

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Thursday, August 13, 2020 | 10 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 157



www.pencitycurrent.com

YMCA setting learning centers

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Centers support learning for off days of schools' hybrid plans

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A move from the Fort Madison YMCA to help provide remote learning centers for at least the first trimester of the school year will require some help from the community.

With Fort Madison Community School District beginning the year in a hybrid learning model that has one group of students on site for a week, and a second group engaged in remote learning, YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson launched a survey to look into what needs that created in the community.

The two other districts in the area, Central Lee and Holy Trinity Catholic also have options in place where students could be



WILSON

engaged in remote learning and take advantage of the program. The focus of the YMCA's program would be to provide a learning space for students who are on remote rotations in the schools hybrid programs, to help parents who work during the day.

The survey asked if parents would need child care/virtual learning support, what hours would they need that support, and what weekly fee range would be acceptable for the services.

Sixty-nine responses were received on the survey and 65 indi-

See **SURVEY**, page 2

County sees 4th COVID-related death Wednesday

LEE COUNTY – Today the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department (LCHD) announced another death from Lee County related to COVID-19.

LCHD extends their deepest sympathy to this individual's family, and would like to encourage the public to remain respectful to this family's privacy during this difficult time. Due to Iowa Code Chapter 22 no other information or details will be released.

IDPH and LCHD have also identified two additional cases of COVID-19 in the county, one adult and one older adult. This makes 122 confirmed cases

Lee County Health Department Lee County COVID-19 Case Numbers		8/12/2020
New confirmed cases reporting today		
Child (0-17):	Older (61-80): 1	2
Adult (18-40): 1	Elderly (>80):	
Middle Age (41-60):		
Total confirmed cases to date		122
Recovered cases reported by IDPH to date		54

Reported cases from Coronavirus.Iowa.Gov and Lee County Health Department may differ due to reporting timing and procedures.

Lee County has 68 active confirmed cases of COVID-19 and reported the fourth death since data began being collected in March

in Lee County to date with 54 reported cases as recovered.

Lee County Health Department web-

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

NON PROFITS

Alliant opens next grant app window

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa – August 3, 2020 – Alliant Energy and its Foundation invite community and nonprofit organizations to begin applying for community grants. Applications will be accepted through September 1, 2020.

The community grants are available for local programs and projects that benefit residents in the communities Alliant Energy serves throughout Iowa and Wisconsin.

Alliant Energy and its Foundation look for opportunities and partnerships that foster intentional inclusion of diverse perspectives leading to more equitable outcomes and greater impacts for communities. These efforts focus on Hunger and Housing, Workforce Readiness, Environmental Stewardship and Diversity, Safety and Well-be-

See **GRANTS**, page 10

CLINIC

LCHD sets clinic for Back-to-School immunizations

FORT MADISON – The Lee County Health Department has scheduled a Back-To-School Immunization clinic for Aug. 20.

The clinic will be held from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the health department offices at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison.

Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 319-376-4767 or 319-372-5225. Walk-ins will be taken in the order of arrival so wait times could vary. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 4.

The clinic is aimed at those children needing back-to-school immunizations especially those entering kindergarten, 7th grade and senior year.

Additional information can be found at the LCHD website at www.leecountyhd.org.

RETURN TO LEARN

Elected officials weigh in on Return to Learn mandate

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County's state elected officials are split along party lines regarding Gov. Reynolds Return to Learn mandates.

The governor is holding state school districts to the language of a Senate bill that was signed into law in June after passing the legislature



KURTZ

almost unanimously that requires, among other things, in-person instruction to be the "presumed method of instructions".

Specific language of the new law, Senate File 2310 (SF2310) indicates that, "Any return-to-learn plan submitted by a school district or accredited

nonpublic school must contain provisions for in-person instruction and provide that in-person instruction is the presumed method of instruction."

