

PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, June 1, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 109



www.pencitycurrent.com

Classy cruise



Photos by Chuck Vandenberg

Senior Zina Johnston spreads her wings as the Fort Madison High School Class of 2020 cruised through Fort Madison Friday night. The cruise rolled through Avenues G and E before ending at the Fort Madison High School where the facility lights were turned on for 20 minutes to honor the graduating class. At left, senior Dalyn Wondra waves to residents along Avenue G as her father, FMSCD Board President Tim Wondra drives her along the route.

ISP incident

Officers suffer minor injuries in Friday assault

FORT MADISON – Two correctional officers were assaulted by two inmates at approximately 8 a.m. Friday morning at the Iowa State Penitentiary.

Two correctional officers were escorting an inmate back to his cell when the inmate began to assault the staff members with closed-fist strikes. As the two officers were attempting to defend themselves, another inmate that was in the area joined in the

assault using closed-fist strikes and kicks towards the officers that were attempting to subdue the original aggressive inmate. A correctional counselor that was in the area attempted to help restrain one of the inmates, and responding officers soon arrived to take further control of the situation. While it was not used in the assault, a sharpened object was recovered from one of the inmates after the incident.

All staff and inmates that were involved in the assault were assessed by prison medical staff, and no major injuries were reported. The two correctional officers were taken by department vehicle to local medical providers to have their injuries assessed, and have since been released to recover with no major injuries.

This incident remains under investigation.



Our grant becomes your grant

For the last several months, life has been a version of existence that I never planned for when starting Pen City Current.

The COVID-19 virus, the George Floyd story and its ensuing chaos, and even the death of our 20-year-old daughter Kelsey, has me struggling to reboot at all levels.

Our daughter is now remembered through the love and sympathy of family and friends, and in the beautiful sunflowers that have sprouted in my new backyard the COVID stimulus built. We were supposed to spend that money, right?

I'm writing now in that backyard looking at those flowers with a cup of Green Mountain vanilla coffee and a bowl of fruit. The gnats thought they could join, but some Bug Soother® and citronella have them at bay for the time being.

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Gnats are representative of my children's lives at home. You can pester the hell out of each other, but don't bite.

With all that is going on, gnats aside, I've been taking in a lot and wondering where we fit in – wondering how this company rebounds personally and professionally. We took a hit during the pandemic, but because we operate on a small footprint, we're doing OK.

The Google News Initiative recognized Pen City Current last week for our efforts to continue to provide daily news on the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as our efforts to keep readers informed of important other community news. All while advertising revenues that support those efforts

See GRANT, page 8

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WEATHER

MON 01 Jun Overcast, 71.8° F / 66.4° F

TUE 02 Jun Sunny & Warm, 81.9° F / 70.8° F

WED 03 Jun Moderate Rain, 83.9° F / 73.1° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 05/30 3 17 31 41 45, Star Ball: 5, All Star Bonus: 2

MEGA MILLIONS 05/29 10 13 32 41 51, Mega Ball: 3 Megaplier: 2

PICK 3 05/29 / 05/30 MIDDAY 4 4 2 / 5 8 4

PICK 3 05/29 / 05/30 EVENING 4 5 6 / 5 5 8

PICK 4 05/29 / 05/30 MIDDAY 4 4 8 7 / 8 7 3 9

PICK 4 05/29 / 05/30 EVENING 8 4 6 5 / 8 9 0 0

POWERBALL 05/30 12 32 41 58 60, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 2

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Celebrations/Lee County News

Live Healthy Lee County kicks off annual produce box effort

LEE COUNTY – For the past two years Live Healthy Lee County (LHLC) has been distributing fresh produce donations to Produce Box Project locations across Lee County. For 2020, LHLC hopes to continue to project with some modifications.

“This year more than ever people at our locations may not have access to fresh produce because they aren’t able to get to a farmer’s market due to COVID-19 restrictions,” says Emily Biddenstadt, Lee County Health Department Community Health Program Manager and LHLC coalition facilitator. “We want this year to be a strong year for donations, so any local grower who has extra produce please consider donating.”

