

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's **Black & White** and **Read** all over

Thursday, July 2, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 131



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Districts file Return to Learn plans

DEADLINE: Districts had to file assurance checklist with DOE by July 1

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – Area school officials won't be requiring students or staff to wear masks at the start of the fall school year, but they will be taking additional safety measures as Iowa schools look to reopen.

Central Lee Superintendent Dr. Andy Crozier released a video today talking about what the district may look like going into the fall in dealing with the coronavirus, but said things are still very preliminary and a lot of details still need hashed out.

Central Lee's plan can be found at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/centrallee.org/central-lee-covid-19/return-to-learn/continuous-learning>

Some schools in Iowa are already announcing that masks will be required when school opens in the fall, but Iowa Department of Education guidelines do not recommend requiring masks to be worn.

For example, Iowa City has made the decision to require all staff and students to wear masks at the start of the school year.

As of July 1, Central Lee and Fort Madison school officials are letting parents make that decision.

As part of the face-to-face learning options, personal protective equipment including face masks or face guards will not be required, but will be allowed and encouraged during transition time and while in hallways,



SLATER

as part of Central Lee's plan. Staff there will also be temping students and staff as they enter district buildings or buses. Any students or staff with a temperature of 100.3 or above will be sent home immediately.



CROZIER

The district is also planning to alter schedules to reduce traffic flow in the hallways as well as the Multi Purpose Room to allow students to space out while eating. Some students will be allowed to eat in classrooms or other designated areas to encourage social distancing.

All parent nights and school assemblies are suspended temporarily with the district hoping to begin those again later in the school year.

The state only required for their July 1 deadline on the Return to Learn programs, that state districts complete an assurance checklist where administrators indicate their is a plan in place to offer continuous learning, a hybrid model for educational services, and on-site educational services. However, the checklist did not require the districts to elaborate on the plans, but only check Yes or No to having a plan.

Crozier said he wanted to provide as much additional

See **PLANS**, page 3

COVID-19

LCHD urges vigilance for 4th of July

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Health Department (LCHD) continues to work with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) on COVID-19 cases in Lee County. With the 4th of July weekend upon us, LCHD wants to remind residents to continue to practice social distancing.

"The 4th of July normally means family and friends gathering however this year might look different," states Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator. "We want Lee County residents to remain vigilant when it comes to COVID-19, and remember that we continue to have active cases of the virus in the county. Right now, it is very important to continue with recommended public health safety practices in order to keep our case numbers from surging as we currently see happening in other states."

In June, Lee County reported 20 additional positive cases of the virus as testing is ramped up around the state. Des Moines County had 18 positives for the same month.

As of June 30, according to the state's coronavirus website at coronavirus.iowa.gov, 1 of every 14 Iowans has now been tested on average, with 1 in every 466 tests coming back positive. In Lee County, 1,856 residents have been tested with 49 positives, for a 2.6% positive rate.

The highest positive rate age groups in the county are 18-40 and 41-60 which each represent 33% of the total positive cases. 61-80 is 24% and over 80 is 8%.

Lee County has seen two deaths related to the disease. Des Moines and Henry counties have each seen three deaths. Jefferson and Van Buren counties have not reported a death related

See **DATA**, page 3

Food Pantry to allow indoor service July 6

FORT MADISON – Since mid March the Fort Madison Food Pantry has been operating on a drive-thru basis due to the corona virus. But, with the summer heat and new mandates from the Food Bank of Iowa for all food pantries, beginning Monday July 6, the Fort Madison Food Pantry will open its doors to clients, according to the pantry's board president Lin Cramer.

The Pantry will follow all Centers for Disease Control health guidelines. A sneeze shield will protect both client and volunteer while registering. Masks will be required and, if needed, are available at the door.

Additionally, hands are to be sanitized upon entry; one person and one young



Courtesy photo

The Fort Madison Food Pantry has a new sign and they will be re-opening for inside service starting July 6 with enhanced safety protocols for safe customer service.

child as needed per cart; and customers in the Pantry will be limited to two at a time in order to meet social distancing guidelines.

The Food Pantry is located at 3421 Avenue L. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 pm.



