

Wilton-Durant



2020 **Spring** Country Connection inserted in this issue!

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Communities come together amid COVID-19 crisis

Several area restaurants & grocers providing free and reduced meals to children

By Teresa Benischek of the Advocate News

Not long after schools closed because of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, local businesses stepped up to make sure kids previously dependent on school meals were taken care of during this pandemic.

Jeff's Market, courtesy of owner Jeff Thoma and his daughter Kristin Milotte, was one of the first businesses to give back to the community by providing free lunches to kids. Kristin said, "My dad has always been someone who gives back to the Durant and Wilton communities."

As a grocer in the area for years, he sees that as an important part of his role in the communities. Milotte, as a counselor in the Durant School District, sees how many students benefit from their free or reduced lunch programs and really rely on the school for nutrition. They both had concerns about how these students would get their meals every day. So, they put their heads together and decided to come up with a plan to provide discounted hot lunches, at only \$3 apiece so parents could feed their kids for less. They also provided a free option for those families who were further in need.

"Basically we want to ensure that none of the kids in the Durant and Wilton communities





Area restaurants and grocers are adapting on the fly in order to stay in business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Above left, Wilton Cafe and Arty's Ice Cream and Grill owner Chili Alimoski is shown in his drive-up window at Arty's, which he's been using since restaurants were ordered to close public seating. Above right, Jeff's Market locations, including the one in Durant, have implemented new sanitary measures including putting plastic around team members. Tara Daily is shown behind plastic at a register in the Durant store. Photos by Teresa Benischek

go hungry," stated Milotte. They discussed their plan with her brothers, who run the Blue Grass and West Liberty branches of Jeff's Market, and they were more than happy to

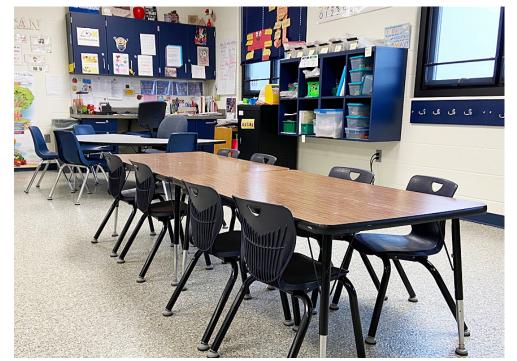
While they don't have an official number on how many free lunches they've given out, Milotte says, "That it is really taking off." They are giving out more and more every day and are happy to see the program flourishing like

it is. Milotte said, "My dad keeps saying that we need to make sure we get these lunches in

FEEDING KIDS

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COVID-19 shutdown creates whirlwind week for school districts



Lisa Burmeister's kindergarten room at Wilton Elementary School is shown above during what should have been a normal school day last week. Instead, area schools are shut down for four weeks due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Wilton and Durant schools closed March 16 and will reopen April 13. Photo by Derek Sawvell By Derek Sawvell Managing Editor, Advocate News

This week, the Wilton and Durant school districts find themselves in the middle of their scheduled spring breaks. Yet amid the current novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, it marks week two of a 4-week closure of both school districts.

The closing down of schools until April 13 came on the recommendation of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds. She made the plea in a press conference Sunday night, March 15. By the following morning, both schools were closed.

Wilton and Durant shared Superintendent Joe Burnett called for closure hours after the governor's announcement a whirlwind. He said on that Sunday night he got word that the governor was holding a special press confer-

"She holds the conference then I was on the phone for the next two hours. We had to coordinate everything," said Burnett. "We then made a mass phone call to each district. Because she recommended it and didn't mandate it, it was a little strange. We go from not shutting down to a 4-week shutdown ... I've always followed recommendations from the powers that be. I made the decision that night."

The following morning, the state athletic unions followed suit, forbidding all practice and competition of athletics during the same timeframe. There was also a child services piece within both school systems. Before and after school programs for children -Crackerbox in Durant and Latchkey in Wilton were also shut down.

A meeting among administrative staff from both districts was held in Durant Monday morning, March 16, the first day of the shut down. "I met with the principals of each district for more than two hours to map out a game plan for four weeks. We wanted a coherent strategy to stay on the right path forward," said Burnett.

At that point, it was unknown whether or not state government would waive the three weeks of instruction missed. Burnett said the districts put together a "plan A and plan B" involving both students and teachers. By that Monday night, Gov. Reynolds announced the legislature was working on a deal to waive the days for schools.

SCHOOLS

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Browns provide handmade cards to Wilton Retirement residents

By Derek Sawvell Managing Editor, Advocate News

Upon finding out that Wilton schools would be shut down for four weeks as a result of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Wilton senior twins Abby and Colby Brown immediately began thinking about what they can do for others.

They wanted to do a service project that could bring joy to others. After learning that the Wilton Retirement Community would no longer be allowing visitors to their facilities, including assisted living and nursing home areas, they decided to take action.

Last week, they provided around 60 handdecorated cards to local residents at Wilton Retirement Community.

"We wanted to find a way to make people smile a bit through our extra time off of school for the next four weeks. We wanted to do something for the community so our idea of making cards for people at the assisted living and nursing home here in Wilton became a reality," said Abby. "Over the course of two days, we have been hard at work bringing positive messages and drawings in the cards

we make, so far we have made 60 by hand and hope the residents will find some extra joy through this."

When asked about the concept and process of delivering the handmade cards, Abby said, "We came up with the idea to send cards after brainstorming ways to bring some happiness to people in this community. We chose to do the assisted living and nursing home because we know some people up there and since we can't visit them right now, we figured we could communicate in writing.

