

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 82



www.pencitycurrent.com

COVID focus shifts to meat processors

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – With close to 700 positive COVID-19 tests confirmed over the weekend, officials are now heavily focused on the state's meat processing facilities and long-term care centers.

At Monday's daily press conference, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds said two additional outbreaks were reported over the weekend including at a long-term care facility in Polk County, and another at Premium National Beef in Tama.

Reynolds said 261 of Saturday's 391 confirmed positives were due to surveillance testing done at Iowa meat processing facilities.

When pushed for answers by pool reporters as to whether state and federal health officials are doing enough to curb the spread of the virus in those facilities, Reynolds said the industry's leaders are being proactive. One reporter asked if Reynolds had considered an executive order to further reduce the spread at state facilities.

See **UPDATE**, page 7



A day in the park

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Taking in a nice day in Riverview Park with his family, Brice Sorrentino keeps his Paw Patrol kite up with little effort as a breeze out of the northeast pushes the kite out over the Mississippi River Sunday afternoon.

FMCH's mask donations reach 1,000

FORT MADISON – At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a request went out to the community for homemade cloth masks. The request was met with a huge show of support, creativity and generosity from community members anxious to do their part.

Hospitals in particular realized the benefit of having community members make cloth masks. Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) was no different.

"Like every other hospital in the country, we want to keep a strong supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) in stock so we are ready to take care of our sick patients," said Heather Oppenheimer-Smith, Infection Prevention nurse at FMCH.

"When the idea of homemade cloth masks went viral, we appreciated how this could help us conserve our surgical masks for our employees working in direct patient care, while also providing protection for all of our staff from patients presenting with respiratory symptoms."

Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH)

See **MASKS**, page 4

OPINION

Kick this homebound PELE diet around

Instead of gaining pounds while sheltering in place, use this homebound time to achieve that elusive weight you've been wishing for. I call it the PELE diet, after Edson Arantes do Nascimento, in my opinion one of the greatest athletes of all time (professional footballer), right up there with Michael Jordan, Steph Curry, Tiger Woods, Patrick Mahomes II, and Megan Rapinoe.

P: Pray. Pray to achieve your weight goal. Praying is the most important aspect of this diet. Why? In the words of Mother Teresa, "I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things." When you pray for the weight you want to achieve, you

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



subconsciously place your weight goal front and center in your mind, which gives you strength and determination when confronted by that triple decker, cherry cheese cake. With your weight goal firmly implanted, you start eating smarter, exercising more, and working toward your weight goal. Pray before you eat. Pray before you exercise and while you're exercising. Weigh yourself before and after you exercise. Watch prayers being answered as the pounds

slip away.

EL: Eat Less. Once on a vacation at a resort in Jamaica, I noticed that the portion size of food served was smaller. After a couple of days of smaller portions, I also noticed something phenomenal—I was losing weight. The food was great, but I was eating less. Bingo! The practice that is probably least paid attention to is to simply not eat so much (also called the "Push-Away Diet"—just push away from the table sooner). You can pretty much eat anything you want, including carbohydrates like potatoes, breads and desserts. Just don't eat as much. (I've never been real good at moderation.) All diets work, Caribbean, Keto, High Protein.

See **SWARM**, page 4

PRIMARY ELECTION

Early balloting starts Thursday

LEE COUNTY – Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor, announces that early voting by mail for the Primary Election to be held Tuesday, June 2, 2020 will begin Thursday, April 23, 2020.

All active registered voters will be receiving an absentee ballot request from the Iowa Secretary of State's Office in the next few weeks. If you do not receive this mailing, you may obtain a request form from the Lee County Auditor or by downloading the form at <http://sos.iowa.gov>.

A voter may also request a ballot on paper no smaller than 3 inches by 5 inches and must contain the voter's name, mailing address, date of birth, signature, party affiliation, the name of the election for which the voter is requesting a ballot. Requests must be received by 5:00 P.M.,

See **VOTE**, page 4

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WEATHER

TUE 21 Apr.....Clear Skies, 53.1° F / 44.6° F
WED 22 Apr.....Light Rain, 64.4° F / 47.5° F
THU 23 Apr.....Broken Clouds, 65.7° F / 54.3° F

OpenWeatherMap

IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 04/19 MIDDAY.....099
PICK 3 04/19 EVENING.....086
PICK 4 04/19 MIDDAY.....8557
PICK 4 04/19 EVENING.....5620

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Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

NANCY S. EADS

Nancy Sue Eads, 71, of rural West Point, Iowa, passed away at 5:55 a.m. Friday, April 17, 2020, at Park Place Elder Living in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Born May 27, 1948 in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, the daughter of Tilford and Lela (Hammer) Overton. On May 14, 1977 she married James Raymond Eads in Donnellson, Iowa. He preceded her in death on February 19, 2014.

