

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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

Monday, April 27, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 86



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## LCHD sees rising case count

**MORE COMING:** County officials say more likely to become ill in coming weeks

*The following is a press release from the Lee County Health Department printed in its entirety*

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department have identified two additional cases of COVID-19 in the county, one middle-aged adult and one adult who are both currently in isolation. This makes seven lab confirmed cases in Lee County to date.

COVID-19 related illness is circulating in many counties across Iowa including Lee County. More individuals are likely to become ill in the coming weeks. Please continue to follow all preventive

actions to limit your possible exposure to COVID-19 by staying home as much as possible, washing your hands frequently, avoid touching your face including your eyes, nose or mouth, disinfect common touch surfaces, and social distance from others.

Isolation recommendations for WELL Iowans with potential COVID-19 exposure should stay at home and isolate themselves from other people and animals in the home for 14 days from last known exposure in the following situations:

If you have been exposed to someone who has taken a cruise anywhere in the world in the last 14 days or traveled internationally to a country with a level 3 travel warning in the last 14 days.

See LCHD, page 6

## CORONAVIRUS

### DM County sees first COVID death

BY PCC STAFF

DES MOINES – A Des Moines County resident is the first in the county to die from an illness attributed to coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health's Sunday update.

The resident was an older adult, only listed as between the ages of 61-80. The reports reflect the 24 hour reporting cycle that ended Saturday.

Today, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been notified of 384 additional positive cases for a total of 5,476 positive cases. There have been an additional 1,356 negative tests for a total of 30,614 negative tests to date, which includes testing reported

See DEATH, page 6

## STATE NEWS

### Reynolds says "it's time" to start a phased reopen

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – On the heels of the biggest 24-hour jump in positive coronavirus cases in the state, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds said "it's time" to start reopening Iowa.

As part of her daily press conferences from the state's Emergency Operations Center, Reynolds said Friday hospitals and farmer's markets were part of a new declaration effective Monday, aimed at getting back to business and service in the state.

Reynolds took restrictions off state hospital for elective surgeries and procedures for hospitals that can stand on their own resources for personal protective equip-

See REYNOLDS, page 2



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Area residents take in a warm Sunday afternoon on the Mississippi River. People were found picnicking, running, walking, fishing, and biking along the river as temperatures touched 70 degrees in the late afternoon.

## FM POLICE

### Scammer uses PCH to bilk FM resident out of \$40K

PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Police Department is investigating a verified case of telephone fraud in which a 70-year-old resident was bilked out of \$40,000 of inheritance money. The complaint was registered 4/15/2020, but had occurred days

earlier.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief, Mark Rohloff, reportedly a male resident stated he was calling from Publisher's Clearinghouse to inform the victim that he had won a prize. To collect his winnings, he would have to

mail \$10,000 in cash to an address in Florida. The victim told officers that he withdrew the cash from his bank and sent the money using express mail as requested. He also responded in like

See SCAM, page 6

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## WEATHER

MON 27 Apr.....Light Rain, 55.9° F/ 55.6° F  
TUE 28 Apr.....Moderate Rain, 64.6° F/ 52.5° F  
WED 29 Apr.....Light Rain, 51.8° F/ 45.1° F

## IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 04/25.....16 28 39 42 44, Star Ball: 5, All Star Bonus: 3  
PICK 3 04/25 MIDDAY.....0 5 4  
PICK 3 04/25 EVENING.....0 6 1  
PICK 4 04/25 MIDDAY.....5 7 5 2  
PICK 4 04/25 EVENING.....7 9 5 4  
POWERBALL 04/25.....13 21 47 57, Powerball: 18, Power Play: 2

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## Obituaries/From the Front

### OBITUARIES

# BETTY K. THOMPSON

Betty Kathryn (Herzog) Thompson, 77, of Niota, IL passed away April 23, 2020 at her home after recurring battle with cancer.