"We dropped off the cards (March 19) ... the administration assured us the residents will enjoy the cards very much. To deliver the cards, we put all of them in a giant envelope and called ahead to the place where they allowed us to drop it off outside at the doormat of the main door. We waved to the person who knew to pick it up and took it inside with her.

"For now we have made 60 cards, one for each resident. This project took us two days to complete and we hope it succeeds our goal of bringing a smile to someone. The future of this may be continued based on what direction we would like to take next."



Wilton seniors Abby and Colby Brown, are shown creating handmade cards for residents at the Wilton Retirement Community. The twin siblings are the children of Ben and Maria Brown. Contributed photo

Six area COVID-19 cases

Community Corona Corner

Postponed or Canceled Events

- YoungLife Celebration & Fundraising Banquet on April 1 postponed to a future date
- Masonic Lodge Taco & Ice Cream Dinner on March 28 postponed to a future date
- Sip, Shop & Support on March 29 is postponed
- The Addams Family Musical March 20-21 is
- Grace United Church of Christ Services are canceled until March 31
- Catholic Masses in the Diocese of Davenport are canceled until further notice
- Wilton Alumni Banquet is canceled
- All athletic & extra-curricular activities through the Wilton, Durant & Bennett School Districts
- Wilton Chorus & Wilton D.C. Trips are canceled

Closed Businesses

- Wilton Public Library is closed until further notice
- Durant Public Library is closed until further notice
- Durant & Wilton City Halls closed to foot traffic - use drop box only
- Wilton & Durant Community Centers are closed
- Today's Dentistry is closed until further notice
- Wilton, Durant & Bennett Schools are closed
- Across the Tracks Antiques is closed
- WTC lobby is closed
- · Community Bank lobby is closed
- Family Eye Center is closed
- REC lobby is closed
- Candy Kitchen is closed
- · LorLen Candles is closed

For the most current list of closings and postponments, check our facebook page at Wilton-Durant Advocate News by scanning



the QR code with an iPhone or visiting the site.

A case of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has been confirmed in Muscatine County. According to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the individual is self-isolating at home.

"While this is Muscatine County's first case, it may not be the last, and that's why we encourage all residents to continue to make prevention a priority," said Muscatine County Public Health Director Christy Roby Williams. These actions include:

- · Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow/upper arm.
 - Staying home when ill.

Approximately 80 percent of Iowans infected with COVID-19, will experience only a mild to moderate illness. Most mildly ill Iowans do not need to go to their healthcare provider or be tested to confirm they have COVID-19. Sick Iowans must stay home and isolate themselves from others in their house. Stay home and isolate from others in the house

- 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 seven 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 in the office or if you can recover at home. There may also be options for you to talk to a medical provider from home using technology.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19, visittheIDPHwebpageathttps://idph.iowa.gov/ Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus and follow the department on Facebook at @IowaDepartmentOfPublicHealth and on Twitter at @IAPublicHealth.

Second and third cases confirmed

Editor's note: Muscatine County Public Health sent the following notice March 21.

A second case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Muscatine County and is a household link to the initial individual. We continue to

work closely with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the CDC, as well as local public and private partners to respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 for our county. We work directly with the individuals who have positive test results by completing investigations, offering monitoring of symptoms and consultation.

We ask that you please understand the local public health role in this process and respect that we cannot nor will we share any health information on the individuals with positive test results. This would violate their privacy and laws associated with personal health information. Once we receive confirmed results, we contact the provider/health care entity that tested the patient who in turns calls to inform their patient of the test results.

We will also contact EMS if they provided an emergency transport. This allows health care officials to practice their protocol procedure associated with known exposure and allows the provider to speak to their patient first. We then contact the individual with the positive test result and begin our investigation and monitoring work for the Iowa Department of Public Health.

We are not allowed to contact the patient's employer nor close contacts. This responsibility is communicated as an expectation of the individual who received the confirmed test results. We continue to monitor the individual's well being until they meet all criteria to be released as directed by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Editor's note: It was noted that Muscatine County Public Health would no longer be sending out press releases when more cases were confirmed. On March 23, the third COVID-19 case was found in Muscatine County. By March 24, the number was up to five. There is also one COVID-19 case in Cedar County.

Per the Iowa Department of Public Health, about 80 percent of Iowans infected with COVID-19 will experience only mild to moderate illness.

People who are mildly to moderately ill DO NOT need to be tested to confirm they have COVID-19.

People who are mildly to moderately ill DO NOT need to see their healthcare provider.

If they feel they need to see a health care provider, they should CALL before going into the office. The healthcare provider may have special instructions for their visit.

Even people who are mildly to moderately ill need to stay home and isolate themselves from others in their house until:

They have had no fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) *fevers are defined as anything over 100.4 degrees; AND other symptoms have improved (for example, their cough or shortness of breath have improved); AND at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

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The mission of the Wilton-Durant Advocate News is to provide information to its readers in an accurate, dependable and professional manner which reflects the uniqueness and similarities of the communities it serves.

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Governor orders more closings

DES MOINES - On March 22, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Emergency Declaration. The proclamation includes additional mandatory closures, relaxes certain restrictions to promote additional social distancing and provides regulatory relief to Iowa health care industries, among other actions outlined in the proclamation.

The proclamation closes the following from Sunday, March 22 at 10 p.m. until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March, 31—salons, medical spas, barbershops, tattoo establishments, tanning facilities, massage therapy establishments, and swimming pools.

To assist Iowans further, it suspends all foreclosures on residential, commercial, and agricultural real property.

The proclamation also provides professional licensing relief to remove barriers who want to step up and serve in medical professions and to prevent the expiration of professional licenses during the disaster.

