

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, June 19, 2020 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 123



www.pencitycurrent.com

## Chief visits cut by Amtrak

**OCTOBER 1:** Official says reductions will start Oct. 1 but daily runs will resume when ridership returns

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – As Iowa Bridge and Culvert literally makes its way to Fort Madison to start construction on the new Amtrak platform at the city depot, Amtrak officials are releasing cuts to it's Southwest Chief stops in Fort Madison.

The cuts are being labeled as temporary cuts due to decreased ridership on the heels of the COVID outbreak and Mayor Matt Mohrfeld said Thursday morning he believes they will be temporary.

"I have all confidence that ridership is going to come back up," Mohrfeld said.

"The depot – BNSF still wants it out of their rail yard and they are fully committed. Does it mean less trains for a while, yeah?"

Amtrak currently runs the Southwest Chief daily between Chicago and Los Angeles, including stops in Fort Madison to and from. It also runs the California



PCC File Photo

With construction crews just days away from beginning work on the new Amtrak depot platform at the historic depot downtown, Amtrak announced that it will be cutting the Southwest Chief, which had daily stops in Fort Madison, down to three days per week.

Zephyr from Chicago to San Francisco with stops in Burlington. Both of those routes will be reduced to three stops per week beginning Oct. 1. Nine more other long-distance routes are also being cut to three days per week.

In addition, according to a report in the Washington Post on Tuesday, Amtrak may be looking for an extra infusion of \$1.5 billion in federal funding to stay afloat.

Marc Magliari, a spokesman for

Amtrak, said ridership was on trajectory in the fall and winter to beat record numbers seen during the last fiscal year. But the COVID outbreak sent ridership plummeting in March and April to about 10% of normal.

"This is just a temporary change," Magliari told Pen City Current Thursday. "Certainly a lot of people have scaled back their travel. We have Congressional

See AMTRAK, page 4

### AWARD

## FMCS D's Elmore earns IASBO honor

FORT MADISON - Sandy Elmore, Director of Finance for the Ft. Madison Community School District, was awarded the 2020 Iowa Association of School Business Officials Professional Leadership Award.

The award recognizes IASBO members for the work they do not only in their profession but also for their work in the communities in which they are leaders.

The Professional Leadership Award is one of the highest honors Iowa ASBO bestows upon its members.

The award is not just a measure of extraordinary deeds or a lengthy career, it is recognition of the school business official who throughout their career and lifetime have demonstrated excellence in service to their school district, communities and profession. They have gone the extra mile sharing their time and talents to help others.

These four factors were used in the selection of this year's award:

- 1) Leadership in the Schools
- 2) Leadership in the School Business Official Profession
- 3) Continuous Professional Development
- 4) Leadership in the Community

The Professional Leadership Award includes:

- 1) A \$1,000 Scholarship to a graduating Fort Madison Community School District High School Senior
- 2) An invitation to the IASBO Leadership Conference
- 3) A plaque for the recipient's office
- 4) Reimbursement of expenses to attend the ASBO International Conference

Elmore has been an essential part in the financial stability and educational growth of the Fort Madison School District since 2000. She currently represents the District as Treasurer of the Iowa Education Benefits Program and has served as Past Chair.

Elmore has been a willing volunteer in the support of IASBO serving as a Regional Chair, Mentor and Instructor. She has

See ELMORE, page 7



Lee County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Sproul, left, and Det. Clint Wray, look over results of a sex offender sweep Wednesday.

### REGISTRY SWEEP

## Sex offender sweep lands one in jail, warrants issued

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A sweep of more than 70 registered sex offenders has landed one in jail, and has local law enforcement looking for three additional offenders with active arrest warrants.

The sweep, coordinated by the Lee County Sheriff's Department in conjunction with area police departments and state officials, took place on Wednesday for the most part. But additional investigation continues.

Lee County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Sproul coordinates the department's activity for Lee County residents listed on the Iowa Sex Offender Registry.