The project works by participating locations around the county have either a yellow or green produce box

in their community room. The locations that will have a donation box starting June 2nd are: Fairview Apartments (Main St & State St, Donnellson), Hillview Village (1102 48th St, Fort Madison), and Park View Apartments (507 Iowa Joe St, West Point).

Other participating locations that will not have boxes until a reopening plan is established are: Donnellson Public Library (411 Main St, Donnellson), Heritage Center (508 Main St, Keokuk), Newberry Center (728 Avenue G, Fort Madison), and West Point Public Library (317 5th St, West Point). LHLC is working with each of these locations to establish a plan to get produce to them for use. It should be noted that Starr Park (center of Denmark) is also a participating site without donation boxes, however produce can be left on their donation table.

“Currently there are a couple places still closed due to the pandemic so we are working with them on how to proceed with getting donations to participants,” added Biddenstadt. If someone is unable to drop-off their donation they can call the Lee County Health Department at (319)372-5225 to arrange a drop-off or pick-up of produce.

The project is not to take away from producers who accept Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program, but to get fresh produce in the hands of those who are unable to attend a market. “We do receive donations from some farmer’s market vendors, however we do not receive them every week. We highly encourage seniors to take advantage of the Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program. That way, if they are able, they can attend a market to pick their own produce, while helping a local producer,” states Biddenstadt.

The LHLC Garden at the Lee County Conservation site continues, again with some modifications. Normally the ISU Extension & Outreach has their summer Youth Garden Camp where kids learn about gardening, and assist with picking produce. “This is another change for the year, however between the three organizations we hope to have a full garden to help with the Produce Box Project,” adds Biddenstadt.

Information about this project, and a full listing of are producers can be found in the LHLC Local Food Guide at www.livehealthyleecounty.org or a copy of the guide can be mailed out by calling (319)372-5225.



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



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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Celebrations

MOLLOY

FORT MADISON – Paige Parker and Brantlee Molloy, of Fort Madison, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Nova Skye Molloy, on May 20, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Nova joins Alexandria at home.

Grandparents are Jessie Molloy of Donnellson; Tori Mitchell of Dallas City, Ill.; and Tina and Derek Parker of Fort Madison.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

VOTE FEDLER JUNE 2



I have served as supervisor of the 1st district for over 7 years, helping existing business grow and bringing in new business that helps keep your taxes lower than they would be. I'm committed to continuing to work for the people of the 1st district, so I would appreciate your vote in the June primary.

*Thank You,
Ron Fedler*

Paid for by Ron Fedler for Supervisor

Jeff Reichman

For IOWA SENATE

Ready to Fight For Southeast Iowa

Like us on Facebook at Jeff Reichman for Iowa Senate

Paid for by Jeff Reichman for Iowa Senate

Obituaries/Opinion

Nothing is too big to fall

There was an explosion, followed by a crackling. The hair on the back of my head stood up. I was in the basement, working on my laptop computer. My son, in the next room, hollered, "What was that?!"

We went upstairs, where my family was gathering, and looked out into the front yard. Tree bark littered the ground.

The year was 1995. It was an overcast Sunday afternoon, the air heavy with humidity. Lightning had struck the 110' tall Norway Spruce that was in our front yard on North White Street in Mt. Pleasant. It was a registered tree, the second tallest Norway Spruce in Iowa. We called Bill Maddy of Maddy's Tree Service. Mr. Maddy came right over. He inspected the mammoth tree. There was an ugly lightening gash that swirled around the trunk of the tree from top to bottom. All the pine cones were blown off.

Mr. Maddy said the Norway Spruce appeared to be structurally sound. It was our call if we wanted it taken down or not. If it ever fell, as tall as it was, it could do a lot of damage to nearby homes, not to mention people. We decided to leave it alone. I hate cutting down beautiful trees.

The laptop computer I had been working on was fried, even though it had been plugged into a surge protector. Also wiped out was our garage door opener and stereo.

Over the years, the stately tree was somewhat of a worry, as tall as it was. Sort of as a joke, knowing that magnificent trees were sent to Washington DC for Christmas trees, I queried then Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, also from Mt. Pleasant, to see if our tree might be considered for the prestigious honor of being the country's Christmas symbol. (It would be a way for the tree to be removed without expense to us.) Amazingly, Governor Vilsack took interest. When the state found out how tall the tree was, however, interest was dropped. It would be too tall to transport. Dang!

