

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, May 4, 2020 | 7 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 91



www.pencitycurrent.com

Central Lee lightens up



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Central Lee 2020 senior TJ Stutes, carries his dog and a Class of 2020 sign Friday night in the Central Lee High School parking lot as part of the Light Up Central Lee festivities honoring seniors who are missing the last three months of their senior year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The district has many events planned to honor the graduates as well as a year-end update on school activities and learning at the following link: <https://www.pencitycurrent.com/2020/04/28/central-lee-updates-end-of-year-plans/>.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



95-year-old knows a thing or two about restoration

Outside his apartment in Keosauqua sits his 1961 Chrysler Imperial, waiting. The Chrysler is in showroom condition (maybe better). Its jet airplane tail fins tell you all you need to know about 95 year old Bob Norman—flamboyant and in no danger of showing his age.

95 year old Bob Norman of Keosauqua is a conservator, appraiser and lover of life. Soft classical music plays on Bob's stereo as we talk, or as he talks and I listen. He is a conservator, a person who restores artwork, and an appraiser, a person who appraises the value of artwork and collectibles. His restoration is not limited to artwork. He also restores cars, boats, motorcycles, houses, furniture, chandeliers, or most anything that needs restoration, even, yes, you guessed it—people. A few minutes with Bob Norman is like drinking a high energy health drink.

You may have met him if you ever stopped at the Pittsburg General Store in Pittsburg, Iowa (west of Keosauqua in Van Buren County on the Des Moines River). He was the “artist in residence,” restoring the two-story structure—walls, floor, ceiling, with the help of his neighbor, a Baptist minister. Although an artist, Bob knows hard work. (He worked his way through art school at SMU by upholstering furniture.) He has since moved to an apartment in Keosauqua. He's slowing down a tad.

Bob has restored artwork for Iowa Wesleyan University, the Harlan-Lincoln House, and the PEO building in Mt. Pleasant as well as libraries and government buildings in Fairfield, Burlington, Des Moines, Iowa City, Selma,

See **SWARM**, page 7

Pandemic, aid hurdles lead to Flower Cottage closure

COMPLICATED: Owner says “complicated” a nice word to describe state programs

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – She was thinking about closing anyway after more than 12 years running her own business, but the COVID-19 pandemic and the hurdles of securing any assistance didn't help the situation.

Diane Spiekermeier, owner of The Flower Cottage located at 12th Street and Avenue E, said she will have to shutter The Flower Cottage business as a result of the pandemic.

Spiekermeier said some staffing issues had her thinking about closing the business anyway, but when the state put restrictions on things like prom, graduation, and Easter. When groups were restricted to less than 10, she lost revenue from funerals as well.

“I was thinking about closing the flower shop due to some staff issues. I'm not foolish enough to think I can do my own,” Spiekermeier said. “June 1 was target date to make a decision



and now I've lost all those holidays and there's no sympathy work because no one can go to the funeral homes”.

So the handwriting may have been on the wall, but Spiekermeier said trying to secure loans and grants from the state has

See **CLOSED**, page 6

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WEATHER

MON 04 May.....	Moderate Rain, 61.1° F / 47.5° F
TUE 05 May.....	Light Rain, 58.2° F / 47.1° F
WED 06 May.....	Broken Clouds, 55.1° F / 45.8° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 05/02.....	1 37 40 48 51, Star Ball: 4, All Star Bonus: 2
PICK 3 05/02 MIDDAY.....	7 6 7
PICK 3 05/02 EVENING.....	8 4 3
PICK 4 05/02 MIDDAY.....	18 8 2
PICK 4 05/02 EVENING.....	7 4 7 1
POWERBALL 05/02.....	13 16 33 58 68, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 5

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

WENDELL SUMMERS II

Wendell "Wayne" Summers II, 59, of Ft. Madison passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 6:05 PM at his home.