He said there are currently 75 residents in Lee County who are active on the registry.

"We didn't make contact with about 35% of them and we did all this in the morning hours from 8 a.m. to noon," Sproul said.

"For the most part these guys are fairly compliant. We left hang-

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### WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap  
**FRI 19 Jun**.....Moderate Rain, 81.2° F / 67.9° F  
**SAT 20 Jun**.....Moderate Rain, 74.6° F / 69.8° F  
**SUN 21 Jun**.....Light Rain, 78.0° F / 67.4° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

**LOTTO AMERICA 06/17**.....12 19 21 26 48, Star Ball: 7, All Star Bonus: 2  
**PICK 3 06/17 MIDDAY**.....0 4 5  
**PICK 3 06/17 EVENING**.....0 6 6  
**PICK 4 06/17 MIDDAY**.....9 6 2 0  
**PICK 4 06/17 EVENING**.....5 7 2 1  
**POWERBALL 06/17**.....7 10 63 64 68, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 3

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## Obituaries/Iowa News

# Governor sets up Economic Recovery Board

DES MOINES— Today, Governor Kim Reynolds signed an Executive Order establishing the Governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Board. The advisory board will be led by Ben McLean, CEO of Ruan Transportation Management Systems and it will focus on modernizing Iowa's economy as well as education, health care, workforce and quality of life.

"Iowa's success has always been about turning obstacles into opportunities," said Gov. Reynolds. "The Governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Board assembles an impressive group of business leaders to propel our recovery efforts forward and position Iowa for growth. Iowans will be at the center of this effort

as we continue to make our state the best place to live, work and raise a family. I want to thank Ben McLean, CEO of Ruan Transportation for his willingness to serve as the chair and appreciate all those serving on this advisory board."

Initial members of the Governor's Executive Advisory Board are:

Ben McLean, CEO of Ruan Transportation Management Systems (Advisory Board Chairman)

Nick Bodesh, President & CEO of Elite Octane

Mary Andringa, Chair of the Board of Vermeer

Randy Edeker, CEO of Hy-Vee

Rosalind Fox, Factory Manager at

John Deere

Dr. Suresh Gunasekaran, CEO of UHIC

Dan Houston, Chairman, President & CEO of Principal Financial Group

AJ Loss, CEO of Bush Construction  
Megan McKay, President of Peace Tree Brewing Company

Emily Schmit, General Counsel of Sukup Manufacturing Co.

Barbara Sloniker, Executive Vice President at the Siouxland Chamber

Adam Wright, President & CEO of MidAmerican Energy Company

Diane Young, Director of Technical Services/Owner at Foundation Analytical Lab

### OBITUARIES

## BENITA B. COONS

Benita B. Coons, 94, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 5:50 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at The Kensington. She was born on August 9, 1925 in Houghton, IA to Bernard & Elizabeth Bentler Menke.



COONS

She married Daniel F. Coons on July 14, 1949 in West Point, IA. She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Church, Altar & Rosary Society & the V.F.W. Auxiliary. She loved to sew and bake maple cinnamon rolls for her granddaughters.

Benita is survived by: her husband: D.F. Coons of Fort Madison, IA; 1-daughter: Carol (Chuck) Helt of Burlington, IA; 3-granddaughters: Nicole Mitchell of Tiffin, IA, Jamie Beckert of Des Moines, IA & Jessica (Nathan) Clark of Adel, IA; 5-great grandchildren: Landon VanDyke, Rylee Mitchell, Stella Clark, Hannah Clark & Aria Clark; 2-sisters: Edna Spiekermeier of Fort Madison, IA & Marylin Watznauer of West Point, IA; 2-brothers: Cecil (Luelle) Menke of Carroll, IA & Marvin (Rita) Menke of St. Paul, IA & 1-sister in law: Eleanor Menke of West Point, IA. She was preceded in death by: her parents, 2-brothers: Lawrence Menke & Arnold Menke & 1-sister: Cecelia Buckingham.

Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Friday, June 19, 2020 with the family to receive friends from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Social distancing rules will apply. The graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at Sacred Heart Cemetery with Rev. Joseph Phung officiating. A memorial has been established for the Alzheimer's Association. Online condolences to Benita's family may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.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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*Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Sunday & Monday, June 21 & 22 due to the Father's Day holiday. Breaking news will continue to be published to our website and social media channels as it happens. The e-Edition will resume publication Tuesday, June 23.*

*Wishing you a very happy  
Father's Day*

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# Obituaries/Health News

## OBITUARIES

### KING E. BRADLEY

King Edward Bradley, Jr. 75, of Keokuk died Sunday, June 14, 2020 at the Great River Medical Center in Burlington, IA.

He was born February 26, 1945 in Keokuk, IA the son of King and Betty Stewart Bradley, Sr. King graduated from Keokuk Senior High School with the Class of 1963. Following graduation he enlisted in the United States Air Force and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War as a meteorologist.



BRADLEY

On August 31, 1973 King was united in marriage to Norma Jean Walker in Quincy, IL. She survives.



He is also survived by one son, LaMont Eugene Walker, one daughter, Adiren Michelle Bradley both of Keokuk, five grandchildren, Armond Walker, Shantell Walker, Katonna Johnson, Anthony Curfman and King Wear, along with several great-grandchildren, one brother, Eric Bradley (Vickie) of Keokuk, one sister, Brenda Bradley of Keokuk, along with many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Michael Bradley, Delbert Bradley, Bobby Bradley and James Bradley and a sister, Willa May Bradley.

King was first employed with the Mississippi Fertilizer in Ft. Madison and then worked at Henniges in Keokuk until his retirement.

King loved to cook and everyone looked forward to eating his famous BBQ baby back ribs. He also enjoyed reading and watching basketball and football. King especially enjoyed spending time with his family.

Funeral service will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Keokuk with Pastor J.T. Brown officiating. Visitation will be held on Saturday from 12 Noon - 1 p.m. at the church with the family meeting with friends at that time. Social distancing requirements will be in place and attendees will be limited according to those requirements. Masks are encouraged.

Burial with military rites will be held at a later date at the Keokuk National Cemetery

Memorials may be made to the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://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.

## OBITUARIES

### FRANCES C. NERHUS

Frances Christine "Chris" Nerhus, 75 years, of Fort Madison, Iowa died at 11:42 am Saturday June 13, 2020 at Unity Point in Keokuk, Iowa. She was born January 8, 1945 in Davenport, Iowa, a daughter of Juanita (Graham) Rowe. She married Reginald L. Nerhus on June 7, 1963 in Morrison, Illinois.



NERHUS

Chris owned and managed several small businesses in the Fort Madison area including Chris's Cab Company and Sweet Dreams and Etc. She was a certified nail technician and an auctioneer clerk. Chris was always excited about a new business venture and had a wonderful sense of humor, making fast friends with many, including coworkers, clients and customers.

She is survived by two daughters, Faith Nerhus Vazquez and Fawn Stephens, and one son, Reginald Nerhus Junior, all of Fort Madison; seven grandchildren: Rena Nerhus Schulte, Brent Nerhus, Ashlee Fuller, David Nerhus, Jessica Nerhus, Joseph Stephens, and Autumn Stephens; four great-grandchildren, three sisters, Georgia VanRoekel of Montezuma, Iowa, Ruth Vanderhoof of Red Oak, Iowa, Linda Miller of DeWitt, Iowa; and one brother Stephen Suess of Des Moines. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one son Roy Nerhus, one sister Janis Baltisberger, and two great-grandchildren.

Friends and family will be invited to a Celebration of Life, which will be announced at a later date. Private burial will be at Rose Hill Cemetery, Calamus, Iowa. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Nerhus Family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

#### Lee County Health Dept. releases 41st COVID positive

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Lee County Health Department have identified one additional case of COVID-19 in the county, one older adult who is currently in isolation. This makes 41 confirmed cases in Lee County, and the county remains at 27 of these cases reported as recovered.