The law also reads, "Unless explicitly authorized in a proclamation of a public health disaster emergency issued by the governor pursuant to

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

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WEATHER

THU 13 Aug.....Scattered Clouds, 84° F/ 68° F
FRI 14 Aug.....Mostly Sunny, 83° F/ 65° F
SAT 15 Aug.....Rain Showers, 82° F/ 65° F

IOWA LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 08/11.....8 22 29 43 56, Mega Ball: 9 Megaplier: 4
PICK 3 08/11 MIDDAY.....3 8 5
PICK 3 08/11 EVENING.....6 5 2
PICK 4 08/11 MIDDAY.....3 7 7 1
PICK 4 08/11 EVENING.....9 3 9 3

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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

SANDRA K. NICHOLSON

Sandra Kay "Sandy" Nicholson, 75 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died Monday, August 10, 2020 at the Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, Iowa. She was born August 16, 1944 in Hart County, Kentucky, the daughter of Carlos and Mattie Lee (McKinney) Overfelt. On December 30, 1984 in Bridgeview, Illinois, she married Robert B. Nicholson. He survives.

Sandy was a homemaker, mother and grandmother. She is one of Jehovah's Witnesses and attends the Kingdom Hall, Montrose, Iowa.

She is survived by her husband, Robert B. "Bob" Nicholson of Fort Madison; three sons: Louis (Teresa) Renfroe of Lockport, Illinois; Jeffrey (Miriam) Renfroe of Lake in the Hills, Illinois; and James (Joy) Renfroe of Illinois; one daughter, Kimberly (Don) Carlson of Fort Madison; two step daughters, Kari (Rick) Medearis of Forrest, Illinois and Janeen (Jim) Carter of North Carolina; two brothers, Jerry Overfelt of Nevada and Bobby (Brenda) Overfelt of Kankakee, Illinois; seven grandchildren; eight step-grandchildren and five step-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Larry and Michael Overfelt.

Per her wishes, her body has been cremated. A memorial talk at the Kingdom Hall will be held at a later date. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Nicholson family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorial-chapel.com.

OBITUARIES

CAROL HONADEL

Carol Honadel, 85 years, formerly of Montrose, Iowa died Saturday, August 8, 2020 in Olathe, Kansas. She was born October 24, 1934 in Shelbyville, Missouri, a daughter of Latrelle and Neva (Coe) Smoot. On July 17, 1955, she married Donald Elmer Honadel in Denmark, Iowa.



HONADEL

She was a homemaker and a busy Mom as her children were growing up. She was a supporter of Central Lee Schools, and of her Montrose community.

She is survived by two sons: Tal Honadel (Jacque Byrn), of Reeds Spring, Missouri and Kyle (Robin) Honadel, of Olathe, Kansas; three sisters: Evelyn Stotts of Council Bluff, Iowa; Patty (Ronald) Mahaffy of Burlington, Iowa; and Cindy Super of Fort Madison, Iowa; two grandchildren, Jacob and Jessica; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two brothers, Daniel Smoot and LR Smoot; and three sisters: Mary Etta Weber, Joyce Bennett, and Loyce Jeffrey.

Her family will greet friends during a visitation from 10:00 am - 11:00 am Friday, August 14, 2020 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Masks are required at the funeral home, and social distancing requirements will be in place. A graveside service and burial will follow and begin at 11:00 am Friday August 14, 2020 at the Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery, Fort Madison, Iowa with Pastor Les Featheringill officiating. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established the Alzheimer's Association, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Honadel family and an online guest book can be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

Pothitakis Dentistry Now Taking Appointments



Dr. Stephanie Heyland is taking appointments at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.

Fort Madison Family Dentistry West
4723 Avenue J, Fort Madison
319-372-4882



www.DrMarkDDS.com

YMCA in need of volunteers

SURVEY - Continued from Page 1

cated they would need the support. Fifty-six of the respondents indicated they would need help from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The majority, 47, responded that a fee in the area of \$25 to \$50 would be appropriate. Twenty-eight percent indicated they were willing to pay more.

Wilson said he's secured two facilities, at the Knights of Columbus and Elliott Test Kitchen, to provide the services. He is reaching out to a few other partners for additional space, but said that isn't the main concern.

