

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Friday, June 5, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 113



[www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com)

## 100s line up for free dairy



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Volunteers help hand out dairy boxes again Thursday at Holy Trinity High School in Fort Madison. After last week's supplies ran out in less than 30 minutes, Prairie Farms sent 400 boxes this week.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

## State's new jobless claims drops 50% this week

DES MOINES – The number of initial claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, May 24, and Saturday, May 30, was 6,920. There were 6,271 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 649 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state. This is a decline of nearly 50% from the previous week's total initial claims. The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims for May 24-30 was 165,195, down 13,000 from the previous week. The U.S. Department of Labor provided updates to last week's number

of initial and continuing claims made between May 17-23, which amounts to 13,653 initial claims and 178,619 continuing claims. Iowa Workforce Development relies upon the weekly data released by the U.S. Department of Labor to report its numbers and as such, adopts the revisions to the previously published data.

Unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$51,043,465.89 for the same week. The following in-

See **CLAIMS**, page 4

### Class of 1953

## Sandrock gets FMHS Distinguished alumnus award

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison High School announced the 2020 Alumni Hall of Honor Distinguished Alumnus Award this week.

Austin R. Sandrock M.D. graduated from Fort Madison High School in 1953. While at Fort Madison High

School he served as senior class president and yearbook editor. After graduation, Austin attended the University of Iowa and earned his Bachelor of Science in commerce (1957), Doctor of Medicine (1961), and Education Specialist in Higher Education (1975).

During his senior year at Iowa he served as president of his Sigma Chi fraternity chapter, business manager of the University's Hawkeye yearbook while completing the prerequisites for

See **AWARD**, page 3

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

## Proposed code would put fees on vacant structures

*Councilman tells mayor, "You come on my property, you're gonna need a warrant."*

BY **CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A move is under way to start holding property owners accountable for vacant buildings in the city.

At a workshop following Tuesday's Fort Madison City Council meeting City Building Director Doug Krogmeier rolled out the basics of a proposed ordinance that would require city residents to register any vacant property within city limits.

The ordinance spelled out at what point the property would have to be registered and under what circumstances. It also proposed a fee schedule that Krogmeier said was not to generate funds for the city, but to cover the cost of the program.

"This is a new program that I've put together. It started in Detroit when car manufacturers went under and 40% of their stock was vacant. They had to do something to address that stock," he said. "Many, many cities across the United States have addressed property the same way.

Krogmeier said there are about 50 vacant properties in the city right now that would be required to be registered.

Krogmeier said vacant properties become dilapidated and then become burdens as far as crime, police attention and even fire.

The ordinance would also require

See **CODE**, page 8



KROGMEIER

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### WEATHER

**FRI 05 Jun**.....Light Rain, 82.7° F/ 67.5° F  
**SAT 06 Jun**.....Clear Skies, 77.2° F/ 61.4° F  
**SUN 07 Jun**.....Clear Skies, 74.3° F/ 62.7° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

**LOTTO AMERICA 06/03**.....7 22 28 41 46, Star Ball: 2, All Star Bonus: 2  
**PICK 3 06/03 MIDDAY**.....157  
**PICK 3 06/03 EVENING**.....9 0 0  
**PICK 4 06/03 MIDDAY**.....8 0 7 5  
**PICK 4 06/03 EVENING**.....8 7 1 0  
**POWERBALL 06/03**.....1 3 26 41 64, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### ELAINE B. PEITZ

Elaine B. Peitz, 88, of West Point, Iowa, passed away at 8:07 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at the West Point Care Center in West Point, Iowa.

She was born on September 13, 1931, the daughter of Russell and Eleanor (Elliot) Eggers. On August 18, 1951, she married Clair J. Peitz in West Point, Iowa. He preceded her in death on February 5, 2009.



PEITZ

Survivors include her two sons: Tom (Annette) Peitz of Fort Madison, Iowa and Tim (Linda) Peitz of West Point, Iowa; one daughter: Lori (Murray) Field of New London, Iowa; six grandchildren; three step-grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband and two sisters.

Elaine was a graduate of Montrose High School. She retired from and then volunteered at the West Point Care Center. She enjoyed her dogs, horses and crafts.

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

Private family services will be held at a later date.

A memorial has been established in her memory and can be mailed the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home P.O. Box 22, West Point, Iowa 52656.

Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

### BERNICE KIRCHNER

Bernice Kirchner, 88, of Delavan, Illinois, formerly of Donnellson, passed away at 11:00 a.m. Friday, May 29, 2020, at OSF Hospital in Peoria, Illinois.

