

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, April 20, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 81



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## Weird snow storm hits FM



Courtesy photo

A reader sent in this photo from High Point Road Friday morning as heavy snow helped drop a tree across the roadway. Fort Madison saw about three inches of the April white stuff and was spared the 6-8" that fell just 20 miles north in Burlington.

### CITY COUNCIL

## Request could make way for city ambulance plans

County still looking at options for 2020-21 ambulance services

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials will consider a move Tuesday that could provide facilities for a future potential ambulance service.

With Lee County EMS Ambulance operating on a week-to-week basis under heavy financial pressure, Fort Madison and Keokuk Fire Departments are scrambling to submit a proposal to county officials to provide services in the county, as an option to losing the service.

At Tuesday's Fort Madison City Council meeting council members will vote



on a first reading of an ordinance to rezone property owned by Bobby and Jessica Holtkamp at 2324 Avenue J, and city owned property at 2332 Avenue J, from residential to B-4 Highway Business

District.

The move is an effort to identify a temporary location to house ambulance services and staff for the city.

According to a report prepared for the council by City Building Director Doug Krogmeier, ambulance employees would be housed in a single-story home owned by the Holtkamps at 2324 Avenue J. Bobby Holtkamp has indicated he wants to build a large garage/warehouse behind the home that could house the fire department and ambulance equipment. The warehouse is being planned large enough to temporarily house the fire department's rescue boat and hazmat equipment as well.

The report also indicates that the city eventually wants to build a new fire station and that construction could include space for any ambulance services, should that

See AMBULANCE, page 2

### COVID-19

## Governor cancels rest of school year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – Iowa's public and private schools have been closed through the remainder of the school year by Governor Kim Reynolds.

At Friday's daily press conference at the state's Emergency Operations Center, Reynolds said the state just didn't have the data to support reopening schools with many districts having less than six weeks remaining.

Reynolds and Iowa Department of Education Director Dr. Ann Lebo addressed the issues facing the state's school districts.



REYNOLDS

"As we look at what the data is telling us now, I can't tell you with certainty from Department of Public Health data that they are providing to the office, that early May would be the right time for students, teachers, and staff to gather in their classroom, so I regret to say that Iowa's school will not reopen for this school year," Reynolds said.

Lebo said the decision was difficult one.

See SCHOOLS, page 3

### FIRST INMATE POSITIVE

## Henry Cty. man is first DOC positive

BY PCC STAFF

CORALVILLE – The Iowa Dept. of Corrections was notified Friday night that the COVID-19 test results for an inmate at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) were returned positive.

The inmate was a new admission to

See IMCC, page 6

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### WEATHER

MON 20 Apr.....Light Rain, 57.1° F/ 49.1° F  
TUE 21 Apr.....Clear Skies, 48.9° F/ 40.4° F  
WED 22 Apr.....Light Rain, 56.2° F/ 48.4° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 04/18.....2 15 18 41 48, Star Ball: 6, All Star Bonus: 2  
PICK 3 04/18 MIDDAY.....6 2 2  
PICK 3 04/18 EVENING.....1 0 7  
PICK 4 04/18 MIDDAY.....8 0 7 9  
PICK 4 04/18 EVENING.....6 5 0 0  
POWERBALL 04/18.....4 44 46 56 63, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 2

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Iowa News/From the Front

# State Auditor's report shows financial deficiencies

**AMBULANCE** - Continued from Page 1

come to fruition. If and when that would happen, Holtkamp would use the warehouse for his Holtkamp's Floors, Decor & Furniture business.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren said right now this is all just leg work in the event that the city's take over the ambulance service. He, and Keokuk Fire Chief Gabe Rose, are working on a proposal that would provide advanced services to the county. The two cities would each cover half the county, including their respective cities.

"They have hospital to hospital transfers that would be involved so we would have to have advanced services," Herren said.

The city would pay a monthly rent or lease to Holtkamp for the space until a new fire station could be constructed.

