

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Wednesday, April 29, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 88



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## Ready for a restart



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Tyler Washburn, on ladder, and Anthony Tate, of Fort Madison, work on sprucing up the Fort Colony Diner on the west end of Fort Madison Tuesday evening in preparation of Friday's restart. Ownership at the restaurant said they will be open Friday again for sit down dining, per state guidelines.

### SUPERVISORS

## County keeps buildings closed to public

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Lee County officials will be keeping the doors closed to public traffic for at least two more weeks.

At Tuesday's regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, county officials said the doors should stay closed to the public at least until plexiglass partitions are put in place to give workers some protection from the coronavirus.



FOLLUO

Supervisor Gary Folluo said he wanted to look at least two weeks out and then revisit the issue to see how department heads are handling the changes.

See COUNTY, page 4

### RELAXED RETAIL RESTRICTIONS Restaurants can open Friday at 50% of capacity

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – Home bound residents of southeast Iowa, Illinois and Missouri could soon be turning their eyes toward Lee County as Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds included the county as one of 77 that are having restrictions loosened in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak.

During Reynold's daily presser from the state's Emergency Operations Center, the first-term governor announced an initial phase of trying to get the state restarted in areas not hardest hit by the coronavirus.



REYNOLDS

The proclamation permits restaurants, fitness centers, malls, libraries, race tracks, and certain other retail establishments to reopen in a limited fashion with public health measures in place.

In addition, the proclamation lifts the restriction on religious and spiritual gatherings so long as churches and other gathering hosts implement reasonable public health measures. All other closures were extended until May 15, 2020.

See RESTART, page 8

### LIBRARY

## Plans underway to reopen, but not on Friday in FM

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Library employees are working together with the Fort Madison Library Board and the city to put into place new policies and procedures to resume operations safely for both patrons and library workers.

Library Director Sarah Clendineng said there are no plans to open on Friday, May 1st, despite Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds allowing libraries to open their doors around the state.

"However, we hope to begin a phased process of reopening soon and will keep you updated as we are able to offer more services. In the meantime, we are continuing to offer curbside pick-up of library materials and expanded access to our online resources with Digital Access Cards," Clendineng said.

Call the library, 319-372-5721, to request books or information or sign up for a digital card at [www.FortMadisonLibrary.org](http://www.FortMadisonLibrary.org).

### MANHUNT

## 2-hour chase ends in arrest of Burlington man

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A Burlington man is in custody after leading area law enforcement on a chase near Ivanhoe Park Monday evening.

Officers with the Fort Madison Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, West Point/Donnellson Police Department and the Iowa State Patrol took to the woods and fields between Bluff Road and Ave-

nue L for about two hours Monday night looking for the suspect.

According to Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff, officers responded to a call in the 4500 block

See CHASE, page 7

### INDEX

Business Directory.....Ps.5-6  
CLASSIFIEDS.....Ps.5-7  
Complete Rental.....P.3  
Edward Jones – Tony Fullenkamp.....P.4  
FOR THE RECORD.....P.2  
Fort Madison Family YMCA.....P.4  
Fort Madison Partners.....P.7  
FROM THE FRONT.....Ps.4,7-8

Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.7  
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.4  
HEALTH NEWS.....Ps.3,8  
Holy Trinity Catholic Schools.....P.2  
IOWA NEWS.....Ps.3,8  
Lee County Bank.....P.8  
LEE COUNTY NEWS.....Ps.2,4,8  
LOCAL NEWS.....P.7

OBITUARIES.....P.3  
• Richard Munoz, 69  
Pen City Current.....Ps.6-8  
Public Notices.....Ps.5-7  
Sonny's Super Market.....P.3  
Tony Wolfe Insurance Services.....P.8

### WEATHER

WED 29 Apr.....Light Rain, 50.2° F/ 48.0° F  
THU 30 Apr.....Clear Skies, 59.4° F/ 47.7° F  
FRI 01 May.....Broken Clouds, 66.6° F/ 66.1° F

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/27.....15 9 28 35, Lucky Ball: 9  
PICK 3 04/27 MIDDAY.....280  
PICK 3 04/27 EVENING.....469  
PICK 4 04/27 MIDDAY.....9112  
PICK 4 04/27 EVENING.....3234

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## For the Record/Lee County News

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

04/27/20 – 8:31 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2700 block of Avenue L.

04/27/20 – 11:59 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.