One of my projects was widening the driveway. While digging out a trench, I struck a huge tree root from the Norway Spruce. It was as big around as my thigh. I had to cut the root out with a chainsaw, and it gave me a hernia lifting it out of the trench. I worried that removing that huge root might affect the tree. It didn't seem to hurt it.

Life goes on. Over the years, we moved, and the house on North White Street was bought and sold several times. The tree remained, a proud symbol of strength and vitality.

That is, until May 14th of this year. At 9:30 p.m., Mario Carapia Ruiz was getting ready for bed. It had been a rainy day. There was a loud explosion that rocked the house. His wife, Viridiana, and two sons, gathered in the living room, wondering what happened. There was a knock at the front door. It was a neighbor. "Hey, your tree has been hit by lightning! There are branches all over the street. The explosion knocked pictures off the wall at our house."

The police were called and, once again, Bill Maddy of Maddy's tree service was summoned. He informed Mario that the tree had to come down. Mario agreed. They were lucky to be alive. Maddy's Tree Service was awarded the job.

A stump that measures 9' across is now the only remnant of the once stately tree. A hollow trunk revealed its weakness.

I have a pine cone from that tree. It sits on our windowsill, a reminder that nothing is too big to fall.

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

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



OBITUARIES

VICTORIA M. GREEN

Victoria Marie Green, 35 of Keokuk, died Friday, May 29, 2020 at her home in Keokuk.

She was born December 8, 1984 in Burlington, IA the daughter of Jeff Hogberg and Teresa Green.



GREEN

Victoria had been employed with Walmart, Wendy's and Dollar General in Keokuk.

She enjoyed playing games on her phone, fishing and collecting wolves. She also enjoyed watching TV series "Charmed" and "Grey's Anatomy".

She is survived by three daughters, Lillian Wilson, Krista Mason and Amara Potter, a son, Ivan Wilson, her father, Jeff Hogberg of California, two sisters, Wanda (Cory) Gohsman of Burlington and April Burtlow of Oregon, one brother, Larry Burtlow of Cedar Rapids, IA, her significant other of ten years, Phil Potter of Keokuk, two half-sisters, one half-brother and three nieces and one nephew.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Teresa Burtlow, her grandparents and two uncles Robert and Danny Green.

Services will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the family.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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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Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



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PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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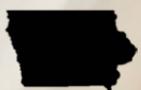
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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE NEW CONSTRUCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice to Bidders
Iowa Department
of Natural Resources

Sealed bids will be received by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources by email, at procurement@dnr.iowa.gov until 11:00 am, June 18, 2020 for the public improvement projects listed below, at which time they will be opened publicly. In an effort to mitigate the spread and effects of the COVID-19, the Department of Natural Resources will ONLY be accepting proposals submitted via email for these projects. No bids shall be accepted by FAX, mail or hand-delivery. After the bid opening, information concerning bid results may be obtained by visiting the Department's website at www.iowadnr.gov.

Note: The bid opening for this project will be held by conference call only. No facilities will be available for an in-person meeting. Interested parties may call in to the following number to listen to the bid opening:

Conference call number: 617-675-4444
PIN: 607 469 320 6168#

In order to improve sound quality, please mute your phone by pressing *6. If you have questions, you can unmute your phone by pressing *6.

Project documents, including drawings, specifications, proposal forms, and addenda items for the project are available at Beeline and Blue, at 2507 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines IA 50312. Please visit www.beelineandblue.com or contact (515) 244-1611 for more information.

Alternatively, Bid Documents can be viewed or printed online at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/engreal/projectlist.asp>

The Department shall comply with all public improvement procurement laws, as outlined in the plans and specifications and including but not limited to: Iowa Code chapter 26 related to public construction bidding; Iowa Code chapter 73 related to preferences; Iowa Code chapter 573 related to labor and materials on public improvements;

rules promulgated by the Department of Administrative Services – General Services Enterprise as they may apply; rules promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Commission, as they may apply; and any federal statutes, rules and/or executive orders that may be associated depending on funding sources. Bidders shall comply with these laws to be considered and are encouraged to be familiar with public improvement procurement requirements and the bidding documents before submitting a bid.

