

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Monday, March 9, 2020 | 4 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 50



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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

## A growing partnership

Fort Madison Chief of Police Mark Rohloff addresses a group of Neighborhood Watch volunteers Sunday afternoon at the Hillside Inn. Visit [www.PenCityCurrent.com](http://www.PenCityCurrent.com) Monday for an update on the city's growing Neighborhood Watch program.

## CORONAVIRUS

# State has 3 confirmed with COVID-19

*No one hospitalized and all are recovering at home*

From the Iowa Department of Public Health

DES MOINES – Testing at Iowa's State Hygienic Laboratory has indicated three presumptive positive cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Iowa residents. According to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the individuals are from Johnson County: one middle-age (41-60 years) adult and two older adults (61-80). Two of the individuals had underlying health conditions. One did not. None required hospitalization and all are recovering.

"Iowa has been proactively preparing for the likelihood of a positive test in Iowa with strategic planning and safety measures. While these are the first cases, it may not be the last and it's why Iowans must continue to practice safe habits like hand washing and staying home from work when sick," said Gov. Reynolds. "My team is engaged through the President's Coronavirus Task Force, led by Vice President Mike Pence, as well as the nation's governors to work collaboratively to limit the spread of COVID-19."

"All three individuals were part of a cruise in Egypt," said IDPH Medical Director and State Epidemiologist, Dr. Caitlin Pedati. "IDPH is working with local public health to assess potential exposures to others. These cases are an important reminder that all Iowans need to help prevent the spread of illness by washing hands frequently, staying home when ill, and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue."

COVID-19 was first linked to an outbreak in Wuhan, China, but cases have subsequently been identified in several countries, including the U.S. These are the first cases identified in Iowa. Confirmatory testing is pending at CDC.

See VIRUS, page 2

# Weber, Fraise want to continue county work

## PRIMARIES: Two Democrats seek re-election in 2020

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Two Lee County elected officials want to continue the work they've been doing for the taxpayers in the upcoming primary and general elections.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise and Sheriff Stacy Weber, both Democrats, have announced their intentions to run for their respective offices again in 2020.

The Primary Election will be held June 2nd and all Lee County polling sites will be open 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. As of Friday March 6, no other candidates had turned in papers to seek election to those offices.

Fraise, the former president of the State Auditor's Association, said she enjoys serving the people of Lee County and wants to continue doing so.

"I would like to continue to serve the citizens of Lee County for four more years. I enjoy the challenges that are presented to me every day. New laws and cybersecurity make elections an ever-changing item. I am proud to be part of the Iowa Auditor's Association that works so hard to ensure that everyone's vote will count," she said.

Fraise has been part of the county auditor's office for the past 25 years, was elected in 2012 to the post, and was re-elected in 2016. She said the county is doing well in a tight budget envi-



FRAISE

ronment.

"The county is heading the right direction. We've implemented some safety measures for the state, and got the solar panels trying to cut electric bills."

Fraise said it's important that county residents know that the county is responsible with taxpayer money and wants to protect that image.



WEBER

"There's always a lot of misinformation and that bothers me about public service. The misconception that we're riding on the taxpayers coat tails," she said. "It's not that way at all. Everyone is conscientious about what we do and it's always on my mind that we are spending their money."

A big part of Fraise's job is securing the voting process in Lee County. She said the state is tops in the nation in voter security and that has been an ever-changing focus during her term as Auditor.

"So much has been said about cyber security lapses and things like that and I feel very confident in our equipment here. It's not connected to the Internet and is tested repeatedly in public testing. Anybody is welcome at anytime to come in the office and

See CANDIDATES, page 4

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## WEATHER

MON 09 Mar .....Heavy Intensity Rain, 53.8° F/ 42.8° F  
TUE 10 Mar.....Overcast, 46.5° F/ 43.6° F  
WED 11 Mar.....Scattered Clouds, 57.8° F/ 43.6° F

OpenWeatherMap

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 03/07 .....113 14 24 25, Star Ball: 1, All Star Bonus: 3  
PICK 3 03/07 MIDDAY..... 058  
PICK 3 03/07 EVENING ..... 979  
PICK 4 03/07 MIDDAY .....2382  
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POWERBALL 03/07..... 715 21 33 62, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 2

