

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, May 1, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 90



www.pencitycurrent.com

Two more positives in county

TRENDING UP: LCHD officials "highly recommend" following health guidance

(The following is a press release from the Lee County Health Department printed in its entirety)

LEE COUNTY – The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department have identified two additional cases of COVID-19 in the county, both are adults who are currently in isolation. This makes 11 confirmed cases in Lee County to date.

"Due to the increasing cases of COVID -19 illness in our county, Lee County Health Department highly recommends all community members to continue following public health guidance to help reduce transmis-

sion of COVID-19 illness and exposures," said Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator.

Guidance includes remaining in self-isolation away from others at home when you have symptoms of COVID-19 illness or have had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19; covering your cough and sneezes; washing your hands frequently; social distancing at least 6-feet apart away from others when outside your home, and calling your doctor first if you need medical care.

See VIRUS, page 4

LIMITED ACCESS

YMCA to open doors May 4

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison YMCA officials have made the decision to reopen the YMCA facilities on May 4 with new policies and procedures to maintain the health and safety of staff and members.

According to YMCA Marketing Director Shawna Ross, the following outlines the reopening process as well as what facilities and memberships will be available. Recommendations for usage of the facilities and equipment are also outlined below.

Level 4:

April 27th – May 1st:

Re-Establishing Employment

Tuesday April 28 -9:00am

Staff Meeting to Discuss Re-opening Process

Tuesday April 28 – Friday

May 1 – Prepare facility to reopen Monday May 4

Only calling back positions needed to reopen in level 4

Preparing for a May 4 opening Open: May 4, 2020 @ 6:00am

BUILDING OPERATIONS: Monday – Friday: 6:00am – 7:00pm Saturday: 8:00am – 1:00pm

Sunday: Closed

AMENITIES OPEN:

Wellness Center (Free weights/Cardio) – every other piece of equipment

Nautilus Equipment

Gym – must bring own equipment

Family Changing/Locker Room

Men's & Women's Bathrooms

AMENITIES REMAINING CLOSED:

Swimming Pool

Men's & Women's Locker Rooms

Backroom Workout Center

Aerobic Studio

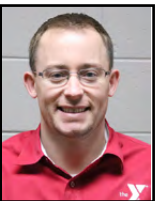
Sauna

Downtown (802 Ave. G) Facility

24 Hour Access

MEMBERSHIP:

Only Fort Madison Family YMCA members allowed. No guest passes, day passes or



WILSON

See YMCA, page 7

Dig finds not tied to original Fort

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Archeologists with the company digging through the dirt under Avenue H, have determined timbers found under the roadway do not appear to be a part of the original Fort.

Lowell Blikre, an assistant director with Bear Creek Archeology, of Cresco, Iowa, said Thursday tests done on samples taken from the site, which was just south of the



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Crews sifted through sediment under Avenue H earlier this month discovering some timbers that have turned out to be part of a rail spur or trolley car line.

former Sheaffer Pen plant, indicate they may be structure related to a train spur or an old trolley car line.

"Well we're confident they are not fort related at this

point," Blikre said. "Most likely the interpretation is that they're a late 19th century structure related to the train spurs that went into the factory prior the Sheaffer

Pen facility. Or possibly an old trolley car line as records show there used to be trolley cars in the town."

See DIG, page 4

CONNECTIVITY

Loebsack joins effort to boost rural broadband efforts

WASHINGTON – Congressman Dave Loebsack today joined House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr, and Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Mike Doyle, among others to announce a plan to connect all Americans



LOEBSACK

to affordable broadband internet.

This announcement builds on the previously laid out plan in the Moving America Forward Framework and is the result of collaboration

between the Rural Broadband Task Force, the Energy & Commerce Committee, and Members of the House Democratic Caucus. Loebsack serves on the Communications and Technology subcommittee of the Energy

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WEATHER

FRI 01 May Overcast, 66.5° F/ 60.4° F
SAT 02 May Light Rain, 72.7° F/ 56.8° F
SUN 03 May Scattered Clouds, 70.9° F/ 56.2° F

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LOTTO AMERICA 01/08.....1118 28 43 45, Star Ball: 6, All Star Bonus: 3
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PICK 3 01/06 EVENING.....075
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PICK 4 01/06 EVENING.....4792
POWERBALL 01/08.....220 49 61 67, Powerball: 20, Power Play: 2

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Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

ELEANOR L. FOLLUO

Eleanor Louise Folluo, 89, of Keokuk, IA, died Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at her home.

