

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 87



www.pencitycurrent.com

Reynolds eases restrictions

SOMEWHAT SURPRISED: LCHD administrator says residents must stick to guidance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds reduced coronavirus restrictions on 77 counties in Iowa effective May 1, a move that took a local health official somewhat by surprise.

Michele Ross, Lee County Health Department's administrators said she thought the Governor might relax restrictions later in the month.

"I'll say I'm little surprised with the May 1 date. I was

thinking it would be a little further out," Ross said Monday afternoon.

But she said people have to behave appropriately and continue to adhere to prevention measures that have been in place since the beginning of the outbreak.

"I understand businesses and individuals needing to get back to work. But we need people to understand the importance of behaving responsibly," Ross said.

"If everyone does their part and maintains social distance

See LCHD, page 9



Superintendent pay package leaves questions

It's no secret that an attractive salary and benefit package creates a pool of attractive candidates for any position, public or private. It can also assumed that the higher quality of candidate you get through that attraction, the better the result and performance.

Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater was awarded a one-year contract extension and a pay raise last week. With some troubling times and an uncertain economy, the district board should provide a better explanation.

Dr. Slater isn't without accomplishments in her four years in the district. She was awarded an Iowa State Education Association TEAM award by the state's teachers in 2018. She also ushered in a somewhat unprecedented teachers' contract after the state gutted Chapter 20 and the bargaining rights of public employees in 2017. Most districts were in heated debates with teachers over contracts going forward.

In 2019, Slater found herself in a firestorm of sorts after a conflict arose with at least one coach about playing time for athletes. Her husband, Scott, was caught on tape berating head basketball coach Ryan Wilson at a camp in Quincy. She also suspended her husband from baseball games after he approached a dugout, against district athletic policy.

Last week, five Fort Madison Community School District board members approved a 1.6% pay increase for Slater and bought out seven of her 25 vacation days to create a salary for the next two years closing in on \$198K.

Two board members, Brian Steffensmeier and Brad Menke, voted against the move. Menke didn't give a reason for his nay vote, but Steffensmeier said the impact of the

See CONTRACT, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren gives direction to firefighters as they work to extinguish a blaze that broke out on top of a BNSF train engine Monday at about 4 p.m. Residents in Riverview Park called in the fire as the train rolled through the park with, what one witness said, were flames about 10 feet in the air. The train stopped at the 20th Street crossing where firefighters quickly put it out.

4th of July

Committee pushes forward with Kiddie Parade

FORT MADISON – The committee for the 108th Annual Charlie Korschgen 4th of July Kiddie Parade announced at their parade meeting Sunday evening that they are still planning on having the parade to celebrate our nation's independence that

Mr. Korschgen started back in 1912.

The committee feels that even restrictions in place today the patriotic parade must go on. Maybe with social distancing and what other restrictions may be in place our Nation's history celebration should continue.

They also voted that instead of one or two grand marshals as in the past, the committee will invite all 2020 area graduates to be honored as "grand marshals". We may only have a few

See PARADE, page 9

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
TUE 28 Apr.....Moderate Rain, 67.9° F/ 50.2° F
WED 29 Apr.....Moderate Rain, 50.5° F/ 45.9° F
THU 30 Apr.....Clear & Sunny, 61.7° F/ 49.2° F

IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 04/26 MIDDAY.....	358
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PICK 4 04/26 EVENING.....	4156

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Scene Around Town/For the Record

Fort Madison's Samantha Pothitakis stands with her uncle Dr. Mark Pothitakis with about 25 face shields Samantha created with a 3-D printer. The shields will be donated to area hospitals and dental offices.



Courtesy photo

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report
 04/24/20 – 11:57 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of 11th Street.
 04/24/20 – 12:36 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4500 block of Avenue O.
 04/24/20 – 5:04 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 1400 block of 37th Street.

04/25/20 – 3:19 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 1400 block of Avenue G.
 04/25/20 – 6:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2700 block of Avenue I.
 04/26/20 – 1:11 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 500 block of 11th Street.
 04/26/20 – 8:32 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of Avenue G.
 04/27/20 – 8:31 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue L.
 04/24/20 – 11:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested William Cochenour, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue N, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released on a promise to appear.
 04/24/20 – 8:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Rhonda Moyers, 41, of Fort Madison in the 2400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while suspended.
 04/25/20 – 7:33 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Jarad E. Jackson, 30 of Fort Madison in the 3900 block of Bluff Road, on a warrant for 4th-degree criminal mischief. He was released on a promise to appear.
 04/25/20 – 8:08 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Eric E. Fortune, 27, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue E, on a warrant for 5th degree criminal mischief. He was released on a promise to appear.
 04/26/20 – 3:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Javan Peterson, of Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue G, on a charge of OWI-1st offense. He was released on a promise to appear.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/25/20 – No activity reported.
 04/26/20 – No activity reported.