The city parking lot at 2332 Avenue J is already considered commercial property in the city's comprehensive plan, so the rezoning of the both properties would be compliant with that plan.

"The fire chief's plan to use this building for ambulance service should be temporary, because a new station is needed," the report indicated.

"In view of this, while working with Bobby Holtkamp, who would prefer to build a larger warehouse than just what is needed for the ambulance, staff determined that the more appropriate request would be to rezone the property."

County supervisors are still accepting proposals for a county ambulance service contract that would begin July 1. The board currently has accepted two proposals - one from Lee County Ambulance, and another from an undisclosed provider. City officials from Keokuk and Fort Madison are looking at the possibility of providing the service under their licenses.

The upcoming county budget includes \$500,000 in supplemental funding for Lee County Ambulance for the 2020-21 contract, but ownership there has indicated they



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

City officials will consider a rezoning request Tuesday for the 2300 block of Avenue J shown here, that could pave the way for a private construction of a warehouse to temporarily house a potential city ambulance service behind the current Fort Madison Fire Station.

wouldn't be signing that contract renewal, but instead submitted a new proposal. The details of that proposal have not been released.

Lee County Supervisor Gary Folluo told supervisors at a recent meeting, that the county may be looking at needing to double that number per his conversations with Lee County Ambulance officials.

The ambulance service had several issues pointed out in Lee County's State Auditor's report issued on April 10 for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Among those issues was a deficiency in segregation of duties and deficiencies in financial reporting.

According to the auditor's report LCEMS' "financial reporting did not include patient billing receivable of \$327,377, accounts payable of \$17,430 and an additional

\$35,277 of salaries payable at December 31, 2018. A listing of accounts payable of \$17,430 and salaries of \$35,277 were not prepared at December 31, 2017."

The report indicated that adjustments were made to properly record those amounts at a later date.

The report also showed Lee County Ambulance had not reconciled billings, collections and delinquent accounts in a test month causing an error of \$66,143 in reported billings for December 2018. The service reported billings of \$327,377 compared to the auditor's calculated receivable balance of \$261,234.

Other issues pointed out in the State Auditor's report included Lee County Ambulance not having formal credit card policies for staff, no formal policy for capitalized assets, and other deficiencies in internal controls.

## Iowa's COVID-19 positives skyrocket as more tests conducted

DES MOINES - Today, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been notified of 389 additional positive cases for a total of 2,902 positive cases. There have been an additional 1,214 negative tests for a total of 21,648 negative tests to date, which includes testing reported by the State Hygienic Lab and

other labs. According to IDPH, an additional 1 death was also reported (1 older adult, 61-80 years in Muscatine County), 198 are currently hospitalized, and 1,171 Iowans have recovered.

261 or 67% of today's 389 additional positive cases can be attributed to surveillance testing

of meat processing facilities. That includes over 500 completed surveillance tests of Tyson employees and over 500 completed surveillance tests of National Beef employees, for a total of 84 positive and 177 positive respectively.

The state of Iowa has released an updated dashboard on [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://coronavirus.iowa.gov) that will

be updated daily to include comprehensive tracking of COVID-19 in Iowa. The new dashboard includes cases, deaths, and tests conducted in each county. The state is now providing demographic information that was not previously provided as well as Iowa's epidemiological curve.



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

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**From the Front**

**Governor waives 2020-21 school year start date**

**SCHOOLS** - Continued from Page 1

“We do know the challenges this creates, but we also do know this decision is necessary to ensure the health and safety of those we service,” Lebo said.

Lebo also said the decision results in the cancellation of all spring sports and other sanctioned school activities and events which could include prom and graduation. She said the state will provide more information by June 1 on the summer sports season.

She said despite the building closures, learning opportunities continue in programs that Iowa schools set up in a matter of weeks. Lebo said the state will continue to assist in the development of distance learning programs because the state will need them going forward and some districts had hurdles to overcome.