Born March 10, 1943 in Quincy, IL the daughter of Ernest and Mildred (Thurnhofer) Herzog of Sutter, IL. On December 8, 1963 at the Appanoose Faith Presbyterian Church she married the love of her life W. Lee Thompson. Survivors include one sister Jan (Dale) Corrigan of Elkland, Missouri, one sister-in-law Letha Howell of Luray, Missouri. Three sons Curt (Becky) Thompson of Niota, Illinois, Bryan (friend Jana Kirchner) Thompson of Argyle, Iowa and Andy (Kristi) Thompson of Carthage, Illinois. One daughter, Brenda (Jeff) Forquer of Williamstown, Missouri. Grandchildren Michael Thomes of Burlington, Iowa, Candi (James) Youngblood of Marshalltown, Iowa, Joel (fiancé Cassie Carter) of Burlington, Iowa, Aaron (Marisa) Thompson of China Grove, North Carolina, Abby (Andy) Menke of West Point, Iowa, Brad Forquer and Kelsey Forquer both of Williamstown, Missouri, Kate Thompson and Addison Thompson both of Carthage, Illinois. Two great grandsons Jeremiah Wilcox of Marshalltown, Iowa and Greg Menke of West Point, Iowa.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Lee; her parents; brother, Leo Herzog; sister Eileen Smith; two brothers-in-law; two sisters-in-law and two nieces.

Betty started grade school in Buckeye one-room school house and later in Tioga two-room school house before graduating from Warsaw High School in 1961. Betty was employed at Schaeffer Pen, Niota Elevator, Independent Can Company, and Gleason Corporation. Betty and her husband owned and operated Thompson Agri-Service for over 20 years in Niota and Basco, Illinois. Betty enjoyed camping including Western Illinois Threshers where her and her husband owned the pony powered threshing machine for 34 year and the Clark County Mule Festival where they owned the sled and organized the mule pulls. She was a member of and enjoyed camping and flea marketing at the Argyle Gas Engine Association as well as enjoyed camping at the Tri-State Rodeo. Betty was a member of Appanoose Faith Presbyterian Church. Betty and Lee loved and enjoyed their family and extra special was their 11 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Betty and Lee met while in high school at the Sutter Square Dance Hall and were married for 54 years. After retiring in 2008 Betty and Lee spent their remaining years on their farm in rural Niota.

In accordance with the current CDC guidelines, a private family graveside service will be held at the Appanoose Cemetery, Niota with Dave Poland officiating. A memorial service will be held at a later date. A memorial fund has been established in her memory. Contributions may be mailed to the Betty Thompson Memorial Fund, c/o Schmitz-Banks & Beals Funeral Home, P.O. Box 201, Nauvoo, Illinois 62354.

To leave a condolence please visit Betty's obituary at [sbbfuneralhome.com](http://sbbfuneralhome.com).



THOMPSON

# More details expected at Monday presser

REYNOLDS - Continued from Page 1

ment. She said the hospitals also must continue to treat COVID-19 patients, and 30% of the medical beds and ICU beds must be reserved for COVID-19 patients.

Reynolds said the supply chain for PPE has improved and the number of trips by the National Guard to move supplies around the state has diminished.

With increased testing going on in the state's manufacturing and long-term care centers, 521 more Iowans tested positive in the last 24 hour reporting cycle bringing the state's total to 4,445. She said 31,973 Iowans have been tested representing 1 of every 98 Iowans.

The state also went over 100 deaths with 11 reported in the last reporting cycle.

The governor also reported a recovery rate of 36% among patients who received and tested positive for the coronavirus. That number doesn't

reflect those who may have had the disease but weren't severe to warrant testing in the early stages.

She said Iowa data suggests the state hasn't seen the impact of the virus other areas of the country have and Iowa can start to move forward.

"Fortunately, Iowa has not experienced the health care surge other states have had," she said. "The coordination and collaboration between providers, systems and the state gives us the confidence we can care for COVID patients, while also providing procedures to improve the health and quality of life for others."

Reynolds said it isn't her point that starting Monday everyone should go outside and restart their lives. She said all Iowans, especially those vulnerable, should continue to practice all the measures of the past month including social distancing.

"Every day we have more tools to utilize and we learn more about how it's spread," she said. "With the data we're looking at, we're going to start opening things up and it's time."

She said additional steps will be announced at Monday's press conference as to what areas of service, business and industry will be allowed to phase in reopening processes.

Today's declaration

will also allow farmer's markets around the state to open up. The Fort Madison Farmer's Market in Central Park, wasn't scheduled to open until June. 1

State health officials continue to push the peak of the coronavirus outbreak in Iowa back two to three weeks.