Born January 23, 1932, in West Point, Iowa, the daughter of Herman J. and Mae (Harmeyer) Mehmert. On June 26, 1965, she married Alvin Kirchner in Houghton, Iowa. He preceded her in death on May 31, 2008.

Survivors include her daughter: Diane (Jeff) Schurman of Delavan, Illinois; two granddaughters: Abby Lynn Garrett and Emma Grace Schurman. Also surviving are several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband: Alvin.

Bernice enjoyed reading anything she could lay her hands on. She loved to sew, do cross stitch and needle point.

A graveside service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, June 8, 2020, at St. Peter's Cemetery near Franklin, Iowa, with Father Bruce DeRammelaere officiating.

Burial will be in the St. Peter's Cemetery near Franklin.

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.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

## OBITUARIES

### CARLA D. RODEFFER

Carla D. Rodeffer, 64, of Carthage, Illinois formerly of LaHarpe, Illinois, passed away at 4:10 p.m. Sunday, May 31, 2020 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, Illinois.

Carla was born on May 13, 1956 in LaHarpe the daughter of William R. "Bill" and Rosaland "Tiny" Henry Rodeffer.



RODEFFER

Carla was a 1974 graduate of LaHarpe High School. Following high school she attended beauty school. She later became a Register Nurse and continued in that profession for more than 30 years. She previously worked for the Memorial Hospital in Carthage and was currently employed by Heartland Healthcare in Macomb.

Carla was an avid golfer and St. Louis Cardinals fan. She enjoyed gardening and cooking. Carla was proud to serve as the Athletic Trainer from 1995 – 2010 for the former Northwestern Thunder, continuing with the West Prairie Cyclones and later with the Illini West Chargers football teams. Carla was most proud of her son, Bryan.

Survivors include one son, Bryan (Lauren) Rodeffer of Fort Madison, Iowa; one brother, Kerry Rodeffer of Champaign, Illinois and her special friends, Dennis and Nancy Heinecke of Carthage. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A private family graveside service will be held at the Terre Haute Cemetery, Terre Haute, Illinois with Rev. Bruce Goettsche officiating. A memorial fund has been established for her future grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to Carla Rodeffer Memorial Fund, c/o Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 503, LaHarpe, IL 61450.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home in LaHarpe is assisting the family. To leave condolence for the family, please visit Carla's obituary at [banksandbeals.com](http://banksandbeals.com).

### JEREMY S. CLAMAN

Jeremy Scott Claman, 46, of Farmington, Iowa, passed away at 2:08 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, Iowa.

He was born on February 24, 1974, the son of Charles and Rhonda (Gay) Claman.

Survivors include two daughters: Danielle Blint of Fort Madison and MeKenna Claman of Fort Madison; one son: Liam Jordan; two granddaughters: Skylar Claman and Cora Blint; his parents: Charles and Rhonda of Farmington and paternal grandmother: Marion Claman of Cantril.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents; paternal grandfather and one uncle.

A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 6, 2020, at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington with reverend ellis andrews officiating.

Burial will be at Greenglade Cemetery in Farmington.

A memorial has been established in his memory and can be mailed the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with the arrangements. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com).

**Got a news tip?  
Call Chuck (319)371.1670**

### All TB & Immunization Clinics Have Been Postponed

In order to protect the health & safety of Lee County residents during this time, clinics have been postponed through June 15.



Please call our office with any questions and watch our Facebook page for more information:  
@ LeeCountyHealthDepartment

**LEE  
CHD**

**(319) 372.5225**

#3 John Bennett Drive, Fort Madison  
[www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org)

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Complete Rental

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**15% Off All Party Supplies**

JUNE RESERVATIONS ONLY

Present this coupon and get 15% off anything from our party supplies department. Offer valid until June 30, 2020. Not valid with any other discounts.

# For the Record/Current-Lee

## Sandrock led several radiology depts.

**AWARD** - Continued from Page 1

medical school admission.

He was honored to be selected as University of Iowa Son for 1957 and received the Sigma Chi Balfour award for the Northeast Conference. He returned to teach in the Department of Radiology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine 1968-1975. His credentials and professional organizations were numerous.

