

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 | 5 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 77



www.pencitycurrent.com

FM's DuPont facility making sanitizer

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – State health officials are issuing a ramped up personal protection equipment shortage order.

During Gov. Kim Reynolds' daily presser from the state's Emergency Operations Center in Johnston, Sarah Reisetter, the deputy director of the Iowa Department of Public Health issues a stark warning about the supplies available.

"Unfortunately we're in a position like many states and countries and were preparing for a time when we might not have enough of these supplies," Reisetter said.

The order requires all providers to work with the IDPH to assess, monitor, and extend use of PPE and is based on guidance from CDC. She said the order applies to all health care providers and medical response organizations in the state.

One of the most glaring recommendations issues, in the event that demand does eventually outpace supply is to send patients with

See DUPONT, page 3



Courtesy photo

Aiden Dostalek, a 6th grader at Holy Trinity Catholic, was named Grand Champion at the Eastern Iowa Science and Working Fair. The award was the top award in Junior High School Science Exhibits. Aiden's parents are Jennifer and Joe Dostalek of Fort Madison.

EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Mt. Pleasant firm shifts to making masks

Phones are ringing off the hook. "Can you increase that order of masks from 5,000 to 15,000?" a dealer wants to know.

If the order is for a hospital, Gray Barn Industries in Mt. Pleasant gives them top priority. There are three people answering phones in this small company, and they can't keep up. Owner Zach Griebahn has to jump in and help out. All of the calls are for face masks.

Gray Barn Industries, located in the old Mt. Pleasant News building (which used to be the Ford dealership) on Monroe Street in downtown Mt. Pleasant, is a 35 year old printing company, which evolved from printing balloons to printing shirts, cups, awards, signs and napkins. When the coronavirus hit, it virtually shut the company down. Orders plummeted on March 11 and operations almost completely ceased.

But Zach Griebahn is a high energy manufacturing genius. In March he was talking to Bob, a business colleague from New Jersey, who was having problems getting a shipment of three-ply face masks from China. If he wanted the face masks immediately, the price was going to be anywhere from two-to-five dollars each. If he could wait until May, the price would drop to five cents each.

Zach froze.

Bob asked, "Zach, are you there?"

"What did you just say about three ply?" asked Zach.

Bob repeated what he had said.

Zach dropped the phone, grabbed a paper napkin, of which Gray Barn Industries has a gazillion in stock. He folded the party napkin over three

See SWARM, page 2

COVID POSITIVE: Lee County sees second positive test over Easter weekend

Submitted by Lee County Health Department

LEE COUNTY – The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department have identified one additional case of COVID-19 in the county who is currently in isolation. The individual's age range is 61-80 years old.

"We continue to remind residents to take preventive measures to slow the spread of this virus," said Lee County Health Department Administrator, Michele Ross. "It's important for everyone to stay home as much as possible and to practice social distancing – this simply means to stay

away from groups of people, and to keep a 6-foot distance from other individuals."

Symptoms of COVID-19 include cough, fever (100.4 or greater) and shortness of breath. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should call your health care provider before going into the office. The provider may have special instructions for you and will determine if you should be tested.

All residents should:

- Stay home as much as possible. Leave only for essential

See COVID-19, page 5

FORT MADISON SCHOOLS

FMCS D to offer enhancements to volunteer learning

The following is a letter from Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater emailed to parents and published on the Fort Madison Community School District's website Friday. It's printed in its entirety.

Dear FMCS D Families,
As you are probably aware, on April

2, Gov. Reynolds extended the period of closure for all schools in Iowa through April 30. At that time school districts were presented with several options for student learning including:

- providing no learning or
- providing required learning or
- providing voluntary learning

FMCS D will continue providing voluntary learning for students but will also be adding opportunities for students to meet with teachers virtually twice each week as well as offering regularly scheduled office hours for students or parents

See FMCS D, page 5

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WEATHER

TUE 14 Apr.....Light Snow, 44.8° F / 34.9° F
WED 15 Apr.....Light Snow, 41.1° F / 33.0° F
THU 16 Apr.....Snow, 46.2° F / 34.7° F

IOWA LOTTERY

PICK 3 04/12 MIDDAY.....113
PICK 3 04/12 EVENING.....924
PICK 4 04/12 MIDDAY.....2118
PICK 4 04/12 EVENING.....3931

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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

04/10/20 – 3:29 p.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Tiffany R. Turner, 31, of Fort Madison at Fort Madison Community Hospital on a warrant for failure to appear. She was released after being cited.
 04/10/20 – 4:58 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of 26th Street.
 04/11/20 – 4:34 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of 38th Street.
 04/11/20 – 5:06 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue C.
 04/12/20 – 4:12 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 100 block of 26th Street.
 04/12/20 – 6:05 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2600 block of Avenue H.
 04/13/20 – 7:41 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of 35th Street.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/10/20 – 2:56 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Michael Lynn Mason, 41, of Burlington, in the 3600 block of 235th Avenue, on charges of interference with official acts – bodily injury and controlled substance violation. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his recognizance.
 04/10/20 – 4:19 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Eric John Reid, 43, of Montrose at the sheriff's office on a charge of being a fugitive from justice. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Hancock County Sheriff's Report

04/08/20 – Gregory A. Shoup, 36, of Carthage, Ill.,

was arrested and charged with aggravated battery. Shoup remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance.
 04/09/20 – Marcus D. Gilpin, 37, of Hamilton, Ill., was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Gilpin remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting his next court appearance. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

04/10/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to two false alarms, one assist and one brush fire
 04/11/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call
 04/12/20 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls and a lift assist.