To promote further social distancing, the declaration suspends in-person requirements for various activities.

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scams on their website.

from the coronavirus.

the CDC.

scam and other common COVID-19 related

Myth: Only those over 60 years of age and

Fact: It is an unfortunate rumor that only

those with existing health problems are at risk

people over 60 years of age are at risk of get-

ting this disease. According to the Centers for

Disease Control (CDC), those at higher risk

include older adults and people with serious

chronic medical conditions. However, symp-

toms can range from mild to severe with and

may have different complications for each

individual. The CDC has a list of COVID-19

symptoms you may experience. Please continue to follow the official information from

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FEMA seeks to clarify coronavirus

The purpose of the FEMA page (https:// www.fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control) is to help the public distinguish between rumors and facts regarding the response to novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Rumors can easily circulate within communities during a crisis, stay informed with our updated myth vs. facts related to the federal COVID-19 response.

For more information on the coronavirus, please visit coronavirus.gov. You can also visit the coronavirus COVID-19 response page for more updates on the federal response.

Myth: There is a national lockdown and the entire country will be quarantined for two

Fact: There is no national lockdown. As with all information online or shared via social media, it is important to verify the source of the information. You can find the latest information as well as links to additional resources at www.coronavirus.gov.

Myth: FEMA has deployed military assets. Fact: No, FEMA does not have military assets. Like all emergencies, response is most successful when it is locally executed, state managed and federally supported. Each state's governor is responsible for response activities in their state, to include establishing curfews, deploying the National Guard if needed and any other restrictions or safety measures they deem necessary for the health and welfare of their citizens.

and supplies as I can.

Fact: Please only buy what your family needs for a week. It is important to remember that many families may be unable to buy a supply of food and water for weeks in advance. Consumer demand has recently been exceptionally high — especially for grocery, household cleaning and some healthcare products. Freight flows are not disrupted, but

Myth: I heard that the government is send-

Fact: The U.S. government is not mailing

Myth: I need to stockpile as many groceries

stores need time to restock.

ing \$1,000 checks. How do I sign up?

checks in response to COVID-19 at this time. Anyone who tells you they can get you the money now is a scammer. It's important that you only trust information coming from official sources. The Federal Trade Commission recently provided more information about this



DES MOINES — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds recently signed SF 2408, legislation that creates emergency measures and supplemental appropriations for key government services to combat the spread of COVID-19.

"Every Iowan has a role to play in limiting and mitigating the spread of COVID-19. These measures will fund core services and also give schools the flexibility to keep their students safe." said Gov. Reynolds. "I appreciate lawmakers working together on legislation that funds key government services and additional emergency measures to combat the spread of COVID-19."

SF 2408 Supplemental appropriations and emergency measurers:

- * Supplemental appropriations for Medicaid (\$88.98 million)
 - * Supplemental appropriations for other

Grasshopper

Lawn Care

•Mowfing

olandseaping

Morell Morell

hygienic lab (\$525,000).

health programs (\$1.8 million)

* Limits some standing appropriations (non-public school transportation, instruc-

* Supplemental appropriations for state

- tional support, AEA funding). * Requires DOM and the LSA to review FY2020 appropriations and to make appropria-
- tions for the first two months of FY2021. * Transfers: Includes exemptions from
- transfer rules. EEF: Makes emergency appropriations from the EEF of up to 10 percent to the DOM for purposes approved by the Governor, through August 31. Includes various repeal dates. Schools: Authorizes the Governor to waive school instructional time requirements for schools that close due to the COVID-19 virus.



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See wdadvocatenews.com for continued COVID-19 updates

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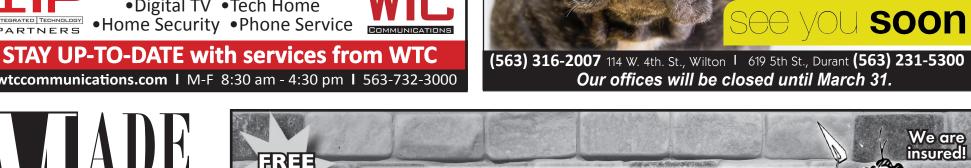


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Wilton

Council

City

Furniture to be moved back to Wilton City Hall soon

By Ashley Darnold of the Advocate News

Furniture will be moved into the newly updated Wilton City Hall offices later this week, with staff returning to their renovated spaces shortly after. Work to the east side of the building will then begin, fixing structural trusses first—followed by updating walls and

constructing two additional office spaces (in the area of the old library).

The Wilton city council met in regular session, March 23, with some slight modifications. Due to the

spread of novel coronavirus COVID-19, the council took precautions by offering a callin line for council members who didn't feel comfortable attending the in-person meeting. For the council members who did attend the meeting, six feet of space separated each council member.

Mayor Bob Barrett has been calling into the Muscatine Department of Public Health line once a week to stay up-to-date with the latest news on the spread of the coronavirus. "I am pretty proud of our town. By and large, our town has done an excellent job," Mayor Barrett said.

Wilton City Administrator Chris Ball discussed city employees, considering them essential workers for the city. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, not all public workers are *working* at the same time — a rotation schedule has been put in place.

"We have just enough employees to get the job done, so we aren't all together at once in case someone gets sick," explained Ball.

The council approved the Wilton Highway 38 Corridor Development Study through MSA Professional Services. This study will begin in April and be completed by approximately November. The study costs a total of \$35,000, with REC Eastern Light & Power, WTC Communications and CIPCO paying approximately \$22,000 of the project cost.

With the expansion of Interstate 80 becoming a 6-lane interstate, this study will help determine economic development opportunities, establish existing zoning controls, determine land development, etc.