"Right now we need help. We need help with the supervision of the program," Wilson said.

Wilson said anyone willing to help would

be appreciated. Those with some background in teaching, substituting or handling students at different age are encouraged, but he cautioned that some volunteers may not have education backgrounds.

"The hope is that we have people that can supervise and help kids as needed, but I can't guarantee they'll be teachers," he said.

Without the YMCA providing the programming, parents would be left to their own to find a place for their students during the 10 weeks of the first trimester at a minimum.

Wilson said anyone willing to help or supervise the students is encouraged to contact the YMCA at 319-372-2403 or by email at ryan.wilson@fortmadison.org

Lee County Health Department Back-to-School Immunization Clinic

August 20, 2020
9:00am - Noon
1:00pm - 4:00pm

#3 John Bennett Drive
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Appointments are strongly encouraged. Walk-ins will be taken in order of arrival so wait times may vary. Masks are required for those over the age of 4.

This Immunization Clinic is aimed at those children needing back-to-school immunizations specially those entering Kindergarten, 7th Grade & Senior Year.

For questions or to schedule an appointment please call (319)372-5225.



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

For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

08/10/20 – 7:03 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Avenue H.
 08/10/20 – 9:21 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 08/10/20 – 10:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2600 block of Avenue J.
 08/10/20 – 3:14 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 200 block of Avenue F.
 08/11/20 – 1:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Andrew X. Hunter, 27, of Fort

Madison in the 3100 block of Avenue P, on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on a promise to appear.
 08/11/20 – 1:09 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jose R. Draper, 21, of Fort Madison in the 4600 block of Avenue J, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 08/11/20 – 3:27 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 12th Street.
 08/11/20 – 5:11 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2200 block of Avenue L.
 08/11/20 – 11:12 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded

to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Henry Ladyn Drive.
 08/11/20 – 1:02 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 2600 block of Avenue L.
 08/11/20 – 2:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 400 block of Avenue E.
 08/11/20 – 3:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of 12th Street.
 08/11/20 – 3:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1700 block of Avenue H.
 08/12/20 – 2:41 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Landon

David Severs, 41, of Fort Madison in the 1400 block of Avenue H, on a charge of driving under suspension.
 08/12/20 – 5:04 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 400 block of Avenue G.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

08/10/20 – 11:39 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Levi Joseph Edward Value, 36, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's department on a charge of 4th-degree criminal mischief. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/11/20 – 1:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies

arrested Jaclyn Nicole Parmer, 33, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/11/20 – 1:44 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Chase Tanna Gibb, 41, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on a charge of operating while intoxicated.
 08/11/20 – 2:24 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joe William Taylor, Jr., 44, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on two warrants for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 08/11/20 – 6:00 p.m. – Lee

County Sheriff's deputies arrested Erica Marie Bushinger, 36, of Fort Madison, at the sheriff's office on a warrant for violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

08/09/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls
 08/10/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, two power lines down, one CO2 alarm.
 08/11/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one false alarm and two lift assists.

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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Sports/Business News



Houghton Co-Ed Softball league Champs

Front middle team mascot Gus, Row 2 left to right are TJ Holtkamp, Nicole Owensby, Derek Vandenberg, and Ben Hoyer. Row 3 left to right are Justin Bentler, Cody Brinck, Derek Menke, Kate Bentler, Calvin Bentler, Olivia Krehbiel, Janson Menke, Courtney Vandenberg, and Lindsay Krogmeier

Area youth bring home hardware at state USSSA tourney

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – A host of Lee County youth baseball players competed at the Iowa USSSA State tournament last weekend, bringing home some hardware.

The Doherty Baseball Academy Red team went 5-1 at the tournament and captured first place in their division. The squad knocked off River's Edge Black 12-3 in the title game

The teams only loss was a 4-1 loss to Waukee Wolves on Friday.

