

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, May 29, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 108



www.pencitycurrent.com

City Hall to reopen Monday

MAYOR: It's time to get back to some type of business as usual

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said it's time to get back to running the city... with some common sense.

City officials announced Thursday morning that city offices will again open to the public starting June 1.

City Manager David Varley said the city will increase sanitizing of surfaces and will space people out to hold to social distancing guidelines. He also said plexiglass barriers will also be installed to help protect both residents and staff.

"We have a routing in place for wiping down counters and



MOHRFELD

touch surfaces," Varley said. "And we're going to ask people to space out. We have the counter space to keep everyone six feet apart."

Varley said the city has been conducting regular business, there were just issues where people couldn't be physically present.

"Sometimes we'd have to hand permits or paperwork out the door when people would call in, but other than that we've been going about providing the services people expect," he said.

Mohrfeld said city meetings will continue as a dual pro-

See CITY, page 4

RSVP

Volunteers needed for community garden work

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – About a dozen people helped get the Fort Madison Community Garden put in the ground Thursday morning.

The project is coordinated by Tammy Hudson, director of the United Way of the Great River Region's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. The garden generates produce that is donated to the Fort Madison Food Pantry throughout the summer.

The food helps those suffering with food insecurities in and around Fort Madison.

Volunteers including United Way Director Karen Siefken and her husband tilled the garden beds last week, and then volunteers went to work weeding, planting and grooming the garden beds Thursday morning.

Hudson said she's still in need of volunteers to help tend to the garden throughout the summer.

"We also encourage more volunteers who want to help fight food insecurity in their community to come and help weekly to weed, clean up trash, water, etc. (1-2 days per week), and then when ready to harvest in about 60 days, volunteers to help harvest all produce to be taken back to the Fort Madison Food Pantry," Hudson said.

Volunteers on Thursday including groups from RSVP, the food pantry, DuPont, Lee County Health Department, Lee County Conservation District. Hudson also thanked the City of Fort Madison and Hy-Vee for helping coordinate the garden.

Those interested in helping can call Tammy at the RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)/UWGR office at 319-372-8043. The garden is located behind Hy-Vee in Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

Free dairy boxes run out fast

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Volunteers with the Fort Madison Food Pantry helped hand out 96 boxes of free Prairie Farms dairy products in less than a half an hour Thursday morning.

The program was announced earlier this week and even before 9 a.m. area residents were lined up in the Holy Trinity Catholic High parking lot to receive the free boxes.

The giveaways will take place on Thursdays through July 2nd and Lin Cramer, president of the food pantry board said next week the supply will increase to 400 boxes.

Each box contains two gallons of 2% milk,



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Volunteers with the Fort Madison Food Pantry and Jesse Schradler, with Prairie Farms, have to turn people away at Holy Trinity High School Thursday morning after handing out close to 100 boxes of free dairy products.

two individual servings of chocolate and strawberry milk each, cottage cheese, french onion dip, sour cream and cream cheese?

"Just heard from the Pantry volunteers

that the dairy boxes were all given out in the first 30 minutes," Cramer wrote in an email

See FOOD, page 5

CHAMBER

City's Farmer's Market to start in Central Park Monday

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Farmer's Market will kick off the season on Monday, June 1st. The Market will be held every Monday from 4-6 pm in Central Park.

This year's Market will offer great local produce, baked goods, home-

made items and more! The market managers have been hard at work recruiting more vendors for this season.

If anyone would like information on becoming a vendor, they can contact Savanna Collier at the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce

by phone at 319-372-5471 or email chamber@fortmadison.com.

We ask everyone attending the Market to follow social distancing guidelines set by the State of Iowa. We encourage anyone who hasn't felt well or is at a higher risk to stay home.