During the Vietnam War, Austin served as a major in the U.S. Army hospital at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas where he developed a very deep respect for the American soldier. On Feb. 8, 1975, he married Carole Wallis and a few months later they moved to Phoenix, Ariz., where he assumed his duties as Chairman of the Radiology Department of Maricopa County Hospital. They then moved to Metairie, Louisiana where he assumed similar duties as Chairman of the Radiology Department of East Jefferson Hospital from 1981 to 1984.

Lured by the climate of Arizona he returned to the private practice of radiology and fun in the sun, especially golf and travel. His favorite pastimes were golf and travel. His favorite passions were improving the quality of medicine and teaching. He enjoyed his membership in various medical and social groups and his church.

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

06/03/20 – 12:55 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 3100 block of Avenue O.

06/03/20 – 10:20 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1900 block of Avenue E.

06/03/20 – 4:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 600 block of Avenue E.

06/03/20 – 4:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 600 block of Avenue E.

06/03/20 – 7:37 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2300 block of Avenue J.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/03/20 – 11:04 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Simarius Dayana Jefferson, 22, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant of probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

06/03/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one stand by and one assist.

### ONLINE COOKING CLASS FOR 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> GRADES

Mondays, 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm  
Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 11:30 am



## CURRENT-LEE

### Light up the Sky Raffle

Help support the Fort Madison 4th of July Fireworks show by purchasing raffle tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20, to win a basket full of local business gift certificates. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.fortmadison.com](http://www.fortmadison.com) under the Events tab or by calling the Fort Madison Partners office at 319-372-5471.

### Fort Madison Farmer's Market

Every Monday on the east side of Central Park from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the market except for June. Visit the Facebook page at @FMFarmersMarket.

### Downtown Summer Markets

The summer festival is on again this year on Avenue G in downtown Fort Madison. This year's markets will be held June 11, July 9th and August 20 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free admission with vendors featuring decor, wine, beer, food, coffees, boutiques, music and more.

### Fort Madison Paint-A-Thon

Volunteers are still needed to help pull off this years Paint-A-Thon. Contact Fort Madison Partners to sign up at 319-372-5471 or email Tim Gobble at [tgobble@fortmadison.com](mailto:tgobble@fortmadison.com)

### Imagine Your Story

A summer series held at the Fort Madison Public Library June 8-12 featured snacks, movies, story hours, science and other activities and prizes. Contact the Fort Madison Library at 319-372-5721 for more information.

### Light it up for Alzheimer's

Luminaries are on sale through June 20 for \$10 to help support The Kensington's Light It Up for Alzheimer's summer solstice event. To order call Victoria at 319-372-4233. Free will donations to the fundraiser are also welcome.

### Light Up the Fight

The North Lee County Relay for Life is holding a special event June 19 from 6 to 10 p.m. where luminaria are light up around homes, neighborhoods and storefronts for residents to take pictures and post on the North Lee County Facebook page. Luminaries are on sale through June 15 and can be picked up in Central Park on Wed. June 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call 319-376-2249 for more information.



**Charles Vandenberg, Editor**

(319).371.1670  
editor@pencitycurrent.com

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**

(319).371.4125  
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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Pen City Current and [www.pencitycurrent.com](http://www.pencitycurrent.com) are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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

## Lee County News/Ag News

# LCHD releases 29th positive COVID-29 case

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Health Department has identified one additional case of COVID-19 in the county, one middle age adult. This makes a total of 29 confirmed cases in Lee County with 19 reported cases as recovered.

LCHD wants to remind everyone of the recommended safety measures in place that can help reduce the spread of this active virus that continues to infect individuals in our county. These safety measures include:

- Maintaining at least a six-foot physical distance apart from others outside your home when possible. When social distancing is not

possible, consider wearing a face covering.

- Staying home when ill away from others or if tested positive for COVID-19

- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow/upper arm.

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if necessary.

- Disinfecting common touch surfaces

- Seeking medical guidance when there are health concerns

- Those with pre-existing health conditions or those 65+ years of age should continue limiting their activities outside their home to

reduce possible exposures.

LCHD encourages everyone to continue doing their part in protecting each other-especially those more vulnerable to serious health outcomes if exposed to this virus.

For more information about COVID-19 and most up-to-date state and county COVID-19 data, please access the Iowa Coronavirus website at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>.

Lee County Health Department website, [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org), and their Facebook page, will continue to be updated with information as well.

# Iowa has paid out \$766M in FPUC

**CLAIMS** - Continued from Page 1

dustries had the most claims:

Manufacturing (1,897)

Health Care & Social Assistance (784)

Industry Not Available - Self-employed, Independent Contractors, etc. (553)

Retail Trade (511)

Accommodation & Food Services (462)

A total of \$105,700,800 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits was paid during the week of May 24-30, 2020. Since April 4, 2020, a total of \$766,791,000 in FPUC benefits has been paid.