Miscellany

In other action, council:

- * Approved the amount of \$15,000 in compliance with the city-school agreement for the Wilton Swimming Pool.
- * Approved the renewal of a wine license for Blooming Ideas.
- * Approved the Junction Grill & Bar's liquor license renewal.
- * Approved the amount of \$34,571.60 to be paid to Precision Builders for Wilton City Hall repovations.
 - *Approved the annual budget for the fiscal

year ending in June 30, 2021.

- * Received a "thank you" letter from the Oakdale Cemetery Association for the city's donation.
- * Approved the purchase of additional lots for the Urban Renewal Plan via the Wilton Redevelopment Area where new houses will be built

Council members Keith Stanley, Ted Marolf, Wayne Budding, Sheryl Lenker and Steve Owens were present. All action taken was unanimous unless otherwise noted. The next regular meeting is April 7 at 7 p.m.

Reynolds announces unemployment insurance tax extension to July 31

DES MOINES - Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that first quarter unemployment tax payments that are due April 30 will be delayed till the end of the second quarter, July 31. Eligible employers include those employers with 50 or fewer employees. Eligible employers also must be in good standing with no delinquencies in quarterly payments.

"Iowa's small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities and the engine behind our economy. Now more than ever we need to make sure they have the ability to manage their cash flow," said Gov. Reynolds. "It's critically important that we continue to take steps in support of our small business community during these challenging times."

To qualify for the extension, the employer must be current on all quarterly tax payments before the first quarter of 2020 regardless of whether or not they are seeking an extension of tax payment. All employers must file Quarterly Employers Contribution and Payroll Report electronically by 4:30 p.m. on April 24 to avoid late report filing penalty.

Payments for Q1 would be due when Q2 payments are due, July 31. No interest or penalties will accrue for delayed payments for the eligible group. The extension of payment

deadline without interest is not a holiday or forgiveness and the taxes will be due July 31. Employers still need to file their quarterly reports, which contain employee wage data necessary to compute benefit eligibility and amounts to be paid.

"More than 9 percent of businesses in Iowa, or 72,264 employers, have 50 or fewer employees. They employ a total of 417,536 Iowans, pay approximately \$4.2 billion in wages. Providing an extension to paying unemployment insurance taxes will help the vast majority of employers during this difficult time," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development.

For an employer who elects to take advantage of the extension, please contact the Unemployment Insurance Tax division at either 1-888-848-7442 or by sending an email to Q1tax@iwd.iowa.gov. If an employer would like to request additional time to pay the tax, please contact the Unemployment Insurance Tax Division. IWD recommends sending an email versus a phone call as there is a high call volume during this time that may lead to extended wait times. Employers must notify IWD of intent to delay payment by Friday, April 24 at 4:30 p.m.





Durant passes several COVID-19 related measures

By Derek Sawvell Managing Editor, Advocate News

Durant city officials practiced social distancing techniques at a March 23 city council meeting, the first of which since several social

measures have been taken and mandated in the state to fight the ongoing novel coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak.

Durant City Council

Present for the meeting were city council members

Dave Schulz and Dan Sterner, Mayor Scott Spengler, City Clerk Deana Cavin and Police Chief Orville Randolph. All were positioned in the room so that there was plenty of distance from one another. Council members Diane Quiram and Kevin Mundt called in via a new conference call method. Member Noel Price was absent.

Council passed several measures in response to COVID-19, including an emergency declaration stating, in part, that the city of Durant is now declared to be in a state of emergency "in an effort to proactively reduce the effects of the pandemic."

A resolution was also approved allowing temporary electronic public meetings in order to ensure that meeting attendance stay below the 10-person threshold. Starting March 23, all meetings of the city council will also be conducted electronically until further notice.

The group also later approved a resolution laying out a preparedness plan for COVID-19 within Durant, with one of the rules being City Hall remaining closed until further notice. Cavin mentioned that residents may now pay city bills online via credit card at the city's website. Payments may also be made over the phone. She also said the city would work with folks who have trouble with paying utility bills, noting that it was not recommended to shut off water to people's homes at this time due to continued hygiene needs during the pandemic.

FD and PD to purchase equipment

Several equipment purchases were ap-



Durant city officials practiced social distancing techniques during a March 23 city council meeting. Police Chief Orville Randolph is shown (middle) keeping plenty of distance from officials while discussing upcoming police department purchases.

Photo by Derek Sawvell

proved for the Durant Police Department and Fire Department.

A \$50,000 bid was approved to purchase a 2020 Ford F150 from Alpen Ford in Durant to be used as the fire department's fire chief vehicle. Fire Chief and Public Works Director Jared Semsch called into the meeting and explained that the new truck would replace a 2001 Chevy Suburban originally bought used from Henry Bentley. He said the new vehicle would be used to "go to meetings and for bringing materials to large fires."

He said that Durant Firefighters Inc. would pay \$25,000; \$10,000 would come from a donation made by the late Joey Gehrls; and the remaining \$15,000 would come from the city's fire department budget.

Member Quiram asked if it was necessary to purchase a new one. Semsch said the new vehicle would come with a warranty and would last the department a very long time.

Bids for two new guns were approved for the Durant Police Department. Council approved the purchase of a Rock River Tac Rail AR33T rifle at a cost of \$1,125; and a Remington 1100 12-gauge magnum (used) shotgun at a cost of \$650. Both purchases will be from Rick Overton Guns in Durant.

Council also approved purchasing several different kinds of ammunition at a total cost

of \$613.48, which Police Chief Randolph said would be used primarily for weapon qualification by officers on the squad.