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WEATHER

FRI 29 May.....Clear, 66.3° F/ 50.0° F
SAT 30 May.....Light Rain, 68.0° F/ 52.7° F
SUN 31 May.....Broken Clouds, 68.3° F/ 61.4° F

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LOTTO AMERICA 05/27.....16 20 35 36 48, Star Ball: 3, All Star Bonus: 3
PICK 3 05/27 MIDDAY.....4 9 0
PICK 3 05/27 EVENING.....4 5 9
PICK 4 05/27 MIDDAY.....2 0 1 0
PICK 4 05/27 EVENING.....6 3 4 4
POWERBALL 05/27.....38 58 59 64 68, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 3

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Obituaries/Scene Around Town



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Volunteers worked most of Thursday morning weeding and planting the Community Garden located behind Hy-Vee in Fort Madison. Volunteers are still needed to tend to the garden throughout the summer. For more information contact Tammy Hudson at 319-372-8043.

OBITUARIES

ANITA D. LUCKETT

Anita Darlene Luckett, 95, formerly of Farmington, Iowa passed away at 10:10 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at the Kensington in Fort Madison, Iowa.

She was born on February 8, 1925 in Farmington, Iowa, the daughter of James Collier and Stella Edith (Muntz) Fine. In March 1945 she married Laverne McGlothlin, they later divorced. On February 27, 1954 Darlene married Harold Luckett, he preceded her in death on August 12, 1991.



LUCKETT

Darlene is survived by two daughters: Sharon (Rodney) Moeller of Fort Madison, Iowa and Donna Luckett of Burlington, Iowa; a son: Bob (Martha) Luckett of Greenville, Michigan; daughter-in-law: Cindy McGlothlin of Sedalia, Missouri; six grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; and ten great-great grandchildren. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.


She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband: Harold; her son: Rick McGlothlin; her grandson: Chad Harris, two sisters: Nina Peterschmidt and Marjorie Rippenkroeger; and two brothers: Lester Fine and Harold Fine.

Darlene was a member of the Farmington United Methodist Church. She graduated from Farmington High School in 1942. Darlene was a homemaker and had worked at Sheaffer Pen, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Rubber Plant, Sylvania, and Whittaker Cable. She played the harmonica and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020 at the Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington, Iowa with Pastor Sally Barrett officiating.

Burial will be in Greenglade Cemetery, Farmington.

Memorials have been established in her memory to the Farmington United Methodist Church or Fort Madison Community Hospital Home Health and Hospice. Memorials may be mailed to Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 56 Donnellson, Iowa 52625.



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Catfish Bend Casino to reopen facility Monday

PointsBet Sports to remain closed temporarily

Editor's Note: The following is a release printed in its entirety from Catfish Bend Casino.

BURLINGTON – Catfish Bend Casino, one of Iowa's leading casino destinations, will safely open its doors on Monday, June 1, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. CT after a long, mandated closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following a Proclamation issued by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Catfish Bend Casino closed its doors at Noon on March 17, 2020, and is now poised to reopen on June 1, 2020. During the 76-day closure, Catfish Bend Casino underwent an industrial grade sanitation process. All slot machines, table games, chairs, tabletops, bathrooms and surfaces were disinfected. Carpets were professionally cleaned, lighting was cleaned or replaced, and numerous hand sanitizing stations have been installed.

"We are thrilled to safely welcome guests back for fun and excitement in an environment focused on helping guests and employees stay safe and healthy," said Sr. Vice President and General Manager, Rob Higgins.

Based on guidance provided by Iowa Racing & Gaming Commission, Iowa Gaming Association, Iowa Department of Public Health, CDC, WHO, and in conjunction with Governor's Office, the following public health safety measures will be implemented:

Catfish Bend Casino occupancy shall be reduced to not more than 50% of established gaming positions, excluding staff counts.

Slot machines and table games shall be spaced or otherwise divided to ensure social distancing mandates.

All Casino patrons and other guests will pass through a thermal temperature scan located at the North Casino Entrance. Only the North Casino Entrance shall be open until further notice.