Each bidder shall accompany the bid with a scanned copy of the bid security as defined in Iowa code section 26.8. Additionally, bid securities in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or money order must also be mailed to the Department at the Wallace State Office Building, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319. The bid security must be in an amount set forth in the bidding documents and made payable to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Failure to execute a contract for the proposed work and file an acceptable Performance Bond in an amount equal to 100% of the contract price and a certificate of liability insurance within thirty (30) days of the date of the award of the contract will be just and sufficient cause for the rescinding of the award and the forfeiture of the bid security.

MADISON COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-05-61-01

Pammel State Park
Whitetopping
Proposal Guarantee: \$62,500.00
Completion Date: 09/30/2021
Bid Letting Date: 06/18/2020

Project Description: This project consists of PCC white topping (5-inch), PCC removal and installation, HMA removal, culvert removal and installation, installation of box and area inlets, placement of riprap and erosion stone, seeding/fertilizing and the installation of erosion control measures.

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-04-78-02

Lake Manawa State Park
Campground Construction
Proposal Guarantee: \$175,000.00
Completion Date: 05/15/2021
Bid Letting Date: 6/18/2020
Project Description: This project involves the removal of existing roadways, parking lots, two shelters and restroom and constructing new Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) roadways, PCC camp pads, PCC parking lot, electrical, water and sanitary sewer services, new shower/bathroom building, and vegetative barriers at Lake Manawa State Park in Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

DICKINSON COUNTY PROJECT NO. 16-01-30-14

Pikes Point State Park
Modular Restroom
Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00
Completion Date: 12/02/2020
Bid Letting Date: 06/18/2020
Project Description: This project involves construction of a precast concrete restroom building associated utilities, sidewalks, handicap parking and other incidental work as required by DNR construction inspector in Dickinson County, Iowa.

HELP WANTED

HOME HEALTH AIDE

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Certified Home Health Aide to work in the agency's homecare and hospice programs. This position requires travel to client homes in the agency's service area. Submit either a Letter of Interest or Resume to Tammy Wilson, Finance Director, at LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 or email to twilson@leecountyhd.org by June 12, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.

**LEE
CHD**

BLACKHAWK COUNTY PROJECT NO. 19-03-07-03

George Wyth State Park
Shoreline Restoration
Proposal Guarantee: \$25,000.00
Completion Date: 10/30/2020
Bid Letting Date: 06/18/2020
Project Description: This project involves shoreline armoring, jetties reshaping and site restoration by seeding all disturbed area.

CASS COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-04-15-01

Lake Anita State Park
Fishing Pier
Proposal Guarantee: \$6,250.00
Completion Date: 04/30/2021
Bid Letting Date: 06/18/2020

Project Description: This project consists of constructing a fishing pier, concrete walkway, parking area and incidental work as directed by the DNR Inspector.

PUBLIC NOTICE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met electronically due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

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

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

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

Moved by Harlow,

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

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Folluo, to approve the Tuesday, May 19, 2020 and Wednesday, May 20, 2020 Board minutes. Motion carried.

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

Upon recommendation of Project Manager James Nonnenmann, P.E., it was moved by Harlow, seconded by Larkin, to award the bid for replacing two boilers at the Courthouse in Keokuk, to Hometown Heating and Plumbing, Davenport, in the amount of \$249,000.00. Roll call: Harlow-aye, Larkin-aye, Folluo-aye, Pflug-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, to increase the number of

HELP WANTED

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R3561

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Classifieds/Public Notices

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PUBLIC NOTICES

signs along the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail to Thirteen (13), with the cost being paid by the Keokuk Tourism Board. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2020-75. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye, Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye and Fedler-aye.

RESOLUTION #2020-75

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors is empowered under authority of Sections 321.236, 321.255 and 321.345 of the Code of Iowa to designate any highway under the jurisdiction as a through highway, to designate any intersection as a stop intersection and to erect stop signs at one or more entrances to such intersections, and

WHEREAS, the pavement on County Road 103/Ave D on the west end of West Point is to be replaced and a detour is designated to go through the intersection of 168th St and Ave C.