We encourage interested residents to access the Iowa Coronavirus website at <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov> if interested in 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.

## 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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## From the Front/Iowa News

# Reduced runs unwelcome news for city

**AMTRAK** - Continued from Page 1

funding through Sept. 30, but after that we thought it was prudent to reduce capacity until demand is back up.”

In a statement emailed Thursday morning Magliari wrote that the passenger rail system’s goal is to restore service as soon as demand warrant, hopefully by next summer.

“Due to the long-term impact of Covid-19 on ridership, Amtrak has made the decision to operate with reduced capacity through FY21. As we have already made adjustments to our Northeast Corridor (NEC) and state-supported services, the next adjustment is with our long-distance trains, which we plan to reduce to three days per week, beginning October 1, 2020. Our goal is to restore daily service on these routes as demand warrants, potentially by the summer of 2021,” he wrote.

The statement also said Amtrak expects a 20% reduction in staff and is offering a voluntary incentive package as a first step in adjusting its workforce.

The city is in the final stages of relocating the Amtrak Depot to Riverview Park. Mohrfeld said crews should be in town yet this week or the beginning of next week to start that project.

City Manager David Varley said the announcement was unwelcome news.

“It’s not news we take lightly and nothing we were hoping for,” he said. They would not guarantee would always be a stop, but they gave us verbal guarantees that the Southwest Chief would continue to run. But they couldn’t give us anything in writing.”

Varley said about \$2.8 million has been spent in preparing the historical museum and depot property for the eventual relocation of the depot. The city’s contribution to the project, including the new platform construction is right around \$900,000.

“You know this whole thing from day 1 has been a gamble and Amtrak has been in trouble. They’ve been going to Congress about cutting service on long distance trains,” Varley said.

“But there’s a strong group of rural representatives and groups advocating to not cut back on those as in some places it’s one of the few methods of transportation that people in sparsely populated states have.”

He said data indicated the number of people getting off trains in Fort Madison and was averaging about 17 people per day and has dwindled more in since the pandemic.

# Jobless numbers continue to fall

DES MOINES - The number of initial claims in Iowa, filed between Sunday, June 7, and Saturday, June 13, was 9,516. There were 8,717 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 799 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state.

The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims for June 7-13 was 154,752, down 3,516 from the previous week. The U.S. Department of Labor provided updates to last week’s number of initial and continuing claims made between May 31-June 6, which amounts to 9,488 initial claims and 158,268 continuing claims. Iowa Workforce Development relies upon the weekly data released by the U.S. Department of Labor to report its numbers and as such, adopts the revisions to the previously published data.

Unemployment insurance benefit payments totaled \$37,966,993.80 for the week of June 7- June 13. The following industries had the most claims:

Manufacturing (2,160)

Industry Not Available - Self-employed, Independent Contractors, etc. (1,408)

Health Care & Social Assistance (840)

Accommodation & Food Services (649)

Retail Trade (602)

A total of \$94,729,200 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits was paid during the week of June 7-13, 2020. Since April 4, 2020, a total of \$960,705,000 in FPUC benefits has been paid.

A total of \$6,201,822 was paid in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits during the week of June 7-13, 2020.

A total of \$3,407,076.16 in benefits has been paid in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits for the week of June 7-13, 2020. Since May 27, 2020, a total of \$14,669,608.14 in PEUC benefits have been paid.

Employees and employers who have questions regarding returning to work should review the Frequently Asked Questions for each group on our website. Assistance for employers can be found here: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/content-files/FAQs%20Employers%2006.16.20.pdf>

Employees can find assistance here: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/sites/search.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/files/content-files/FAQs%20Workers%2006.16.20.pdf>

For more information on the total data for this week’s unemployment claims, please visit <https://www.iowalmi.gov/unemployment-insurance-statistics>.