The Jr. Bloodhounds played in the Elite bracket at state this past weekend. and placed second. The Hounds lost a 7-6 nailbiter in the championship game against North Linn 13U and went 5-2 at the tournament. The Hounds will be playing the 13U Burlington Xplosion on Monday August 17th at Community Field at 5 pm. Tickets are \$5.

The Burlington Mudd Dawgs also captured first place in the 8U Kids pitch division. The Dawgs got swept two games from Trojan Gold 8U Saturday and Sunday with a 9-0 title win Sunday.

See team photos on page 5.

Hansen named a state top civil lawyer

BURLINGTON – The National Trial Lawyers is pleased to announce that Peter Hansen of Hansen Law Offices in Burlington has been reselected as a Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyer in Iowa, an honor given for his superior skills and qualifica-



HANSEN

tions in the legal field. Membership in this exclusive organization is by invitation

only and is limited to the top 100 attorneys in each state or region who have demonstrated excellence and have achieved outstanding results in their careers in either civil plaintiff or criminal defense law.

With the reselection of Peter Hansen by The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100, he has shown that he continuously exemplified superior qualifications, leadership skills, and trial

results as an admirable trial lawyer. The selection process for this elite honor is based on a multi-phase process which includes peer nominations combined with third-party research. As The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 is an essential source of networking and information for trial attorneys throughout the nation, the final result of the selection process is a credible and comprehensive list of the most outstanding trial lawyers chosen to represent their state or region.

Hansen focuses primarily in the areas of personal injury, criminal defense and consumer bankruptcy law.

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We're not going anywhere, but we are taking our annual summer break from the Pen City Current e-Edition

The e-Edition will not publish Friday, August 14 through Thursday, August 27. Breaking news will be published online when possible. Our free e-Edition will be back Friday, August 28.

THANK FOR READING!

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Red all over

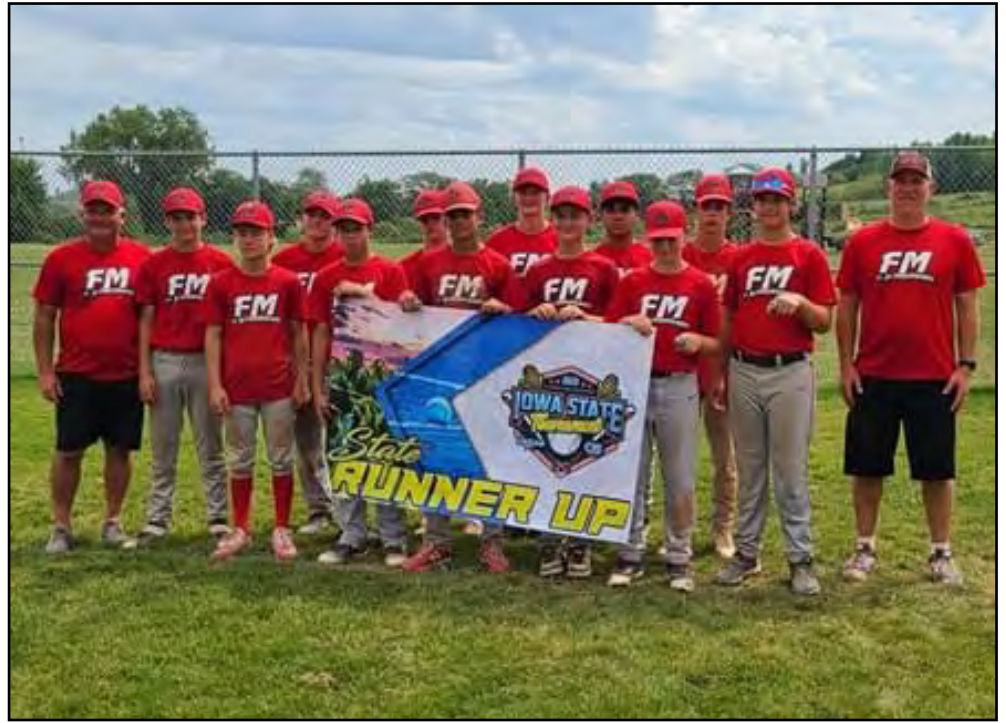
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Sports