The purchase of a DVR camera system in the Student Resource Officer (SRO) vehicle was also approved at a cost of \$5,900. There will also be a \$551 charge for installation of the system, for a total of \$6,451. Randolph noted that \$4,500 would be funded through Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) funds.

Miscellany

In other action, council:

*Approved a service agreement with MSA Professional Services in the amount of \$35,250 for work related to an upcoming 12th Avenue sanitary sewer replacement project, which includes sewer lines from Fifth to Fourth streets with a portion located beneath the Iowa Interstate Railroad.

* Approved the purchase of a new John Deere 1570 Terrain Cut Commercial Front Mower from Sinclair Tractor in Durant at a cost of \$27,000. The city will trade in a 2013 John Deere 1445 model and receive \$6,000 in trade, leaving a purchase price of \$21,000. The mower purchase will be made July 1 when

the new budget year begins.

Member Schulz asked if this was the mower that would be the city's "work horse." Semsch said yes, it will typically be in operation five days a week in the warmer months.

* Tabled a \$33,360 bid from Kluesner Construction in Farley for replacing asphalt on First Avenue from Highway 6 to the lift station driveway. Semsch mentioned that Yankee Avenue area gets heavy traffic and the road is breaking down in spots. Mayor Spengler asked if the city should consider replacing it with concrete instead of asphalt. A new bid will be solicited.

*Approved a \$21,628.60 bid from Kluesner Construction to repair asphalt at the intersections of Fifth Street and Seventh Avenue, and Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street.

*Approved a \$66,057.20 bid from Kluesner Construction for asphalt street overlay on Ninth Street from Ninth Avenue to Seventh Avenue, and a portion of Seventh Avenue near Ninth Street. The Kluesner Construction repairs will be done after July 1 when the new budget year begins.

All action taken was unanimous. The next regular meeting will be April 13 at 6 p.m. at Durant City Hall.





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First case of COVID-19 confirmed in Cedar County

A case of novel coronavirus COVID-19 has been confirmed in Cedar County. According to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the individual is in isolation. Those at high risk from known exposure to this case have already been contacted by Cedar County Public Health staff with further instructions.

"While this is Cedar County's first case, it may not be the last, and that's why we encourage all residents to continue to make prevention a priority," said Cedar County Public Health Interim Director Bonnie Butler. These actions

• Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds each time.

- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow/upper arm.
 - Staying home when ill.
- Social Distancing Stay home whenever possible, maintain at least six feet of distance from other persons and avoid large gatherings.

Approximately 80 percent of Iowans infected with COVID-19, will experience only a mild to moderate illness. Most mildly ill Iowans do not need to go to their healthcare provider or be tested to confirm they have COVID-19. Sick Iowans, with symptoms including fever, cough or difficulty breathing, must stay home and isolate themselves from others in their home until:

- You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (This means three full days of no fever without the use of medicine to reduce your temperature); AND
- Other symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath have improved; AND
- At least seven 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 in the office or you can recover at home. There may also be options for you to talk to a medical provider from home using technology.

In light of social distancing protocols, a

physical press conference will not be held at this time. Additional information will be forthcoming. For local information related to COVID-19, visit the webpage www.cedarcountycovid19.org

For up-to-date general information on COVID-19, visit the IDPH webpage at https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus and follow the department on Facebook at @ IowaDepartmentOfPublicHealth and on Twitter at @IAPublicHealth.



CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS

Oakdale Cemetery

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was held Thursday, March 12 at the Wilton Community Room with the following present: Trustees Dwayne Lenker, Becky Hansen, Mary E. Bender, and Tom Maurer. Treasurer, Terri Becker, was also present. Dwayne Lenker called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the Feb. 13 minutes was made by Tom Maurer, seconded by Mary Bender, motion carried.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report as of Feb. 28 was made by Tom Maurer, seconded by Dwayne Lenker, motion carried. Bills were paid to Webb & Co., Becky Hansen for filing the state report, and Howard Tree Service. A motion to pay the bills was made by Becky Hansen, seconded by Tom Maurer, motion carried.

Old Business:

Becky reported on her conversation with the lawyer concerning the four trust funds that are held by the cemetery board with directions to use the interest earned in a year to place flowers on certain identified graves. During the past several years the trust fund CDs have not earned enough interest to carry out the requested flower decorations. After board discussion, a motion was made by Tom Maurer, to phase out the trust funds over a period of five years by using the interest and part of the principle to carry out the requested flower decorations, seconded by Mary Bender, motion carried.

It was also reported that part of the At will fund could be placed in the general fund to be used for general maintenance of the cemetery. A motion was made by Tom Maurer to move 75 percent of the At will CD into the general fund, seconded by Mary Bender, motion carried. Becky will document the individual CD amounts, the specific times the graves were to be decorated, and the average cost for each decoration and meet with the lawyer to finalize the procedure.

New Business:

Howard Tree Service has completed the work in the south part of the cemetery. After discussion a motion was made by Mary Bender to have Howard Tree Service continue tree work in the rest of the cemetery, seconded by Becky Hansen, motion carried. Becky will contact Howard Tree Service to see when he can meet at the cemetery to discuss a bid on the remaining work.

Discussion was held on new fencing for the cemetery on the south and west sides. Maurers are willing to help with the expense of the fence on the west side. Tom Maurer will get a bid for a new four-string barbwire fence to be constructed on the south and west sides of the cemetery.

A motion to elect Dwayne Lenker as president, Carla Thurston as vice president, and Becky Hansen as secretary, and to appoint Terri Becker as treasurer was made by Tom Maurer, seconded by Mary Bender, and

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Maurer, seconded by Dwayne Lenker, motion carried. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 9, at 9 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned.