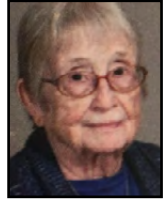
Survivors include her daughter: Katharine E. (Michael) Warehime of Frederick, Maryland; one son: James T. (Ashley) Eads of West Burlington, Iowa; two grandchildren: Bryce and Camden; two sisters: Rebecca (Wayne) Conlee of Fairfax, Iowa and Cynthia (Marty) Walker of Cabot, Arkansas and three nephews: Andrew Conlee, Eric Walker and Zachary Walker.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Jim and her parents. Nancy was a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Donnellson, Iowa, where she worked as secretary for twenty-six years before her retirement in 2019. She enjoyed reading, crocheting and was very family oriented.

Her body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Memorials have been established in her memory for the Clay Grove Cemetery Association or the Kidney Foundation of Iowa and can be mailed to the family at: Schmitz Funeral Home, P.O. Box 56, Donnellson, Iowa 52625.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhome.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with the arrangements.



EADS

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

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/16/20 - 3:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1000 block of Avenue E.
04/17/20 - 5:34 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at 34th Place and Avenue G.
04/17/20 - 8:55 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Michael Joseph Snook, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving while barred. He was released.
04/18/20 - 3:02 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Molly Rose Haynes, 27, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of Avenue G, on a warrant. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
04/18/20 - 8:19 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue J.
04/18/20 - 10:56 a.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Bryan Keith Farrell, 51, of Fort Madison, in the 4800 block of Avenue O, on a charge of domestic abuse - 2nd offense. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
04/18/20 - 1:45 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 4800 block of Avenue O.
04/18/20 - 2:20 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 700 block of Riverview Drive.
04/18/20 - 5:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 38th Street.
04/18/20 - 11:07 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 4600 block of Avenue J

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/16/20 - 9:49 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident near mile marker 19 on Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Tiffanie Anne Link, 26, of West Burlington, was traveling southbound and lost control entering the southbound ditch and striking a large pile of rocks and a tree. No injuries

or citations were reported.
04/18/20 - 6:03 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Danthony Trevon Coleman, 19, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
04/18/20 - 10:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Robert Joseph Stephenson, 44, of Keokuk, in the 2200 block of 160th Avenue, on a charge of 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
04/19/20 - 10:39 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justin Michael Hemphill, 27, of Keokuk, in the 2200 block of 160th Avenue, on a charge of 3rd-degree burglary. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

Hancock County Sheriff Scott Bentzinger reports the following arrests for the week of April 13th, 2020 through April 19th, 2020
04/13/20 - Robert L Dieterich, age 29, of Canton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Obstructing Justice, Failure to Appear on original charges of Driving While License Revoked and Obstructed Windshield. Dieterich remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
04/14/20 - Josephine I McVay, age 46, of Canton, MO was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Criminal Trespass to Residence. McVay was given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.
04/14/20 - John A Leisenring, age 44, of Canton, MO was arrested and charged with Criminal Trespass to Property. Leisenring was given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.
04/14/20 - Robert L Hicks, age 48, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Possession of Methamphetamine and Criminal Trespass to Residence. Hicks was given a Notice to Appear at a future court date.
04/15/20 - Lathem D Paulson, age 25, of Hamilton, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Home Invasion and Criminal Trespass to Residence. Paulson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
04/15/20 - John A Konkler, age 54, of Colchester, IL was arrested and charged with Burglary. Konkler was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
04/15/20 - Morgan L Dodds, age 19, of Blandinsville, IL was arrested and charged with Trespass. Dodds was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
04/15/20 - Rachel I Anderson, age 50, of Blandinsville, IL was arrested and charged with Violation of Order of Protection. Anderson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.
04/15/20 - Scott L Wronowski, age 39, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Domestic Battery. Wronowski remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
04/19/20 - Eric K Thomas, age 27, of Carthage, IL was arrested and charged with Aggravated Domestic Battery and Criminal Trespass to Residence. Thomas remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his initial court appearance.
04/19/20 - Dave R Whitten, age 64, of Carthage, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Criminal Damage to Property and Disorderly Conduct. Whitten was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

04/17/20 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call and one lift assist.
04/18/20 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls.
04/19/20 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls

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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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From the Front



Photo courtesy FMCH

FMCH thanks area for donated masks

MASKS - Continued from Page 1

was also fortunate to have a community member, Liz Woodbury, wife of FMCH Orthopedic Surgeon Brent Woodbury, step up to organize the mask-making efforts.