DBA RED - Kneeling on the left Jack Ragar and kneeling on right is Jett Morris, Standing from left to right are: Caedon Newton, Reece Huey, Kyler Beelman, Reid Campbell, Liam Enger, Kinnick George, James Fuller, Zach Nemecek, Stefan Berlett, and Jay Ellison. Coaches left to right are: Chase Newton, Josh Ragar, Randy Beelman, Jr., and Brent Berlett. Not pictured Coach Robert Ellison.



JR. BLOODHOUNDS - Left to right are Head Coach Todd Herdrich, Triston Marshall, Adam Sobczak, Hunter Edlin, Chandler Fullenkamp, Brody Cashman, Leif Boeding, Braeden Wyrick, Bo Herdrich, Caden Barnes, Ethan Huffman, Aiden Mitchell, Luke Hellige, John Hellige.



MUDD DAWGS 8U – Kneeling on the left Gibson Gunn, Nathan Stonger, Ayden Brookhiser, Drake Newton, Quinton Paslawski, Gavin Baker, Chase Ellison, Brae Hill, Ross Callahan, Jordan Walker, Kneeling on the right is Nik Schroeder Coaches left to right Mike Baker, Robert Ellison, Tim Hill.

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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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
August 17, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

Finance: Wondra/
Steffensmeier

- I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
- II. Recognition of guests
- III. Reading of Foundation documents
- IV. Monthly communications
 - A. Student Rep Report (resumes September, 2020)
 - B. Curriculum Corner (resumes September, 2020)
 - C. "Did You Know?"
 - D. Superintendent Goal Report
 - E. District Presentations
- V. Approve the agenda
- VI. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 1. July 20, 2020 Regular Meeting
 2. August 3, 2020 Pub-

- lic Hearing
 3. August 3, 2020 Special Meeting/Work Session
 - B. Financial reports
 1. July Balance Sheet
 2. Revenue Summary Report
 3. Expenditure Report
 4. Student Activity Report
 - C. Accounts payable
 1. July General Account
- Board Bills for Approval American Express
 2. August General Account Board Bills for Approval
 3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval American Express
 4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval
 - D. Consider personnel resignations
 1. Martha Dingman, associate at the high school
 2. Deanna Reichelt, nurse health assistant at the middle school
 3. Emily Bruxvoort, associate at Lincoln
 4. Karen Wallett, high school
 5. Kent Bailey, assistant softball coach
 6. Lee Cashman, assistant softball coach
 - E. Consider employ-

- ment of personnel
 1. Nita Carlson, teacher at the middle school
 2. Lisa Vincent, teacher at Richardson
 - F. Consider contract modifications
 1. David Zaccari, high school band teacher, contract modified to include ten extended days
 - G. Consider leave of absence
 - H. Consider open enrollment requests
 - I. Other reports
 1. Activity/Athletic fundraisers and Donations Director (blank) moved and director (blank) seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
 - VII. Action Items
 - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
 1. Superintendent – Erin Slater
 1. Approval of Teamsters Unit 1 - Bus Drivers - Salary List
 2. Approval of AFSCME Associates Salary List
 3. Extracurricular Contracts

4. Supplemental Letters of Assignment
5. Supplemental Letters of Assignment - Summer Season only
6. Consider approval of athletic training agreement Exhibit A GRMC Letter
7. Consider approval of policy changes
 - 216.5 - Support of Legislation **delete**
 - 218.2 - Impasse Procedures **delete**
 - 219.1 - Board Staff Communications- **delete**
 - 710.4 - Meal Charge - **recommend to modify**
8. Approval of Return to Learn protocols
 - C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
 1. Consider Approval of Resolution to Interfund Borrow
 - VIII. Discussion Items
 - A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
 1. Superintendent – Erin Slater
 1. Consider policy changes
 - 300 - Role of School District Administration **same as IASB, no change**