A total of \$4,606,876 was paid in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits during the week of May 17-23, 2020.

IWD began processing Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits on May 27, 2020 and so far a total of \$7,546,816.98 in PEUC benefits have been paid.

Employees and employers who have questions regarding returning to work should review the Frequently Asked Questions for each group on our website. Assistance for employers can be found here: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/content-files/FAQs%20Employers%2005.20-2.pdf>.

Employees can find assistance here: [https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/content-files/FAQs%20Workers%2005.30.20\\_0.pdf](https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/content-files/FAQs%20Workers%2005.30.20_0.pdf)

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

# USDA's FSA approving coronavirus relief payments

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) has already approved more than \$545 million in payments to producers who have applied for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. FSA began taking applications May 26, and the agency has received over 86,000 applications for this important relief program.

"The coronavirus has hurt Amer-

ica's farmers, ranchers, and producers, and these payments directed by President Trump will help this critical industry weather the current pandemic so they can continue to plant and harvest a safe, nutritious, and affordable crop for the American people," said Secretary Perdue. "We have tools and resources available to help producers understand the program and enable them to work with Farm Service Agency staff to

complete applications as smoothly and efficiently as possible and get payments into the pockets of our patriotic farmers."

In the first six days of the application period, FSA has already made payments to more than 35,000 producers. Out of the gate, the top five states for CFAP payments are Illinois, Kansas, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and South Dakota. USDA has released data on application progress and

program payments and will release further updates each Monday at 2:00pm ET. The report can be viewed at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap).

FSA will accept applications through August 28, 2020. Through CFAP, USDA is making available \$16 billion in financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-

See USDA, page 8

# Do Your Part!

## Great River Regional Waste Authority

encourages you to wear **gloves** when moving bins for residential trash pick-up.

Those workers can touch  
over **2000** bins a day  
before even touching your bin.  
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## Sports

# Bass fishing heats up as local waters heat up

### Big Hollow Lake

Water temperatures are approaching the upper 70's. Largemouth Bass - Good: Bass fishing improved over the weekend. Work in shallow with soft plastics; work slow to tick-off the males guarding territories. Bluegill - Good: Some are on beds. Anglers are catching more off the brush piles in 6 to 8 feet of water. Black Crappie - Good: Anglers are picking up crappies off the same brush piles as the bluegills in 6 to 8 feet of water.

### Lake Belva Deer

Water clarity is improving this week. Curlyleaf pondweed is having a banner year after a very mild winter. Water temperature is in the upper 70's. Largemouth Bass - Good: Bass are busy finishing up the spawn; males are still guarding the little ones on the nest. Black Crappie - Slow: Crappies are out deep. Drift for them down by the dam or out along the trees in front of the beach. Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are starting to move in shallow to spawn. Work the outside edge of the curlyleaf pondweed in 8 to 10 feet of water. Channel Catfish - Slow: Concentrate efforts along the rocks as at these water temperatures the catfish are actively spawning.

### Lake Darling

Water temperature was up to 78 degrees Wednesday (6/3) afternoon. Water clarity continues to improve; now at about 3 1/2 to 4 feet. Water color has a gray green tint. Largemouth Bass - Good: With the jump in water temperature, bass have started spawning activities. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are picking up crappies in 8 to 10 feet of water drifting over the deeper habitat. Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are spawning and are on beds. Channel Catfish - Fair: Look for the males up in the rocks or in the culvert piles spawning.

### Lost Grove Lake

Water temperatures are in the mid to upper 70's. The aquatic vegetation is thick this year, but should start to die back some with the hot weather. Largemouth Bass - Good: Work the outer edge of the weed beds or

use weedless top water baits like scum frogs or moss bosses to get them out of the pockets. Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are moving to shallow water; work the edges of the weed beds and any holes you can find in them. Black Crappie - Fair: Warmer water temperatures have moved crappies out to their summer habitats.

### Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

Water has dropped a couple of feet the last few days. About 3/4 bank full. Channel Catfish - Good: Cut bait live minnows and nightcrawlers work best.

For more information on the above lakes, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

### Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 685.2 feet on 6/4 and is rising. Water temperatures are in the mid-70's. Channel Catfish - Fair: Use cut bait in the channel or live bait along rock banks for spawning fish. White Crappie - Fair: Try minnows or jigs around shallow brush piles.