“We expect there to be a transition and we’ll do what we can to help them with this because this is something we’re going to have to make sure we’re going to be able to do going forward,” Lebo said.

Lebo said instructional time will be waived for districts that provided either a volunteer or required learning program during the suspension and ultimate closure. She said however, that schools are required to design and submit a “Return to Learn” plan to the department by July 1

But she said the decisions on when to start, progression of students and other issues facing the state’s districts will be made at the local levels.

Reynolds also waived the start date for the new school year in August to allow room for district to start early for remediation purposes. She said all the decisions she’s had to make have repercussions on families, students, and businesses across the state.

“That’s why I waived the start date for the possibility for schools to start three weeks early and start some of that remediation and start to see where the kids are at and provide instruction they need to get them where they should be at and ready to move for-

ward,” she said.

When asked by a pool reporter if the state had any data on the number of students actually participating in the voluntary learning programs, Lebo said she didn’t have date nor how to gather the data.

The state saw 191 new positive cases in the past

24 hours for 2,332 total positives in 82 counties across the state. The State Hygienic Lab has over 10,000 tests now available and the death toll has reached 64.

Reynolds said 2,700 tests were sent to the Tyson Foods facility in Waterloo and testing at the Columbus Junction

meat processing facility should be completed over the weekend.

The Waterloo facility continues to operate with “relaxed” attendance policies, Reynolds said. She said the state has sent additional support teams to the site to try and help mitigate the spread and possibly keep the facility open.

She also said a confer-

ence call with governors and the Trump administration showed that the state is inline with some of the metrics the country is looking at deciding when to start opening economies back up.

But Reynolds cautioned that the state’s still have authority to move on their own with responsibility and caution based on data in

front of them individually. She said she’s been working in conjunction with neighboring states to the north, south and west because a coalition of sorts had been formed with those governors when severe flooding hit last year.

“That’s the unit we’ve been working with to talk about how to reopen as a region,” she said.

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- Fort Madison Partners
- Fort Madison Public Library
- Keokuk Back to School Festival
- Keokuk Heritage Senior Center
- Keokuk Community School District
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- Milestones Area On Aging
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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
FORT MADISON  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 20  
6:00 PM**

Note: To participate in or view this meeting please see the link on the FMCS D Website Calendar or click on the link below

<https://zoom.us/j/94009501403?pwd=b-kZHVHZFZFRUIzRWI0cIB-4dG16L3pLdz09>

Public Comments are welcome. They are limited to 3 minutes and each participant will be asked to speak via telephone or Zoom video conference.

Please request access for Public Comment no later than 6:00 p.m. on April 20, 2020, by one of two means:

1. Email [tim.wondra@fmcsd.org](mailto:tim.wondra@fmcsd.org)

2. Text: 319-470-7416  
Please include your full name and telephone number and the Agenda item to which you would like to comment so that we can give you access to speak during the Board meeting. Alternatively you may also email written comments to [tim.wondra@fmcsd.org](mailto:tim.wondra@fmcsd.org) and your message will be read on your behalf.

Finance: DiPrima/Menke

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents (skip)
- IV. Monthly communications
  - A. Student Rep Report (skip)
  - B. Curriculum Corner (skip)
  - C. "Did You Know?"
  - D. Superintendent Goal Report

- E. District Presentations (skip)
- V. Approve the agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes
    1. March 16, 2020 Public Hearing #1
    2. March 16, 2020 Public Hearing #2
    3. March 16, 2020 Regular Meeting
    4. March 19, 2020 Special Meeting
  - B. Financial reports
    1. March Balance Sheet
    2. March Revenue Summary
    3. Expenditure Report
    4. Student Activity Report
  - C. Accounts payable
    1. March General Account Board Bills for