04/28/20 – 8:00 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a vandalism in the 4500 block of Avenue L.

04/28/20 – 8:49 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1900 block of Avenue J.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

04/27/20 – 7:14 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Jody Allan Morgan, 45, of Sigourney, at the intersection of Hwy. 16 and 272nd Avenue,

on charge of interference with official acts causing serious injury, OWI-2nd offense, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driver's license denied/revoked -OWI, no

proof of insurance, and operating without valid registration or plates. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

#### Hancock County Sheriff's Report

04/20/20 – Jon F Peterson, age 28, of Little York, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging hini with Animal Cruelty and Criminal Damage to Property. Peterson was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

04/23/20 – Tonya L Horton, age 42, of Hamilton, IL was arrested and charged with Domestic Battery.

Horton remains lodged in the Hancock County Jail in lieu of bail awaiting her initial court appearance.

04/26/20 – Justin D Wills, age 35, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging him with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Domestic Battery and Violation of Order of Protection. Wills was released after posting

the required bond and given a future court date.

04/26/20 – Brittany N McDaniel, age 34, of Nauvoo, IL was arrested on a Hancock County Warrant charging her with Failure to Appear/ Failure to Pay on original charges of Driving While License Suspended. McDaniel was released after posting the required bond and given a future court date.

*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

04/24/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to two medical calls, one gas odor and one odor investigation

04/25/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.

04/26/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls.

04/27/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to four medical calls, the locomotive fire, and one burn complaint.

# Deputy injured in scuffle with suspect during arrest

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A Lee County Sheriff deputy suffered an injury Monday evening in a scuffle with a suspect after a traffic stop west of Denmark.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber declined to give the deputy's name but said the altercation occurred after deputies stopped an RV at the intersection of Hwy. 218 and Hwy. 16.



MORGAN

LeeComm dispatchers received a report of a recreational vehicle swerving on the roadway early Monday evening and deputies initiated a stop.

After the stop, the driver allegedly admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle and deputies initiated at K9 air sniff. Weber said the driver, Jody Morgan, 45, of Sigourney, then became combative with deputies one of whom was who injured in the scuffle. He was taken to Fort Madison Community Hospital where he was treated and released.

During the scuffle, deputies, with an assist from the K9 on scene, subdued Morgan and he was taken into custody.

"We pulled him over on suspicion of OWI and when he found out deputies were going to search his vehicle he started to ignore orders," Weber said.

After reviewing the body camera footage of a deputy, Weber said he counted more than 20 times deputies gave Morgan verbal instructions that he ignored.

"One command should be enough and the deputies did everything they could to get him under control," Weber said.

"Once he got bit, he laid down, but he wouldn't give up his keys and there was more of a struggle, but there was no further dog deployment."

Weber said Morgan allegedly admitted to having marijuana on him and then deputies were up front about the pending search, which is when Morgan took exception to the search making deputies suspicious.

An Iowa State Patrol officer arrived at the scene to process Morgan into Lee County Jail as Weber took the deputy to FMCH.

Morgan is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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

# THANK YOU

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Sonny & Shirley Fraise  
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Keith & Leah Gehling  
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Dr. Rachel Knudson  
Lee County Bank  
Bill & Bev Link  
Steve & Bridget Link  
Larry & Linda Menke  
Loren & RaeAnn Menke  
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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.*



## Obituaries/Iowa News

### OBITUARIES

# RICHARD MUNOZ

Richard "Rick" Munoz, 69, of Fort Madison, passed away on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 3:18 PM at the Ft. Madison Community Hospital.

He was born on July 18, 1950 in Ft. Madison to Francisco "Frank" and Remigia Garcia Munoz. Rick was a fork lift driver at Gleason's and also supplied tires to employees. He was a member of Holy Family Parish. Rick was a huge sports fan and especially loved the Iowa Hawkeyes, Kansas City Chiefs and the Chicago Cubs. He enjoyed going to the casino and playing scratch offs. He was a big jokester and could make everyone feel at ease. Rick was a friend to everyone. He was a friend to all that knew him and had the biggest heart. Rick loved all of his family, especially his Mom whom he missed every day.