"We fully anticipate a peak in the next two to three weeks as we do the surveillance testing and Test Iowa stations open up and we're testing more Iowans than ever before," said Sarah Reisetter, deputy director at Iowa Department of Public Health. "We saw a large volume of cases today and we'll continue to see that as people get access to Test Iowa. Peak will occur when case counts come back down."

In spite of the phased efforts to get the state moving again, Reynolds put out a plea for volunteer nursing. She said state nurse willing to volunteer is encouraged to register with the Iowa Statewide Emergency Register for Volunteers at [IASERV.org](http://IASERV.org).

She said nurses are in high demand, especially in long-term care facilities and to help with the increase in surveillance testing going on in outbreak areas.

The state confirmed another outbreak at long-term care center in Polk County

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# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

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## Opinion

# Skunk River a little quieter after Butch's death

The Skunk River is a little quieter today. It lost one of its arch rivals, an opponent it could never defeat. On three different occasions, the Skunk River flooded Butch out, but Butch fought back. Like an old catfish, Butch sensed when the river would crest. He had a semi truck there beforehand with friends to help carry everything out of the River Rock Cafe. He'd tie down the propane tank and let the river have its way. Water would actually flow in one door and out the other.

Most any other owner would throw in the towel after just one flood. But not Butch. He was a survivor. He loved the River Rock Cafe, with his family and friends and farm animals (including a peacock) around him. His customers loved Butch and the River Rock Cafe.

In a way, the Skunk River will never be the same. It was a force of nature, something Butch could do battle with fair and square. He understood the river. What Butch had trouble with was politics and ordinances. In his earlier career he had opened a finer restaurant in a residential neighborhood in Mt. Pleasant called the Brownstone. People flocked to it. There was only one problem. Butch failed to allow for parking. When neighbors complained about so many cars flooding the neighborhood, Butch was forced to shut down. But he had the River Rock Cafe on the Skunk River and that would be enough. Rural ordinances and natural forces would be easier to deal with in the country.

Butch was like a force of nature himself. The River Rock Cafe soon became an icon of Southeast Iowa and Northeast Missouri. Butch was famous for his tenderloins. Situated close to a spillway on the Skunk River, Butch proudly displayed a sign that proclaimed he had "The Best Tenderloin by a Dam Site." And people agreed. In 2013, he earned the

## EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



prestigious award from the Iowa Pork Producers as having the number one tenderloin in the state—sort of the Nobel Prize of tenderloins. And it wasn't just a great tenderloin. To the excitement and glee of customers, he would often decorate tenderloins by putting smiley faces on them, made out of condiments—almost too good to eat.

But people were attracted to more than the tenderloins and the other great foods, like home made pies. It was Butch. He loved to have fun with family, customers and employees. It wasn't unusual for Butch to appear from the tiny kitchen sporting a wig and wearing a bikini. (I'm not kidding.) On New Years Eve, he would throw a big wing ding for his customers and suppliers—free dinner, like prime rib with shrimp cocktail. In the fall, Butch would hire bands to set up out front for a free music festival. The Skunk River Valley rocked.

When visitors came to town, the number one place they always wanted to go, and were taken, was Butch's River Rock Cafe.

However, in the spring of 2019 a couple of things happened. Butch was flooded out for the third time, and his mother, with whom he was very close, died. Butch had always told his family that when his mother died, they would move on to another life. But Butch didn't mention any such change. He seemed to be withdrawn, cranky and was losing weight. His family noticed, and customers noticed.

Butch was no longer the happy-go-lucky entertainer and cook of the River Rock Cafe.

When the back hatch of his minivan cracked him on the neck and shoulder, it laid him up in bed for two days. His wife, Melissa (Missy), noticed that his legs were black. She tried to get him to go the emergency room, but Butch, being Butch, was stubborn. He told her he would go the next day if he wasn't better. The next day he was no better and Missy drove him to the emergency room. The emergency room doctor told her it was "touch-and-go" and sent Butch off to the Iowa City Hospital and Clinics by ambulance. Missy asked, "What do you mean, 'touch-and-go' for a neck injury?"

"Your husband is in very bad shape," she was told.

At Iowa City, they did a coronavirus test that took 24 hours. It was negative. Then they did a test for tuberculosis. That took another 24 hours. It was also negative. Then they did a CT scan and discovered numerous tumors. Uh, oh.