- Approval AMEX
2. April General Account Board Bills for Approval
3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval
4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval
- D. Consider personnel resignations
  1. Malissa Nelson, teacher at the high school, at the end of the school year
  2. Linda Pollmeier, associate at Richardson, at the end of the school year
  3. Scott Gooding, teacher at the middle school, at the end of the school year
  4. Chad Bowen, 7/8 boys basketball

5. Christian Boyer, asst. Football
6. Ryan Smith, middle school football
7. Brooke Wagner, middle school volleyball
8. Jan Platt, associate at Richardson, at the end of the school year
- E. Consider employment of personnel
  1. F. Consider contract modifications
  - G. Consider leave of absence
  - H. Consider open enrollment requests
  - I. Other reports
    1. Activity/Athletic fundraisers and Donations Director (blank) moved and director (blank sec-

- onded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
- VII. Action Items
  - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
    1. B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
      1. Consider approval of the request for travel from Jeremy Swink and the boys baseball team to travel to Busch Stadium in St. Louis, MO on June 21, 2020
      2. Consider approval of the request for travel from Chris Bolander to travel to Cleveland, OH for "Be-

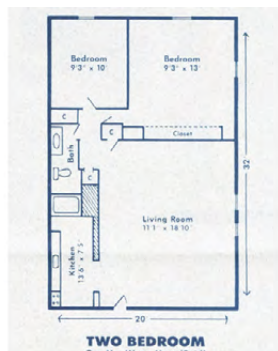
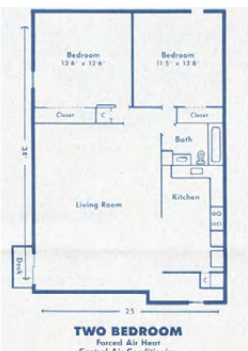
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# Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

yond the Booth” welding training on July 13-17, 2020.

3. Consider approval of policy changes

104 - Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment Policy

104-R-1 - Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment Investigation Procedures

210.3a - New School Board Members Meeting/Orientation

210.4 - Work Sessions

210.5 - Meeting Notice

210.6 - Quorum

210.7-R - Rules of Order

401.1 - Equal Employment Opportunity

402.2 - Child Abuse Reporting

403.1 - Employee Physical Examinations - delete

505.5 - Graduation Requirements - Suspension

- The Board is temporarily suspending Policy 505.5

because of the District's closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as advised by the Governor as the State of Iowa

601.1 - School Calendar - Suspension - The Board is temporarily suspending Policy

601.1 because of the District's closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic and as advised by the Governor as the State of Iowa.

711.10 - School Bus Passenger Restraints

711.10-R - School Bus Seat Belt Policy

4. Consider approval of 2020-2021 High School handbook

5. Consider approval of 2020-2021 Athletic handbook

6. Consider approval of a new football/soccer LED scoreboard

7. Consider approval of Connection Bank & Insurance Advertising Contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard

8. Consider approval of Lee County Bank Advertising Contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard

9. Consider approval of Mohrfeld Electric Advertising Contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard

10. Consider approval of Pilot Grove Savings Bank Advertising Contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard

11. Consider approval of Nevco quote for football/soccer LED scoreboard

12. Consider approval of Mohrfeld Electric installation quote for football/soccer LED scoreboard

1. Approve Canvass of Votes from Special Election March 3, 2020

2. Approve IASB Membership Renewal and Invoice for Dues for 2020-2021

3. Approve Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

4. Consider approval of superintendent's contract

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon

1. Superintendent – Erin Slater

1. Consider policy changes

210.8 - Board Meeting Agenda same as IASB, no changes

210.9 - Consent Agendas same as IASB, no changes

dy Elmore

2. Certified Employee Attendance

3. Board Member Attendance

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore

1. IX. Comments from the audience

X. Legislative update

XI. Announcements

May 4, 2020 6:00 PM - Work Session, High School, Library Media Center

May 18, 2020 6:00 PM - Regular Meeting, Central Office, Board Room

XIII. Adjourn

Exempt session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) for the purposes of a negotiation session