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## Sports/Classifieds

# Bass, blue gill heating up was local waters clear up

DES MOINES - The following is the weekly southeast Iowa fishing report provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

### Big Hollow Lake

Water temperatures are in the upper 70's. Water clarity is good. Duckweed on top of the water will cause some hassles, but not too bad. Largemouth Bass - Good: Early and late in the day bite are best. Work some soft plastics around the big brush piles in 6-8 feet of water. Bluegill - Excellent: Bluegill fishing was good over the weekend with lots of nice fish out in 3 to 4 feet of water on the spawning beds.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)  
The Iowa River at Wapello is still running at bank full level.

### Lake Belva Deer

The lake has settled back down after last week's heavy rains. Water temperature is in the mid to upper 70's. Largemouth Bass - Good: Work the flooded timber and around the mounds at the upper end of the lake. Bluegill - Good: Work the edges of the weed beds.

### Lake Darling

Water level is still a little high, but water clarity is back to about 3-4 feet. Water temperature had cooled to 77 degrees on Wednesday morning (6/17). Largemouth Bass - Good: Anglers are catching nice bass on topwater baits early and late in the day. Bluegill - Good: The return of better water conditions improved bluegill fishing. Channel Catfish - Good: Work just out of the the weirs in the in-lake silt dams to catch nice catfish as they wait for the high water to wash food by them.

### Lost Grove Lake

Water temperatures are in the mid to upper 70's. The

aquatic vegetation is thick this year, but should start to die back some with the hot weather. Largemouth Bass - Good: Work the outer edge of the weed beds or use weedless top water baits like scum frogs or moss bosses to get them out of the pockets. Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are on nests; work the edges of the weed beds and any holes you can find in them. Some bluegills have finished spawning; find them in the flooded timber out in deeper water.

### Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

The Skunk River dropped several feet this week; just a little over half bank full now.

For more information on the above lakes, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

### Central Park Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Most fish are 12-13 inches. Bluegill - Fair: Most fish are smaller, up to 7 inches.

### Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 696.3 feet on 6/18 (normal summer pool is 683 feet) and is predicted to start slowly falling. Water temperatures are in the mid-70's. Channel Catfish - Fair: Use cut bait in the channel or live bait along rock banks for spawning fish. White Crappie - Slow: Try minnows or jigs around brush piles or along steeper rock banks.

### Diamond Lake

All facilities are open. Black Crappie - Fair: Most fish are 8-12 feet down in deeper water around brush or suspended in open water. Try small jigs for these 8-9 inch fish. Bluegill - Good: Use small jigs or worms in the shallows as they are spawning. Many fish are 7-8 inches. Channel Catfish - Good: Try stinkbait or crawlers. After rain events has been best.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

Water temperature is around 75 degrees. The shoreline is heavily vegetated with aquatic plants. Bluegill - Fair: Look for pockets in the weeds for bedding fish. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try a weedless frog fished in weed lines or over the weeds. Black Crappie - Fair: Target weed lines or drift open water with jigs. Most fish are 9-11 inches. Channel Catfish - Fair: Fish are moving shallower to spawn.

### Lake Macbride

Water temperatures are around 75 degrees. The 10 hp outboard maximum limit is in effect. Black Crappie - Slow: Fish are moving back out to summer areas over brush stumps or rock piles. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Fair: Look for surface activity towards sunset; try plastics or topwater baits. Walleye - Fair: A lot of small fish are being caught with bigger ones mixed in. Troll crankbaits and live bait rigs in 7-13 feet of water. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Target shallow cover for post-spawn fish. Channel Catfish - Fair: Typical baits are working. Fish will start to move to shallow rock to spawn.