MP firm producing up to 20K napkin face masks

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

times, stapled a rubber band to it, and placed it over his nose and mouth. Voila! The paper napkin face mask was born.

You say, "Oh, a paper napkin can't be any good for a face mask." You would be wrong. International medical research now confirms that a face mask of any material can stop from 95 to 100% of droplets coming out of the mouth and nose. Check out Zach's video demonstration at their website, www.graybarn.co (that's .co not .com). Why the name Gray Barn? Zach's last name is Griebahn. Gray Barn

is a close fit and more easily pronounced and remembered.

Zach put the paper napkin face mask on the internet hot line for party supplies and dry goods. The board lit up. Phones started ringing immediately. Within an hour, the Gray Barn Industries paper napkin face mask was ranked number five out of 750 products.

They needed to create a production system using simple, local supplies, so Zach created a work flow that is now producing 10,000 to 20,00 face masks daily for local hospitals and nursing homes. It's

very labor intensive, thus making it more easy to invent—no molds to produce and very little engineering.

After a video posted on social media went viral, the demand for face masks allowed Zach to bring back his entire staff. Over the next few weeks, he may even have to hire additional staff to keep up with the demand.

Zach is a realist. When his colleague noted the price drop in masks come May, it indicated that China anticipates the pandemic to be well under control within two months.

The high demand will disappear almost as fast as it rose. Zach is also not a war profiteer. He is barely covering costs with the sale of masks. What he is doing is paying the light bill and providing employment to his employees who all need groceries and have mortgages to pay.

These low cost, disposable masks are ideal for the general public who want to get out and about. For grocery stores, the stores could make the masks available at the shopping cart line for people when they are shopping. For hospitals, the disposable masks can be placed over the N95 masks, thus extending the life of the N95's.

Paper napkins come in three general sizes: beverage, luncheon, and dinner. The beverage size is about right for children, and the luncheon size for adults. Bigfoot might need the dinner size.

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



2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY A. WORRELL

Shirley Antoinette Worrell, 84, of Keokuk, IA died Saturday, April 11, 2020 at her home.

She was born on May 7, 1935 in Keokuk, the daughter of Tony and Emma Fickel Shaffer. She graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1953.

On January 20, 1962, Shirley was united in marriage to James Vernon Worrell in Memphis, MO. He preceded her in death on February 8, 2017.



WORRELL

Throughout her life Shirley had been employed at various retail stores in Keokuk including Denholm's IGA and also at Drydens in her earlier years.

Shirley faithfully attended Cornerstone Church in Keokuk and the Cowboy Country Church in Wayland, MO. She had always been active in church activities and Bible Studies. For years she had been in charge of all wedding receptions at Trinity United Methodist Church in Keokuk and then all the dinners during her time at New Testament

Christian Church in Keokuk. She and her husband Jim shared the love of Christ through a cross ministry. They made wooden cross necklaces out of cedar and gave them away.

Shirley loved to square dance and was a member of the Circle Square B Promenaders Square Dance Club. She also loved to embroider and embroidered many quilt blocks to be quilted. Shirley had the gift of hospitality and enjoyed hosting and celebrating with friends and family at her home. She was always on the go, taking care of people and visiting local nursing home with her special friend, Rick, to hear him sing. Most of all, Shirley loved spending time with her children and grandchildren and especially her new great-grandson.

She is survived by her very special friend, Rick Crabtree of Keokuk, one son, Rickie Haage of Keokuk, one daughter, Trinette Winn (Mike) of Keokuk, two step-children, Penny Oakes (Wes) of Grand Junction, CO and Wes Worrell (Stephanie) of Boise, ID, two grandsons, Michael Winn and Colton Winn (Cami), six step-grandchildren, Nikki Oakes, Crystal Selders (Kyle), Audry Worrell, Christian Worrell, Chad Worrell (Sara) and Travis Worrell (Tashia), one great-grandson, Caidon Winn and several step-great-grandchildren.

Besides her husband she was also preceded in death by her parents, one step-son, Rex Worrell and one step-grandson, Tommy Oakes.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and the restriction for public gatherings, a private family funeral service will be held with Pastor Jed Linebaugh officiating. The service will be live-streamed at 10:30 am Tuesday and may be viewed at that time on the Vigen Memorial Home Facebook page, the Vigen Memorial Home web page or Trinette Winn's Facebook page.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to Cornerstone or the Cowboy Country church.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.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.

To all our healthcare providers, first responders, postal/delivery workers, and grocery and food suppliers - for keeping us supplied and safe. We just want to say...