WHEREAS, 168th St is now the major roadway, however the detour will increase traffic on both roadways.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of Supervisors that for the safety of the traveling public, both the north and south bound approaches on 168th St at the above described location be temporarily designated as a STOP approach until the detour is removed and that a stop sign be erected accordingly.

Passed and approved this 26th day of May, 2020.

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

The Board held a discussion with County Engineer Ben Hull regarding a bridge replacement on the Lee-Henry County line.

The Board held a discussion on opening the buildings. Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to keep the buildings closed another two weeks. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Folluo, to approve replacing a part-time Correctional Officer. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to approve the third reading and publication of the amended ATV Ordinance. Roll call: Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye, Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Harlow, seconded by Pflug, to approve a one-year contract for Human Resource Services with Lynch Dallas, P.C., Cedar Rapids. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Folluo, to approve a new hire for the Sheriff's Office-Vivian Gruener, part-time Correctional Officer, \$17.50/hr., effective 6/3/20. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Larkin reported on a Bridges Out of Poverty Board meeting and an

Ambulance Contract Committee meeting. Harlow reported on a Children First Board meeting. Folluo reported on phone calls he received concerning ATVs riding in restricted areas. Fedler reported on the Ambulance Contract Committee meeting and a Juvenile Detention Board meeting.

At 10:00 a.m. a motion was made by Harlow, seconded by Folluo, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be an electronic meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Tue, June 2, 2020
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
(CDT)

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If you would like to pose a question to the Board, please use the Chat feature and wait for the Chairman to address you. If you are participating by phone, please wait until everyone is done speaking before addressing the

Board. Please keep your microphone muted to cut down on background noise. If you are participating by phone, press *6, this will mute your phone.

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Public Input
Consider Approval of Tuesday, May 26, 2020 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims

Consider Approval of Resolution Awarding Contract #56-CO56-105 for Projects FM-CO56(105)-55-56 (repair of Bridge 75 on 172) and FM-CO56(104)-55-56 (repair of bridge 175 on J50) and Authorizing County Engineer to Execute Contract

Consider Approval of Resolution Supporting Development of Meadow Brook Condos Near West Point Personnel Actions
A. Step Increase-Secondary Roads
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME

Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
319-372-3705
County Website: www.leecounty.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Testing
Saturday, July 11, 2020
9 AM - 12 PM
Lee County Iowa Sheriff's Office
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, Iowa 52639

Applications are available at the Lee County Sheriff's office or on the Lee County website at <https://www.leecounty.org/announcements.htm>

Application to test must be returned to the Lee County Sheriff's office by Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 3:30 PM.

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



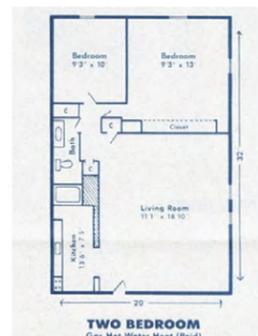
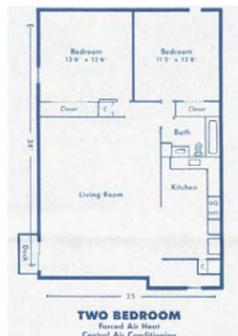
APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Iowa News/From the Front

State using CARES funds to extend benefits

DES MOINES – Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) today released information regarding two new unemployment benefit programs available to Iowans.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), was created by the CARES Act and provides an additional 13 weeks of federally funded benefits to individuals who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular state unemployment benefits.

PEUC is available for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after March 29, 2020, and continuing through the week ending December 26, 2020. The weekly benefit amount for PEUC is the same amount an individual receives for regular unemployment benefits. Payments will include all back payments for which the individual is eligible, in addition to \$600 weekly Federal Pandemic

Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments through the end of July.