### Otter Creek Lake

Docks are in; the bathroom at the ramp is open. The fish cleaning station is open. Bluegill - Good. Yellow Bass - Good.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

Walleye - Slow: Use crawlers or plastics fished towards evening. Bluegill - Fair: Some fish are being seen moving shallower. Try small worms or jigs in warmer water areas. Black Crappie - Slow: Some fish are being caught on jigs or minnows in the brush or suspended in the mouths of bays. Keep moving until you find the right area. Fish up to 12 inches are reported. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Slow: Target windblown areas. Channel Catfish - Fair: Try chicken livers and stinkbait.

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

### REGISTERED NURSE

Lee County Health Department is seeking a full-time Registered Nurse to work in homecare and hospice programs. Two years of previous nursing experience preferred. Current physical assessment, strong problem solving and high-tech nursing skills are required. Duties include: home visits, case management in hospice and homecare, and community health programs in LCHD's service area. Regular work hours are 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday with assigned on-call rotation every 3rd to 4th weekend and assigned evenings during the month. LCHD offers a team oriented work environment with competitive wages and excellent benefits. Please send resumes to Tammy Wilson at [twilson@leecountyhd.org](mailto:twilson@leecountyhd.org) or to LCHD, PO Box 1426, Fort Madison, IA 52627 by July 3, 2020. LCHD is an EOE.



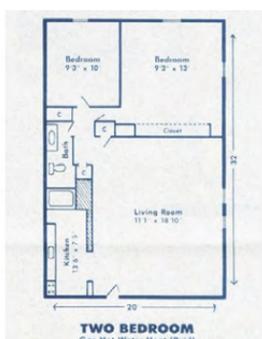
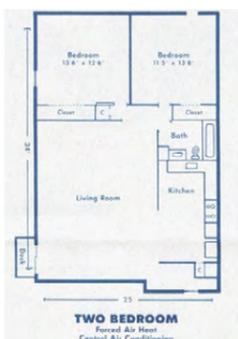
## APARTMENTS FOR RENT

### Chateau Apartments Extra Clean & Quiet Apartments for Rent



Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large

backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.



## JOIN AN INDUSTRY LEADER



## Great Job Opportunities

At our Fort Madison Manufacturing Plant

### Machine Packaging Operators

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## Iowa News/From the Front

# All area police departments, DCI helped with sweep

**SWEEP** - Continued from Page 1

ers on their door knobs and by the time I got back I already had a couple phone calls from people who wanted to know what was going on," Sproul said.

The department hadn't done a sweep in about two years, and Wray said the results were similar this year.

"Six of them had active warrants, and of those we believe two of them were not in the area and have moved away," he said.

"We made one arrest yesterday of one registered sex offenders. We are actively investigation the whereabouts of the remaining three and we do believe they are still in the area. We'll have them picked up in the very near future."

He said violations can include a wide variety of

events and the sweep typically involves a questionnaire and everyone is asked the same questions.

"I always tell them we're not singling anyone out here, and everyone is asked the same questions. Obviously some follow ups are needed," Wray said.

"But we're just confirming if they are home or not, if someone is there who knows them and where they are; if children are in the home, and identifiers on social media accounts or email addresses that aren't listed with Dep. Sproul."

Sproul said the registry is three-tiered with third tier requiring the most attention. He said those individuals have to report in quarterly. Tier-two offenders must report twice a year and tier-one was check in yearly with Sproul.

The sweep included assistance from the Keokuk and Fort Madison police departments, West Point/

Donnellson police departments and Montrose Police Departments, the Lee County G.H.O.S.T. strike force and the state DCI. Two years ago the U.S. Marshals office was involved.

The sweep was funded through a G.H.O.S.T. grant and included no overtime expenses," Wray said.

Sproul said one investigation turned up information on an offender who was out on a pre-trial release, who committed another violation while he was on the release.

"Our main goal is to look for liars. Who's telling us where they're living and if it's true or not," Sproul said.

He said doing the sweep once a year is important but two times a year would send a message that Lee County is keeping very close track of where they are and what they are doing.