Becky Hansen Secretary

Muscatine County Extension and Outreach Office Closed to the Public

We are closing our office to the public until April 13. If you have any needs or would like to confirm information on programming, please call our office 563-263-5701 or email our staff. Thank you for your understanding in this unprecedented time.

Legion, Post 584, Wilton

Given the news and recommendations regarding the COVID-19 virus, we are canceling the Legion birthday supper on March 30 in Wilton. Also at this time we are canceling the next regular Legion meeting on April 7. If you have any questions, please call 563.732.3941.

Wilton Historical Society

Due to the closing of so many activities due to the Covid-19 virus, the Wilton Historical Society has decided to postpone their annual meeting scheduled for March 31 until Saturday, April 18 at 9:30 a.m. and will meet at the Wilton Depot.

Dwayne Lenker, President

Senior dining at Gloria Dei

Normally meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Durant each Thursday, the meals will now be pick-up and delivery only due to the coronavirus outbreak. A total of 104 meals were served in the last four weeks, including delivered meals. March birthdays include Phyllis Boisen, Betty Clark, Phyllis First and Joyce Ohlert.

Senior dining is for everyone 60 years or older and to their spouse regardless of his/her age. It is available to anyone, without regard to income, race, color, sex or national origin. Senior dining is a benefit for senior citizens, the United States' way of saying that you are important to the nation.

The upcoming carry out and delivery menu includes:

April 2 — Roast pork, gravy, sweet potatoes, zucchini, tomatoes, banana, applesauce cake, milk and bread.

April9—Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, peaches, cookie, milk and April 16 — Meatloaf, party potatoes,

Brussels sprouts, tropical fruit, vanilla pudding, milk and bread. April 23 — Baked ham, sweet potatoes,

corn, emerald pears, chocolate pudding and April 30 — Beef stew, mixed green salad, pineapples, oranges, Ambrosia cake, milk and

a dinner roll. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday evenings. Call 563-785-4525 to reserve your seat or if you have any questions.

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Don't let your great-great grandkids down when they try to find out about their heritage.

The Wilton-Durant Advocate News, 410 Cedar St. (BOX 40), Wilton, IA 52778 Ph. (563)-732-2029



Springtime snow-There was a wonderful winter scene on Seventh Street in Durant March 23 when an evening snowfall saw large snowflakes cover the ground overnight March 22, only to melt away the following day. The heavy snow clung to branches and shrubs while blanketing yards all across the Durant and Wilton Photo by Teresa Benischek

Iowa's Board of Regents declaring state of emergency

Editor's note: The following was submitted by Iowa Board of Regents President Mike Richards.

Recently, the spread of COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. Both the president and the governor have declared states of emergency.

Confirmed community spread has been

identified in our state, and government and medical professionals are recommending social distancing measures. To help minimize the spread at our public universities, the Board of Regents has been following guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Iowa Department of Public Health, the governor's office, and others. The

Food pantry implementing safety measures

In response to the ongoing novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, new protective measures will be implemented at the Durant-Wilton Food Pantry.

The food pantry will still be open the first and third Tuesday of the month as usual. Starting April 7 however, visitors will be asked to practice social distancing while checking in outside with a list of what they need.

There will be no entry by patrons into the food pantry. Volunteers inside will instead gather products to be taken outside to those in need. Rules are until further notice and are subject to change.

Muscatine County buildings closed

Zoning.

Editor's note: The following was submitted by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors, and its members Santos Saucedo, Doug Holliday, Scott Sauer, Nathan Mather and Jeff Sorensen.

Muscatine County officials continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation in our community, which continues to evolve hour-by-hour resulting in confusion for our citizens and customers with regards to our facilities and services. The health and safety of our community and our staff is of utmost importance. Please follow the guidance from CDC and IDPH as it relates to social distancing. With the assistance of all community members, we can work together to lessen the impact on our citizens and medical facilities.

Effective 4:30 p.m. on March 19, 2020, the state and county offices located in county buildings are closing to the public until further notice. This includes the Administration Building and the Muscatine County Courthouse, as well as other outlying county offices, including

Community Services, Secondary Roads and

Muscatine County employees will continue to report to work and provide county services. Many Muscatine County services are available online, by phone, or through mail or email. Some departments may provide the ability to make an appointment for urgent needs. Contact information for all county departments and offices is available on the Muscatine County website at www.co.muscatine.ia.us and phone numbers for all county departments will be posted on the front and back doors of the Administration Building.

State employees will also continue to work and state office numbers will be posted on the courthouse doors.

If you have questions about COVID-19, we urge you to call the state hotline at 2-1-1 or 1-800-244-7431.

board has already taken several steps at our public universities to assist in the effort to help mitigate the spread of the virus and will continue to monitor the situation and provide additional guidance when warranted.

However, the threat is continuing to grow and as such, in accordance with Board of Regents policy, I am declaring that a state of emergency exists at all institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents, as there are current circumstances that pose an imminent threat to the health and safety of persons or property at our institutions.

This state of emergency will remain in effect until I declare the emergency has passed.

Therefore, I am waiving the following board policies and administrative rules, effective immediately and extending so long as this state of emergency remains in effect or as otherwise subsequently ratified by the board:

1. The provisions of Iowa Administrative Code 681-3.148 are waived to the extent they place a limitation on the number of hours of accrued sick leave an employee is permitted to use for the care and necessary attention of an employee's immediate family member. The provisions of Iowa Administrative Code 681-3.148 are further waived to the extent they preclude an employee from utilizing family leave to provide care for minor dependents when such care is required as a consequence of the closure of a K-12 school or a childcare

2. The provisions of Board of Regents Policy Manual subsection 2.1.4.A are waived to the extent they would prohibit an employee from donating or receiving vacation under this subsection to be used as sick leave for any otherwise permitted purpose directly related to COVID-19.