Additionally, due to the increased number of unemployment benefits since the middle of March, State Extended Benefits (EB) have been triggered. Unemployed workers who exhaust their allotted weeks of regular state unemployment and then the 13 weeks of federal PEUC benefits will now be eligible for State EB, which provides up to an additional 13 weeks of regular unemployment benefits while State EB is still triggered “On” in Iowa.

The weekly benefit amount for State EB is the same amount an individual receives for regular unemployment benefits and PEUC. No additional action is needed by individual claimants at this time as claimants will automatically be moved to the two new programs as

they exhaust regular unemployment benefits.

Iowans will not be eligible for State EB until PEUC benefits have first been exhausted. IWD will provide notification to claimants when they exhaust PEUC and become eligible for State EB. The availability of State EB is dependent on a rolling 13-week unemployment rate.

As the state reopens and more people return to work, the rate will decline and the State EB program will end. IWD will provide additional details of the State EB program as guidance is received from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Statewide unemployment claims data, which reflects activity for the week prior, is made available in a news release issued on Thursday mornings. It is also available on IWD’s website: www.IowaWorkforceDevelopment.gov.

Grant to help local businesses

GRANT - Continued from Page 1

waned.

The program <https://newsinitiative.withgoogle.com/journalism-emergency-relief-fund>, awarded the grant to help continue those efforts, and we want to share that with businesses hit hardest by the COVID-19 closures.

So... our grant becomes your grant.

Starting June 1, we are going to pay half of all advertising packages for anyone whose business was closed due to the pandemic – restaurants, services, and anyone else whose business, due to Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds’ disaster declarations, was closed due to the outbreak. If you were functional, but had your inside businesses shuttered, we’re paying half, up to \$250 toward your package for June.

The grant is to allow us to continue operations in these tough times, and we have to document where the money is being spent. We choose to spend it on you.

If you’re already investing with us for your advertising and the state locked your doors, you’ll see a credit on your next bill.

For some this is a small but break, but not to us.

We’ve only been in this business three and half years, so that revenue is critical to us. But we think sharing the grant with local businesses is the best way to go.

The next month will be critical in reaching out to your customers and letting them know about your resets and safety measures. We have close to 10,000 social media followers and have about 95,000 unique visits to our website each month. We also have 700 people reading our e-edition daily.

So give me a call this week or shoot me an email. We’ll be reaching out to you as well. Share this on your social media channels... spread the word.

This year so far has been unprecedented, unnerving, dizzying, scary, and heartbreaking. But I’m just a little inspired on a Sunday morning with the flowers, the breeze, and an umbrella keeping the sun off me for the moment.

And don’t forget to vote on Tuesday. There are a lot of important elections as part of this primary season. Check our site for more information on candidates and polling locations. If you haven’t participated in early voting or absentee, just put on a mask, stay six feet away and mark the oval... but that’s Beside the Point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-founder of Pen City Current and can be reached at 319-371-1670 or at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

FMHS one of 18 to get Catt honor

DES MOINES – Fort Madison High School will be honored with 17 other Iowa high schools who achieved a 90% voter registration for eligible students.

Secretary of State Paul Pate announces 18 schools qualified for the Carrie Chapman Catt Award for the 2019-20 school year. The award is given to schools that register at least 90 percent of their eligible students to vote.

FMHS qualified for the award back in February and was one of the first nine schools in the state to hit the benchmark.

The project was spearheaded by FMHS teacher Mike Ehlers with the support of the administration.

“Since 2020 was the 100th anniversary of women

gaining the right to vote, I felt that it was important to participate in this initiative and to actively encourage students to register to vote leading into the 2020 presidential campaign. This also provided an additional opportunity for the students to learn about Iowans in history, the women’s suffrage movement and how their participation in politics is important,” said Ehlers, who teaches history and American government.

Secretary Pate created the award last September to encourage voter registration in high schools and to promote the new state law that allows 17-year-olds to register and to participate in primary elections.

“I want to congratulate the 18 schools that stepped up and got at least 90% of their eligible students to register to vote during this school year,” Secretary Pate said. “That is a remarkable achievement and shows true dedication on behalf of principals, teachers, and most importantly, the students.”



