in the county, during the infectious period.

"Some may only identify 1-2 contacts and others may have 5-10 and sometimes even more. If any of those contacts are symptomatic we issue the appropriate isolation guidance and then work to identify all of their close contacts," Ross wrote. "A contact is defined as being less than 6 feet away from someone for a prolonged period of time such as more than 30 minutes and, of course, household members.

"The Infectious period for asymptomatic cases is defined as 48 hours before through 10 days after the first date the person tested positive for COVID-19 infection. The Infectious period for symptomatic cases is defined as 48 hours before illness started until the patient is fever free for at least 72 hours AND other symptoms have improved AND at least 10 days have passed since the first symptom began. "

Ross said she understands that the past two months officials have been encouraging a "mass behavioral change in the community" and people are tired and frustrated.

"I understand that. I feel the same way but unfortunately we are not out of the woods yet. We need to proceed with caution and still practice all of these protective measures," she said regarding the department's efforts across the county.

"As public health we will do our best to contact people that have been identified as a close contact which could include co-workers, family members, and friends to provide them guidance for isolation due to exposure.

Ross said Lee County residents should assume the virus is right in front of them when out in public.

"Everyone should take precautions to protect themselves and assume the person in front of them in line at a grocery store may have the virus and stay six feet apart-wear a face covering and wash hands immediately when leaving the store: they should assume the person that pumped gas ahead of them could have the virus and use hand sanitizer immediately after touching the handle and wash hands as soon as possible when getting home; they should consider leaving packages sit for 24 hours or so before handling if concerned the cardboard or paper is contaminated; they should continue wiping down supplies and washing fresh produce immediately when bringing them home; continue wearing face coverings to protect others when out in the community and again washing hands frequently; they should talk to their employers to understand and know what safety measures have been taken to protect them while working and request safety materials if needed to do their job safely; and, they should stay home when they have any symptoms that are not their usual baseline (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other). Those with underlying health conditions or older adults should be protected from possible exposures and limit activities outside their homes.

ONEPAC your medication made easy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FM Postmaster asks for help in keeping public and employees safe from virus

Letter to the Editor

The United States Postal Service is committed to delivering your mail and packages throughout the current crisis. As an essential community service, our mission is to bind the nation together.

This mission is achieved through the tireless efforts and sacrifices of our dedicated employees. The outpouring of support you have shown has had a great impact on everyone at the Postal Service. Knowing how much you care means everything to us.

To help keep you and our employees safe during this time, the Postal Service is supporting social distancing. Here's how you can help:

• Please allow a safe distance of at least six feet between you and your letter carrier or Post Office clerk while they are performing their duties. Please don't approach them to receive your mail.

• If a delivery requires a signature, carriers will knock on the door instead of touching the bell and then verbally ask for a name instead of a signature for our records. They'll leave the item on the porch.

• We encourage social distancing in our lobbies with lines placed on the floor to maintain a 6-foot distance from others in addition to sneeze guards placed in front of our clerks.

• For those who want to avoid the Post Office, <u>USPS.</u> <u>com</u> offers the tools to complete much of your postal business from the comfort of your home. Utilize our stamps by mail service to have stamps delivered directly to your home.

While we all navigate through these changes, the Postal Service appreciates your cooperation and assistance with this initiative. As a community, we will make it through this.

On behalf of all employees at your local Post Office – Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Trimble Postmaster Fort Madison, IA 52627

All TB & Immunization Clinics Have Been Postponed

In order to protect the health & safety of Lee County residents



PHARMACY & WELLNESS

free delivery or mailing

8:00 AM

1 SYNTHROID 1 LIPITOR 2 LISINOPPIL 1 METFORMIN

RASHO PHARMACY 2404 AVENUE L | FORT MADISON, IA 319-372-2300

BARBARAKAY

10 II 100

rashiddrug.com

during this time, clinics have been postponed through May.

Please call our office with any questions and watch our Facebook page for more information: @ LeeCountyHealthDepartment



Opinion/Local News

Finches say it's time to get the garden planted

L tilled a pick-up load of composted sheep manure into our garden. I know I will be roundly criticized by at least one reader for using sheep manure. "It's too strong! You'll burn the plants and ruin the taste of your vegetables." This same reader criticized me for using chicken manure, and we had an outstanding garden that year—best one ever, actually.