ROSS

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
THU 02 Jul.....Moderate Rain, 82.7° F/ 69.3° F
FRI 03 Jul.....Moderate Rain, 82.7° F/ 70.2° F
SAT 04 Jul.....Light Rain, 83.3° F/ 68.4° F

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 06/30.....9 16 29 37 53, Mega Ball: 11 Megaplier: 2
PICK 3 06/30 MIDDAY.....6 2 4
PICK 3 06/30 EVENING.....3 7 5
PICK 4 06/30 MIDDAY.....4 8 8 3
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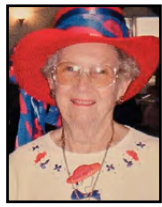
Obituaries/Iowa News

OBITUARIES

MARY ALICE WORDEN

Mary Alice Mikels Rockel Worden, 94, of Carthage, Illinois, formerly of Dallas City, Illinois, passed away at 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at the Heritage House in Carthage.

Mary Alice was born on July 24, 1925 near Dallas City the daughter of Fred and Edna (Avis) Mikels. In June of 1943 she married Horace Rockel. He preceded her in death in September of 1948. In November of 1970 she married Bill Worden. Bill preceded her in death on January 16, 2014.



WORDEN

Mary Alice was a graduate of the Burlington Beauty School. She worked at Sheaffer Pen Company in Fort Madison for 30 years. Mary Alice loved dancing, sewing, crafting and gardening. Mary and Bill enjoyed wintering in Texas.

Survivors include two daughters, Carolyn (Don) Rosenboom of Carthage and Paulette Kay Russell of Burlington; four grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren and one sister, Irene Jackson of Carthage.

Mary Alice was preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Horace and Bill, one granddaughter, Linda Stinemat; three sisters and one brother.

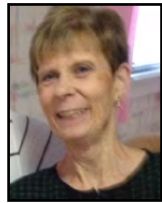
A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, July 6, 2020 at the First Christian Church of Dallas City. The family will receive friends from 9:30 until times of services. Burial will follow in the Durham Cemetery, rural Dallas City.

A memorial fund has been established for the First Christian Church or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City is in charge of arrangements.

CONNIE SUE SCHMITZ

Connie Sue Schmitz, 72, of Montrose, Iowa, passed away at 6:00 a.m. on July 1, 2020 at her home.

Born October 12, 1947, in Fort Madison, Iowa, the daughter of Virgil and Helen (Downey) Thon. On June 5, 1965, she married William Schmitz in Donnellson, Iowa.



SCHMITZ

Survivors include her husband: William; one daughter: Jacque (James) Moeller of Franklin, Iowa; one son: Jeff (Cindy) Schmitz of Donnellson, Iowa; six grandchildren: Sydney DeMoss, Tanner DeMoss, Raylee Moeller, Riston Schmitz, Kyle Martinson and Kayla Todd; one great granddaughter: Ki'Anne Jefferson; and one sister: Karen (Ron) Nelson of Omaha, Nebraska. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Connie was a 1965 graduate of Central Lee High School. She was a member of the Fort Madison Eagles Club and the Burlington Moose Club.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, July 7, 2020, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson with Pastor Dean Graber officiating.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

The Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made 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.



Courtesy photo

Maureen Christensen of Burlington was shocked that she won all the items. When she signed up for the raffle on the Garden Tour she assumed it was an item per winner. Thanks to Scotts Miracle-Gro for their support of this great annual event in Ft. Madison.

Hy-Vee partners with Kellogg's, Keurig for meals program

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (June 30, 2020) — Today, Hy-Vee, Inc., in partnership with Kellogg's and Keurig Dr Pepper, announced its End Summer Hunger campaign to provide food for children and families in need. During the month of July, for every qualifying purchase at a Hy-Vee grocery store, one meal will be donated to Feeding America food banks in Hy-Vee's eight-state region. The program has a goal of donating 1.5 million meals.

"We know that many families in our communities struggle with hunger, which is compounded this year by the effects of COVID-19," said Donna Tweeten, Hy-Vee's executive vice president, chief of staff and chief custom-

er officer. "Having access to the proper nutrition is essential to strong, vibrant communities. Hy-Vee, along with our partners, are dedicated to doing our part to end summer hunger and are proud to support Feeding America to ensure children and families have access to meals no matter what time of year it is."

Donations will be made through the purchase of qualifying products at Hy-Vee's more than 265 retail grocery stores. Products include: Kellogg's® Frosted Mini-Wheats®, Kellogg's® Club crackers and Town House® crackers, CORE® Hydration (six-pack), select Bai Antioxidant infusion (six-pack), and evian Natural Spring Water (six-pack).

The products are part of Hy-Vee's One Step program, which helps provide food to those in need. There is no limit to the number of product purchases per customer.