She was born on April 20, 1931 in St. Louis, MO, the daughter of Theodore Paul and Eileen Preis.

On October 24, 1953, Eleanor was united in marriage to Alfred "Al" H. Folluo in St. Louis. He preceded her in death on April 20, 2009.



FOLLUO

In her early years, Eleanor had been employed at several businesses in St. Louis, including the Federal Reserve, the Loop restaurant and a movie theater where she first met Alfred, her husband-to-be. After moving to Keokuk, she had been employed at Woolworth's.

Eleanor was very interested in family history and had spent thousands of hours working on genealogy. She also spent many hours organizing all of the family photos and had created albums for each of her children and grandchildren. She loved baking and her baked goods were always a special treat. Most of all, Eleanor loved her family and cherished the time she spent with her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by four sons, Rick Folluo (Mary) of Tulsa, OK, Gary Folluo (Nancy) of Keokuk, Dan Folluo (Sally) of Sapulpa, OK and Mike Folluo (Carmen) of Davenport, IA. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Christina Edwards (J.T.), Matthew Folluo, Tracey Watts, Morgan Ralphs (Jeremy), Allison Folluo, Sarah Folluo, Carley Folluo, Whitney Folluo and Dominick Folluo, one great-grandson, Nolan Edwards, and one brother, Kenneth Paulos (Addie) of St. Louis.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by two sisters, Shirley Krumm and Frances Poulos, and two brothers, Donald Poulos and Lawrence Poulos.

A graveside service will be held at a later date at the Keokuk National Cemetery for Eleanor and her husband Alfred.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Keokuk Fez Club or the Keokuk Community Child Development Center.

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

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

OBITUARIES

ALICE J. GROENE

Alice Jane Groene, 77, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 6:51 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA after a long and arduous battle with kidney disease. Alice was born January 16, 1943 in Deming, NM, the daughter of Hilbert and Mary (Marsh) Cowles. She married Wayne S. Groene on August 1, 1964 at Sacred Heart Church in Fort Madison, IA. She was a bank teller for many years, first at Iowa State Bank and then retired from Lee County Bank. She enjoyed flower gardening and going to lunch with her girlfriends.



GROENE

Alice is survived by: her husband of 55 years, Wayne Groene of Fort Madison, IA; her daughter, Deborah (Joseph) Itri of Scituate, MA; her son Mark (Kathy) Groene of Dardenne Prairie, MO; her grandchildren, Rachael and Ryan; 2 brothers: Herbert "Gil" (Dotty) Cowles of Fort Madison, IA and Floyd "Futts" (Betty) Cowles of Denmark, IA; 2 sisters: Darlene Kraus of Fort Madison, IA and Nancy (Jack) Hobbs of Iowa City, IA. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Edith (Everett) Smith, her brother Clarence "Corky" (Joyce) Cowles and her brother in law, Carl Kraus.

Cremation has been entrusted to the care of King-Lynk Funeral Home. Due to the COVID-19 virus, a private family graveside service will be held and there will be no formal service at this time. A memorial has been established for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and may be sent to: Mark Groene, 223 Waterford Crystal Drive, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368. Online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

State sees 14 added COVID deaths

DES MOINES - Today, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been notified of 302 additional positive cases for a total of 7,145 positive cases. There have been an additional 1,028 negative tests for a total of 35,552 negative tests to date, which includes testing reported by the State Hygienic Lab and other labs. The number of positive cases will continue to grow as Test Iowa sites open and additional surveillance testing of large businesses and nursing home staff continues.

According to IDPH, an additional 14 deaths were also reported, 335 are currently hospitalized, and 2,697 Iowans have

recovered. At this time, 1 in 74 Iowans have already been tested.

According to IDPH the additional 14 deaths were reported in the following counties:

Dubuque County, 1 middle age adult (41-60 years)

Linn County, 3 older adults (61-80 years)

Marshall County, 1 middle age adult (41-60 years)

Muscatine County, 2 older adults (61-80 years), 3 elderly adults (81+)

Polk County, 3 elderly adults (81+)

Scott County, 1 elderly adult (81+).