"I felt this was an opportunity for me to do my part in the COVID-19 fight. I have a strong appreciation for the work being done at FMCH to keep our community safe and helping to orchestrate local mask contributions was a good way to support that work," said Liz Woodbury.

Cloth masks were originally used for patients or visitors. If a patient or visitor to FMCH answered yes to respiratory symptoms, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, at the screening stations they were given a cloth mask to protect others from them.

The need for cloth masks increased when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made the recommendation everyone should wear a cloth face cover to protect oth-

ers in case you are infected, since some people with the virus may not have symptoms. It was at that time FMCH decided to require all of their employees, regardless of position, to wear a cloth mask while at work. Employees in direct patient care continue to wear the appropriate PPE for their area of work. Cloth masks are still being used for patients or visitors to the facility as well.

"We are deeply grateful to all those in our community who have used their talents and supplies to make cloth masks for us. These masks have been a great gift, allowing us to keep our staff healthy and at work and our supplies appropriately allocated," said Shelby Burchett, CEO at FMCH.

To date more than 1,000 cloth masks have been made and donated for use at FMCH. They continue to accept donations of homemade cloth masks. All masks are laundered and ironed by FMCH staff prior to use.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by June 1

VOTE - Continued from Page 1

Friday, May 22nd.

Requests may be faxed to 319-372-7033 or emailed to auditor@leecounty.org. However, the original request document must be received by the Auditor's Office. If mailed, it must be postmarked by Friday, May 22, 2020. The original request can be put into a drop box located in the alley

behind the County Office Building in Fort Madison or on Blondeau Street next to the Courthouse in Keokuk.

Postage pre-paid voted ballots should be returned by mail, but must be postmarked no later than Monday, June 1, 2020 and received by 12:00 Noon on Monday, June 8, 2020. The voter's ballot may be hand

delivered to the County Auditor's Office before 9:00 P.M., Election Day, June 2, 2020, by the voter or any person the voter designates. Currently, the building is closed to the public. There will be drop boxes located in the alley behind the County Office Building in Fort Madison or on Blondeau Street next to the Courthouse in Keokuk.

You must declare a Po-

litical Party Affiliation on the Absentee Ballot Request Form. A registered voter can change party affiliation on the Absentee Ballot Request Form. In order for your ballot to be counted, you must sign the yellow highlighted line on the return envelope.

Anyone having questions regarding absentee voting may contact the Auditor's office at 319/372-3705.

Pray, Eat Less, and Exercise flattens your curve

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

I achieved most of my weight loss from a simple, high protein, low carb diet. But I reached a plateau and was having a problem shedding the last few pounds. Once I switched to the simple eat less regimen, victory! Another thing, as far as I'm concerned, restaurants being closed is a plus for dieting. Nothing crashes a diet for me faster than going out to eat once or twice on a weekend. And don't whine that ordering takeout is messing with your diet. Be smart and selective. Oriental is great!

E: Exercise. Ginnie and I are fortunate in that we have our own dedicated exercise room. We also have hers and his treadmills. We don't have to leave the house to work out. With the pandemic, exercise centers are closed. Bummer. But you can still get out and walk or run. 30 minutes a day is doable by anyone, whether working full time or not. It's also something Ginnie and I do together, which is really nice. Neither one of us wants to let the other down, so we get out there together. Much to Ginnie's chagrin, we work out on the treadmills to country classic music. It used to be rock 'n roll oldies, but being the country boy I am, it's now CW. A little game I play while exercising is trying to guess the name of the artist as each song comes on. Ginnie just plugs her ears. Something I've started lately, because of my age (71), is doing the run/walk routine. I warm up at a walk for two minutes, than run five, and walk one, to get the 30 minutes in, followed by a two-minute cool down. I don't think I've felt better in years. BTW: I have degenerative hip and spine disease. What's the best thing for a bad hip? Yep, you guessed it—exercise! One more thing: on the days I don't feel like exercising (which is often), it usually turns out to be a great performance day. Interesting how that works. There are no excuses.

This pandemic, stay-at-home routine need not be the weight gainer I hear a lot of belly aching (get it?) about. If you want to binge on something watch "Ozark" or put a 1000 piece puzzle together. Flatten the curve on your own body with the PELÉ Diet: Pray, Eat Less and Exercise. It works. It really does.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or visit his website www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
APRIL 21, 2020
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.