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



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

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PEN CITY CURRENT

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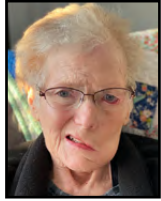
Obituaries

OBITUARIES

LINDA K. OHNOUTKA

Linda Kay Hardin Ohnoutka, 72, of Elkridge, Maryland, formerly of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 2:40 a.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at her home in Maryland.

She was born on February 20, 1948, the daughter of Floyd Richard "Dick" and Barbara Jean (Bengston) Hardin.



OHNOUTKA

Survivors include one daughter: Elke (Ben) Darling of Elkridge, Maryland; two brothers: James (Cindy) Hardin of West Point, Iowa and Ronnie (Gina) Hardin of Denmark, Iowa; five nephews: Austin (Shauna Zanolli) Hardin of Providence, Rhode Island; Andy (Ashley) Hardin (sons: Coby and Parker) of West Point, Iowa; Adam Hardin (son Isaiah) of West Point, Iowa; Archie Hardin of North Liberty, Iowa and Willie James; three nieces: Renae (Brandon) Wellborn (son Jax) of Denmark, Iowa, Maria (Joshua Weeks) Hardin of Wever, Iowa and Jessica (Mike) Behne of Montrose, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother: Russell Lee Hardin.

Linda was a 1966 graduate of Central Lee High School in Donnellson, Iowa and a 1970 graduate of John F. Kennedy College in Wahoo, Nebraska. She worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigations from 1972 to 2009 and the University of Maryland from 2009 to 2014. Linda enjoyed working in her garden in her free time.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A Private Family Graveside Service will be held Friday, May 1, 2020, at Zion Mennonite Cemetery, rural Donnellson, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in her memory to the Central Lee Foundation for a track and field scholarship in Linda's name and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.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.

OBITUARIES

VICTORIA L. NICHOLS

Victoria "Vickie" L. Nichols, 73, of Fort Madison passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 7 AM at her home.

She was born on February 25, 1947 in Ft. Madison to Martin and Verna Davis Hoenig. On June 6, 1970 she married James Nichols in Ft. Madison.



NICHOLS

Vickie worked for the Ft. Madison School District and then at Dial. She was a member of Holy Family Parish. Vickie enjoyed reading and gardening. Her greatest love was her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Jim Nichols of Ft. Madison; two sons, Marty (Summer) Nichols of Coal Valley, IL and Eric (Amanda) Nichols of Bettendorf, IA; nine grandchildren, Avery, Garrett, Cooper, Carter, Creighton, Eleanor, Jacob, Lily and Dylan; one sister, Norma Consbrock of Hot Springs Village, AR; one brother, Martin Hoenig of Low Moor, IA; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Due to the COVID-19 Virus there will be no formal services at this time. There will be a private family graveside service at Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery. King-Lynk Funeral Home is assisting the family and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

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





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

All TB & Immunization Clinics Have Been Postponed

Clinics have been postponed through April. Please call our office at **(319) 372.5225** with any questions.





#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison
www.leecountyhd.org

Complete Rental

ENJOY THESE SPRING DISCOUNTS IN APRIL!

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: orange;">50% Off Telehandlers</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">APRIL RESERVATIONS ONLY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Present this coupon and get 50% off any Telehandler rental. Offer valid until April 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: orange;">25% Off Rolloffs & Dump Trailers</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">APRIL RESERVATIONS ONLY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Present this coupon and get 25% off any Rolloffs or Dump Trailers. Offer valid until April 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: orange;">25% Off Lawn & Garden Equipment</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">APRIL RESERVATIONS ONLY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Present this coupon and get 25% off Lawn & Garden Equipment. Offer valid until April 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: orange;">25% Off Power Washers</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">APRIL RESERVATIONS ONLY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Present this coupon and get 25% off any Power Washer rental. Offer valid until April 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.</p>

5636 Avenue O, Fort Madison IA
(319) 372.8105 | www.completerentalfm.com

Lee County News/Classifieds

Early in-person voting to be done curbside

From Lee County Auditor's Office

LEE COUNTY – In person voting for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election will be available starting Monday, May 4, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic closing the County buildings, this will be conducted curb-side only.

In Fort Madison, in person voting will be available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the County Office Building located at 933 Avenue H. Interested voters should drive to the back of the building, via the alley starting on 9th Street. Voters should then call 319-372-3705 to inform the staff in the Auditors Office or ring the doorbell that has been installed by the door. There will be signs directing you.