Guests will be provided a mask upon request at the thermal temperature stations. All guests shall be encouraged to wear a mask while visiting the casino, and all players at table games shall be required to wear a mask during play.

Slots machines and tables games shall be sanitized as quickly as possible as players depart the machine or table. Dealers at table games shall sanitize regularly and frequently.

Social distancing cues will be placed on the floors

where lines form. Social distancing protocols shall be maintained pursuant to Governor Reynolds's orders. Barriers or shields shall be used at customer service counters and elsewhere when social distancing protocols are not possible.

All employees will enter the facility through a separate checkpoint, receive daily temperature scans, and will be required to wear a mask while working around others. Employees shall be required to thoroughly sanitize their hands at least hourly while on shift.

All touched surfaces will be sanitized regularly throughout the day, plus numerous additional safety protocols and procedures/.

PointsBet Sports Book will remain temporarily closed until further notice.

New facility hours of operation:

Catfish Bend Casino (starting June 1st):

Sunday-Thursday – 10 a.m. to 12 a.m.

Friday & Saturday – 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Coco Loco's Gift Shop (starting June 1st):

Wednesday – Sunday – Noon to 6 p.m.

"We know our customers are eager to get back to their favorite places, see their friends, and have some fun, while staying safe and healthy" noted Great River Entertainment Chief Executive Officer, Gary Hoyer. "We are whole-heartedly committed to getting back to business and working hard to protect our customers and staff."

City hasn't seen dramatic water bill delinquency

CITY - Continued from Page 1

cess in the short-term where the council and staff are encouraged to be at meetings in person, but have the option to attend via teleconference.

"It was up to me, I'd pull the trigger and get back to business as usual with some common sense," Mohrfeld said. "The meetings will continue to be published as Zoom meetings, but I'm inviting the council and giving them to the option to not be there in person."

Mohrfeld said the main traffic at City Hall is probably paying water bills and for building permits. But he said during the closure, he hasn't seen anything to indicate the city experienced a surge in delinquent bills.

"It's time to go back to some type of business as usual with some common sense added in," Mohrfeld said. "The Library's opening back up, furloughs are over. It's time to get back to running the city."

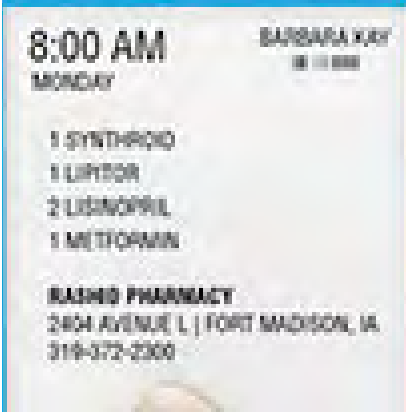
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From the Front

Free dairy boxes to increase with next week's offering

FOOD - Continued from Page 1

to Pen City Current this morning.

"As our maiden voyage, we had no idea there would be so much interest! Next week Prairie Farms will send 400 boxes so there should be enough for everyone!"

Cramer apologize for the pantry's underestimation of the desire and need for the products.

"We started signing people up early because when volunteer started showing up here at 8:30 a.m. and we already had people lined up. We took information down because we think at some point we're going to have report to somebody how much product we handed out," said volunteer Vicky Lundebly.

"We counted over 200 people out there and we, unfortunately, had to turn people away."

Jesse Schrader, the Prairie Farms rep on site said the boxes are the fruit of federal agriculture pandemic stimulus.

"My understanding is had to do with \$19 billion stimulus where I believe \$16 billion went directly to farmers and \$3

billion went to buy ag products so they didn't have to dump them," Schrader said.

He said the contents were determined by the USDA and Prairie Farms.

"It's a mix between USDA and Prairie Farms as to what goes in it. The boxes come from Peoria."

Schrader said past events he's been a part of were food pantry volunteers coming and picking up the supplies they needed. This was the first time he's seen actual customers come to the site and pick up the products to take home.