Survivors include his life long partner, Linda Simpson of Ft. Madison; two sons, Richard (Michelle) Munoz Jr. of Tulsa, OK and David Munoz of Emporia, KS; one daughter, Lisa Munoz of Emporia, KS; several grandchildren; two step daughters, Jennifer (Bill) Maffucci of Clive, IA and Annette (Ryan) Eckmeier of Frederick, MD; four brothers, John (Juana) Munoz of Ft. Worth, TX, Robert (Yolanda) Munoz of Dallas, TX, Jose (Yoly) Munoz of Ft. Madison and Roy (Bonnie) Munoz of Peoria, AZ; seven sisters, Gloria Mendez and Frances Mendez of Ft. Madison, Avelia Munoz of Ft. Worth, TX, Olivia (Jose) Ibarra of Villa Gran, Mexico, Anita (Raul) Garcia of Ft. Madison, Rita (Mike Steele) Munoz of Lomax, IL and Kathy (Tim) Martinez of Ft. Madison; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

Online condolences may be left at [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).



MUNOZ

# State gives additional guidance for Friday restart

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

JOHNSTON – State health officials have added some extra tips to guidance released Monday as 77 Iowa counties will see some relaxed restrictions beginning Friday.

At Gov. Kim Reynolds' daily press conference Tuesday, Iowa Department of Public Health Deputy Director Sarah Reisetter added some additional guidance specific to restaurants. On Friday restaurants in those counties, which include Lee County, will be allowed to reopen at 50% of normal operating capacity.

In addition to mandating that restaurants limit patron groups to six or less and keep them a minimum of six feet apart, Reisetter said Tuesday that restaurants should consider reservation systems only for dine in service.

In addition she said restaurants should enhance daily sanitation procedures and require all direct contact wait staff to wear face masks. Reisetter said restaurants should close all bar seating and operations where people would sit next to each other.

When pressed as to who would enforce the state guidelines, Reynolds said the Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals is normally charged with those duties, but she was holding confidence in the Iowa Restaurant Association and it's members to adhere to the guidelines.

"Many Iowans have missed their favorite local restaurant and are curious to see how the experience will be different and whether it will be safe," Reynolds said.

"The Iowa Restaurant Association

See FOOD, page 8



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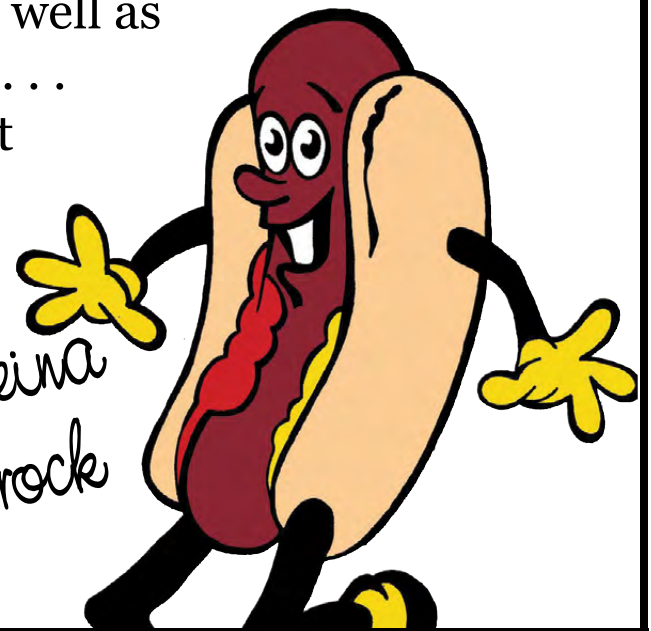
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The Sonny's staff sends a heartfelt Thank You to our friends, old and new, who have supported us during the COVID-19 situation. As always, we work hard to stay stocked while providing personal service to our customers.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued business during this crazy time, as well as after it passes. . . whenever that may be.

*Dale & Deina Merschbrock*



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**PEN CITY CURRENT**

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**From the Front**

# County may start thinking furloughs in May

**COUNTY** - Continued from Page 1

“I would like to see our buildings closed for another two weeks and at that time prepare for how we were going to handle incoming citizens that need services in the Lee County buildings,” Folluo said.

“I think we need to discuss security issues and we need to have someone at the doors to regulate how many people come in. Everyone is going to want to get things done that have been put off, but we need to have a plan for opening these offices.

Fedler said he supported the motion as it would allow the county get plexiglass separators in place.

Sara Helenthal, with the Lee County Auditor’s office, said the partitions have been ordered but there is a lag in the order time of about two weeks.