Contact Title VI
 Administrator
 319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
CORRECTED NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE PROPOSED
PLANS AND
SPECIFICATIONS,
FORM OF CONTRACT
AND ESTIMATE OF
COST FOR P.I.P.
2020-01, PARKING LOT
RECONSTRUCTION
AND STORMWATER
IMPROVEMENTS
FORT MADISON, IOWA

Notice is hereby given: That at 5:30 P.M. on April 21, 2020, the Fort Madison City Council will hold an electronic meeting wherein the City Council (The "City") will hold a public hearing on the proposed plans and specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost (the "Contract Documents") for the proposed Public Improvement Project 2020-01, Parking Lot Reconstruction and Stormwater Improvements (the "Project").

The Project shall consist of: Reconstruction of 2 parking lots: 1) southeast corner of Avenue F and 8th Street; and 2) southwest corner of Avenue D and 8th Street, using permeable pavers for stormwater management and water quality improvements.

The Project shall be construction in the City of Fort Madison, Iowa.

A copy of the Proposed Contract Documents is on file for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk. Digital copies may also be requested by calling 319-372-7700, ext. 206.

Zoom Meeting details: An electronic meeting is being held pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8 because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of the Commission members, staff, and the public presented by COVID-19.

You can participate in the meeting and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom Meeting by calling in by phone by dialing (312) 626 6799 and entering the meeting ID (805 914 857) and

password (260010) when prompted. Providing comment in person is not an option.

Any interested person may file written objections or present comments telephonically with respect to the subject matter of the hearing. Written statements may also be submitted to the Fort Madison City Clerk, P.O. Box 240, 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627 or mblind@fortmadison-ia.com no later than 4:30 PM on April 21, 2020.

Melinda L. Blind
 City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF MEETING
OF THE CITY OF FORT
MADISON, IOWA ON
THE MATTER OF THE
PROPOSED
AUTHORIZATION OF A
LOAN AND
DISBURSEMENT
AGREEMENT AND THE
ISSUANCE OF NOT TO
EXCEED \$1,600,000
SEWER REVENUE
CAPITAL LOAN NOTES,
AND THE PUBLIC
HEARING ON THE
AUTHORIZATION AND
ISSUANCE THEREOF

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, will hold a public hearing on the 21st day of April, 2020, at 5:30 o'clock P.M., at which meeting the City Council proposes to take additional action for the authorization of a Loan and Disbursement Agreement by and between the City and the Iowa Finance Authority, and the issuance of the Iowa Finance Authority of not to exceed \$1,600,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes to evidence the obligations of the City under said Loan and Disbursement Agreement, in order to provide funds to pay the costs of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extending, remodeling, improving, repairing and equipping all or part of the Municipal Sewer System, including a Clean Water SRF Water Restoration Sponsored Project consisting of parking lot reconstruction and the installation of permeable pavers. The Notes will not constitute general obligations or be payable in any manner by taxation, but will be payable from and secured by the Net Revenues of the Municipal Sewer System.

Due to public health concerns related to COVID-19, as authorized by emergency proclamation of the Governor of the State of Iowa, this meeting of the City Council will be conducted electronically, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8, as holding the meeting in person is impossible or impractical. The public may access the meeting electronically in the manner specified below

To access this meeting by telephone, use the following call-in information:
 Telephone Number:
 (312) 626 6799, meeting ID (805 914 857)

Please check the posted agenda in advance of the April 21 meeting for any updates to the manner in which the public may access the meeting.

All persons wishing to observe or participate in the meeting and/or public hearing may do so by accessing the meeting as directed above, and may also submit comments to the City prior to the meeting. At the above meeting the City Council shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the City, to the above action. After all objections have been received and considered, the City Council will at this meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action for the authorization of said Loan and Disbursement Agreement and the issuance of Notes or will abandon the proposal to

HELP WANTED

Temporary Job Opening

The Fort Madison Public Library is seeking a Summer Reading Corps Associate service member. This position will help with summer reading activities in the library and help us take our summer reading program to local daycare facilities. The position will be 300 hours between May 26 and July 25. Compensation includes a living stipend as well as an education award from the National Service Trust upon successful completion of the full term of service. Application and complete job description can be found at www.FortMadisonLibrary.org or contact Sarah Clendineng at (319) 372-5721.



issue the Notes.

This Notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, as provided by Sections 384.24A and 384.83 of the Code of Iowa, as amended.