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

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Obituaries/From the Front

Plan puts \$80M into rural broadband over 5 years

INTERNET - Continued from Page 1

and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over telecommunications issues. He also serves as a co-chair of the Rural Broadband Caucus.

"The future of economic development in Iowa and across the country depends, in large part, on access to the internet and specifically high-speed broadband. It is unacceptable that in 2020, many families, small businesses, farmers, educators and healthcare providers don't have access to high-speed internet, which is needed to ensure our rural communities can thrive," Loeb sack said.

"In times like these, when families are at home, millions of K-12 students do not have access to the high-speed internet needed to take classes and complete their assignments online. As the spread of COVID-19 continues, it shines an even brighter light on the "broadband gap" that exists between urban and rural communities. Once the transmission of COVID-19 has slowed between people, to ensure a full economic recovery and close the "broadband gap," getting broadband to those who don't have it must be a top priority."

Details of the plan are listed below.

Deploy High-Speed Broadband – Invests \$80 billion over five years to deploy secure and resilient broadband infrastructure to expand access for communities nationwide, connecting unserved and underserved rural, suburban, and urban areas across the country while prioritizing persistent poverty communities.

Offer Low-Interest Financing for Broadband Deployment – Invests \$5 billion over five years for low-interest financing of broadband deployment through a new program that would allow eligible entities to apply for secured loans, lines of credit, or loan guarantees to finance broadband infrastructure build out projects.

Dig Once – Promotes the installation of broadband

conduit during the construction of any road receiving federal funding to facilitate the building of broadband network infrastructure.

Invest Federal Funds Efficiently – Establishes the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, responsible for coordinating with other federal agencies to streamline the application processes for broadband funding programs; ensure that broadband-related support is being administered in an efficient, technology-neutral, and financially sustainable manner; and track all federal money used for construction and use of broadband infrastructure.

Ensure Internet Affordability

Promote Competition – Gives preference in awarding funding to broadband builds that will provide open access to new infrastructure to allow additional providers to use taxpayer funded infrastructure on fair terms to provide more options to consumers.

Require an Affordable Option – Requires internet service providers whose

networks are built with new federal funding to offer at least one affordable option.

Enhance Payment Support – Increases existing payment support for consumers, expands eligibility for and applicability of support, and eliminates barriers to helping low-income and recently unemployed Americans afford broadband access.

Protect Local Options – Guarantees the right of local governments, public-private partnerships, and cooperatives to deliver broadband service, which has lowered prices in many communities.

Gather Pricing Data – Directs the Federal Communications Commission to collect data on prices charged for broadband service throughout the country and make that data widely available with appropriate privacy protections.

Learn More Information – Directs the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth to conduct a study on the extent to which cost remains a barrier to broadband adoption and the feasibility of providing additional targeted federal subsidies to offset costs for low-income households.

OBITUARIES

THERESA J. SLAUGHTER HOUSE

Theresa Jeannette (Williamson) Slaughter House, 100, of Middle Amana, formerly of Farmington and Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 11:55 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at Colonial Manor in Middle Amana, Iowa.

The daughter of Roy and Kathryn (Mahler) Williamson, she was born in December of 1919 in the township of Bonaparte, and grew up on a farm north of Farmington.



HOUSE

She attended high school in Bonaparte, Iowa, and afterwards was a rural school teacher for several years in a country school, Webster Ridge, across the road from where she grew up, and then the country school Spencer, north of Stockport. In the 1950s she moved with her father into Farmington. She married Clarence Slaughter in October 1957 at the Little Brown Church in the Vale in Nashua, Iowa. They lived on a farm northeast of Farmington, where their children Dale and Sherri grew up. After Clarence's death in October

1972. She married Bob House in August 1987. He also preceded her in death.

Surviving are her children: Dale Slaughter of Middle Amana and Sherri (Brian) Weinzirl of Lake St. Louis, Missouri and her granddaughters: Amanda (Corey) DeGraaf of Wentzville, Missouri and Jennifer (Wade) Kemp of McKinney, Texas, great grandson: Nolan DeGraaf and great granddaughter: Madison Kemp.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husbands: Clarence Slaughter, and later Bob House.