SUMMERS II

He was born on December 24, 1960 in Ft. Madison to Wendell I. and Alice Zachmeyer Summers. On April 13, 2002 he married Deborah Swafford in Ft. Madison. Wayne loved watching all sports. He also enjoyed hill climb racing, cooking and listening to music.

Survivors include his wife, Deborah Summers of Ft. Madison; one son, Nicholas Summers of Westmont, IL; one daughter, Natasha Bass of St. Charles, IL; one grandson, Tristen Bass; his mother, Alice Kamp of Ft.

Madison; three step children, SoRay Mapes of Ft. Madison, Jessica Mapes of Rosenberg, TX and Sabra Mapes of Ft. Madison; one sister, Treva "Renee" Summers of Ft. Madison; two step grandchildren, Brady Mapes and Katelyn Gilsan; several aunts and uncles. He was preceded in death by his Father.

Per his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory and there will be no formal services at this time. Due to the COVID-19 virus a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

SUSAN P. WALKER

Susan P. Walker, 70, of Ft. Madison, passed away on Friday, May 01, 2020 at 4:40 AM at the Great River Medical Center.



WALKER

She was born on October 14, 1949 in Ft. Madison to Robert and Mary Neadermiller Ketcham. On June 14, 1968 she married Gary Walker in Ft. Madison. Sue worked at Winegard's, Sheaffer Pen and lastly at Ft. Madison Community Hospital as a CNA. Sue enjoyed going to yard sales and retouched photo negatives. Her greatest love was her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Gary Walker of Ft. Madison; two sons, Bryan (Amy) Walker of Park Ridge, IL and Brad (Lindsay) Walker of Ft. Madison; five grandchildren, Camille, Meredith, Evelyn, Jack and Owen. She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother and several other family members.

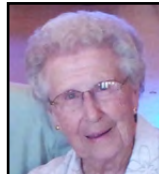
Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home and Crematory. Due to the COVID-19 Virus, there will be no formal services at this time. Burial will take place in Fairview Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her memory and may be sent to Gary. Online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.

OBITUARIES

THELMA HOPE

Thelma "Louise" Hope, 93, of Ft. Madison and formerly of Brookfield, MO passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 5:28 PM at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital.



HOPE

She was born on July 16, 1926 in Green City, MO to Ozzie and Lou Bankes. On December 5, 1946 she married Donald D. Hope in Kirksville, MO and he passed away on September 3, 2008. Louise worked along side with her Husband at Hope Jewelry and Gifts and retired in 1990. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Brookfield, MO where she was very active in all aspects. Louise

enjoyed doing yard work and cooking especially for family gatherings. She was an avid sports fan and especially loved the Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals and the Brookfield Bulldogs. She and Don volunteered on various committees and were very active throughout the years in Brookfield.

Survivors include one son, Terry (Karen) Hope of Ft. Madison; one daughter in law, Diana (Kenny) Hope-Wemhoff who was married to Dennis and he passed away on February 9, 2002; nine grandchildren, Ben (Sara) Hope, Erin (Chad) Phelps, Jacob (Jessica) Hope, Andrew Hope, Monica (Sean) Miller, Natalie Hope, Todd Noll, Cody (Jade) Nabors, Dena (Dallas) Hodges; nineteen great grandchildren, Lola, Allee, Coye, Taylor, Lincoln, Jaxson, Bentley, Rylie, Taylor, Karlee, Cameron, Joshua, DeLanee, Carter, Dayton, Lucy, Colten, Cannon, and Kelbi. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband; her son Dennis and grandson in law, Greg Bunnell.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 11:00 AM at Rose Hill Cemetery in Brookfield with Rev. Mandy Tarpenting officiating. The family will meet with friends from 10 AM until 11 AM prior to the graveside service at Wright Funeral Home in Brookfield. King-Lynk Funeral Home is assisting the family locally.

A memorial has been established for Dialysis Clinic, INC in Macon Missouri and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.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.