Thank you!



Plant manager was hand delivering sanitizer in FM

DUPONT - Continued from Page 1

COVID-19 home if they are medically "stable". The order would also call for patients to cover their mouths and noses with something other than surgical facemasks.

"We understand the issuance of this order may be unsettling, but due to global shortages, we've determined that now is the time to take this action," Reisetter said.

Fort Madison DuPont Plant Manager John Hellige said DuPont has been producing hand sanitizer and distributing it locally, but will expand upon that in the near future.

"For over 80 years, the DuPont Fort Madison plant has called this community and the surrounding Lee County home. The health, safety and well-being of our employees, customers and our local community continue to be our top priority during this unprecedented time," Hellige wrote in a statement Friday.

"I am so proud of our DuPont Fort Madison colleagues who have stepped up to answer the call by converting some of our manufacturing lines to produce and distribute hand sanitizer as a way to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"The site utilized a recipe provided by the World Health Organization to

develop a process for production of hand sanitizer to support area hospitals, small businesses and community organizations. So far, more than 150 gallons of hand sanitizer have been produced and delivered in the community. We are all in this together, and the Fort Madison site is proud and humbled to assist in delivering essential materials to those who are most in need."

Reynolds said the state is continuing to request supplies from all sources including the federal government, but the national stockpile is essentially depleted and so Iowans need to look internally to supplement supplies for those in greatest need.

She said the order also serves to create additional awareness about the shortage and need so Iowans continue to follow guidelines for individual responsibilities as well as creating a sense of urgency with manufacturers who can and are producing facemasks and shields, hand sanitizers and other PPE supplies.

In the past 24 hours there have been 118 new positives in the state bringing the total to 1,388. Eight-one of Iowa's 99 counties now have at least one positive case. There were 862 negative tests confirmed for a total of

14,565 and the State Hygienic Lab has just under 2,000 tests available.

There are currently 119 hospitalized including 39 in the southeast Iowa region. There were also two more deaths out of Linn County for a total of 31 deaths in Iowa.

Reynolds also reminded people that food insecurity in the state is an unintended consequence of the disease and volunteers and are needed to help keep Iowa families fed.

Reynolds said those who are not compromised either by underlying conditions or exposure should consider volunteering to help get meals ready locally. She said volunteer opportunities can be found at the following link: <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/>

Reynolds has created a new task force called the Feeding Iowans Task Force, headed up by Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg to focus on a commitment to feed Iowa families during the outbreak.

Reynolds said additional funding for Iowa's food banks came from the CARES Act, but local contributors such as restaurants and grocery stores are having a hard time making the same level of harvested contributions as they had prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

In order to protect the health & safety of Lee County residents during this time

All TB & Immunization Clinics Have Been Postponed

Clinics have been postponed through April.

Please call our office at with any questions.

(319) 372.5225



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PEN CITY CURRENT

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Classifieds/From the Front

LCHD reminds residents of safe practices

COVID-19 - Continued from Page 1

errands like groceries or getting medication. When you run these errands, send only one person from the household, if possible and consider wearing a mask.

- Stay home when even mildly ill (the kind of illness that normally wouldn't prevent you from your everyday activities)
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow/upper arm.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

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Temporary Job Opening

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



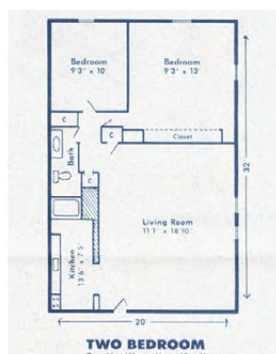
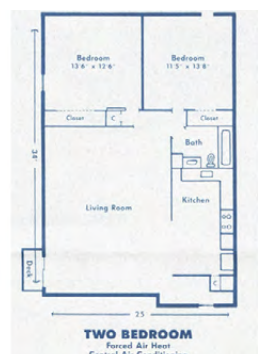
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School district to offer virtual office hours

FMCS D - Continued from Page 1

to reach out to teachers for immediate contact with questions or concerns they may have.

Virtual class meetings may include activities and interactions with teachers through reading aloud, demonstrations, discussions and more. Also, at each meeting, teachers will be sharing resources with students they can access anytime to continue their learning throughout the

week.

Participation in the virtual meetings is voluntary and parents do have the option of opting out by following these steps:

- log into your Parent Portal account
- select the Permissions icon on the left side
- select 'Opt Out' on the related permission

Please note that by default all students are opted in.

We know that this continues to be a challenging time for families. Please know we are here to support you and your student. You will be receiving information from your child's building/teacher next week regarding upgraded voluntary learning opportunities.

The resources that teachers originally created will remain on our website, <https://www.fmcsd.org/> & <https://www.fmcsd.org/covid-19>, for your children

to access at any time.

I am proud of the FMCS D and the community. We are all in this together and we will continue to help and support you during this period of shut down.

Please do not hesitate to reach out. We miss our students and hope that our families are staying healthy. I wish you and your family a Happy Easter weekend.

Sincerely,
Dr. Erin M. Slater,
Superintendent

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