She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison before she was married to Clarence. Jeannette loved to travel, taking charter bus trips with her friends Anna and Mary throughout the United States. She traveled with Dale by car and plane, and then with Bob House after their marriage. In her later years, she made almost yearly trips with her son Dale to Duluth, Minnesota and Canada in the fall, and to Chicago at Christmas time. In 2010, she got a passport when she was 90 so she could continue to go Canada. Her last trip there was when she was 99. She enjoyed riding in the car, and went out on weekly drives with her son.

A private family service will be held Monday, May 4, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington.

Burial will be at the Bonaparte Cemetery in Bonaparte.

A memorial has been established in her memory and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa. 52656.

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

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.



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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Member LION Publishers

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

Founded in 2016

P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

From the Front

LCHD officials layout detailed COVID precautions

VIRUS - Continued from Page 1

As certain businesses or facilities are planning to reopen at 50% capacity on or after May 1, 2020 under the Governor's proclamation, LCHD also encourages the following to both business owners and the public:

- Follow CDC guidance related to Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities (on LCHD website);
- Encourage and provide supplies to allow for frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing for your employees and the public;
- Provide reminders to your employees and members of the public to stay at least 6 feet away from others when in the facility and mark six-foot

intervals when possible;

- Post signage at the door indicating no one should enter the establishment if they currently have symptoms or have been around anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days;
- If an employee or a member of the public becomes ill when at the facility, ask them to share that information with management, leave the facility and then call their health care provider;
- Members of the public and employees should consider the use of cloth face coverings (when practical) if staying at least 6 feet away from others is not possible;

- Anyone who is high risk for more severe COVID-19 illness should continue to stay home;
- Businesses should continue to follow IDPH's business guidance related to preventing, detecting and reporting outbreaks;
- Businesses should use messaging to remind employees of steps they should be taking to protect their own health while at work.

We encourage interested residents to visit Iowa's Coronavirus Dashboard, <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>, if interested in knowing additional county testing data, confirmed case counts, and other useful information.

Lee County Health Department website, www.leeconomyhd.org, and their Facebook page, will continue to be updated with information as well.

Scientist says Sheaffer lot could cover artifacts

DIG - Continued from Page 1

Blikre said crews sampled sediment within the timber feature and sampled some of the earth underneath and in a few other locations. He said the timbers were built on previously excavated soil and crews didn't pick up any additional findings from under the timbers.

He said it would be some time before all the samples are cleaned and tested, but right now he said he doesn't believe anything under Avenue H has anything to do with the Fort.

He said if the city were to ever pull up the parking lot west of the Sheaffer building they may see findings that there could relate to the Fort.

Blikre said there was a farm implement factory on the site before Sheaffer Pen and there were rail spurs associated with that factory. But he said pouring through the soil was exciting despite not having found anything related to the Fort.

"Coming across anything was pretty exciting for us," he said. "Under Avenue H it doesn't appear anything is intact relating the Fort, but if you go north into that parking lot and maybe even passed it, there are locations where there would be something intact."

On April 15, scientists with Bear Creek were hand sifting sediment and soil after coming across two sections of timbers with iron rods securing the timbers together.

At that point Blikre said they had nothing to prove it was part of the original Fort, but said they had to treat it as such because they didn't have any evidence at that time, conversely, to indicate it wasn't a part of the Fort.

Bear Creek is the same firm that did sampling and coring when the Hwy. 61 bypass was being constructed. Blikre said Bear Creek has also done some additional core sampling as part of future reconstruction of Bus. 61 through Fort Madison.

He said as soon as everyone signs off that the archeology work is done, the construction team will be able to put the new sewer line in.

The \$2.4 million project is the first phase of a project that will turn the highway from a 4-lane roadway to a 3-lane with center turning lanes and the elimination of two one-way stretches on 18th and 20th Streets.



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



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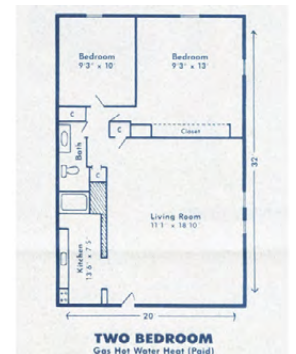
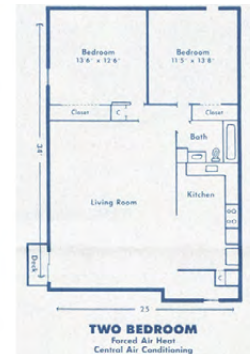
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From the Front

YMCA officials release reopening guidelines for May 4

YMCA - Continued from Page 1

nationwide memberships will be allowed at this time.