FIRE DAMAGE CLEANUP

Structure fires are one of the most deadly disasters that can strike your home or business. Within minutes, flames can destroy and severely damage large sections of your property. Without immediate attention, this damage can continue to harm your home or business for years to come.

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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 May 15.



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

**LEE
CHD**

(319) 372.5225

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PEN CITY CURRENT
It's Black & White and Read all over

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

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Education News

FM Superintendent outlines end of year activities

The following is a letter from Fort Madison School District Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater on updates for the 2020 school year printed in its entirety.

Dear FMCSF Families,

Once again we are thinking of you and our students during this continued closure time. The staff have been working behind the scenes on many end of the year questions. Please see below for the latest information:

Student Items:

Buildings have worked hard developing a plan for students to retrieve their belongings. We ask that you read the message from your child's building or buildings carefully and appreciate your flexibility as specific details may need to be adjusted.

Meals:

We will continue meal service at our ten locations through June 2nd.

Voluntary Learning:

We strongly encourage your students to continue to engage with their teachers who have scheduled learning activities each week. Teachers also have office hours each week for students and families. If you have a technology question please visit <https://www.fmcsd.org/home-tech-support/>. If you have further questions you may email our info account – info@fmcsd.org – and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

The district will be submitting the required Return to Learn plan with the Department of Education by July 1, 2020.

1:1 Technology & Loaner Devices Currently at Home:

K – 8th grade students will be permitted to keep their loaned devices until August 3rd 2020.

9th – 11th students will be able to keep their 1:1 devices through the summer.

12th grade students are expected to return their device by July 31st. Locations will be communicated at a later time.

FMHS Class of 2020 Announcements:

Further details will be provided as needed.

Grades:

Seniors will receive credit for each course on their schedule when school closed.

For two trimester courses, seniors may choose the current grade earned when school closed on March 13, 2020, or a "P" for pass.

Due to the limited number of days completed in trimester 3, all students enrolled in a single trimester course during trimester 3 will receive a "P" for Pass. Students will receive a form via student email to make their selections and ALL students will be required to submit the form back to FMHS.

Prom:

We hope to have a live prom dance on June 13. If the CDC guidelines do not permit a social gathering by June 8, we will solicit feedback from the senior class on alternative options for the promenade.

Graduation Events:

We plan to have a live graduation ceremony on June 27 at 9:00 A.M., CDC guidelines permitting. During the month of May, we will create a recording of a simulated graduation ceremony with each individual graduating senior being given the opportunity to walk across the stage in their cap and gown and receive their diploma at FMHS. This video will also feature the senior speakers.

Other Class of 2020 Events:

On May 29, we plan on hosting a senior parade of cars on a designated route. Seniors are welcome to decorate their cars and would meet in the FMHS parking lot and the football stadium lights will be on for 20 minutes to honor the Class of 2020.

Celebration yard signs have been donated by a local business which will feature each senior's picture to be placed in their yard.

Senior Most Awards will be celebrated on FMCSFs social media platforms.

Grades for Non-Seniors:

Details about how those grades will be handled will be forthcoming.

We continue to miss our students terribly. Please feel free to contact us if there is anything we can do or continue to do to support you during this time.