In Keokuk, in person voting will be available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Courthouse located at 25 N. 7th Street. Voting will be conducted in the parking lot off of Blondeau Street. Voters should call 319-526-8592 or ring the doorbell that has been installed by the door at the top of the handicap ramp. There will be signs directing you.

Fraise encourages voters to vote by mail using the forms provided by the Iowa Secretary of State or you may receive a form from the Auditor's Office by calling 319-372-3705 or email dfraise@leecounty.org.

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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

 **Fort Madison**
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
www.fmchosp.com

SHOP Classifieds

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON CITY COUNCIL 4/7/2020

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Bowker, Rink, Lair, Andrews, Cangas and Morawitz present. Council Member Miller was absent.

Mohrfeld noted this meeting was being held electronically (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) because a meeting in person was impossible or impractical for the health and safety of City Council, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 3/17/2020; Payroll of 3/27/2020; Claims dated 4/2/2020, March Manual Claims, March Library Claims and the March Financial Update; Liquor License Renewal: Walgreens, 2639 Avenue L, effective 5/21/2020; and Setting public hearing at 5:30 P.M. on 4/21/2020, to rezone property located at 2324 and 2332 Avenue J, from R-4, One-Family Dwelling District, to B-4, Highway Business District.

On motion, Council approved the

second of an ordinance rezoning property located at 1731 – 39th Street and adjoining alley between 38th and 39th Streets, and 1729 – 39th Street, from R-4, Single Family Dwelling District, to B-3, Service and Wholesale District.

On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-20, ordering construction, setting public hearing and bid letting for PIP 2020-02, Airport Runway Lighting Project. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2020-21, fixing date for a meeting on the authorization of a loan and disbursement agreement and the issuance of Not To Exceed \$1,600,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes of City of Fort Madison, Iowa, and providing for publication of notice thereof.

On motion, Council approved the Mayor's reappointments of Jody Schulte to the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission, term expiring 12/31/2022; and Joel Amandus to the Planning and Zoning Commission, term expiring 3/31/2023.

Council held a discussion concerning the shuttling of some services and possible layoffs during the COVID-19 crisis.

At 6:49 P.M., the meeting adjourned until April 21, 2020, at 5:30 P.M.

/s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

REVENUES	3/31/2020	EXPENDITURES	
General	\$8,792.24	General	\$40,851.46
Special Revenue	208,840.50	Special Revenue	50,787.10
Road Use	56,067.70	Road Use	30,407.72
Debt	1,471.57	Capital	143,816.65
Capital	22,592.96	Water	74,586.94
Water	317,046.92	Sewer	83,636.20
Sewer	246,860.48	Solid Waste/ IWC	16,737.08
Solid Waste/IWC	69,691.93		<hr/>
SW Utility	18,905.10		\$440,823.15
	<hr/>		
	\$950,269.40		

PAYROLL	3/27/2020
General	\$179,784.65
Special Revenue	11,009.04
Road Use	27,123.88
Water	28,823.31
Sewer	39,166.91
Solid Waste	12,184.24
Airport	489.13
Storm Water	3,733.24
	<hr/>
	\$302,314.40

Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

CLAIMS 4/7/2020

ABRA, REPAIR 2019 CHARGER.....1,000.00
 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....25,868.32
 AMSOIL, INC, OIL/FILTER329.64
 ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, UNIFORM/SHOP SUPPLIES969.58
 B&B PROPANE, PROPANE/HEAT.....604.35
 BAIER FORD, ANTI-FREEZE29.98
 BARCO MUNICIPAL PROD INC., BANDANAS53.83
 BATES SANITATION & ASPHALT, PORTA-POTTIE RENTAL300
 BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, NUISANCE ABATEMENT440
 BRADLEY BRYANT, WINTER WEAR - 19/20179.5
 BROWN SUPPLY CO. INC., COUPLINGS930
 BROZENES HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT, PARTS298.74
 BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT, SUPPLIES102
 BURLINGTON MUNI WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLES.....85
 CENTRE STATE INTL, TRUCKS PARTS3,391.44
 CESSFORD CONSTRUCTION CO., COLD PATCH.....3,101.55
 COMPANY NURSE LLC, NURSE TRIAGE.....86
 CONVERGINT TECHNOLOGIES LLC, REPAIR CAMERA500.58
 CORE & MAIN LP, NUT GASKETS.....206.52
 COURTESY DOOR SALES & SERVICE, REPLACE WALL BUTTON105
 DAILY DEMOCRAT, TOURISM GUIDES2,297.50
 DAVIS RADIOLOGY PC, PRE EMPLOYMENT PHYSICALS50
 DETROIT INDUSTRIAL TOOL, IRON.....700.39
 DIGITAL ALLY, CHEST CAMERA595
 DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, MAP POSTER713.25
 DOUDS STONE, LLC, ROADSTONE....1,332.28
 EBERT SUPPLY, GLOVES.....133.5
 ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS, REPAIR LIGHT BAR220
 EMERGENCY MEDICAL PRODUCT, MEGAMOVER.....103.76
 FASTENAL COMPANY, PARTS38.75
 FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER.....27.05
 GARNER OIL INC., FUEL295.25