Butch called Missy. "You can't come and see me, I have bone cancer."

Missy talked to the nurse. "What do you mean, we can't come and see him? Bone cancer is not contagious."

"It's the coronavirus pandemic," she was told. "We are swamped."

Butch was skin and bones. His heart stopped three times, and he had to be resuscitated. His blood pressure was dangerously low, and his kidneys were shutting down. On Sunday, April 19th, two days after his 66th birthday, Butch Bittle passed away. The Skunk River will never be the same, nor will connoisseurs of great tenderloins.

Because of the pandemic, no celebration of life will be held presently. The family hopes to have

See **SWARM**, page 6

*We are so grateful for the support of our wonderful community during our annual Blue & Silver Celebration*

## THANK YOU

Aggie's on the Square  
Ameriprise Financial Services -  
Steve Link  
Chemgro  
Complete Rental  
Connection Bank & Insurance  
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Ron & Sue Dunlay  
Edward Jones - Larry Kelch  
Brian and Kathleen Foecke  
Tom & Kathy Formella  
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Will & Chris Fullenkamp

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Melissa & Justin Pieper  
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Dr. Charles & Marilyn Holmes  
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Julie Hellman  
Charles & Deborah Scoville

Lon & Shelly Spurgin  
St. James Quilters  
The Flower Cottage  
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Paul & Bonnie Wilkerson  
Craig Wills  
Judi Dinwiddie  
Craig & Shelly Pieper  
Dr. Mark & Kara Pothitakis  
Dr. Brad & Jan Randolph  
Nico & Carrie Pothitakis  
Joe & Canda Rashid

*We appreciate the many individuals who donated auction items, purchased tickets, or donated directly to the HTC bonus funds and a very special Thank You to all our volunteers! Although our event was cancelled, we are grateful for everyone's help in making sure our outstanding teachers and staff are cared for during this time.*





## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Lee County, Iowa**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Agenda**  
**DATE: TUESDAY,**  
**April 28, 2020**  
**MEETING**  
**CONVENING TIME:**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**Lee County Board of Supervisors meeting**  
**Tue, April 28, 2020**  
**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**  
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#### AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance-  
 Approve Agenda  
 Public Input  
 Approve Tuesday, April 21, 2020 Board Minutes

Consider Approval of Claims  
 Discussion and Possible Action on Continuing Closure of County Buildings  
 Consider Approval of Resolution Waiving Leave Time Requirements in Personnel Policy Consider Approval of Updated Pandemic Leave Policy Reports:  
 A. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected  
 Commission or Committee Reports  
 Adjourn

Workshop to Follow  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
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#### PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING MINUTES

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cor-

rectional Center.  
 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 Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Harlow, to approve the Tuesday, February 25, 2020 Board minutes. Motion carried.

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

Public Input: Mary VanPelt asked the Board if the County is going to install flashing lights and rumble strips at the intersection of Hwy 218 and 255th Street. The Board informed her that County Engineer Ben Hull is working on that.

Dwayne Taylor, Mike Dunn and Jack Smith, with the Keokuk Library Foundation, gave the Board an update on the Keokuk Library Park and asked for a letter of support. Moved by Folluo,

seconded by Pflug, to approve a letter of support to the United States Department of Agriculture for the Keokuk Library Park project. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Folluo, to approve the Iowa Local Workforce Development Board 16 Bylaws. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Larkin, to approve Family Farm Tax Credits for 2019. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve Resolution #2020-54. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye, Folluo-aye and Fedler-aye.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-54

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Frank Cooper/Jason Cooper 2181 Business 61 Fort Madison IA

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of March, 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 Larkin, seconded by Folluo, to approve a step increase for Recorder's Office employee Debbie Courtney, Administrative Assistant, from \$18.91/hr. to \$19.43/hr., effective 3/1/2020. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Folluo reported on a Lee County Economic Development Board meeting and a Legislative Forum. Larkin reported on a Conference Board meeting, an Emergency Management Commission meeting and the Economic Development Board meeting. Pflug gave the Board an update on Lincoln Ridge. Fedler attended the Conference Board meeting and the Emergency Management Commission meeting.