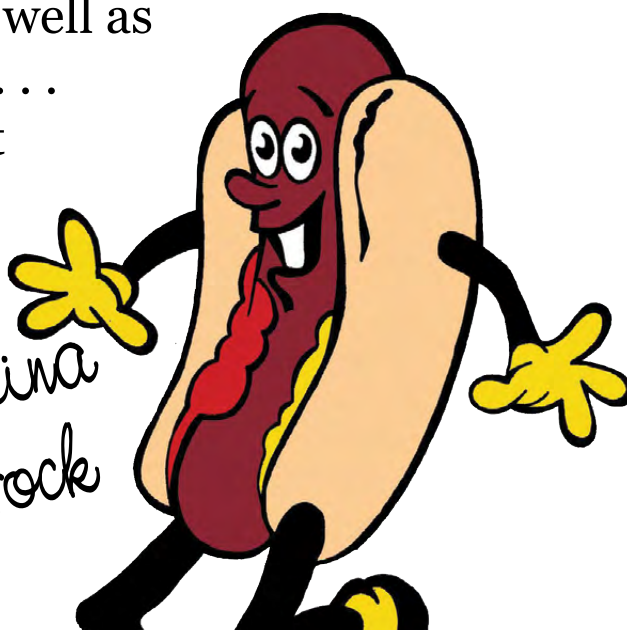
Sincerely,

Dr. Erin Slater,
Superintendent



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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2020**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met electronically due to the COVID-19 Outbreak Shutdown, on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

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

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

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

Moved by Harlow,

seconded by Pflug, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Larkin, to approve the Tuesday, April 21, 2020 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Pflug, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion on whether to continue with closure of the County Buildings. Moved by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, for the buildings to remain closed for 2 more weeks and to revisit the matter at the May 12th Board meeting. Roll call: Folluo-aye,

Pflug-aye, Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Folluo, to approve Resolution #2020-71. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye and Fedler-aye.

Resolution #2020-71

Lee County Board of Supervisors Resolution Waiving Leave Time Requirements in Personnel Policy

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National State of Emergency. On March 17, 2020 Governor Reynolds declared a State of Public Health

Disaster Emergency in the State of Iowa;

WHEREAS, the County has determined that, during this global pandemic and pursuant to the County's Pandemic Leave Policy and each Department Head's management rights, each Department Head shall consider their operational needs and determine whether to permit employees' use of vacation, personal and/or holiday time until these states of emergency are lifted or at such other time that the County deems it is appropriate to lift or amend this Resolution;

WHEREAS, in support of the Department Head's management rights/operational needs and for this

fiscal year (ending June 30, 2020) the County will waive any requirements in the Personnel Policy that vacation, personal or holiday time (as applicable) be taken within a particular period of time and limits on carryover pursuant to Personnel Policy, and commits that no employee will lose his or her vacation, personal and/or holiday time, because they were not permitted to use it for pandemic related reasons.

AND WHEREAS, in the event of any conflict between the County's Personnel Policy and the County's Pandemic Leave Policy, the County's Pandemic Leave Policy shall control;

NOW THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED that this shall be in effect April 10, 2020 and end the date that Governor Reynold's declares there is no longer a state of public health disaster emergency in the state of Iowa.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2020.

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Ron Fedler, Chairman; /s/ Matt Pflug, Vice-Chair; /s/ Gary Folluo, Member; /s/ Rich Harlow, Member; and /s/ Rick Larkin, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to approve the updated

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Pandemic Leave Policy. Roll call: Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye, Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

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

Committee Reports: Larkin reported on a Workforce Development Board meeting, an Economic Development Board meeting, a Landfill Commission meeting and the Department Heads bi-weekly meeting. Harlow reported on a Children First Board meeting. Folluo reported on a combined city Chamber Offices and Economic Development Board meeting; an Economic Development Board meeting, the Department Heads meeting, a Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Board meeting and webinars with federal Elected Officials.

At 9:30 a.m. a motion was made by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be an electronic meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Ron Fedler, Board

Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tue, May 5, 2020
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
(CDT)

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Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Input
Approve Tuesday, April 28, 2020 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of

Claims
Consider Approval to Replace Part Time Correctional Officer
Consider Approval and Set Public Hearing for FY20 Budget Amendment
Consider Approval of Class C Liquor License for Green Bay Bar and Grill, Wever Consider Approval of Business Property Tax Credits for 2019

Personnel Actions:
A.Step Increase-Secondary Roads
Reports:

A.Manure Management Annual Update-Dobson Farms in Van Buren Township
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

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County Website:
www.leecounty.org

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WEST POINT UTILITY SYSTEM
WEST POINT, IOWA
April 14th, 2020