GREAT RIVER REGIONAL WASTE, INTEGRATED WASTE.....4,804.24
 GREENWOOD CLEANING SYSTEM, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES.....380.77
 HACH CHEMICAL CO., TESTING MATERIAL912.05
 HELMS & ASSOCIATES, LLC, MUSSEL SURVEY10,000.00
 HOWARD R GREEN COMPANY, PROF FEE - 10 ST LIFT.....188,454.44
 HUFFMAN WELDING & MACHINE, SUPPLIES1,974.95
 HUMBURD'S AUTO SERVICE, TIRE REPAIR45
 HY-VEE FOOD STORE, COLLECTION FEE...79.9
 IA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, MARINA GAS LICENSE9
 IDEAL READY MIX COMPANY, INC, CONCRETE1,597.85
 INDUSTRIAL GUTTERS, GUTTERS/DOWN-SPOUTS.....500
 JL TIME & ATTENDANCE COMPANY, MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION...144.05
 KAY PARK RECREATION, CEDAR2,065.00
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, PARTS/RENTAL/SHIPPING3,373.70
 KIESLER'S POLICE SUPPLY, INC, AMMUNITION302
 LIBERTY UTILITIES, HEAT804.68
 LYNCH DALLAS P.C., PROF FEES2,195.55
 MADISON TURF & TIMBER, SEAL/SCREWS279.28
 MASTERCARD, TRAINING183.68
 MCFARLAND, JANITORIAL SUPPLIES.....340.44
 MCMASTER CARR SUPPLY CO, FILTERS .902.1
 MENARD - WEST BURLINGTON, SUPPLIES100.26
 MENKE PROFESSIONAL AUTO PARTS, OIL/FILTERS.....35.57
 MICHAEL TODD & COMPANY, TUBING/POST1,536.19
 MID-IOWA SOLID WASTE EQUIP, VACUUM HOSE697.41
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, HEAT.....4,114.28
 MIDLAND SCIENTIFIC INC., TESTING SUPPLIES75.15
 MOBOTREX, POLE MOUNT104
 MOTION INDUSTRIES INC, HOSE94.8
 MUNICIPAL SUPPLY COMPANY, PIPE11,984.95
 NFPA, MEMBERSHIP175
 O'REILLY AUTO PARTS,

PARTS.....468.17
 PITNEY BOWES, POSTAGE INK.....234.17
 RAINBO OIL COMPANY, DEF FUEL163.2
 RATHBUN REG'L WATER ASSOC, WATER26.23
 REHRIG PACIFIC COMPANY, 112 - 95 GALLON POLYCARTS6,306.00
 RODI SYSTEMS CORP., BOOSTER PUMP717.31
 SELECTIVE INS. CO, FLOOD INSURANCE1,216.00
 SERVICE MASTER OF FORT MASTER, JANITORIAL SERVICE..1,311.50
 SHOTTENKIRK SUPERSTORE, BATTERY/EXCHANGE2,444.29
 SINCLAIR TRACTOR, FILTERS301.15
 TESTAMERICA INC., SLUDGE TEST.....360.68
 THACHER TREE CARE, TREE REMOVAL.....50
 TIM'S REPAIR SHOP, AIR FILTER101.36
 TRANS-IOWA EQUIPMENT, SWEEPER PARTS.....579.48
 TRUCK REPAIR INC., HOSE/CORE RETURN1,687.96
 TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, MONTHLY SUPPORT FEE.....252.5
 UPS, SHIPPING.....41.86
 USA BLUE BOOK, REDUCING FLANGE2,457.26
 VISU-SEWER, INC, INSTALL LINER .56,609.00
 VRADENBURG, DAVE, PAVILION REPAIR6,100.00
 WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED, SODIUM HYDROXIDE ...10,122.16
 TOTAL374,905.33
 GENERAL23,311.34
 SPECIAL REVENUES42939.98
 ROADE USE ...13,383.90
 CAPITAL PROJECTS143790.78
 WATER.....68,980.47
 WASTEWATER67635.24
 SOLID WASTE14,772.46
 AIRPORT.....91.16
374,905.33