### Diamond Lake

The docks are in, but the facilities are closed. Black Crappie - Fair: Most fish are 8-12 feet down in deeper water; some are around the jetties and brush. Try small jigs for these 8-9 inch fish. Bluegill - Good: Try small jigs or worms in the shallows as they start to move in to spawn. Many fish are 7-8 inches. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try stinkbait or chicken livers. After rain events has been best.

### Hannen Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches in shallow pockets and brush. Black Crappie - Slow: A few nice fish are being picked up along deeper brush. Largemouth Bass - Fair.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

Water temperature is around 75 degrees. The shoreline is heavily vegetated with aquatic plants.

Bluegill - Fair: Look for pockets in the weeds for bedding fish. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try a weedless frog fished in weed lines or over the weeds. Black Crappie - Fair: Target weed lines or drift open water with jigs. Most fish are 9-11 inches.

### Lake Macbride

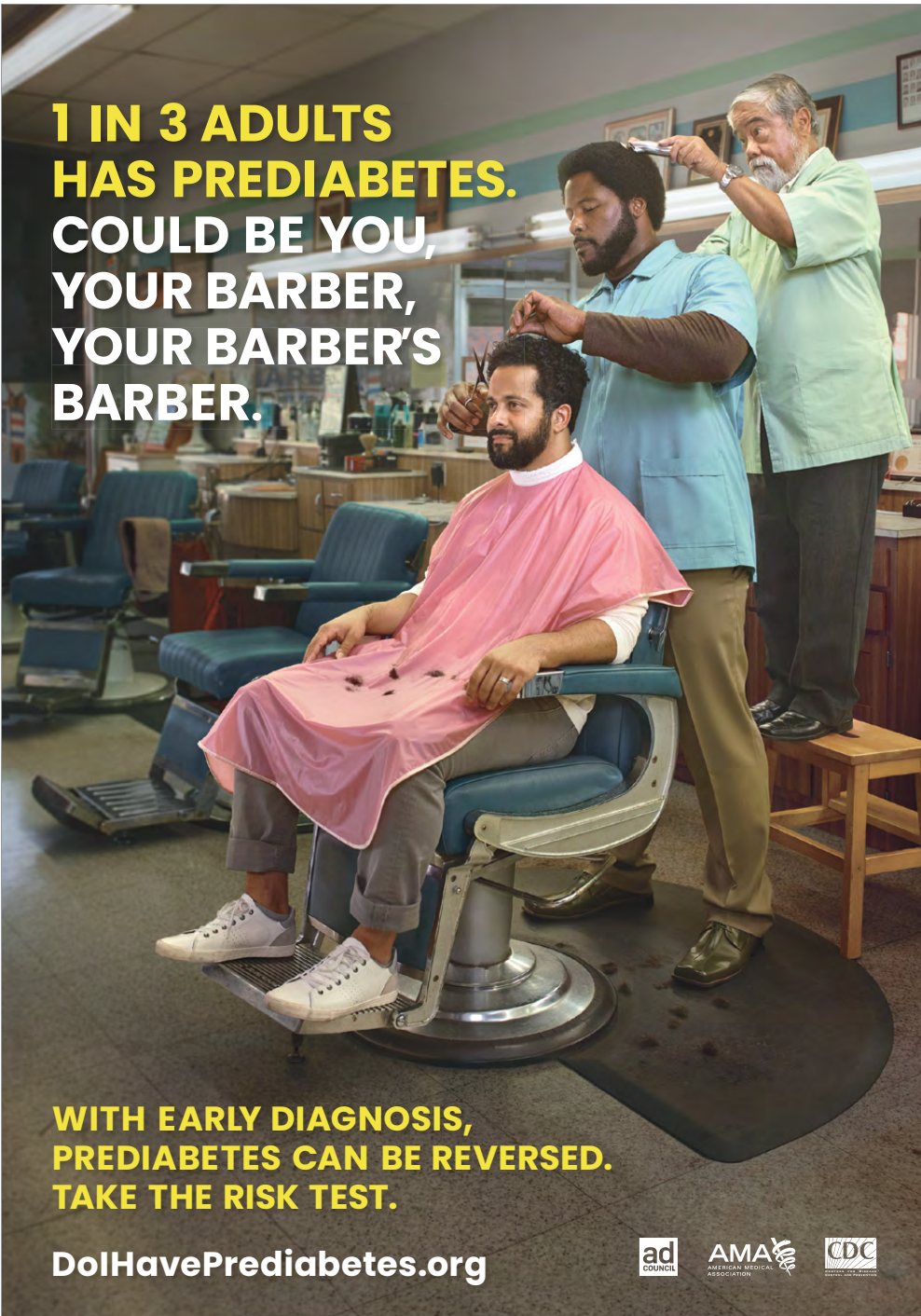
Water temperatures are around 75 degrees. The 10 hp outboard maximum limit is in effect. Black Crappie - Slow: Fish are moving back out to summer areas over brush stumps or rock piles. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Slow: Look for surface activity towards sunset; try plastics or topwater baits. Walleye - Fair: A lot of small fish are being caught with bigger ones mixed in. Troll crankbaits and live bait rigs in 7-13 feet of water. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Target shallow cover for post-spawn fish. Channel Catfish - Fair: Typical baits are working. Fish will start to move to shallow rock to spawn.