The West Point Municipal Utility System Board of Trustees met in regular session at, West Point City Hall, West Point, Iowa 52656 on April 14th, 2020. Board Chairman Randy Welding presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board Members Ted Vonderhaar and Board Member Brian Schmitz were present. Tentative agenda was approved by consensus Status of delinquent accounts was discussed and considered by Board Members in detail. Field operations report, as prepared by Utility Superintendent, was discussed by Board Members in detail. Motion was made by Board Member Brian Schmitz and seconded by Board Member Ted Vonderhaar for approval of Resolution 195-2 "A Resolution Agreeing to Become a Member of the

Southeast Iowa Safety Group and IAMU Agreement". Board Chairman was reported on the following: The next regular Utility System Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 at West Point City Hall 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. On motion, minutes of prior regular meeting of March 10th, 2020 was approved. On motion, approved warrants payable for April 2020 as presented. On motion, meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m., April 14h, 2020.

EXPENDITURES FOR MAY 2018
3rd GENERATION ELECTRIC - TRENCHING150.00
ABOLT, RON - REBATE100.00
ALTEC INDUSTRIES INC.- DIGGER TRUCK REPAIR1,092.71
BROZENE HYDRAULIC SERVICE - DIGGER TRUCK REPAIR36.06
DAILY DEMOCRAT- LEGAL PUBLICATION87.91
DELTA DENTAL - INSURANCE.....138.48
EFTPS - FED/FICA TAX4,781.92

FLOYDS- TRASH PICK UP.....120.00
HOLTKAMP AUTOMOTIVE - REPAIR 2002 FORD193.79
HUFFMAN WELDING - OIL, FILTER, CHAINS223.69
IA ASSOC MUNICIPAL UTILITIES.....4,031.00
IOWA DPT OF REVENUE- EXCISE,- SALES,PROPERTY TAX3,384.00
IPERS -RETIREMENT2,822.73
LEE COUNTY TREASURER - ANNUAL EXCISE TAX899.50
MASTERCARD - CHAINSAW PARTS.....222.49
MCFARLAND - OFFICE SUPPLIES104.37
MEDIACOM - TELE / INTERNET.....232.26
MENKE PROFESSIONAL AUTO PARTS1,058.26
OFFICE OF AUDITOR - FY18-19 EXAM DUES87.50
RATHBUN REGIONAL WATER - WATER PURCHASE4,791.00
RESALE POWER GROUP OF IOWA - WHOLESALE ELEC49,545.74
RICOH - COPIER / COPIES95.60
SKARSHAUG TESTING LAB.....97.21

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PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE HYGIENIC LAB - LAB FEES13.00
 SNAADT, TREVOR - WATER TESTING.....10.70
 SUN LIFE FINANCIAL - INSURANCE 113.31
 TASCOS - PAGER SERVICE132.45
 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA - STATE,EXCISE,- SALES TAX671.54
 UPS - SHIPMENTS22.09
 US POSTAL SERVICE - MAILING.....397.87
 VAN METER INC. UG POLLMILLER29.33
 WELLMARK BC/BS OF IOWA - INSURANCE236.83
 WEST POINT LUMBER - BROOM, LUMBER24.27
 WEST POINT UTILITIES - UTILITY CHARGES159.21
 WEX BANK - GASOLINE41.96
 /s/ Randy Welding,
 Chairman
 Attest: Dawn M. Holtkamp, Billing & Collection

or Avenue D); thence with said Hwy. Right of Way Line N 78° 50' E, 22.0 ft. to the west line of Outlot #1; thence S 00° 04', 437.4 ft. with the west line of Outlot #1 to the north Right of Way Line of Tyler St.; thence S 89° 44' W, 19.9 ft. with the said north Right of Way Line of Tyler St. to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.207 acres.