MANUAL CLAIMS 3/2020

ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING, COPIER LEASE865.56
 ALLIANT ENERGY, ELECTRIC.....38,132.00
 ANASTASIA LOZANO-GARCIA, REFUND DUE TO COVID.....19 90
 ANSWER PLUS, ANSWERING SERVICE187.5
 B&B PROPANE, PROPANE1,267.04
 CENTURY LINK, PHONE131.22

DAVIDSON, PAIGE, RODEO ENCLOSED REFUND.....65
 EASYPERMIT POSTAGE, WATER BILLS/POSTAGE2,477.39
 HY-VEE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, TOILET PAPER.....43.5
 JAMES PUTNAM, REFUND COVID-19.....65
 STEPHANIE STANCIL, REFUND - COVID-19..90
 TAYLOR KENEL, REFUND DUE TO COVID-19.....90
 U.S. CELLULAR, CELL PHONES996.85
 VERIZON WIRELESS, HOT SPOTS/PHONE280.07
 WEX BANK, FUEL USAGE8,263.71
53,044.84
 GENERAL11540.2
 SPECIAL REVENUES77.94
 ROAD USE.....17023.82
 CAPITAL PROJECTS25.87
 WATER.....5606.47
 WASTEWATER16000.96
 SOLID WASTE ...1964.62
 AIRPORT.....804.96
 TOTAL53044.84

LIBRARY CLAIMS 3/19/2020

ACCUCUT, MACHINE DIES195
 AMAZON.COM, SUPPLIES1,432.72
 BAKER & TAYLOR, SHELF MATERIAL1,299.14
 CENTER POINT, LARGE PRINT SHELF MATERIAL3,235.68
 CULLEN PEST CONTROL, QUARTERLY SERVICE.....60
 DEMCO, LAMINATOR SHEETS125.5
 DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLY, CRAFT SUPPLIES99.25
 DODD PRINTING & STATIONERY, SUPPLIES4.96
 GALE, SHELF MATERIAL24.69
 J&S ELECTRONIC BUSINESS, REPAIR PHONES612.51
 KANOPY, INC., VIDEOS16
 KEMPKERS TRUE VALUE, CLEANER/SPRAYER.....38.92
 MEDIACOM, PHONE239.55
 MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, HEAT.....338.36
 ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY, CRAFT SUPPLIES205.8
 PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, SHELF MATERIAL.....165
 PETTY CASH - SARAH CLENDINENG, SNACKS/CRAFTS43.53
 QUILL CORPORATION,

PAPER/FILM231.49
 RECORDED BOOKS INC., SHELF MATERIAL1,300.80
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PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met electronically due to the COVID-19 Outbreak Shutdown, on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Ron Fedler, Gary Folluo, Rick Larkin, Rich Harlow and Matt Pflug.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input-Garry Seyb asked if Lee County Ambulance Service intended to renew their contract with the County.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Tuesday, April 7, 2020 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Folluo, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve installing 11 signs along the Mormon Pioneer National Historical Trail and waiving the usual fees of \$200.00 per sign. After discussion about setting a precedence, Pflug amended his motion to strike waiving the fees and adding the cost per sign. Larkin seconded the amendment. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye, Folluo-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Iowa Department of Transportation FY21 through FY25 Construction Program. Roll call: Harlow-aye, Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye, Folluo-aye and Fedler-aye.

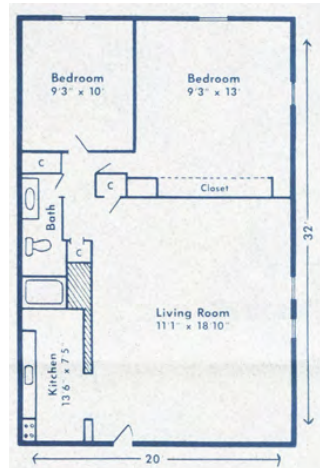
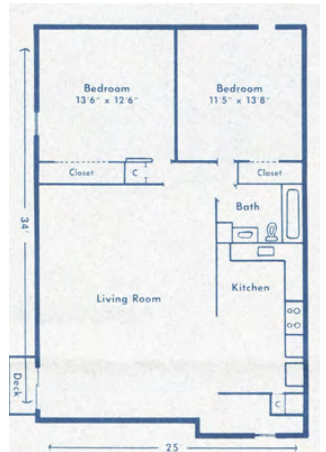
Motion carried.
 Moved by Larkin, seconded by Folluo, to approve the Iowa Department of Transportation FY21 Secondary Roads Budget. Motion carried.
 Moved by Folluo,