Dated Tuesday, April 21, 2020
 Melinda 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, April 21, 2020, at the Council Chambers of Fort Madison City Hall at 811 Avenue E, Fort Madison regarding a request to rezone property at 2324 and 2332 Avenue J, from R-4, One-Family Dwelling District to B-4, Highway Business District.

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 805 914 857. 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 April 24, 2020.

Melinda L. Blind
 City Clerk

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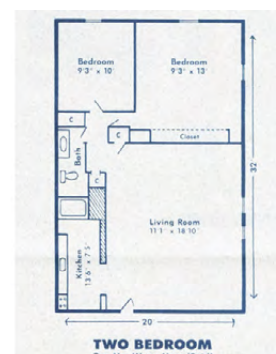
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backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting Tue, Apr 21, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CDT)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/200749589>

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (312) 757-3121 Access Code: 200-7 49-589

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts: [.J.t.t.Q.s://global.gotomeeting.com/in-stall/200749589](http://J.t.t.Q.s://global.gotomeeting.com/in-stall/200749589)

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Public Input
- Approve Tuesday, April 14, 2020 Board Minutes
- Consider Approval of Claims
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
- Consider Approval of Renewal of Lease Agreement with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services for Office Space at DHS Building, Bank Street
- Consider Approval of Proposal from Shoemaker Haaland for Design Services on Exterior Of Courthouse in Fort Madison
- Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution
- Personnel Action
- A. Step Increase-Health Department
- B. Step Increase-Maintenance Department Reports:
- A. Sheriff's Monthly Report
- B. Recorder's Report of Fees Collected
- Commission or Committee Reports
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From the Front

Des Moines County now at 14 confirmed positives

UPDATE - Continued from Page 1

“We’re working with all Tyson plants to talk about what they are doing proactively to protect the workforce and strategies in place to mitigate the virus,” Reynolds said.

“These processing plants are essential, and these workers are essential staffing.”

Reynolds said it’s critical to focus strike teams and other mitigation efforts on those facilities to try and help them stay operational as the state’s hog farmers look for answers for their livestock.

“We are the largest hog producer in the country,” Reynolds said.



REYNOLDS

“If we’re not able to move them, at some point we’re going to have to talk about euthanizing hogs and we’re not far from it. It would be devastating, not just for the food supply, but the cost of food going forward.”

“We need to keep this critical workforce and critical infrastructure going.”

Iowa Department of Public Health’s Deputy Director Sarah Reisetter said the industries have been “great partners” in mitigation efforts.

Currently the state looks for a business to have 10% of staff absent from work or symptomatic before declaring that business to have an outbreak. However, long-term care providers are considered to have an outbreak if three or more positive tests are confirmed.

Reynolds had Iowa Department of Corrections Director Beth Skinner on hand to talk about the impact of the coronavirus on the state’s prison operations.

Skinner said the system has just under 8,500 inmates as of March 1, the lowest number since June of 2017. She said since March 1, 811 inmates have been released, but there have also been 748 admissions.

“We’re working closely with board of parole to release those who are likely to succeed in a public setting. Four hundred and eighty-two more have been approved for release and 90 are approved for future release,” Skinner said. “It’s critical they have safe sustainable housing before they are released.”

Skinner also said in addition to the systems’ first inmate confirmed with COVID-19 over the weekend at Iowa Medical and Classification Center, two staff mem-

bers at the facility have also tested positive, but Skinner said she data indicated those positives weren’t due to exposure to the inmate.

Skinner said she has also asked sheriff’s to suspend admissions and revocations at this time to prevent unnecessary exposure to jail inmates and another way to help reduce the introduction of the virus into the state’s prison system.

Skinner also said Iowa Prison Industries have produced more than 62,000 facemasks, 6,305 faceshields, 7,661 gowns and more than 16,000 gallons of hand sanitizer.

Reynolds said Iowa is home to 21 of the country’s 100 largest food processors and the state has to do what it

can to keep manufacturing up and going.

“So many, many of our manufacturers are tied to food processing and it’s important to keep them up and running.”

As of Sunday the state has seen 3,159 positive coronavirus tests and 22,661 negative tests with 79 deaths.

Currently Lee County has three confirmed cases of COVID-19. Des Moines County now has 14 confirmed cases. Henry County has seen 28 positives and one death, and Van Buren County has had eight confirmed positives for the virus.

In Region 5 of the state’s Regional Medical Coordination Centers, which includes southeast Iowa, 214 people are currently hospitalized, 23 in the last 24 hours and 91 are on intensive care units. Of those, 58 are currently on ventilators.



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



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