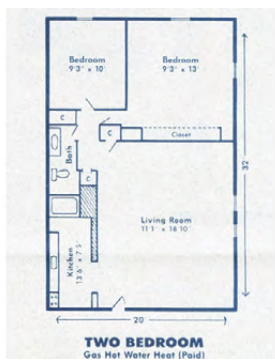
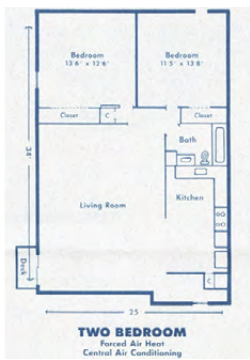
A copy of the preliminary resolution to vacate real property are on file at the City Hall, 313 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656, and may be viewed by the public during normal business hours.
 Diane E. Smith, City Clerk
 City of West Point, Iowa

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large 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.



PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby provided that the City Council of the City of West Point, Iowa, will conduct a public hearing on Monday, May 11, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Library Conference Room, 317 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 concerning the proposed vacation of a portion of Avenue C legally described as:

1. Lot One (1) in Block Thirty-Four (34) in the Town of West Point, Lee County, Iowa; and,
2. Outlot No. One (1) in the Town of West Point, Lee County, Iowa; and,
3. A tract of land in the W1/2, W1/2, SE 1/4, Section 5, T68N, R5W, 5th P.M., bounded on the north by Hwy. 103, on the west by the west line of said SE1/4, Sec.5, on the south by the north line of Tyler St. and on the east by the west line of Outlot #1 and described by the following metes & bounds: Commencing at the S1/4 corner, said Sec. 5; thence N00°09'W, 1468.9 ft. with the 1/4 Sec. Line to the point of beginning; thence continuing N 00°09' W, 433.2 ft. with said 1/4 Sec. Line to the south Right of Way Line of Hwy. 103 (Madison St.

State aid programs led to decision to close shop

CLOSED - Continued from Page 1

been a nightmare.

With the staffing issues, Spiekermeier said she was extremely busy trying to keep everything going herself and then trying to navigate through websites of the Iowa Economic Development Authority and Small Business Administration to try and find some assistance during the closures.

"I did get a grant for enough to pay my bills last month. I applied for so many other things and haven't heard back, and believe it or not. I'm busy. I'm busy, busy, busy all the time," she said. "You try to apply, and then get kicked off line, you go back to try fill in... and you just throw your hands up in despair. That whole thing has been very frustrating."

Spiekermeier credited her accountant, Fred Hoenig of Fort Madison with getting her a small grant through the Small Business Grant Program administered by the IEDA.

She said if it wasn't for Hoenig she wouldn't have gotten that grant. We only had about three days left to apply and he fortunately had all the documents they needed and helped me get that.

The Small Business Grant program had just an eight day application window and the state has funneled more than \$50 million into all the applications that came in during the window. The state began with \$4 million in grants and then through the CARES Act put another \$48 million into funding applications, but did not reopen the window to apply.

She also has not had success applying for unemployment. With everything being automated and state officials directing most applications to online portals, there is no real person to person communication.

Spiekermeier said after several attempts she was able to get her application in, and then a few days later she received a letter indicating she didn't qualify.

"There very next day I was sent a debit card. So I called the number on it to check on the balance, and it said I had a "\$0 balance," she said.

"I've been paying into unemployment for 12 years and now you can't qualify. When I was applying something happened and it kicked me off. I walked away and came back to finish it. I've never had to apply before so I didn't know the hoops I would have to jump through."

She said calling the system complicated is "nice word for it."

Spiekermeier didn't try to obtain any money from the Paycheck Protection Program because she believes it will tie many businesses to the government and she thinks the government is intrusive enough as it is.

"I don't like a lot of government involvement and this feels like your tied to it," she said.

Spiekermeier said she is continuing to do some limited online sales for customers who can't get out and about. Getting flowers is difficult now as most of her suppliers aren't delivering, but are selling on site. People can visit the items still for sale at www.4arose.com.

In the end, Spiekermeier said she's passed all the denial of shutting down part of her business and is that fixed stage of grief.