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PUBLIC NOTICES

seconded by Pflug, to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Administrative, Roads and Sheriff's Unions regarding leave time and other issues related to the Corona Virus. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, to approve an updated Travel/Illness/Mass Gathering Policy, effective April 14, 2020. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Larkin, to approve an Employment Agreement with the Administrative Union, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and agreeing to allow Amy Reasner to affix the Board's electronic signature to the contract. Roll call: Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye, Pflug-aye, Folluo-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve an Employment Agreement with the Roads Union, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022 and agreeing to allow Amy Reasner to affix the Board's electronic signature to the contract. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye, Fol-

luo-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to approve an Employment Agreement with the Sheriff's Union, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022 and agreeing to allow Amy Reasner to affix the Board's electronic signature to the contract. Roll call: Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye, Pflug-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Folluo, to approve a step increase for Health Department employees Tammy Wilson, Finance Operations Program Director, from \$35.28/hr. to \$35.99/hr., effective 5/10/2020; Crystal Coffman, Administrative Assistant, from \$16.21/hr. to \$16.53/hr., effective 6/12/2020; Michele Lozano, Environmental Inspector, from \$25.11/hr. to \$25.61/hr., effective 4/29/2020; Erin Andries, Dental Hygienist, from \$19.72/hr. to \$20.11/hr., effective 5/13/2020; Michael Shelangoski, Environmental Program Director, from \$30.98/hr. to \$31.60/hr., effective 5/13/2020 and Amy Cook, MIEC Family Support

Worker, from \$18.97/hr. to \$19.35/hr., effective 5/29/2020. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the month of March 2020

Committee Reports: Folluo reported on a Keokuk Economic Development Board meeting. Larkin reported on a Regional Mental Health Board meeting and a Workforce Development Board meeting. He also participated in a webinar sponsored by ISAC. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting.

At 9:45 a.m. a motion was made by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be an electronic meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Ron Fedler, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

**PUBLIC NOTICE
GREAT PRAIRIE AREA
EDUCATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EMERGENCY MEETING
MARCH 18, 2020
MEETING MINUTES**

*Iowa Code 21.8 - Due

to the COVID-19 pandemic and current directives from the state and federal government restricting the size of public gatherings and the closure of GPAEA Districts & Offices the emergency meeting of the Great Prairie AEA Board was held electronically. Since it was an emergency meeting and the agenda was posted 23 hrs in advance instead of 24 hrs under the current situation this constitutes good cause. Great Prairie AEA facilities have been closed starting March 17 until April 12 to mitigate the spread of the virus.

I. Meeting was called to order by President Ballard at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Melissa Ballard, Rhonda Frevert, Matt Greiner, Margaret Kelly, Cindy Kurtz-Hopkins, Patricia Miletich, Victoria Stephenson, and Lora Wolff

Also Present: Dr. Cindy Yelick and Jennifer Woodley

II. Open Forum
III. Motion was made by Miletich and seconded by Greiner to approve the agenda as posted.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

IV. It was moved by

Smith and seconded by Stephenson to approve the resolution to authorize the Chief Administrator is hereby authorized to pay hourly and/or non-exempt employees their customary and regular pay, for up to four weeks during the temporary closure.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

V. It was moved by Stephenson and seconded by Smith to approve the resolution to authorize the Chief Administrator is hereby authorized to pay contracted, salaried and management employees their customary and regular pay, for up to four weeks during the temporary closure.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. There being no other business the Board President adjourned the meeting at 12:04.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at the

Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding an amendment to Fort Madison Municipal Code, Title 10, Zoning, Chapter 25, Floodplain Management.

This meeting will be held electronically (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical for the health and safety of City Council, staff and the public presented by COVID-19. You can participate in this meeting and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID 480 754 120. Providing comment in person is not an option.


You may obtain further information or express your views concerning through the electronic meeting, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at dkrogmeier@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on

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PUBLIC NOTICES

May 5, 2020.
Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Fort Madison City Council at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison concerning Public Improvement Project 2020-05, Airfield Lighting Reconstruction. The purpose of the hearing will consist of approving plans, specifications,

contract documents and awarding construction contract for the project.

This meeting will be held electronically (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical for the health and safety of City Council, staff and the public presented by COVID-19. You can participate in this meeting and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting. Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID 480 754 120. Providing comment in person is not an option.

You may obtain further information or express your views concerning

this issue through the Zoom meeting, or prior to the meeting by fax at (319) 372-8661, by telephone at (319) 372-7700 ext. 206, by E-mail at mblind@fortmadison-ia.com or in writing to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 no later than 4:30 PM on May 5, 2020.

Melinda L. Blind
City Clerk

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From the Front

2017 report ranked Slater in top 25 salaries in Iowa

CONTRACT - Continued from Page 1

COVID-19 illness on the district's budget is still unknown, and the timing isn't the best for a pay raise.