We got most of our seed in bulk from the Dutchman's Store in Cantril, as well as the tomato plants. We planted buttercrunch, Romaine, and cutting blend lettuce; cherry belle and white icicle radishes; Detroit dark red beets; yellow and sweet onions; slicer cucumbers; blue lake bush and pole beans; acorn squash; La Roma, better boy, beef master, big boy, and husky cherry red tomatoes; and bonnie green bell and red bell sweet peppers. For sweet corn we selected all bodacious as compared to last year when we had three varieties of sweetcorn. The bodacious, as its name implies, proved to be the best. To not have all the sweetcorn ripen at once, we're planting it in three spurts—one spurt a week for three weeks. (In my old age I'm learning moderation. Imagine that.) We also have decorative (Indian) corn and hills of Howden pumpkins nestled in the corn. The "punkins" love to sneak out of the corn and show off a sun ball of orange against the backdrop of green, like a parent showing off its child. I love fall colors.

This year the weather cooperated and we got our garden in on May 2. A nice, slow rain followed. Perfect. Last year, because of all the rain, we didn't get the garden in until June 6th. (We've been keeping little maps of our gardens each year, with dates of planting.) As usual, when putting in the garden, the rhubarb and asparagus were begging for attention, so Ginnie baked a rhubarb, strawberry, cream cheese cake to celebrate. Oh, man.

The Gold Finches (State Bird of Iowa) arrived, hungry and ready for nesting. When dandelions are golden, here come the finches! I hustled out and freshened up their feeders. They have our house marked, "The Swarm's with the blue roof!" I dearly love watching them hang upside down, pecking at seed. Our pic-



ture window is like a Cineramic movie screen with golden birds hanging upside down, green tractors working the black soil in nearby fields, and orange engines of the BNSF railroad pulling America out of its slump. Our two-and-a-half acre Empty Nest farm is a safe haven from the ills of the world. We don't even have to wear a mask in the garden

Missing church, and not really fulfilled by "online service," we attended Faith Christian Outreach Church's (FCOC) "parking lot service." We had heard a lot about it and wanted to see it for ourselves. I'll admit, FCOC is energetic and creative. They had one semi trailer stacked on top of another and used the top trailer for a stage. Now that's going the extra hectare. People pulled into the parking lot, stayed in their cars to keep socially distant, and the pastor preached from atop the two semi trailers. It was like a drive-in movie church. We tuned our radio to an FM station and heard. "Say yes to God!"

A late frost warning had us scampering to cover the tomato and pepper plants. We had to leave early the next morning and left the plants covered. Upon returning, we found our tomato and pepper plants cooked from the day's heat, even though temperatures had only been in the sixties. Uh, oh. I got a good chewing out from Ginnie. We're hoping the plants will survive. I gave them a shot of water and said my prayers. We'll see.

The lettuce and radishes are poking their heads up. That's good news, so we planted a red bud tree and six rose bushes—my favorite flower that blooms all season long.

Hunkered down we may be, but spring has sprung for real.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-271-0526, email him at <u>curtswarm@yahoo.com</u> or visit his website at <u>www.empty-nest-</u> words-photos-and-frames.com.



Fort Madison firefighters tend to some embers still burning in the overhang of a porch in 1924 Avenue L Monday night. The home was severely damaged when a fire broke out on a pool table inside the home. No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

FMCH names Settles as February Employee of the month

FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Marilyn Settles as their February Employee of the Month. Marilyn has been a housekeeper at FMCH for thirty years. Marilyn was recognized with this nomination:

This employee is such a hard worker. She is always in a positive mood no matter how busy we keep her. This employee enters the department with a smile on her face and cheer in her voice. She is kind and she will address patients and communicates with them

that she will update a nurse of their needs. She is just a great person to work with and I am always grateful to see her enter our department. Our departments thanks her for everything she does and for always bringing those positive vibes!

"My favorite part of working at FMCH is the people. Mary Lee Rogan is my mentor and my go to person, she has helped me a lot," expressed Settles.

When not at work, Marilyn enjoys kayaking, biking, and playing with her grandchildren.



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.



Be Sure.

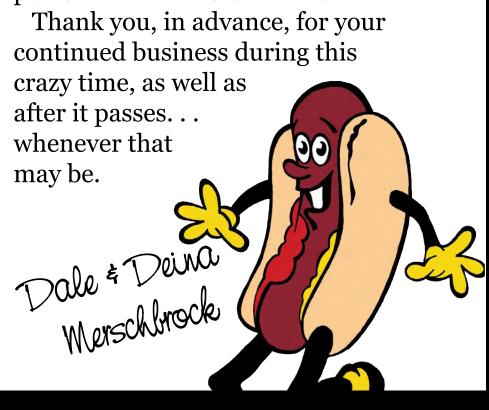
When you need to be sure, look to one of the area's leading insurance agencies. Auto • Home • Health **Business** · Life $Farm \cdot Crop$

Serving Southeast Iowa, Northeast Missouri, & West-Central Illinois

Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



Open Monday through Friday 7:30 - 5:00 & Saturday 8:30 - 11



Classifieds

Posters Art

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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 mmagee@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.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY



RRWA

Here to help you retire.