Supervisor Matt Pflug said the county has to think about the safety of its employees and residents first.

“I think the two week revisit is a good idea and then we need a good discussion on where we go from there,” Pflug said.

County officials also talked about extending the counties pandemic leave policy and waiving leave time requirements in the personnel policy as the COVID-19 outbreak continues to rush through the country.

With regard to the pandemic leave policy, the county’s Benefit Coordinator Michelle Reed said approving the update policy is something the county will have to continue to do as the pandemic evolves.

“In this update, we’ve put in language about what furlough would look like,” Reed said.

“We’re still not sure what money looks like at this point, but in the event of a furlough we want to have that defined here.”

Currently any county employee who has been exposed to the virus must let the county know so appropriate actions can be taken. Reed said the update further defines when the county would allow paid administrative leave.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise said department heads who can’t find work for employees due to the restrictions, should furlough those employees.

A furlough is a temporary leave that allows employees to claim unemployment and stimulus benefits, but allows them to keep their health insurance and benefits.

Right now paid administrative leave ends on April 30.

“If we don’t know how far this will go, if that’s the case, then we’re going to go ahead and look at the furlough option,” Reed said.

The board approved both waiving time requirements in the personnel police and the updated pandemic leave police both with 5-0 votes.

In an unrelated issue, Folluo said he had real concerns about Gov. Kim Reynolds opening 77 counties in the state to increase retail and fitness traffic.

“Please be careful. We’re getting more cases in Lee County, so we’re on the rise and we need to be careful, people,” Folluo said.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross, said it’s vitally important that people who are ill stay home.

“I think it’s important that the businesses that do reopen, follow mitigation strategies and that people take personal responsibility,” Ross said. “We still want to encourage anyone ill to stay home. Please do not visit our businesses if you’re ill.



**2020  
To Do List  
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### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Fort Madison  
Community School  
District  
1930 Avenue M  
Minutes of the  
Regular Meeting  
April 20, 2020**

I. The meeting was called to order by President Wondra at 6:05 p.m. Directors Hope, Wykert, Ross, Menke and Steffensmeier were present via Zoom. Director DiPrima participated via teleconference. Also present were Superintendent Slater and Secretary Elmore. Director of Curriculum and Student Services Harmon participated via Zoom.

II. Recognition of guests. President Wondra welcomed members of the audience in attendance and explained the procedures for the meeting.

III. Reading of Foundation documents. There were none.

IV. Monthly communications

A. Student Rep report. There was none.

B. Curriculum Corner. There was none.

C. "Did You Know?" Superintendent Slater provided an update on the accessibility of all information related to the District via the District's website.

D. Superintendent Goal Report. Superintendent Slater provided an update on the accessibility of all information related to the District via the District's website.

E. District Presentations. There were none.

V. Approve the agenda. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Wykert to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

VI. Consent agenda. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda consisted of minutes from the March 16, 2020 Public Hearing #1, March 16, 2020 Public Hearing #2, March 16, 2020 Regular Meeting, March 19, 2020 Special

Meeting; financial reports including the March Balance Sheet, March Revenue Summary, Expenditure Report and Student Activity Report, accounts payable for the March General Account Board bills for Approval, April General Account Board bills for approval, Student Activity Board bills for approval and Nutrition Account Board bills for approval; resignations from Malissa Nelson as teacher at the high school at the end of the school year, Linda Pollmeier as associate at Richardson at the end of the school year, Scott Gooding as teacher at the middle school at the end of the school year, Chad Bowen as 7/8 boys basketball, Christian Boyer as assistant football, Ryan Smith as middle school football, Brooke Wagner as middle school volleyball, Jan Platt as associate at Richardson at the end of the school year and approval of activity and athletic fundraisers. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

VII. Action Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services.

B. Superintendent.

1. Request for travel.

The Board reviewed the request from Jeremy Swink and the boys' baseball team to travel to Busch Stadium in St. Louis on June 21, 2020. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the travel request as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

2. Request for travel.

The Board reviewed the request from Chris Bolander to travel to Cleveland, Ohio for the "Beyond the Booth" training on July 13-17, 2020. It was moved by Wykert and seconded by Menke to approve the travel request as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

3. Consider approval of policy changes.

a. 104 - Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment Policy. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Ross to approve policy