### Otter Creek Lake

Docks are in; the bathroom at the ramp is open. The fish cleaning station is still closed. Bluegill - Good. Black Crappie - Fair. Yellow Bass - Good.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

Walleye - Slow: Use crawlers or plastics fished towards evening. Bluegill - Fair: Some fish are being seen moving shallower. Try small worms or jigs in warmer water areas. Black Crappie - Slow: Some fish are being caught on jigs or minnows in the brush or suspended in the mouths of bays. Keep moving until you find the right area. Fish up to 12 inches are reported. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Target windblown areas. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try chicken livers and stinkbait.

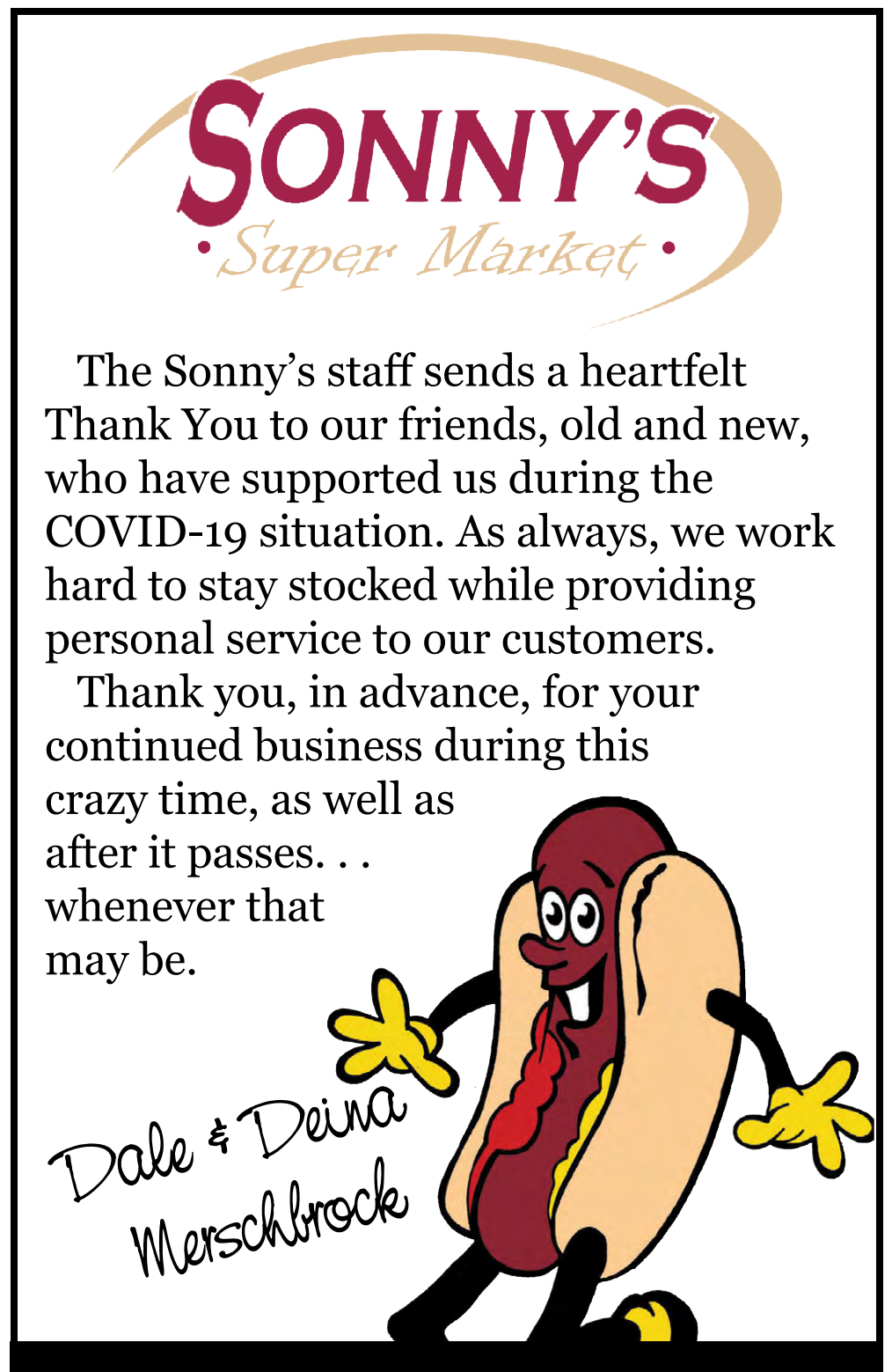


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[DoIHavePrediabetes.org](http://DoIHavePrediabetes.org)

ad COUNCIL AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CDC



**SONNY'S**  
*Super Market*

The Sonny's staff sends a heartfelt Thank You to our friends, old and new, who have supported us during the COVID-19 situation. As always, we work hard to stay stocked while providing personal service to our customers.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued business during this crazy time, as well as after it passes. . . whenever that may be.

Dale & Deina Merschbrock

# Classifieds

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**Here to help you retire.**

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**Here to help life go right.®**



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Bloomington, IL

1708167.1

**Help GRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard-Free!**



Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8am - 4pm

**800-216-2370**  
Call for an appointment



Fl. Madison Main Office: 2092 203rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 52627-6140  
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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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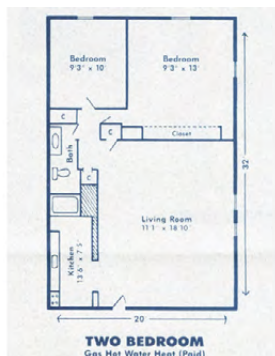
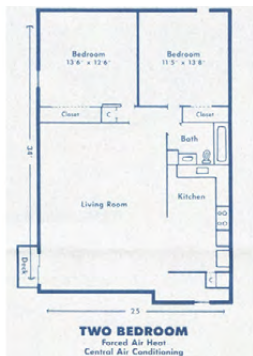
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>> Tropical waters heat up.

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>> Cold air warms up.

>> Cycle repeats.

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>> At seventy four miles per hour it earns a name.