"Kellogg is proud to be a part of this meaningful program," said Oli Morton, Kellogg Company chief customer officer. "As a company with a heart and soul, our mission is to nourish families so they can flourish and thrive. We hope that together with Hy-Vee, Keurig Dr Pepper and others, we can reach our shared goal of ensuring more meals reach children facing hunger in these communities."

"Hy-Vee has been a valued partner of Keurig Dr Pepper for many years, and we are proud to participate in their campaign with Kellogg and Feeding America to help deliver meals within our local communities, especially during the critical summer months when school is out and more families and children are in need," said Andrew Archambault, chief customer officer at Keurig Dr Pepper.

"More than 11 million children face hunger in America and this number could escalate to 18 million as a result of the pandemic," said Lauren Biedron, Feeding America Vice President of Corporate Partnerships. "When children are struggling with hunger, their families are too. We are thankful to Hy-Vee, Kellogg and Keurig Dr Pepper for helping to provide meals for children and families who need them most. We encourage everyone to help their neighbors in need through the End Summer Hunger campaign."

For each participating product purchased at Hy-Vee stores between July 1 - 31, 2020, Keurig Dr Pepper and the Kellogg Company will donate the monetary equivalent of at least one meal (\$0.10) secured by Feeding America on behalf of member food banks - up to a maximum donation of \$150,000.

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From the Front

No face covering mandate for fall FM, CL school reopenings

PLANS - Continued from Page 1

information as possible, knowing that things could change depending on a number of factors.

"The state told us we should be posting this online," Crozier said Wednesday.

"We decided to go a little further and give a little more detail and that's what people need to know. We'll release more information as the summer goes on."

Crozier said state schools are dealing with a lot of mitigation strategies and have received guidance from the state.

The Iowa Department of Education released guidance on June 25 that included the following:

- staff and students who are ill should stay home.

- reinforce washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- It is not recommended to require face coverings for staff and students.

- Allow personal use of cloth face coverings by staff and students.

- Have a framework for routine cleaning practices at facilities including high touch surface areas, concession stands, health officers and busses following

CDC guidelines and state and federal sanitation regulations.

Fort Madison Community School District has not released a full plan as the district's Return to Learn leadership teams will continue to meet over the summer to process the guidance. The district is also going to be asking families to complete a "Back to Learning" survey that will be posted on the district's website by mid-July.

FMSCD Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said at this time the state is recommending reopening face to face for the fall and masks will be allowed, but not required. She, too, said things are changing very rapidly with school still seven weeks away.

"We are aware that some families may not feel comfortable in face-to-face learning, and we, as a district, are prepared to work with individual families to provide learning for all students," she said.

Slater said staff and student temperatures will not be taken upon entry.

"The reopening guidance states the "... Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend that

schools screen students and staff upon entering the building," she said.

Both Crozier and Slater said in the event the districts do utilize online learning, all instruction would be with required attendance, and required and graded assignments.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross said she is waiting on guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health to use in collaborative efforts with the county's school districts.

"LCHD will gladly collaborate with the school districts in Lee County in regards to their health and safety planning for their Return to Learn plans upon request," Ross wrote in an email Wednesday.

"We encourage the school planning and leadership teams to reach out to our department and discuss their plans for how they will implement all of the Health and Safety Requirements according to the Reopening Guidance for Schools document https://educateiowa.gov/sites/files/ed/documents/2020-06-25_ReopeningGuidancefor-

[Schools.pdf](#) created in partnership with Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Department of Public Health."

On June 27, a spokesperson for the Iowa State Education Association, the state's teacher's union called the lack of a face mask mandate for schools "obscene".

In a tweet posted on June 27, ISEA President Mike Beranek posted "The ISEA believes a school district reopening model must ensure the health and safety (of) students and staff and prioritize long-term strategies on student learning and educational equities."

"It's a gamble and obscene that the governors and the Department of Education are gambling on the health and safety of our students, our staff and school employees," Jean Hessburg, the ISEA spokesperson told the Register.

"This virus has demonstrated that it knows no bounds and students can bring the virus home to families and ravage a family."

County sees spikes in virus activity after holidays

DATA - Continued from Page 1

to the virus.


LCHD has been monitoring COVID-19 case count data since the beginning of this public health crisis. The data shows us that typically case counts have increased about 14 days out from past holiday weekends like Mother's Day, Easter, and Memorial Day. This 4th of July holiday, LCHD is encouraging all residents to continue practicing preventive measures to reduce the transmission of the COVID-19 illness.