## Elmore honored for occupational, volunteer service

**ELMORE** - Continued from Page 1

served on the Professional Growth Committee and the School Level Reporting Advisory Committee. Elmore taught School Finance II and School Finance III for many years for the Iowa School Business Management Academy.

Involvement in the community includes being a member of the Hetta Gilbert Organization and Bike Burlington; serving as Financial Secretary on the Consistory, a member of the Christian Education and

Audit Committees and Children's Church leader for Zion United Church of Christ; and supporting the Burlington Bees as a host family for players. Sandy is also a certified scuba diver.

## DHS launches mandatory reporter portal

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) is launching a new Mandatory Reporter training platform via their website later this month.

"Our current platform has seen technical difficulties, making it challenging for those who need to complete this essential training. We are listening and recognize that this has been frustrating. We anticipate the new platform will resolve these issues, ensuring timely execution of the training process," said Adult, Children and Family Services Division Administrator Janee Harvey.

It is important to note that as this update occurs, the Child Abuse Mandatory Reporter Training and Dependent Adult Abuse Mandatory Reporter Train-

ing will not be available from June 19, 2020, until June 29, 2020. Newly hired mandatory reporters have six months from their hire date to complete the training and become certified. Those who need to complete training(s), must do so prior to June 19, 2020. Training information can be accessed here.

Current mandatory reporter certificates and training histories will be transferred to the new platform. Nonetheless, DHS encourages current users to save a copy of their certificates. This can be done by accessing their account online and printing or saving certificate as a PDF before June 19, 2020.

DHS anticipates the new mandatory reporter portal will be available to the public again on June 29, 2020.



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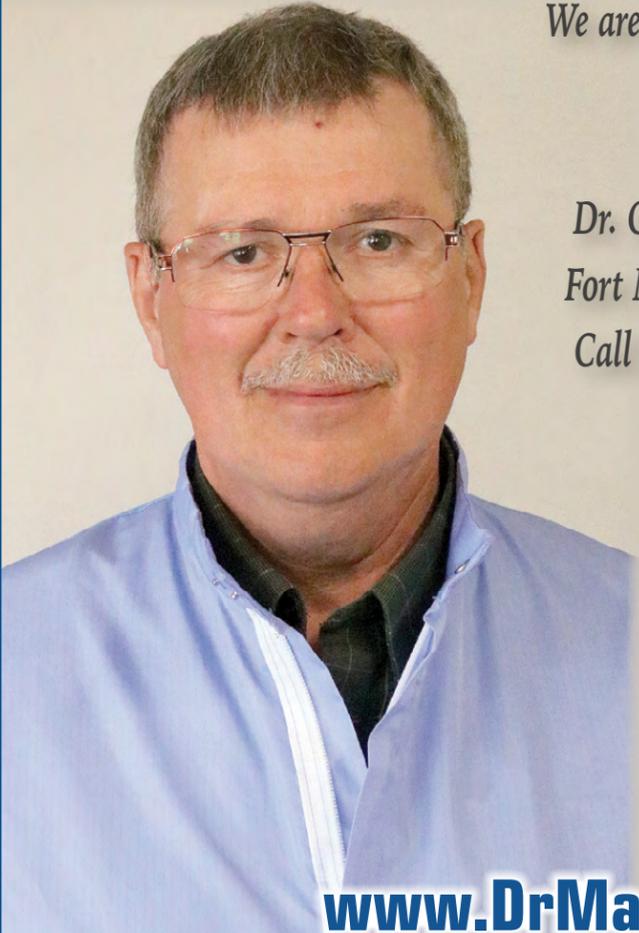
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If your child would like to join, private message Elliott Test Kitchen for a link to join.