3. The Office of the Board of Regents and the institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents are authorized to permit employees to utilize up to an additional 80 hours of paid sick leave for any otherwise permitted purpose directly related to COVID-19. The provisions of any applicable Board of Regents policy or administrative rule are hereby waived, but only to the extent necessary to give effect to this paragraph 3.

4. The institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents are authorized to provide instruction for all academic programs virtually. The provisions of any applicable Board of Regents policy or administrative rule regarding academic program changes are hereby waived, but only to the extent necessary to give effect to this paragraph 4.

5. The executive director of the Board of Regents, and/or his designee(s), are hereby authorized to work with the institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents to develop processes for implementing these actions for all or any individual institution.

Wilton Easter Egg Hunt April 11 canceled

The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wilton City Park is canceled due to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendations made by Governor Reynolds, which

include refraining from events with crowds of more than 10 people during the COVID-19 crisis.

Family news is free in the Advocate News! Submit online at wdadvocatenews.com

th Reunion was canceled, but we have not forgotten.

WHS **Class of 1970** Memoriam

















Damerville **Neipert**





Wiebel Oepping





Scott Shuger Dennis Stimmel

WORSHIP

Calvary United Methodist, Walcott Rev. Allen Coffin • www.walcottchurch.org 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Praise and Worship Service with Coffee Fellowship to follow

Cedar Valley Church, West Liberty Area Pastor Mary • 563-320-0501 791 155th St. (South of West Liberty on F70) 5:30 p.m. Sundàys - Free Dinner, Worship & Discussion at Living Faith Service 8:30-9:30 a.m. every other Saturday Adult Confirmation Class

Church of Christ, Atalissa Pastor Karl Roberts • (563) 649-2220 8:30-9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:30-10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service 10:15-10:45 a.m. Junior Church

Moscow United Methodist Church Jon Gimmy, Pastor • (319) 351-1877 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Peace Church of Christ United, UCC www.peacechurchofchristunited.com 414 Maple St., Bennett Pastor Scott Meyer • 563-893-2565 Office hours: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wed-Fri 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m. Fellowship

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bennett 260 E. 4th St. • 563-890-6619 Pastor Bill Traphagan 7:15 a.m. Bible Class 8:30 a.m. Church Service, followed by Sunday School

Trinity United Church of Christ, Rural Moscow • Pastor Jon M. Merritt 8 a.m. Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sundays 9 a.m. Worship every Sunday

Zion Lutheran, ELCA, Atalissa (563) 649-3343 10:30 a.m. Worship

DURANT

Gloria Dei Lutheran, ELCA John Grebner, Interim Pastor 606 4th Ave., Durant • 785-4936 9 a.m. Worship Confirmation Wednesday 8 a.m. Bible Study Monday 6:30-7:30 p.m. Everyone Welcome

St. David's Anglican Church
Fr. Peter Vaughn, Pastor
peterrvaughn@gmail.com • 309-798-8376
801 5th St., Durant • 563-785-4916 www.stdavidsdurant.info 9:30 Sunday Worship, followed by refreshments 3rd Sunday outreach service at Courtyard Estates in Walcott at 11:30 a.m. 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study led by Pastor Greg Graybill gregory.graybill@gmail.com 509-301-1760 Pastor Greg Graybill Youth interested in taking part in WyldLife or Young Life should call 563-785-4916.

St. Paul's Episcopal Rev. Dr. Alice Haugen, Pastor 206 6th St. website: stpaulsdurant.org 9 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Eucharist Children's service, 2nd Sunday Healing service, 3rd Sunday

WILTON

First Presbyterian Church 563-732-2258 213 W. 5th St., Wilton • fpcofwilton.org email: fpcpastor@netwtc.net or fpcsec@netwtc.net 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship

Grace United Church of Christ Pastor Patrick Slessor No church activities until March 31 Friday: 7 p.m. AA and Al-Anon.

Heartland Fellowship Church http://www.myhfcwilton.org/ 9:30 a.m. Children's Ministries 10:30 a.m. Adult Worship/Children's Church Wed. 6 p.m. The Summit Youth Group Small Group Meetings throughout the week

Peace United Methodist Jon Gimmy, Pastor 8:45 a.m. Sunday Worship. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School

Sugar Creek Presbyterian 563-732-3199 1900 Rose Ave., Wilton 9 a.m. Sunday Worship

St. Mary's Catholic Rev. David Steinle, Pastor 701 E. 3rd, Wilton • 563- 732-2271 email: Steinled@diodav.org https://www.stmarywilton.org 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tues-Fri Mass: 8 a.m.

United Methodist Pastor Steve Braudt • 563-732-2084

1401 Maurer St., PO Box 57, Wilton www.umcofwilton.org email: umcwiltn@netwtc.net 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. Youth Ministry (2nd, 3rd & 4th Sun.) 7:00 p.m. Worship Experience Tues. 9 a.m. Sewing Group Wed. 6:30 p.m. Praise Band Practice Wed. 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice

Wilton Baptist Church Pastor Bob Danielson • 563-732-2458 203 East Railroad St., Wiltor 10 a.m. Worship

Zion Lutheran, Missouri Synod Rev. Daniel Ognoskie • 563-732-3651 1000 Maurer St., Wilton 9 a.m. Divine Service Church services are available on Youtube

10:15 a.m. Bible Study/Sunday School Lenten Supper Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. Lenten Service Wednesday at 7 p.m.