104 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

b. 104-R-1 - Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment Investigation Procedures. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Hope to approve policy 104-R-1 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

c. 210.3a - New School Board Members Meeting/Orientation. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Menke to approve policy 210.3a as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

d. 210.4 - Work Sessions. It was moved by Ross and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve policy 210.4 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

e. 210.5 - Meeting Notice. It was moved by Wykert and seconded by Hope to approve policy 210.5 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

f. 210.6 - Quorum. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Ross to approve policy

210.6 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

g. 210.7-R - Rules of Order. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Wykert to approve policy 210.7-R as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

h. 401.1 - Equal Employment Opportunity. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve policy 401.1 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

i. 402.2 - Child Abuse Reporting. The approval of this policy was tabled until a later meeting.

j. 403.1 - Employee Physical Examinations. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by DiPrima to delete policy 403.1 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

k. 505.5 - Graduation Requirements. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Wykert to temporarily suspend policy 505.5 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

l. 601.1 – School Calendar. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Wykert to temporarily suspend policy 601.1 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

m. 711.10 – School Bus Passenger Restraints. It was moved by Menke and seconded by Ross to approve policy 711.10 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

n. 711.10-R – School Bus Seat Belt Policy. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by DiPrima to approve policy 711.10-R as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

4. Consider approval of 2020-2021 High School handbook. It was moved by Steffensmeier and

seconded by Ross to approve the High School handbook as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

5. Consider approval of 2020-2021 Athletic handbook. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the Athletic handbook as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

6. Consider approval of new football/soccer LED scoreboard. It was moved by Wykert and seconded by Ross to approve the new football/soccer LED scoreboard. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

7. Consider approval of Connection Bank & Insurance advertising contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard. It was moved

by Steffensmeier and seconded by Wykert to approve the Connection Bank & Insurance advertising contract as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

8. Consider approval of Lee County Bank advertising contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Ross to approve the Lee County Bank advertising contract as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

9. Consider approval of Mohrfeld Electric advertising contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by DiPrima to approve the Mohrfeld Electric advertising contract as presented. The motion passed on a

7-0 voice vote.

10. Consider approval of Pilot Grove Savings Bank advertising contract for football/soccer LED scoreboard. It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Wykert to approve the Pilot Grove Savings Bank advertising contract as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

11. Consider approval of Nevco quote for football/soccer LED scoreboard. It was moved by Wykert and seconded by Hope to approve the Nevco quote for football/soccer LED scoreboard as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

12. Consider approval of Mohrfeld Electric installation quote for football/soccer LED scoreboard.

It was moved by Steffensmeier and seconded by Menke to approve the Mohrfeld Electric installation quote for football/soccer LED scoreboard as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager.

1. Approve Canvass of Votes from Special Election on March 3, 2020. The Board reviewed the Canvass of Votes. It was moved by DiPrima and seconded by Ross to approve the Canvass of Votes as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.


2. Approve IASB Membership renewal and Invoice for Dues for 2020-2021. It was moved by Hope and seconded by Wykert to approve the

IASB Membership renewal and Invoice for Dues for 2020-2021 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

3. Approve Audit for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2019. Secretary Elmore reviewed the Audit Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2019 with the Board. Discussion followed. It was moved by Wykert and seconded by Steffensmeier to approve the final audit report for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2019 as presented. The motion passed on a 7-0 voice vote.

4. Approve the employment contract for Erin Slater as Superintendent of schools effective July 1, 2020. It was moved by and seconded by to approve the employment contact for Erin Slater

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

as Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2020 as presented. The motion passed on a 5-2 voice vote with directors Menke and Steffensmeier voting nay.

Break: 7:28

End Break: 7:31

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services

B. Superintendent.

1. Policies for 1st reading. The Board reviewed policies 210.8 through 210.10. These policies will be brought back at a later meeting for final approval.

2. Certified Employee Attendance. The Certified Employee Attendance report was accepted as presented.

3. Board Member Attendance. The Board reviewed and discussed the Board Member Attendance report.

C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager.

1.

IX. Comments from the audience. The Board received comments from the audience.

X. Legislative update. The Board received a legislative update.

XI. Announcements. May 4, 2020 6:00 PM – Work Session, Central Office, Board Room Postponed

May 18, 2020 6:00 PM – Regular Meeting, Central Office, Board Room

XII. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Tim Wondra, Board President

April 20, 2020

Sandra Elmore, Board Secretary

Exempt session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) for the purpose of a negotiation session.

of Library Board members, library employees and the public presented by COVID-19. You can participate in the meeting via telephone and can comment on an agenda item by joining the Zoom meeting.