# Welcome (back)

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[editor@pencitycurrent.com](mailto:editor@pencitycurrent.com)

**Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager**  
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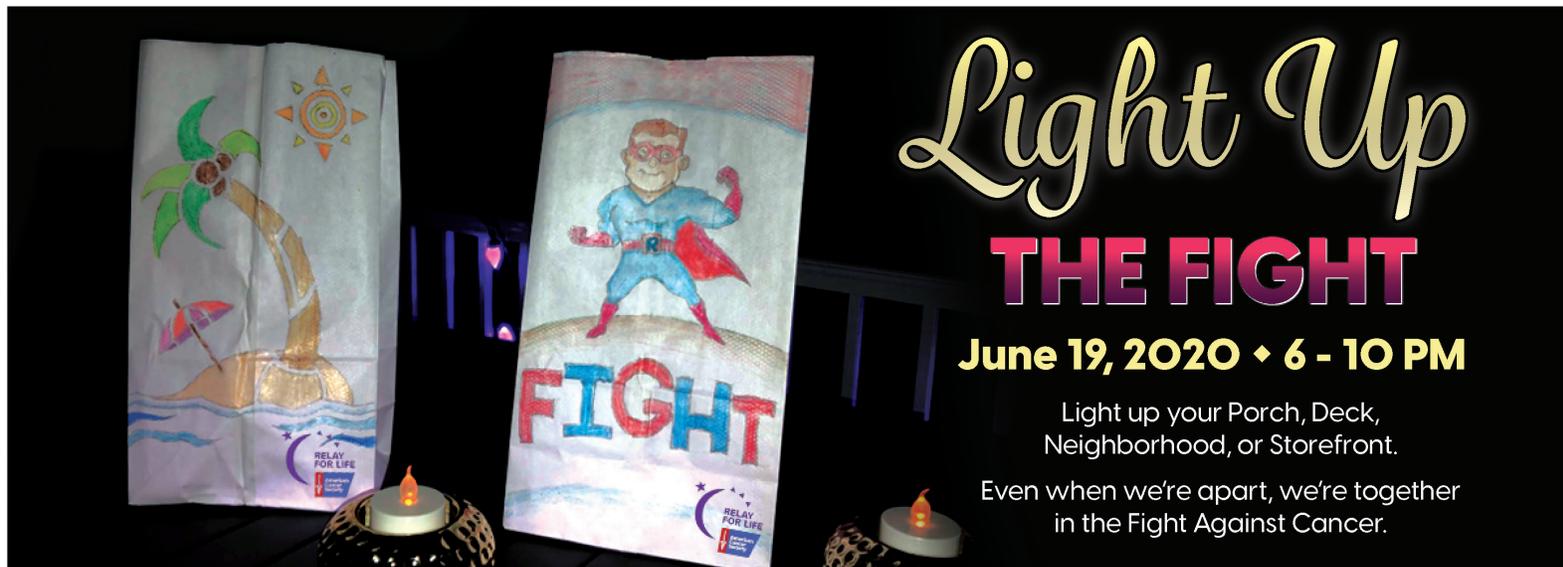
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# Light Up

## THE FIGHT

**June 19, 2020 ♦ 6 - 10 PM**

Light up your Porch, Deck,  
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Even when we're apart, we're together  
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*Cancer didn't stop because of COVID-19 and neither have we!*

## Join us as we *Light Up The Fight* on **June 19 from 6:00 - 10:00 PM.**

*This year we are asking our community members to purchase Luminaria Bags and place them at their home, neighborhood, or storefront then cruise around, taking pictures & posting on the North Lee County Relay for Life Facebook Page.*

**Undecorated bag with "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" with the name of Recognized Person on Label.**

**Want a community member to decorate your bag for you? Will also include Recognized Person Label.**

**1 bag for \$5**

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Deadline for purchase with customized label is Monday, June, 15.

Deadline to purchase decorated bags is Monday, June 15.

Un-customized bags available for purchase Wednesday, June 17 from 3-6PM at Central Park.

A Relay for Life Committee Member can also deliver your bags and glow-sticks to your door for a \$5 fee.

Pick up your luminarias at Central Park from 3-6 PM on Wednesday, June 17.

Please call 319-376-2249 if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of The American Cancer Society and the Fight for more Birthdays!

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