"I wasn't surprised we got rid of it, but I was surprised at how fast we got it out. This was the first one I've done where actual consumers came up and took it home," Schrader said.

Volunteers at the site said there needs to be better social distancing efforts because people got out of cars and just came up to the truck. They said next week, people will need to line up on the sidewalk next to the high school and maintain distance.

"It was obviously an amazing success and there was a lot of need out there," said Shirley Gabel, the food pantry's food purchasing director. "We felt bad for the people who got turned away, but we're gonna have more on hand next week."

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Classifieds/Public Notices

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Testing

**Saturday, July 11, 2020
9 AM – 12 PM
Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, Iowa 52639**

Applications are available at the Lee County Sheriff's office or on the Lee County website at <https://www.lee-county.org/announcements.htm>

Application to test must be returned to the Lee County Sheriff's office by Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 3:30 PM.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST POINT CITY COUNCIL WEST POINT, IOWA 52656 MAY 26, 2020

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly

noticed special meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the American Legion, 309 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 (location changed due to COVID19 social distancing necessity) on May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker,

the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stueker-jurgen; Dan Waters; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus. On motion approved Resolution No. 785-20 accepting donation of

Avenue D repaving project. On motion approved Resolution No. 786-20 supporting MBMRE, LLC to apply for housing tax credit program. On motion meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m., May 26, 2020. /s/ Paul Walker, Mayor Attest: Diane E. Smith, City Clerk

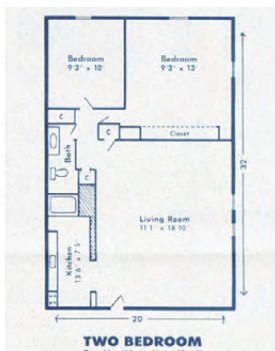
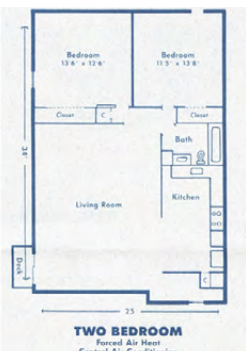
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Lee County News/Iowa News

Iowa stays over 180K weekly jobless claims

DES MOINES - The number of initial claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, May 17, and Saturday, May 23, was 14,586. There were 13,365 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 1,221 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state.

The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims was 180,679.

Unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$48,828,481.83 for the same week.

The following industries had the most claims:

- Manufacturing (3,835)
- Industry Not Available - Self-employed, Independent Contractors, etc. (2,382)
- Health Care & Social Assistance (1,399)
- Retail Trade (923)
- Accommodation & Food Services (898)

A total of \$104,376,000 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits was paid during the week of May 17-23, 2020. Since April 4, 2020, a total of \$661,090,200 in benefits has been paid.

A total of \$5,579,759 was paid in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits during the week of May 10-16, 2020.

This week IWD began to process Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits for individuals who have already received 26 weeks of benefits prior to or during the pandemic. Claimants can expect to see deposits early next week for these claims including retroactive payments of PEUC and FPUC payments.

For more information on the total data for this week's unemployment claims, please visit <https://www.iowal-mi.gov/unemployment-insurance-statistics>

Early in-person voting taking place until 5 p.m. Monday

LEE COUNTY - You can still vote in person at the County Building in Fort Madison (call 319-372-3705) for details and the Courthouse in Keokuk. (call 319-526-8592 for details) until 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 1st.

We are open this Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00 at both locations.

If you received a letter or a phone message that you failed to sign your ballot envelope, you have until 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 1st to sign it.

Mailed returned ballots must be postmarked before Election Day.

There are drop boxes at both locations for your ballot.

There are only three polling locations on Election Day.