Using your telephone, dial (312) 626 6799 and enter the meeting ID (824 4341 1267) and password (722730) when prompted. Providing comment in person is not an option. If you have trouble connecting to the call, please call (319) 372-5721.

I. Meeting Room. Discussion and possible ac-

tion on suspending public, non-library use of meeting room until the Governor allows social gatherings of 100 people or more, taking new meeting room reservations and notifying existing reservations.

II. Approval of phased reopening plan.

III. Discussion and possible action on reopening the library.

IV. Discussion and possible action on date of next board meeting

Next Meeting –Thursday, May 21, 2020, 5:30 pm Fort Madison Public Library

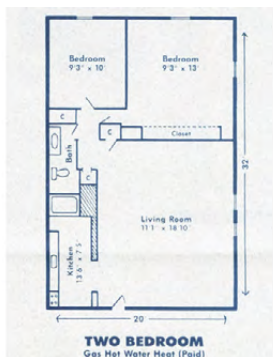
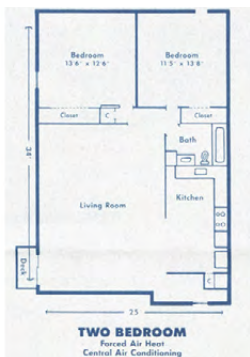
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## Police recover handgun in Monday manhunt

**CHASE** - Continued from Page 1

of Avenue O just prior to 7 p.m. to investigate a motor vehicle theft. He said Ottumwa police had indicated GPS tracking placed a wanted 2019 Hyundai at the motel.

Upon arrival officers found the people in possession of the vehicle in the room and began questioning them. During that time, one of the suspects broke free and fled the scene with officers in pursuit.

The suspect, later identified as Loran L. Cheely, 38, of Burlington, eluded officers by entering a wooded area, and a manhunt began.

During the search, it was revealed that Cheely had a lengthy criminal history and was also wanted on an outstanding warrant. Numerous calls from residents and the use of a drone with heat sensing capabilities, provided by Lee County Emergency Management Agency, helped law enforcement officers narrow down the search.

“He had a caution indicator with his warrant that he was believed to be armed and dangerous, so we had that for one clue,” Rohloff said.

“The other clue was that there was some ammunition in plain view, so that substantiated the fact he had a weapon. It was put out that he was believed to be armed and dangerous and that raises the hair on everyone’s neck with someone who takes off in the dark and into the woods.”

Rohloff said a weapon was recovered from the hotel room, and no additional weapons were recovered when troopers found Cheely walking in Ivanhoe Park and chased him down in the 1200 block of 37th Street.

He is now in custody in the Lee County Jail on charges of 1st-degree theft of a motor vehicle, interference with officials acts causing injury and felon in possession of a firearm.

One Fort Madison police officer suffered minor injuries in the chase. Rohloff said there was no gun fire involved in the chase and Cheely was not armed when taken into custody.

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From the Front

# Gibb said numbers up during virus restrictions

**RESTART** - Continued from Page 1

She said 15 counties in the state haven't seen any impact from the virus and used that as a springboard to start relaxing some restrictions set forth in March emergency orders.

Lee County Health Department Administrator Michele Ross said she was surprised by the move considering Lee County has doubled its positive counts over the past four days.

On Monday, the LCHD released that an eighth county resident had tested positive for the coronavirus and was in isolation. The state has seen close to 1,300 new positives since Friday and the recovery rate has dropped 2% since then from 36% to 34%. The state has seen 127 deaths as a result of the COVID-19 illness.

Reynolds said the virus isn't going away until a vaccine is developed and Iowans needs to start living with it as a part of daily routines.

"Iowans must learn to live with COVID virus activity without letting it govern our lives," she said.

"This level of mitigation is not sustainable for the long-term. We must gradually shift from mitigation to a focus on containing the virus activity for the long-term."

But she said Iowans also need to be prepared to slow things back down if numbers of positives spike in the counties with relaxed restrictions.

"We have to be honest. If we see an uptick and see numbers start to spike we may have to dial back some of those things, too. We hope we don't have to go there,

but we learn every day how to mitigate this virus and manage it."

Chase Gibb, owner of Buffalo61 Bar and Grille in Fort Madison, The Buffalo Tavern, and Coal Haus 337, both in Burlington said he's planning for large sales starting Friday.