But there's something more here that just doesn't sit well. Why is the district continuing to purchase vacation days at \$2,000 per day?

When Slater first came to the district in the 2016-17 school year, she signed a contract for \$170,000. But then-Board President Timm Lamb cited miscommunication between Slater, the district, and G. Tyron and Associates, regarding Iowa payroll deductions, as the reason the board approved buying out 15 days of Slater's vacation the first year at \$18,000. Since that time, the district has continued to buy seven vacation days per year at a rate of \$2,000 per day.

The first year it took her salary from \$170,000 to \$188,000, a \$1,200 per day buyback. That salary ranked her 23rd of 277 school districts listed on the Iowa Department of Education's 2016-17 state's superintendent salary report.

The report can be found at the following link:

<https://educateiowa.gov/documents/iowa-public-school-district-superintendent-information/2018/10/2016-2017-iowa-public>

Of those 23 districts, Fort Madison had the second-lowest certified enrollment just ahead of Boone Community School District who had 2,048 and just behind Pella at 2,159. Pella's superintendent made \$192,933 with five years district experience and 26 years total experience. Boone's superintendent made \$197,660 in 2016 with seven years total experience.

That year the average total salary across the state was \$147,825 with 7.6 years of experience in the district and 23.7 years overall experience. Slater was listed at 0 years of experience and 0 total years, but 'total years' of experience seems to reflect years of experience in Iowa. She came to Fort Madison from Illinois, where she was the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction

in DuPage County and has 25 years in as an educator. She's clearly experienced, and she was certified. None of that experience was included as part of the Dept. of Education report.

In her second year, and each year since, she has been paid \$2,000 per day for each of seven vacation days. In her new contract, which starts July 1, 2020, language shows the purchase of the vacation days is an incentive to keep Slater working more days each year in the district.

The base salary in the new contract is \$183,669 and adding the \$14,000 for the vacation days brings the total base now to \$197,669, which has to be considered base because it becomes part of a 267-day work year. The contract says Slater's work year is 260 days, but buying the vacation takes it to 267 days.

Simple math shows that compensation to be just over \$740 per day all in, so where are we getting \$2,000 per day, if the incentive is to get more work days?

If in fact the district increased the salary in 2016 due to errors in diligence on everyone's part, that doesn't mesh with the contract language on the buyback.

According to a 2018-19 American Association of School Administrators' Superintendent Salary and Benefits report, the median superintendent salary across the country was \$127,000 for a female superintendent and just over \$128,000 for males in districts with enrollment between 300 and 2,499. Fort Madison's is roughly 2,150.

That \$127,000 is just base salary and doesn't include additional compensation for things like retirement. Health benefits are outside the salary package because the district pays 100% of the Slater's family medical and dental coverage.

And the survey is a national survey where only 52 Iowa superintendents responded, so it's not perfect. FMCSD is also a relatively large district in comparison to others with that enrollment, and has challenges with facilities, open enrollment, and being a district with a relatively depressed economy.

So there are things here that would mandate additional compensation, again, to attract the best candidates to help solve some of those problems.

Dr. Slater was also passed over in 2019 for an extension and raise, as her review took place at about the same time media reports came out about the alleged interference with Wilson's basketball program.

This isn't laid at Dr. Slater's feet. We all negotiate for the best packages we can and, she negotiated a solid contract, aside from not knowing what Iowa deductions for things like the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) looked like.

This is a board issue.

Steffensmeier is right to a degree voting against the raise. Republican tax cuts did result in a \$300 million surplus last year so Iowa was in better shape than many states to stand up to the coronavirus' financial hit. But it is still uncertain as to what impact to their budgets local governments and public schools will see.

A raise at this point, even with the pass in 2019, is questionable. But continuing to buy out vacation days at \$2,000 per day is putting a burden on the district taxpayers that they shouldn't be shouldering.

A better explanation for the buyback and the lofty salary ranking when considering enrollment, experience, and district economy, are both deserved by district taxpayers.

The state saw more than 1,000 new positive coronavirus tests over the weekend and the first death in Des Moines County. We all want to get out and about and start moving again, but Iowa's just now starting to see the real impact of this disease. It will spread further. Cracking the window to get a whiff of the economy may not be a bad idea, but Reynolds better be ready to slam it shut again if things go south quickly. – but that's Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is co-founder and editor of Pen City Current and can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com



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From the Front

Parade offers marshal spots to 2020 grads

PARADE - Continued from Page 1

take part or a hundred or more “grand marshals” but with the school closings, prom cancellations, graduation exercises and celebrations they should have a chance to strut or ride as dignitaries in this year’s oldest city tradition according to L. D. Andy Andrews the parade chairman.