These public health recommendations include:

- Maintaining at least a six-foot physical distance apart from others when outside your own household;
- Wearing a face covering when out in public especially when social distancing is not easy to maintain;
- Staying home when ill or have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you have had a known exposure to someone with the virus;
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow/upper arm;
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Disinfecting common touch surfaces;
- Calling your medical provider first if you need medical care and notify them of your symptoms.

Consider limiting activities outside your home if you are older or have a health condition that could affect how well your body would respond if infected with this virus.

The LCHD website (www.leecountyhd.org) and Facebook continue to be updated with guidance related to COVID-19.



HAPPY 4th of July

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Please celebrate safely and responsibly. We care about all of you.

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Lee County News/Scene Around Town

Dr. Mark Pothitakis, Family Dentistry West, continues his community support with funds towards the 2020 Light Up The Sky fireworks campaign.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Alliant Energy bumps rebates for upgrades

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – July 1, 2020 – Alliant Energy is increasing energy efficiency rebate amounts in Iowa for residential customers, while also expanding the offerings for small business owners in the state.

The increased rebates make energy-saving upgrades more affordable, which in turn helps customers lower their energy bills as they try to recover from economic hardships sustained during the pandemic. Increased rebates will also help generate business for contractors who do the work. This is not the first time the company has increased rebate assistance during times of emergency. It also increased rebates during the floods of 2008 and 2016.

“It’s easier to replace an inefficient air conditioner with a new energy-efficient one when you’re eligible for a larger rebate,” said Ben Lipari, Alliant Energy Director of Resource Development. “Our customers will gain savings in multiple ways - starting with the rebate when they make the upgrade, and then on future energy costs.”

Alliant Energy has increased residential rebates on air conditioners, furnaces, smart thermostats, geothermal heat pumps, pool pumps and electric water heaters. The new amounts apply to equipment purchased and installed between July 1 and December 31, 2020.

Alliant Energy’s Small Business Energy Solution Program also includes increased incentives for energy-efficient improvements to lighting and refrigeration systems.

“For small business owners who make improvements, our rebate program could cover up to the entire cost of an energy-efficient upgrade,” said Lipari. “We expect this to be welcome news at a time when many businesses are taking a hard look at their expenses and trying to recover and re-open.”

Residential and small business customers who made energy-efficient improvements before July 1 are eligible for rebates at the previous dollar amounts.

Lee County reaches 50 COVID positive cases

LEE COUNTY - The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department have identified one additional case of COVID-19 in the county, an older adult who is currently in isolation. This makes 50 confirmed cases in Lee County to date. LCHD is also reporting a total of 35 cases as recovered.

We encourage interested residents to access the Iowa Coronavirus website at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov> if interested in county testing data, confirmed case counts, and other useful information.

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



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:

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- 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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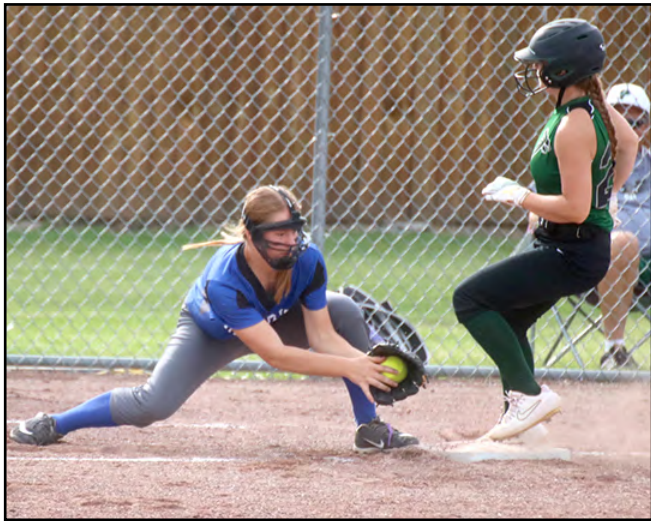
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Sports

LADY CRUSADERS

Falcons throw no-hit shutout at HTC girls



BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST BURLINGTON – The Holy Trinity girls softball team is still learning to hit varsity pitching, and they saw some of the area’s best in a 10-0 loss Tuesday night in West Burlington.

Falcon freshman Lauren Summers fanned 13 of the 17 batters she faced in the five-inning affair without giving up a hit. The Falcon was just one walk and a hit batter away from throwing a perfect game.

The Crusaders’ Haile Cain and Jenna DiPrima were the only girls in blue to put the ball in play, both were infield pop outs.