"I'm preparing for that monster," Gibb said. "I love opening new sites, but that first three weeks is just brutal and I think it will be something like that."

He said he plans on pulling tables from the restaurant in Fort Madison to keep the required distance in place. But he's not sure if he will reopen the full bar service or not, and probably won't take reservations.

"I imagine it will be like when we opened. People are going to be traveling down, but it has to be first-come, first-served. We'll be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and having capacity for just 80 a a time, I'm sure it will be non-stop for the most part."

Gibb said he offered furloughs to his staff in Burlington but no one took advantage of the new temporary unemployment rules or the federal stimulus. He said



WILSON

his numbers since the outbreak have actually been up due to some proactive marketing, delivery and carry out offerings, and onsite coal-fired pizza offerings.

"We were hustling to make this stuff happen so we could continue to pay our bills and stay ahead of the curve. We're doing well, it wasn't that tough. I have a staff that wants to work," he said.

Gibb also received a \$25,000 grant from the Iowa's Small Business Grant program for the Buffalo Tavern. He said he was able to use that money to beef up labor and do some extra things around the area.

Fort Madison YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson said he won't have the Y open by Friday as state organization officials sift through the requirements of the new declaration.

"We're all trying to figure it out exactly. At this time there are a lot of unknowns, like what 50% capacity means for us."

Wilson said he's holding a staff meeting Tuesday morning to determine what hours will look like going forward.

He said hopes to have an announcement by Thursday as to when the facilities will open back up.

## Reynolds has confidence in Iowans to adhere to new retail guidelines

**FOOD** - Continued from Page 3

has worked proactively with owners across the state to establish guidelines for operations and to meet expectations of customers. I have confidence in Iowans to do the right thing."

Reisetter said all the newest guidelines would be on the state's website at [coronavirus.iowa.gov](http://coronavirus.iowa.gov). But she added that those that are vulnerable or have been exposed need to stay home.

She said additional recommendations include screening all customers by asking if anyone has tested positive for coronavirus, has been exposed, or has symptoms. Restaurant owners and managers

should also be screening employees before each shift and be excluding anyone symptomatic.

Reynolds also put her confidence in the ability of religious leaders to conduct services in a safe manner. Restrictions around those gatherings were also relaxed on Monday as long as the organizations put safety measures in place to safeguard the health of their members.

"We continue to work with churches across the state and encourage them to offer online services for church and encouraging them to practice social distancing across the state," Reynolds said.

"And they will make sure they practice safe worships across the state. We know social distancing works so we should incorporate that into opening our services."

The state saw 508 new positives as of 10 a.m Monday morning bringing the state total to 6,376. Of those tested, Reynolds said 2,169 or 34% have fully recovered.

There were nine additional deaths around the state through Monday morning, bringing the total to 136 statewide. Lee County now has seven positive cases through Monday night with no deaths. Des

Moines County has 17 positive cases with one death, Henry County has 32 cases with one death. Jefferson County has six positive cases and Van Buren County has eight.

Reynolds said there were seven new outbreaks in the state at long-term care centers in Dallas, Dubuque, Jasper, Marshall and Polk counties.

She said strike teams are on their way to those locations to help mitigate the spread. She also said another Test Iowa site will be opening in Waterloo at the Crossroads Mall this week for additional scheduled testing.

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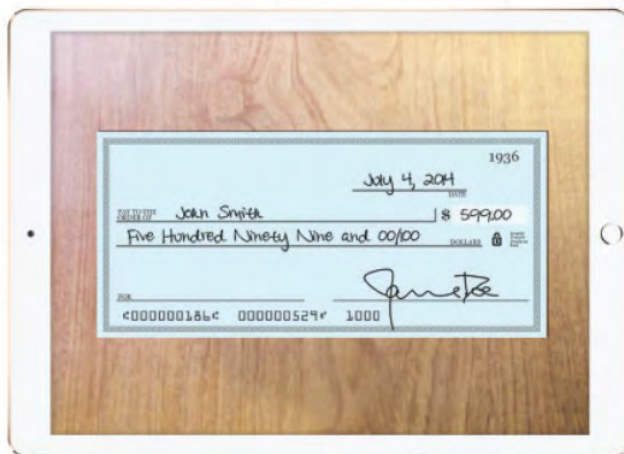
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