- es
 - 301.1 - Management **minor change**
 - 302.1 - Superintendent Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment **same as IASB, no changes**
 - 302.2 - Superintendent's Contract **minor changes**
 - 302.3 - Superintendent Salary and Other Compensation **same as IASB, no change**
 - 302.4 - Superintendent Duties **same as IASB, no changes**
 - 302.5 - Superintendent Evaluation **same as IASB, no changes**
 - 302.5-E - Iowa Superintendent Evaluation: A Growth Model ours only, **recommend to delete**
 - 302.6 - Superintendent Professional Development **same as IASB, no changes**
 - 302.7 - Superintendent Civic Activities **minor changes**
 - 302.8 - Superintendent Consulting/Outside Employment **same as IASB, no changes**
 - 303.1 - Administrative Positions **same as IASB, no changes**
 - 303.2 - Administrator

- Qualifications, Recruitment, Appointment **same as IASB, no changes**
- 303.3 - Administrator Contract and Contract Nonrenewal **minor changes**
- 303.4 - Administrator Salary and Other Compensation **same as IASB, no changes**
2. Board Member Attendance
 - C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
 1. IX. Comments from the audience
 - X. Legislative update
 - XI. Announcements
 - August 31, 2020 6:00 p.m. Work Session, Board Room, Central Office
 - September 21, 2020 6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
 - XII. Adjourn

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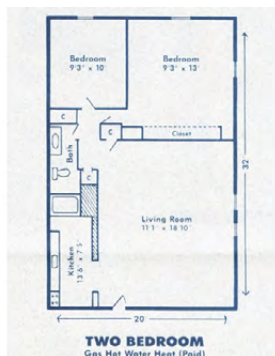
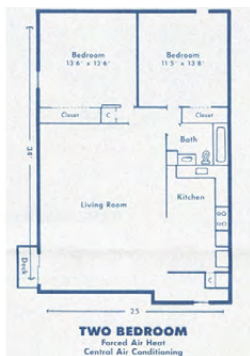
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Applications and resumes can be e-mailed to whamm@grrwa.com.



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From the Front

Mitchell behind Governor on school mandate

SCHOOLS - Continued from Page 1

section 29C.6 and related to COVID-19, a brick-and-mortar school district or accredited nonpublic school shall not take action to provide instruction primarily through remote-learning opportunities.”

Reynolds’ interpretation of the law requires 50% in-person instruction in core subjects, but allows for districts experiencing more than 10% absenteeism among students and staff not engaged in total remote learning, to apply for a two-week waiver in counties where districts are also seeing COVID positivity rates higher than 15%.

The bill moved through the Senate on June 13 with a 49-0 vote and passed the House the same day with a 95-0 tally. Of the 39 lobbyists declaring on the bill, five, representing two groups, the Iowa Association of School Boards, and the Area Education Agencies of Iowa declared their support for the bill. The other 34 declarations were undecided. Several lobbyists declared for multiple organizations.

State Rep. Jeff Kurtz (D-Fort Madison) said he believes Reynolds is operating within the law, but he said the impact of the coronavirus changes daily and student and staff safety should be the driving force of schools and government.

“We have a difference of interpretation on 2310 from the Governor,” Kurtz said.

“I believe we should err on the side of caution when it comes to the safety of our children, teachers, and support staff in our school. I would hope



MITCHELL

the Governor looks at it that way, also,” Kurtz said.

“There’s so much angst and I have some real problems with all of this. I don’t think we need to compound these problems by seeing another outbreak.”

He said he’s spoken with area educators who said they would like to have a little more local control.

“I think I have one person who said they wanted to go back, but everybody else is saying the first thing we need to think about is safety.”

Kurtz said when voting for the bill he didn’t think it would be enforced so literally and there would flexibility in the language.

Kurtz is a former rail worker who represented union workers and said those contracts were subject to change depending on the situation.

“Sure you had it written down, but things would change and you couldn’t live up to the letter of what you signed so you adjust. And there’s room for adjustment here,” he said.