800-216-2370 Call for an appointment

111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140

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

1708167.1

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 II



3136 Avenue M

Ft. Madison, IA

Junior Stewart, Owner

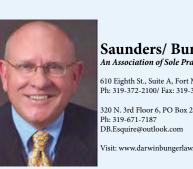
(319) 371-4509

Patrick Profeta General Manager

Keokuk Auto Credit We Tote the Note

No Credit Check Low Weekly Payments www.keokukautocredit.com

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



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

Visit: www.darwinbungerlaw.com for more info

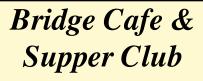


Rick Saunders Owner



Fort Madison • Burlington • Mount Pleasant

www.kempkerstruevalue.com



101 Olive Street Farmington, IA 52626

(319) 878-4000

Education News

Central Lee releases more year-end planning

Central Lee Family,

We want to keep you updated on our services during school closures. Please see below for the latest information:

Senior Parade

We are planning a senior parade for Sunday, May 17. The parade will go through Montrose and Donnellson. The parade routes are at the bottom of this message. We plan to enter Montrose around 4:15 p.m. and arrive at Donnellson at 5:15 p.m. Our community is welcome to line the parade route—while social distancing—to honor the Class of 2020!

We are still planning on a live graduation June 28 at 2 p.m. at the Football Field. Details will be released later in June, as we are unsure how many attendees will be able to attend. We are currently planning for students and immediate family only. If the situation changes, we may allow additional guests to attend.

Supplemental Learning

We are seeing strong participation from our elementary students on the iReady platform for reading and math. Middle school continues to show growth, as well. We want to remind parents that the iReady platform will be available through August 10. We highly encourage you to continue to have students engage in reading and math now and throughout the summer. These unprecedented times will require us to do some things differently in the coming months to ensure students are ready for school in the fall.

iPads will be available for students to keep for the summer. Remember that you are responsible for any damages to the iPad while off-campus. Please ensure your child keeps their iPad in the case and is mindful of where they put it each day.

High school students will continue to have supplemental learning available through May 26. Please continue to engage with staff through Canvas and school email.

High School Grades

Our high school will give out letter grades for the second semester. Letter grades will consist of third-quarter work and any assignments/ exams that have been finished or revised since our school closures. Students may apply for Pass/Fail on grades if they desire.

Please note that students must have an economic or health hardship that has limited their ability to finalize or redo any third-quarter assignments or exams. If students are applying for Pass/Fail, they need to do so by the following deadlines:

Seniors: May 12

VOTE FEDLER JUNE 2



I have served as supervisor of the 1st district for over 7 years, helping existing business grow and bringing in new business that helps keep your taxes lower than they would be. I'm committed to continuing to work for the people of the 1st district, so I would appreciate your vote in the June primary. Thank You, Ron Fedler

Paid for by Ron Fedler for Supervisor

9th-11th Grade: May 15 Pass/Fail Application Student Item Pick Up - May 19

Families will be able to pick up student items on Tuesday, May 19, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. K-5 will be picked up from the K-8 parking lot, Middle School student items will be picked up from the bus lot, while 9-12 student items can be picked up from the east gym door. Please see the map at the bottom of this message for specific locations.

Families will be expected to return school items on this day and tie up any other loose ends for the 2019-20 school year. If you are unable to retrieve items on this date, please call your child's school office to schedule a different time.

Meal Service

We are exploring the possible continuation of meal service through June 30. If we do so, it will be as a pick-up option rather than delivery. Please take 30 seconds to respond to this survey to help us determine if there is enough demand to extend the service for an

additional month.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFe8B-V91 3kQ0tW UCexEls30NcZGbotxfmSvj7AkqMA8MBQ/view-

form - Please respond by Friday, May 15!

Summer Baseball/Softball

We hope to have a full update on baseball/softball later this week. We are awaiting guidance from Governor Reynolds, IHSAA, IGHSAU, and our conference. We know many of you are anxiously awaiting information, and we will alert you as soon as we have more to share. We hope our students have an opportunity to play ball this summer!

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to support you during this challenging time. Once again, thank you.

> Sincerely, Dr. Andy Crozier Superintendent



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



If You Aren't at Your Last Job ... Why Is Your 401(k)?

At Edward Jones, we can explain options for your 401(k), including leaving the money in your former employer's plan, moving it to your new employer's plan, rolling it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or cashing out the account subject to tax consequences.

To learn more, call today.



Tony Fullenkamp Financial Advisor 1233 Ave H Ft Madison, IA 52627 319-372-8001

edwardjones.com Member SIPC

Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVES

- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



Great River Regional Waste Authority

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