>> Harvey, Irma, Katrina.

>> Then landfall.

>> Roads rendered useless.

>> Buildings destroyed.

>> Families stranded.

>> But for a brief moment.

>> A silver lining appears.

>> People see neighbors instead of strangers.

>> And labels that divide are forgotten.

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>> when clouds part,

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**From the Front**

# Ordinance would assess owners fees, fines

**CODE** - Continued from Page 1

monthly inspection logs from the owners, and trigger an annual inspection by the city.

“Primarily, when something happens on the property I can go back and say where’s your log?” Krogmeier said.

He said it also encourages rehabilitation if owners have to take additional steps per the ordinance, they may go ahead and finish rehabilitating the property.



MORAWITZ

Registrations would be required for any property commercial, residential, or accessory buildings. If vacant for 90 days they need to be registered. If they are purchased they would need to be registered after 30 days, and then any foreclosures would be required to be on the city inventory.

Exceptions would include active remodels, estates in probate, which Krogmeier said he would like to see registered after 12 months, properties with improvements scheduled, homes for sale, snowbird properties, and properties with substantial damage with plans for correction.

Registration would include owner information as well as identifying any financial institution that holds a mortgage or loan. A plan of action for the property whether that includes demolition, rehabilitation or just leaving them vacant, would also be required.

Krogmeier said he would also include language that the property has insurance coverage with the city listed on the certificate, so if the insurance lapses the city is notified.

The fee structure is based on per-month charges for failures to comply starting at \$50 for small accessory buildings. That fee increases with the size of the building with a maximum \$1,000 monthly fines for 20+ family residential structures or 20,000 square foot commercial/mixed use buildings.

Annual fees for vacant buildings range from \$10 for smaller accessory buildings up to \$250 for larger buildings. The fees double the third year they are registered in the program, and then double again the fourth year.