But State Rep. Joe Mitchell (R-Wayland) said the governor is working within the law and relying on experts in the field in making her decisions.

“I think it’s appropriate. She’s got a lot of super smart people she’s surrounded herself with to make sure kids are going back in a safe and responsible

manner,” he said Wednesday.

“I’m behind what’s she’s doing. It’s so important that kids are inside the classroom and learning in person. There are a lot of kids with mental health disorders and disabilities that need to be in the classroom.”

Mitchell said the party line controversy that has surfaced after Reynolds said she was going to enforce the law was strange considering the bill passed the legislature without opposition.

“Nobody reads every bill – that’s crazy, but you trust people in your caucus to go over the bill,” he said. “If you’re in the minority, you have a ranking member on the bill who speaks on behalf of the bill and you trust those people to know what’s in the bill. You also have lawyers on the caucus staff and they go detail by detail to see if there are any red flags.”

Mitchell said students, especially younger students need routines and that can only happen if they are engaged in in-person learning.

Kurtz said he thinks there’s room in the new law for interpretation and the governor needs to give heavier consideration to safety from the virus.

“The things I’ve been reading is that this might be like chicken pox, where the virus stays with you and can cause further health problems,” he said.

“This could manifest itself into something else and we really need to err on the side of caution. Right now, we’re interpreting it too literally.”

Fort Madison Community School District is holding it’s first trimester with students in A or B groups alternating school weeks beginning with 1/2 day for B students on Aug. 21. The hybrid instruction plan is only for the first trimester currently.

Families were also able to choose a 100% on line learning model for that trimester as well. The first trimester ends on Nov. 13.

Holy Trinity Catholic is beginning the year with all students back in class, however, options are available for families to choose hybrid learning with alternating sessions on site and remote learning, or complete online learning. Students will have temperatures checked daily on arrival.

Central Lee schools also have the face to face option, a hybrid model and an online-only model to start the year, with an anticipation of having all students back in school starting Aug. 24.

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Test Kitchen gets funding in last Alliant grant cycle

GRANTS - Continued from Page 1

ing, which resonates with Alliant Energy’s core values.

This spring, Fort Madison’s Test Kitchen Education Foundation received a \$1,000 grant through the Alliant Foundation to support the Test Kitchen Education Foundation.

TKEF provides area youth with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) educational programs related to skilled trade careers. Some students also prepare a healthy and delicious meal under the mentorship of area chefs for everyone to enjoy in a family environment. The goal is to provide a safe environment and qualified assistance for students who need help with homework for required subjects.

“We want area youth to thrive in future opportunities,” said Kumar Wickramasingha, the Test Kitchen’s founder. “Our programs are designed and crafted by passionate volunteer educators who believe that education should not be limited to school hours only.”

Examples of projects that have received grants in the past include meal programs to fight hunger, reading initiatives, nature restoration projects and the purchase of equipment for first responders.

“We are proud to continue supporting communities through our grants program,” said Julie Bauer, Executive Director of the Alliant Energy Foundation. “We realize many programs and projects have been altered this year, but it’s important to help nonprofits sustain key programs and services their organizations deliver.”

In addition, Alliant Energy has contributed more than \$350,000 to organizations helping with emergency relief efforts in response to COVID-19. This includes donations in Iowa and Wisconsin to Feeding America Food Banks, the American Red Cross and United Way. The company also contributed \$2 million to the Hometown Care Energy Fund. The fund assists customers who need financial help to pay their bill. It is supported annually with funds from Alliant Energy and voluntary contributions from customers.

Grants typically range from \$500 to \$5,000. The Alliant Energy Foundation will communicate all grant decisions by November 1, 2020. Grants are funded solely by Alliant Energy shareowners.

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Applications for the next cycle of community grants from Alliant Energy are available through September 1.

To apply click the following link: <https://www.alliantenergy.com/CommunityAndStewardship/CommunitySupport/GrantsAndCommunityPrograms/CommunityGrants>.

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