Children 14 and under must be in the presence of an adult at all times

Members are encouraged (but not required) to wear a mask while in the building. We do not recommend wearing a mask while using aerobic equipment.

PPE:

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to leave the facility and staff displaying symptoms will be asked to check back in 48 hours in regards to returning to work.

Member Services employees will not be required to wear a mask and gloves when assisting customers, however those items are provided to staff should they choose to wear them.

Members are encouraged (but not required) to wear a mask while in the building. We do not recommend wearing a mask while using aerobic equipment.

ADDITIONAL:

Child Watch is closed until further notice.

No adult or youth programming is available at this time.

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS

LEVEL 4: YMCA Facilities are Open and Programs are able to operate under STRICT Social Distancing Practices and Sanitizing Protocols.

The Iowa Alliance of YMCAs will follow safe and responsible business practices to protect Employees and YMCA Members in the re-opening of their facilities across the State. Social Distancing Practices and Sanitizing Protocols will be followed based on the severity of the pandemic in each community. The guidelines will be appropriately updated as additional information is provided by State of Iowa, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the CDC.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING PRACTICES

Capacity limited: The establishment must limit the number of customers present to 50% of its maximum level occupancy capacity.

Social distancing: The establishment must ensure that all equipment, such as treadmills, bikes, weight machines, benches, and power racks, are spaced at least six feet apart or take other appropriate measures to ensure that more closely spaced equipment is not used.

Group activities: Any group activities or classes must be limited to ten or fewer people and all people participating must maintain a distance of six feet apart at all times.

Social distancing, hygiene, and public health measures:

The establishment shall also implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each establishment to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Utilize signage/barriers and floor/seat markers throughout facility to instruct members to remain six feet apart.

Post signage on YMCA front door informing individuals who have a fever, cough, shortness of breath or any sign of sickness to not enter.

YMCAs will encourage members to make non-cash payments.

Utilizing contactless forms of member check-in.

Members and employees will bring their own water or drinks.

Limit use of cardio machines to every other machine in order to maintain Social Distancing.

Employees will enforce Social Distancing and prohibit congregating between non-cohabitating members.

No In-facility Child Care Services.

YMCA will designate employees to monitor YMCA capacity.

YMCA will not have gatherings of more than 10 employees in one place.

SANITIZING PROTOCOLS

Social distancing, hygiene, and public health measures: The establishment shall also implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each establishment to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Employees will be trained in proper hygiene practices and sanitizing protocols.

Employee equipment will be frequently cleaned and sanitized.

Fitness equipment will be cleaned on a regular schedule by employees.

Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and trash receptacles will be available throughout the facility.

Door entrances and exits will be sanitized at least three times

each day.

Utilize signage throughout the facility to inform members of sanitizing protocols and personal responsibility for self-care and keeping facility and equipment clean.

Members will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the YMCA.

Members will be encouraged to use face coverings while in the YMCA.

Employees will enforce the cleaning of fitness equipment by members before and after use.

Employees will clean and sanitize bathrooms and locker rooms regularly in addition to usual scheduled cleanings.

Employees will patrol the facility enforce the equipment wipe-down policies are being done by members.

ROOM CAPACITIES

GYMNASIUM -

10 PEOPLE MAXIMUM;

ALL PICKUP GAMES ARE SUSPENDED AT THIS TIME;

MEMBERS MUST BRING THEIR OWN BASKETBALLS, VOLLEYBALLS, SOCCERBALLS, ETC. TO USE WELLNESS CENTER (FREE WEIGHTS AND CARIDO MACHINES) -

10 PEOPLE MAXIMUM; MUST UTILIZE EVERY OTHER MACHINE TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING;

WIPE DOWN EQUIPMENT BEFORE AND AFTER USING;

KEEP 6 FEET SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN SOCIALIZING WITH OTHER MEMBERS

NAUTILUS EQUIPMENT

10 PEOPLE MAXIMUM; MUST UTILIZE EVERY OTHER MACHINE TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING;

WIPE DOWN EQUIPMENT BEFORE AND AFTER USING;

KEEP 6 FEET SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN SOCIALIZING WITH OTHER MEMBERS