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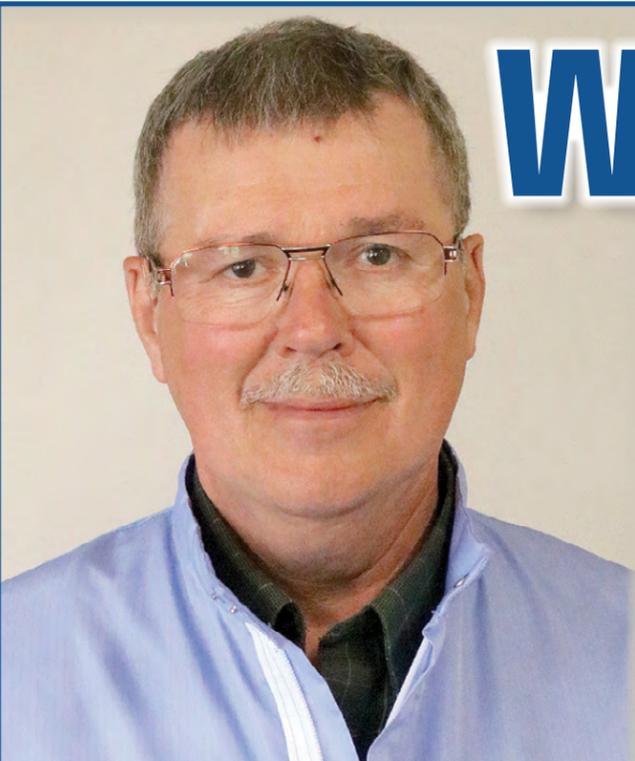
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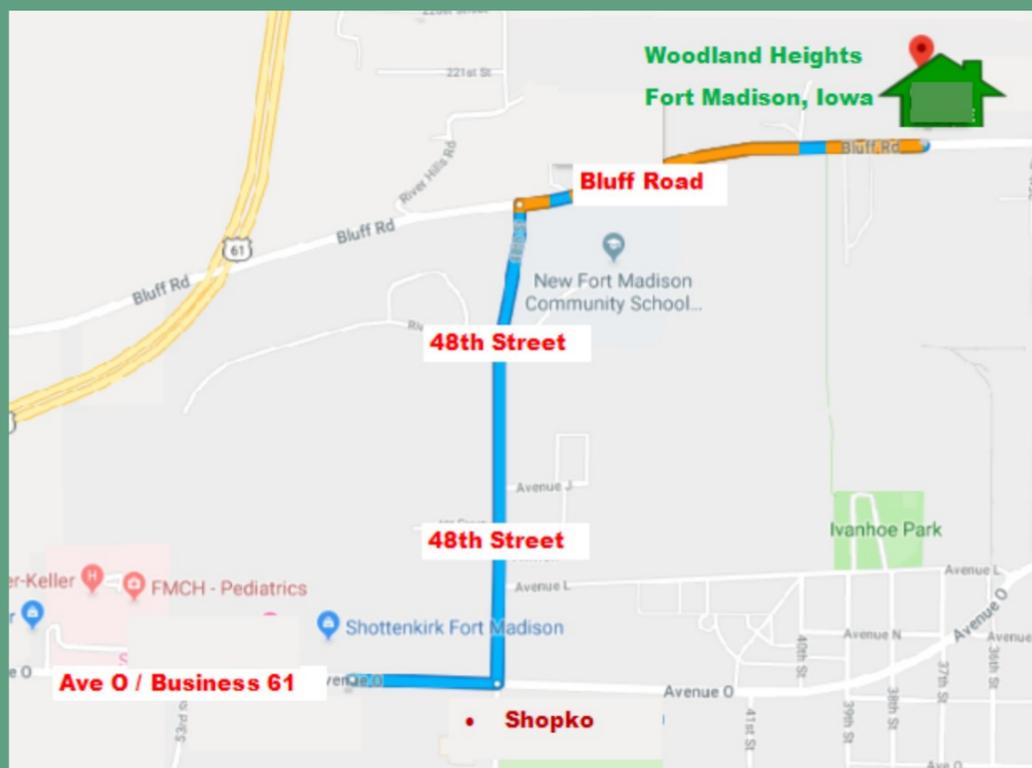
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