MENKE

Head Coach Loren Menke said despite what is showing up on the scoreboard, the girls are still improving daily.

“There’s no doubt in my mind were improving. Tonight was not a great night if you look at scoreboard,” he said.

“But I can still see things that are happening that we weren’t doing at the beginning of the season and it’s fun to watch them improve.”

The Crusaders got their first win as a varsity squad with an 11-1 win over Hillcrest Academy on Friday.

“It’s kind of a monkey off your back. You don’t want to go a whole season and not have a win. For me it was relief as much as anything, and for the girls it was exciting,” Menke said.

Freshman Mary Hellige again went the distance for Holy Trinity. Hellige has been the only Crusader to throw a pitch this season in a varsity game. She said that doesn’t add pressure to her game.



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

HTC sophomore Anna Sobczak dives for a bloop infield pop-up Tuesday night in the Crusaders’ 10-0 loss to West Burlington. The Lady Falcons’ Lauren Summer threw a no-hit shutout against the Crusaders who fell to 1-7 with the loss. At left, freshman Kayla Box tries to put a tag on West Burlington’s Reagan Engberg in the third inning.

“It’s been tough, but it’s pretty good for me,” she said following Tuesday’s loss.

“We’ve been losing a lot, but those games show that we’re improving every game.”

Menke said Hellige is young and learning to throw to clubs with eight and nine good hitters

“Mary’s improved a lot. A lot of times you have nine good hitters and you can’t just throw a strike. You gotta mix it up and hit your spots and she’s learning that every day,” Menke said. “A game like this is good for her because she’s facing nine solid hitters.”

The Falcons jumped on Hellige early putting up five runs in the first inning capped by a sharp single to center by Lauren Krieger that drove in two with no outs. Hellige would settle in get the next three Falcons in order to retire the side.

West Burlington would put up two more in the second and then the Crusaders would hold them without a run in the third. In the fourth, 8th grader Logan Kelly laced a solo homer on a line drive over the left center field with two outs to make it an 8-0 game.

Summers would wrap up the game with a single scoring Regan Messamaker with one out in the bottom of the 5th to invoke the 10-run rule.

HTC falls to 1-7 overall and 0-6 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference South division with the loss. They travel to Highland on Thursday.

“Were just trying to focus on having fund and improving – those are our main goals from the beginning of the season,” Menke said. “We knew it was going to be easy, but the girls are having fun and they are still excited.”



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Welcome (back)



We are honored to be joined by Dr. Courtney on June 1, after more than three decades of private practice. Dr. Courtney will be seeing patients at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.



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¹Surrender of the contract may be subject to surrender charges. Withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may result in a 10% IRS penalty tax. Additionally, there is a charge for the Simple? Income Rider once it is activated. Qualifications and restrictions apply for activation. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company/West Des Moines, IA. Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services A141 (9-17)

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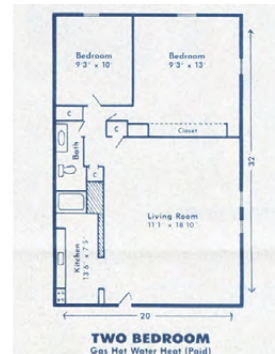
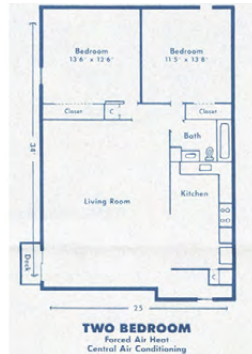


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HELP WANTED

REGISTERED NURSE

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Registered Nurse to work in homecare and hospice programs. Two years of previous nursing experience preferred. Current physical assessment, strong problem solving and high-tech nursing skills are required. Duties include: home visits, case management in hospice and homecare, and community health programs in LCHD's service area. Regular work hours are 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with assigned on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and assigned evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Tammy Wilson at twilson@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 3, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.



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.

Lee County Sheriff's Office
 C/O Detective Sgt. Clint Wray
 2530 255th Street
 Montrose, IA 52639
 (319) 372-1152



#HyperLocalSuperFresh



Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Community Outreach & Development Project Coordinator. The successful applicant will assist in organizing a community coalition to complete a community needs assessment and long-term strategic plan to address child maltreatment issues in Lee County. This position also involves linking families/children to needed community resources in the agency's service area. Applicants must have strong organizational, communication skills, and the ability to prioritize activities to meet project timelines and deliverables. Competitive salary and benefits. Please send resumes to Michele Ross, LCHD Administrator, at mross@leecountyhd.org or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 14, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.

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