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## For the Record/From the Front

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

03/03/20 – 2:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue F.  
 03/03/20 – 9:00 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.  
 03/03/20 – 9:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 900 block of Avenue H.  
 03/03/20 – 12:20 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2600 block of Avenue L.  
 03/03/20 – 12:24 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2400 block of Avenue L.  
 03/03/20 – 5:50 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 3100 block of Avenue L.  
 03/03/20 – 2:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Michelle Marie Decker, 34, of Fort Madison in the 3300 block of Bluff Road, on a warrant for driving while suspended and drug-related charges. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/04/20 – 10:42 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue E.  
 03/04/20 – 8:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Wayne Andrew Hayes, 37, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released with a citation.  
 03/04/20 – 8:54 p.m. – Fort

Madison Police arrested Darrell Floyd Azbill, 51, of Keokuk, in the 2700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of possession of controlled substance, providing false identification and a warrant for parole violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/05/20 – 11:39 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2000 block of Avenue L.  
 03/05/20 – 11:48 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2100 block of Avenue G.  
 03/05/20 – 3:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary of 2500 block of Avenue I.  
 03/05/20 – 3:48 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary of the

2100 block of Avenue G.  
 03/06/20 – 12:30 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Charles D. Henry, 49, of Keokuk, in the 2900 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving under suspension. He was released with a citation.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/03/20 – 3:52 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Joshua Adam Bowen, 40, of Fort Madison, on Business 61 in Fort Madison, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear.  
 03/03/20 – 2:46 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Frederick James Allen, 25, of Montrose in the 3000 block of Koehler Lane in Montrose on a warrant for failure

to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/03/20 – 5:56 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Lucas John High, 36, of Morly, Iowa, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/03/20 – 8:53 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Shawn Alan Hansard, 32, of Keokuk, in the 1300 block of Oak Street in Keokuk, on a judgment hold.  
 03/04/20 – 11:32 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dakota Jay Biggs, 28, of Mt. Pleasant at the Lee/Henry County line in Salem on a charge of failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on bond.  
 03/05/20 – 10:47 a.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kristie Lynn Stepps, 32, of Burlington, on North 11th Street in Denmark, on charges of 3rd-degree burglary and 2nd-degree criminal mischief. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.  
 03/05/20 – 12:56 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Karen Marie Decker, 55, at the Mitchellville Prison on warrant for a court ordered hold. She was held in custody.  
 03/05/20 – 6:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Sarah Grace Matthews, 20, of Kahoka, Mo., at the sheriff's office on warrants of failure to appear and 5th-degree theft. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



# 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
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## Precaution still best course of action

**VIRUS** - Continued from Page 1

No additional or special precautions are recommended for Iowans beyond the simple daily precautions to combat the flu including washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when ill. It is currently flu and respiratory disease season, and IDPH recommends getting the flu vaccine. Influenza activity is widespread in Iowa and as long as flu viruses are circulating, it's not too late to receive the vaccine.

For more information about novel coronavirus, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>. In addition, a public hotline has been established for Iowans with questions about COVID-19. The line is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1.

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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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## Classifieds/From the Front

# Both candidates say county is headed in right direction

### CANDIDATES - Continued from Page 1

I'm big about transparency there," Fraise said.

She gives credit to Secretary of State Paul Pate for keeping Iowa at the forefront of security and technology.

"We receive a lot of training through the year because there's always new legislation and we have to be on top of that. The Secretary of State's office is good about keeping us informed. Nikki (Sugars) and Sara (Helenthal) are always having cyber security sessions."

Fraise, as auditor, also serves as secretary for the Lee County Board of Supervisors and says she has a very good working relationship with those elected officials.

"I don't know if previous auditor's have worked as close with the supervisors as I do. I'm very in tune with them and I know what they are thinking, and try to stay a step ahead."

Fraise is also a member of the Lee County Democratic Central Committee, Fort Madison Food Pantry Board member, Fort Madison First Baptist Church,

and Fort Madison Kiwanis. She served as President of the Iowa State Association of County Auditors in 2019 and serves on their Executive Board. She was named by Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate to an Auditors Advisory Group. Fraise and her husband Jim have four children, three grandchildren and one on the way. They reside in West Point.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said his first four years in office have been very productive and calls the county 100% safer than it's been in the past.