Krogmeier said residents are allowed to keep their property on the register without improvements but they will continue to pay

fees to the city

“That’s fine. It can stay in the program and they can pay each year, but it has to be registered in the program,” Krogmeier said.

City Councilman Bob Morawitz said the city needs to consider privacy issues. Morawitz said he owns several properties that are vacant but maintained.

“My biggest concern is non-commercial property requiring you to allow people on your property without a warrant. You have a right to privacy and that concerns me a little bit,” he said.

“I don’t necessarily want you wandering around looking at all my stuff. It’s really none of your business what’s in my property unless I’m violating a law. So I’m concerned about that... You come on my property, you’re gonna need a warrant,” Morawitz said.

Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said the inventory ordinance is a good step.

“Here’s what we do know.. our biggest risk to the city in terms of crime, fires and potential money back to our budget starts with dilapidated structures, and inventorying them is a good start,” Mohrfeld.

“It’s one piece of the pie, and there’s other pieces we have to deal with too,” Councilwoman Rebecca Bowker said.

Krogmeier said the city should do a couple public forums.

“If you don’t like it we can hold some public forums, and kill it, but I think to keep all these buildings from getting in the condition they are in, we have to do something to address it, and I think this is a good start.

Bowker said the language needs to be finished up before it’s brought before the public. But Krogmeier said getting public feedback is the next step because the bulk of the code is written.

“I can definitely show the nuts and bolts of the code so we can review it, but I think public forums would be the next step,” Krogmeier said.

“I like having an inventory. I think the fee scale should be slid up further, but like Rebecca said, it’s a piece of the puzzle,” Mohrfeld said.

## Farmers can apply through Aug. 28

**USDA** - Continued from Page 4

greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

In order to do this, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date nationwide, as funds remain available.

Getting Help from FSA

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.



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*– Abraham Lincoln*

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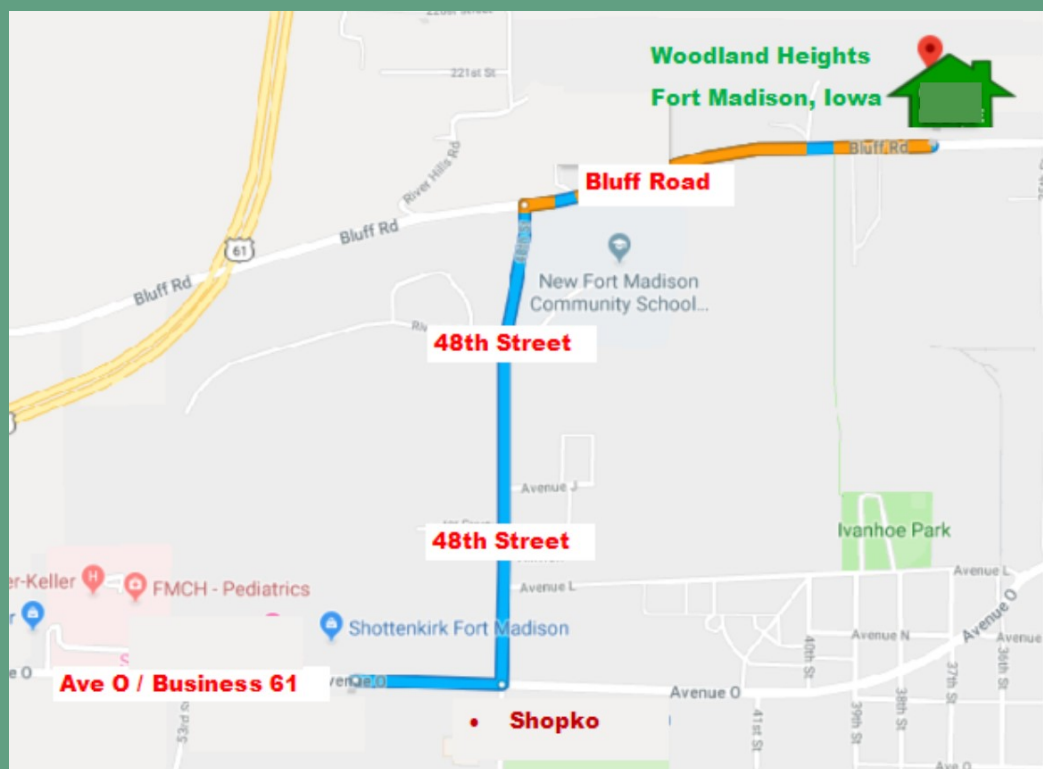
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