Fort Madison

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Ward 1 | First Baptist Church | 301 24th St |
| Ward 2 | First Baptist Church | 301 24th St |
| Ward 3 | First Baptist Church | 301 24th St |
| Ward 4A&B | First Baptist Church | 301 24th St |
| Ward 5/ Madison Twp | First Baptist Church | 301 24th St |

Keokuk

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------|
| Ward 1 | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |
| Ward 2A&B | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |
| Ward 3 | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |
| Ward 4 | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |
| Ward 5 | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |
| Ward 6 | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |
| Ward 7 | First Christian Church | 3476 Main St |

Charleston, Des Moines, Van Buren, Franklin, Cedar, Marion, Harrison townships along with Donnellson and Franklin will vote at the Pilot Grove Savings Bank Community Room, 506 N Main St Donnellson.



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| <p>Delivery/Pickup Fee Waived For Small Equipment Within City Limits MAY RESERVATIONS ONLY</p> <p>Present this coupon and get free delivery/pickup within city limits. Offer valid until May 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.</p> | <p>50% Off Telehandlers MAY RESERVATIONS ONLY</p> <p>Present this coupon and get 50% off any Telehandler rental. Offer valid until May 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.</p> |

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Member LION Publishers
www.lionpublishers.com

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

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.

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June 7th 11am—4pm



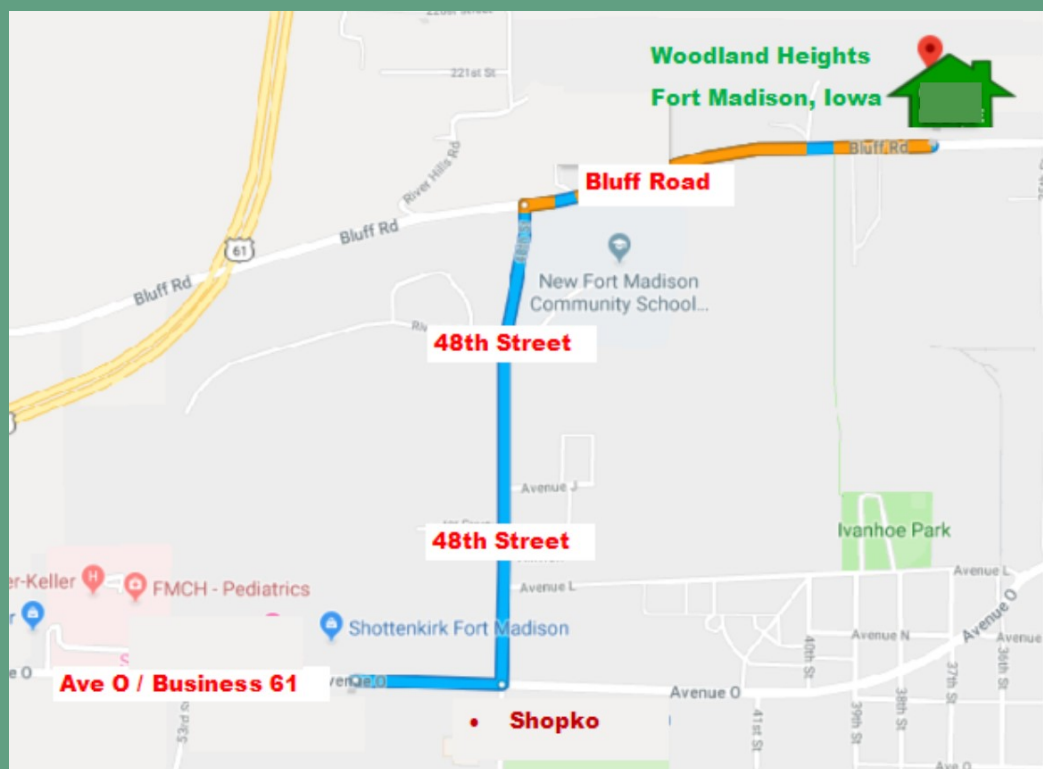
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