210.10 - Voting Method ours only, recommend to delete

2. Certified Employee Attendance

3. Board Member Attendance

C. Board Secretary/Business Manager – Sandy Elmore

1. IX. Comments from the audience

X. Legislative update

XI. Announcements

May 4, 2020 6:00 PM - Work Session, High School, Library Media Center

May 18, 2020 6:00 PM - Regular Meeting, Central Office, Board Room

XIII. Adjourn

Exempt session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) for the purposes of a negotiation session

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## Iowa News/From the Front

# State jobless claims climb a full percent vs. 2019

DES MOINES – Iowa’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.7 percent in March. The state’s jobless rate was 2.7 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in March.

“The unemployment rate in March only reflects the very beginning of the impact of the substantial increase in unemployment claims we have seen since March 16th, however the more reflective month will be April,” said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. “While there were more unemployed than March 2019, there were 1.67 million Iowans employed last month. The more Iowans who remain employed throughout should help reduce the economic impact and hopefully assist in a faster recovery period when the economy begins to reopen. There are dozens of employers looking for workers now and those who are temporarily unemployed are encouraged to check these out at: [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov)”.

The number of unemployed Iowans jumped to 63,500 in March from 49,300 in February. The current estimate is 16,700 higher than the year ago level of 46,800.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,665,300 in March. This figure was 38,100 less than February and 12,300 lower than one year ago.

Total nonfarm employment in Iowa shed 3,500 jobs in March. While some decline in payrolls was anticipated this month, the majority of the loss associated with efforts to contain the Coronavirus will not be evident until April’s estimates. Private service industries continue to trend down in Iowa’s economy and have shed a combined 5,600 jobs over the past twelve months. Goods-producing sectors trail last year’s mark (-1,900) due to durable goods factories trimming staff over uncertainty. Government shed jobs in March (-400), yet remains up slightly versus last March (+400).

Accommodation and food services posted the biggest movement in March—a loss of 1,600 jobs. This was an early symptom of firms laying off staff early in response to the Coronavirus. This sector had fared well stretching back to last summer and is still up 800 jobs versus last year. Health care pared jobs in March (-1,100) with many of the jobs lost being in social assistance and medical offices. Durable goods manufacturing again trimmed jobs in March (-800). This drop is the fourth in the last five months, but the decline is partially offset by a gain of 400 jobs in nondurable goods shops. Retail trade shed 200 jobs, although staffing levels are expected to drop in April as many non-essential businesses furlough employees. Small gains this month included construction (+200), financial activities (+200), and professional and business services (+100), which saw hiring in administrative and support services being hindered by cutbacks in professional, scientific, and technical services.



## IMCC inmate is younger adult in stable condition

IMCC - Continued from Page 1

IMCC, and arrived from Henry County on Thursday, April 16. As part of IMCC’s efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, all new admissions are kept in an intake quarantine cohort for 14-day observation. While in this quarantine observation, the inmate began displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Medical staff then conducted a test on the inmate, which was returned as positive. The inmate is currently in medical isolation, and a thorough contact tracing is taking place to identify any inmates or staff that may have had exposure since his arrival.

The inmate is described as an adult (age 18-40), and was sentenced to prison for drug crimes. Due to privacy laws, no further information can be provided on the inmate. Their family has been notified. The inmate is in stable condition but being monitored by IMCC medical staff around the clock.

The department has been preparing for the eventuality of COVID-19 in the prison system for more than a month. An outline of the steps that have been taken can be found at [doc.iowa.gov/department-corrections-steps](http://doc.iowa.gov/department-corrections-steps), and more information related to COVID-19 in the DOC can be found at [doc.iowa.gov/COVID19](http://doc.iowa.gov/COVID19). For members of the public with questions about COVID-19 in the prison system, a hotline is available during business hours Monday-Friday by calling (515) 373-5457.

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