Since local school districts have in place restrictions, we may not have the marching band participate this year but hope that some type of patriotic music will appear as the parade goes down Avenue G from 18th to 6th Street.

The parade will start at 18th Street & Avenue G and proceed down Avenue G to 6th street, however some participants may join the parade at 10th street.

Judged categories for this year’s parade will be: decorated tri-cycle or stroller; decorated wagon or float; walking or marching group; junior decorated bicycle/scooter (age 8 and under); pets; humorous; family unit; patriotic; senior decorated bicycle/scooter (over age 8) and a motorized category for the larger units.

The committee has also purchased commemorative ribbons for each parade participant and trophies as well as prize money will be given to the winners of each category. The prize money for this parade is \$15.00 for 1st Place, \$12.00 for 2nd place and \$10.00 for third place. Several \$5.00 honorable mention prizes will also be awarded. Trophies will also be awarded to the 1st three places in each category.

Those having any questions on the parade or if interested in volunteering to assist the committee to keep the parade safe and on time, contact L. D. “Andy” Andrews at 319-371-5379 or email at NLCHS@iowatelecom.net or follow information on our Charlie Korschgen 4th of July Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/4thofjulykiddieparade/>.

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Lee County could be headed for a surge in positive coronavirus cases

LCHD - Continued from Page 1

and practices the prevention strategies we’ve been pushing out from the very beginning that’s gonna help. But please... I just hope people can see how important that is.”

Ross said with Illinois having a stay-at-home order in place until May 30, not only are neighboring Illinois counties looking at Lee County as a place to shake off cabin fever, but with Des Moines and Henry counties to the north also remaining under a closed order, Lee County may become a popular place to get away for a few hours.

“You could have people coming into the county from all over wanting to go to restaurant,” she said. “We have to behave responsibly in this.”

Ross said she’s sure they county will see a surge in positive coronavirus cases and COVID-19 illnesses. The county has moved to seven positive cases, a number Ross admits is low in comparison to some other hot spots in the state.

As of Monday afternoon, the state’s public coronavirus website coronavirus.iowa.gov had Lee County listed with five positive cases, but a release Sunday indicated the county now has seven positive cases, almost double the number from Friday.

Des Moines County has had 17 cases and one death. Henry County has had 32 cases and a single death. Jefferson and Van Buren counties to the west are similar to Lee County with a combined 14 cases and no deaths as of Sunday’s 24-hour state reporting cycle.

“I know in Lee County all along our case numbers have been low in

comparison to hot spot counties, but if you look at our data trend they’ve almost nearly doubled. I don’t see that trend decreasing,” Ross said.

“We’re having more testing done in our county and people are understanding the importance of staying home when ill. I think our data compared to bigger counties looks low, but our trend is going to increase in the next two to four weeks.

Reynolds used a variety of metrics including stabilization of the virus, hospitalizations and recovery rates over the past 14 days in determining which if Iowa’s counties was ready for more activity.

Ross said although Lee County may have low case counts, she doesn’t feel the county has stabilized.

Ross also echoed a repeated statement from Iowa Department of Public Health Director Dr. Caitlin Pedati, in that health officials are continuing to learn about the coronavirus, including some new symptoms, such as temporary loss of taste and smell.

That’s why she said it’s so important for vulnerable Iowans and those that are sick or showing symptoms of illness stay at home.

Ross said it’s going to also be very important that businesses including restaurants and health centers be very aware of sick employees and allow those employees to stay at home as business ramps up in the coming weeks.

“I’m sure there will be a surge in numbers. Businesses need to follow the declaration 100% and limit the

number of people served and don’t encourage employees to come to work if they are sick,” Ross said.

“And the public, please do not come out to our businesses if you’re ill. Stay home. If we’re gonna get this virus to go in the right direction, we need people to follow the guidance.”

Effective today, Reynolds also loosened restrictions on state hospital’s ability to conduct elective surgeries if the procedures have a significant impact on the patient’s quality of life. Hospitals have to rely on their own personal protective equipment (PPE) and maintain 30% bed inventory for COVID patients.

Ross said she hasn’t spoken with any county medical systems to see what their plans are for the new order.

Angie Budnik, Fort Madison Community Hospital’s community relations and marketing manager released a statement on Friday regarding the position of Great River Health System.

“The governor’s proclamation for resuming elective surgeries and procedures is lengthy and has many elements and clauses. Before moving forward with resuming elective surgeries and procedures Great River Health, including Fort Madison Community Hospital and Great River Medical Center, is carefully reviewing the details to ensure our actions would comply with the proclamation,” Budnik wrote.

“We are committed to providing the very best care to our patients, while keeping our employees, patients, and community safe from exposure to COVID-19.



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