At 9:50 a.m., a motion was made by Harlow, and seconded by Pflug, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Newberry Senior Center in Fort Madison.

Ron Fedler, Chairman  
 Attest: Denise Fraise,  
 Lee County Auditor




**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
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**APRIL 13, 2020**

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# Classifieds/Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Mayor Paul Walker called the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of West Point to order in the American Legion, 309 Fifth Street, West Point, Iowa 52656 (location changed due to COVID19 social distancing necessity) on April 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. In addition to Mayor Walker, the following indicated Council Members were present: Joe Loving; Brian Meierotto; Will Stuekerjuergen; Dan Waters; and, Bruce Wellman. Absent: None. Mayor Walker discussed Brad Meierotto requesting utilizing South Park for a mini tractor pull event. Upon invitation City Administrator Dennis McGregor presented the police department report. Mayor reported meeting date and time for upcoming meetings of Library Board; Municipal Utility Board; and, next regular Council Meeting of May 11, 2020. Upon invitation Dennis McGregor presented the City Administrator's report. On motion approved Resolution No. 778-20, 28E Agreement with Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities to become member of SE Iowa Safety Group. On motion approved Windstream Communication's right-of-way applications for fiber optic work. On motion set hearing on budget

amendment for FYE20 for May 11, 2020. On motion approved liquor license application for Aggie's on the Square with outdoor service. On motion minutes of prior regular Council Meeting of March 9, 2020 were approved as presented. On motion Treasurer's Report for March 2020 was approved as presented. On motion warrants payable for April 2020 were approved as presented. On motion meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m., April 13, 2020.

### EXPENDITURES FOR MARCH, 2020

Armstrong Small Engine, repairs.....408.51  
Auditor of State, fee.....87.50  
Baker & Taylor, books.....432.42  
Cessford Construction, rock.....90.88  
City Clerk - FM, fees.....320.00  
Daily Democrat, publications.....180.64  
Delta Dental, premiums.....101.02  
Dennis McGregor, mileage/reimb.....38.13  
Ebert Supply, supplies.....22.95  
Floyd's E-Z-Way, trash hauling.....40.00  
Fye Excavating, construction.....63090.28  
Garden & Associates, engineering.....2800.00  
GRRWA, fees.....432.00  
Hemp Industrial Ser-

vice, services.....2250.00  
Holtkamp Automotive, repairs.....38.00  
Iowa Dept of Revenue, taxes.....262.00  
Jet Gas, fuel.....539.37  
John Hunold, tables.....2600.00  
LJ Neuweg Rental, fee.....65.00  
Mary Jane Pranger, cleaning.....120.00  
Mastercard, supplies.....210.49  
Mediacom, telephone.....391.65  
Menke Auto Parts, supplies.....879.29  
Paul's Plumbing, repair.....55.00  
Petty Cash, supplies.....45.91  
Pilot Grove Savings Bank, P&I.....21485.25  
Ricoh USA, copier.....168.29  
Sun Life Financial, premiums.....238.82  
SYNCB/Amazon, supplies.....52.03  
Trophy Outlet, engraving.....20.79  
U S Cellular, data plan.....70.51  
Verizon, data plan...80.02  
Wellmark BC/BS, premiums.....2506.36  
West Point Lumber, supplies.....80.98  
West Point Utilities, utilities.....3285.60  
Wex Bank, fuel.....419.68  
Windstream, telephone.....182.08

### RECAPITULATION

FUND: PREV BAL,

RCPTS, DSBSD, CUR BAL: Gen Govt: 337117.81, 16291.77, 25439.04, 327970.54; Grants: 21405.10, 580.15, 21485.25, 500.00; Cap Equip: 4127.06, ---, ---, 4127.06; Lib County: 8289.83, 1982.73, 3067.61, 7204.95; Lib Mem: 17754.96, 53.10, 56.10, 17751.96; Road Use: (1844.22), 4896.67, 4678.76, (1626.31); LOS: ---, 6531.47, 6531.47, ---; Lagoon: (18.00), 65908.28, 65890.28, ---; Sewer: 6207.67, 18745.86, 23957.02, 996.51; Sewer Sinking: 68782.71, 10871.97, ---, 79654.68; Landfill: 259.53, ---, ---, 259.53