"I guess after all of it, now I'm kind of excited to maybe just work 50 hours a week instead of 80, if I can survive on it," she said. "If not it's on to Plan B, or C, or D, or X where I guess I get a job."

She also thanked her staff, Sandy, Marlene, Ashley, Laurie and Stephanie for their help over the years.

Lee County News/From the Front

Restoring old pieces, keeps this senior young

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

and Eddyville. Before he moved to Iowa, he restored artwork from all over Texas and for famous people like the Rockefellers and Kennedys. He has restored artwork by Rembrandt and Salvador Dali. Two people want him to do restorations now, but he is waiting out the pandemic. He will be restoring artwork as long as he can be propped up—which might be quite a while since he had an uncle who lived to 104.

A lady brought a 19th century portrait painting to him that had a hole where an eye was supposed to be. When Bob was finished restoring the painting and she picked it up, he asked her if she could tell which eye was repaired. She could not, and guessed the wrong eye.

Another fellow brought him a dozen 19th century paintings to be appraised. The fellow had purchased the paintings from a gallery in Munich. The paintings were fine examples of contemporary classical realism. However, Bob had a problem with the last two. The fellow asked him what the problem was. Bob told him the last two were giclées: copies produced by a computer and an ink jet printer shooting oil. The fellow was very upset. Bob asked him how much he paid for the two. It was a considerable amount. The fellow asked him how much the “copies” were worth. (The fellow still didn’t believe Bob.) Bob told him the frames were worth more than the giclées.

It takes about a year-and-a-half apprenticeship under another conservator to become proficient at restoration. (There are very few conservators around and Bob might be the only one in Iowa.) A fellow came into Bob’s studio and asked if Bob would teach him the trade. He told Bob he could spend three months. Bob told him he could teach him how to clean his brushes in three months.

How does Bob restore people? His wife, Doro-

thy, had been married before to a homebody. She made Bob promise her that their marriage would not be dull. On a two week vacation, they were going to go to Vicksburg. They had a ’73 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible at the time. While at Vicksburg, he said, “Honey, let’s go to the coast and see what’s shaking in Savannah (600 miles). So they went. When they got there, he told her Charleston was pretty at that time of year. Off they went. Then they hopscotched to Newburgh, New York; Georgetown; Baltimore to see his daughter; and then made their way home through Harper’s Ferry.

They had been gone six weeks. Dorothy learned real quick that they would get home when they got home. Nothing dull about Bob. He had kept his promise.

BTW: Bob still drives at 95. Amongst his many activities since his wife passed away is giving rides to the Amish—not in his ’61 Chrysler Imperial, of course. He has a van for hauling artwork and people.

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 at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com

Lee County surges to 16 confirmed COVID-19 cases

As of Saturday morning, county is two cases behind Des Moines County

LEE COUNTY – The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department identified two additional case of COVID-19 in the county, one adult and one middle-age adult who are both currently in isolation. This makes 16 confirmed cases in Lee County to date. LCHD is reporting three additional cases as recovered, making a total of six recovered cases.

On Friday and Saturday officials reported three additional cases bringing the number over the last three days to three confirmed cases. There still have been no deaths attributed to the virus to any Lee County resident reported. Officials have indicated that two of the 16 are listed as recovered.

Lee County is now just two behind Des Moines County with 18 confirmed cases and one death. Des Moines County is one of 22 counties in the state still on tightened restrictions. Lee County was one of 77 state counties to get relaxed restrictions on May 1 including opening restaurants, libraries and health facilities at 50% capacity, as well as religious services.

Henry County has 33 confirmed cases and a death. Van Buren and Jefferson County have a combined 14 cases and no deaths as of Sunday morning.

LCHD encourages 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.leecountyhd.org, and their Facebook page, will continue to be updated with information as well.

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.
Don't forget to wash your hands
after bringing in your bin!!*



Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave Fort Madison, IA 1-319-372-6140
Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane Keokuk, IA 1-319-524-6175

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