"There's more of us now and the one's we have are better than what we've had in the past," he said. "That in no way is a dig on those that we're here before us, but it's a testament to the type of people we have in the department."

Weber said during the 2016 election debate, he made some promises to get things done and has achieved all those commitments to voters.

One of the first things Weber did was get a privately funded K9 program. Not only did Weber get

one K9 officer, but two – Gunner and Kion – that are now part of a program supported by local donations.

Weber has also overseen transformations in the Lee County Jail resulting in fewer incidents, all while increasing revenues from neighboring counties having offenders held in Lee County. Weber said one of his first moves after making Will Conlee his Chief Deputy, was to install John Canida as the first jail administrator.

"Our administrator is one of the best in the state. But from the top down these guys are all awesome and do different things," he said.

Other department enhancements include adding two detective positions to the team, a diver program, a county tactical team, re-established the Crime Stoppers program, providing several events for youth including a wildly popular Safe Trick or Treat Night and even hosted dance parties at the sheriff's office.

"It's a lot different than I thought it was going to be," Weber said of run-

ning the department. "We accomplished goals such as obtaining all the hardware, personnel, and bringing us to date with technology. But it didn't take as long as I thought it would. This has been a complete team effort here."

He was quick to share credit, with not just the department staff, but with the Board of Supervisors and the public as well.

"They have been just awesome to us since I've been sheriff," Weber said. "I don't think throughout the history of this department we've had as much support from the public. It's been phenomenal and I think speaks to what's happening here."

He said with accomplishing the goals he set for the first term, second term goals will be lofty.

"It's gonna be harder to get better. We've done a lot in these first three years and it started day one."

Weber was referring to his first day in office when

the department was called to the riverfront for two men, who both turned up dead, had fallen into the river while fishing.

"I knew both those guys and we had to go down there right after our first meeting. It was a horrible way to start, but we didn't even have time to think about that when we had a deadly accident on a curve on Hwy. 2," Weber said.

"There's been little to time to sit and think about things, but that's really been the pace for us here. You gotta get through those things and you have to be righteous."

Weber said then the department had a deputy-involved shooting and he wanted to let the public know there was going to be transparency in the department and posted most of the video of the shooting.

"I wanted to show the public that shooting to show he was right and we were transparent," he said.

"This is the reality of the

circumstances of what we're involved in every day. Adding two detectives and doubling our criminal investigation department has been good, too.

Weber said he doesn't see himself in the position for many terms, but said having the team in place, makes serving as sheriff a lot easier.

Weber said former Sheriff Buck Jones gave him advice that when he felt it was time to go, he should go.

"If I'm elected again, at the end of that term I'll be 50 and I can retire. I don't plan on being sheriff much longer than 50, but you never know. I might consider running again if I win this time, but not much longer than that," he said.

Weber started as a reserve officer with the Keokuk Police Department and then got on as a deputy with the sheriff's department, and has more than 20 years of public law enforcement service.

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The Fort Madison Family YMCA's Lifeguard Certification Course begins March 9th and ends April 4th. This course is designed to instruct participants on the skills and knowledge needed to become a certified lifeguard.

COURSE DATES & TIMES are as follows:

PRETEST: March 9, 4:00-5:00 OR March 10, 4:00-5:00 - If these times don't work, please contact Sara to perform the pre-test before March 13.

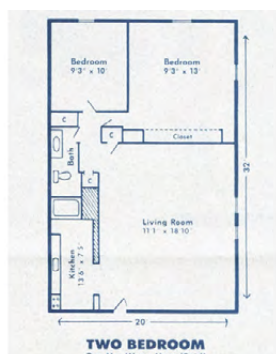
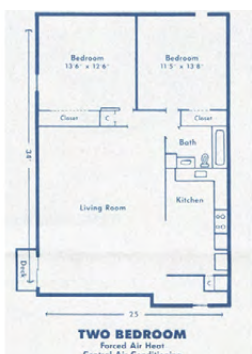
Online portion must be completed previous to the first class.

CLASSES: March 18 & 25  
April 1 & 2, 5:00-9:00  
TESTING DAY: April 4. 9:00-1:00

REQUIREMENTS: Must be 15 years old by April 3 and attend each class.

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