/s/ Paul Walker, Mayor  
Attest: Diane E. Smith,  
City Clerk

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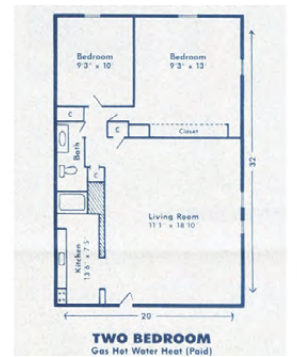
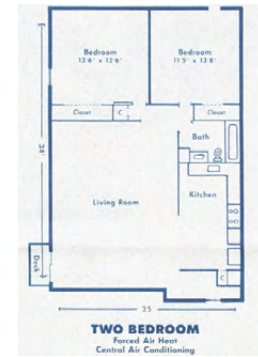
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## From the Front

### LCHD reinforces COVID-19 measures

**LCHD** - Continued from Page 1

Live with someone or a close contact of someone who has symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Isolation recommendations for Iowans ILL with fever or respiratory symptoms (like cough or difficulty breathing) need to STAY HOME and isolate themselves from other people and animals in their home.

Stay home and do not go to work or other places and isolate from others in the household until:

You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) AND other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath

have improved) AND at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

If you think you may need healthcare, call first. Your provider can assess whether you need to be seen by a medical professional or can recover at home.

LCHD encourages interested residents to check the Iowa Department of Public Health's Coronavirus Dashboard website, <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>. This website has county testing data, confirmed case counts, and other useful information.

Lee County Health Department website, [www.leecountyhd.org](http://www.leecountyhd.org), and their Facebook page, will continue to be updated with information as well.

### FMPD looking into clearinghouse scam

**SCAM** - Continued from Page 1

manner to a second call requesting another \$30,000 be sent to the same address.

Officers contacted postal authorities and found that the packages had been mailed from two different post offices to the same location in Green Acres, Florida. Unfortunately, they had already been delivered and that the victim had waived the signature requirement to claim them. The department is investigating, and is in communication with the victim's bank, postal officials, and other law enforcement. No arrests have been made.

Information from the Publisher's Clearinghouse website provided information on such scams, noting that long recognized reputable businesses often have their company's names used to lend an air of authenticity to

the scammer's claims.

Such scams have become so commonplace that most persons now regard them as a nuisance. However, elderly persons who are often easily convinced of the caller's sincerity, or confused by the circumstances, are usually the successful targets of such crimes. The Fort Madison Police Department urges the public to use other means to verify any solicitation before jeopardizing one's personal information or finances.

PCH officials said they never call winners before delivering the good news.

"We need to be vigilant when vulnerable persons disclose details on such schemes, and that law enforcement and financial institutions can be helpful resources to vet out suspected fraud attempts," Rohloff said.

### State says 1,900 have recovered from virus

**DEATH** - Continued from Page 1

by the State Hygienic Lab and other labs. The number of positive cases will continue to grow as Test Iowa sites open and additional surveillance testing of large businesses and nursing home staff continues.

According to IDPH, an additional 6 deaths were also reported, 286 are currently hospitalized, and 1,900 Iowans have recovered. At this time, 1 in 87 Iowans have already been tested.

According to IDPH the additional six deaths were reported throughout the following counties:

Black Hawk County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years)

Clinton County, 1 elderly adult (81+)

Des Moines County, 1 older adult (61-80

years)

Johnson County, 1 adult (18-40 years), 1 elderly adult (81+)

Linn County, 1 elderly adult (81+)

The state of Iowa has released an updated dashboard on [coronavirus.iowa.gov](https://coronavirus.iowa.gov) that will be updated daily to include comprehensive tracking of COVID-19 in Iowa.

The new dashboard includes cases, deaths, and tests conducted in each county. The state is now providing demographic information that was not previously provided as well as Iowa's epidemiological curve.

### River cafe open after owner's death

**SWARM** - from Page 1

one in June or July. In the meantime, they are keeping the River Rock Cafe open for carry out. Butch's daughter, Grace, and Missy, want to give it a year and see how they do. It is obvious now, that Butch had been sick for quite sometime, and may have even known it, but didn't say anything.

Missy wants everyone to remember Butch for the good times they had at the River Rock Cafe. He is in heaven now, putting smiley faces on tenderloins for God.

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