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



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Durant's Jake Soy among those named to Cedar County WOF

TIPTON — Three individuals and two teams will be inducted into the Cedar County Sports Wall of Fame during the Cedar County Fair at the P & K Midwest Stage on the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton. A date and time have not been finalized.

The individuals are Suzanne Friday-Mathieu, Warren Pierce, and Jake Soy; also inducted will be the 1968 and 1969 Tipton football teams, and the West Branch boys' golf teams from 1988-92.

Friday was an important ingredient for Tipton High School in 1988 when the Tigers squeezed past St. Ansgar, 42-41, for its first Class 2A state girls' track and field title. With Friday on the roster, the Tigers added team championships in 1989 and 1991, with a runner-up finish to DeWitt Central in 1990 when there were only three classes.

A premier sprinter and hurdler, Friday was one of the school's first super stars, and she won the 100-meter hurdles in 1989 (14.42 seconds) and 1990 (14.37), as well as being part of six Tipton relay championships. Her gold medal relays were in the shuttle hurdle (1988, 1990, 1991), 4x100 (1989, 1990), and sprint medley (1991).

After high school, Friday competed in track and field for four seasons at the University of South Dakota, specializing in the 400 hurdles.

Pierce earned 15 varsity letters at West Branch from 1958-62. A three-time Iowa state track and field champion, Pierce was best known for his skill as a back in football. A 1,000-yard rusher as a junior and senior, Pierce scored seven touchdowns against Tipton during a 53-7 win by the Bears on Sept. 15, 1961. He was later named fourth-team all-state.

In 1966, Pierce scored 20 touchdowns for Upper Iowa University. He is still in Upper Iowa's top 10 for rushing yards in a game (185), rushing yards in a season (923), rushing yards in a career (2,126), and touchdowns in a career (34).

Soy was a running back/tight end for Durant, graduating in 2007. He led the Wildcats to their first state playoff game in 2006 by accumulating 1,625 all-purpose yards. He was named third-team all-state.

A multi-sport athlete, Soy was first-team All-Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference in basketball and placed third at the state track meet in the 200-meter dash.

Soy attended Northwest Missouri State for football, and in 2009, he broke the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletic Association record with 27 touchdowns. The Bearcats won an NCAA Division II national championship in 2009 and Soy was named first-team All-American.

In 2019, Soy was elected to the Northwest Missouri State Sports Hall of Fame.

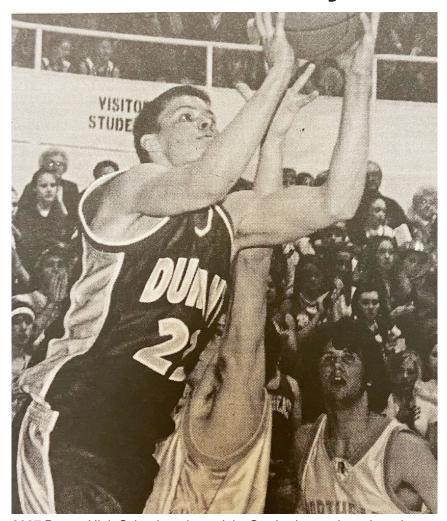
The 1968 and 1969 Tipton football teams went a combined 18-0 with two WaMaC and two mythical Class II state championships (there were no playoffs back then).

These teams made up the bulk of Tipton's stretch of 25 consecutive football games without a loss (24-0-1). The streak began with a 40-0 win on Homecoming against Maquoketa on Oct. 20, 1967 and ended with a 20-14 loss at Monticello on Oct.

Tipton's head coach was Lee Crawford, who was inducted into the Cedar County Sports Wall of Fame

The West Branch boys' golf program won four $consecutive\,Class\,2A\,state\,golf\,champions hips\,from$ 1989-92 (*see below). Cedar County Sports Wall of Fame inductee Sean McCarty (2012) was state medalist in 1989, 90, and 91; scoring for the 1992 team were Chad McCarty, J.D. Grimm, Dave Scott, and Matt Tisinger. All four championship teams were coached by Cedar County Sports Wall of Fame inductee Jim Wheeler (2010), who was elected to the Iowa High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2005.

The Cedar County Sports Wall of Fame was formed in 2008 and is under the control of the Cedar County Historical Society. To nominate for the Wall of Fame, contact committee members Mike Bixler, Pat Kedley, Verl Lekwa, Darren Miller, Gene Schroeder, Bruce Seehusen, Mike St. John, Derek Sawvell, or Mike Quinlan.



2007 Durant High School graduate Jake Soy is shown above in a vintage basketball photo against Northeast during his senior season. While at Durant, he helped lead the Wildcats to their first ever playoff game in football and was consistently a 20-point scorer in basketball while competing in the ever difficult Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference. Soy went on to play football at Northwest Missouri State where he won a national championship and broke several records. He was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in the fall of 2019. AN file photo





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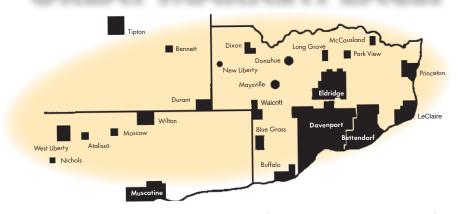
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COVID-19 confirmed locally, continues to sweep nation

SCHOOLS

continued from page 1

On Tuesday, March 17, Burnett and the administrators met with teachers and members of the school boards. Plans were implemented with teachers, who are still on 174-day contracts. Burnett said that it was also important to continue paying non-certified staff, bus drivers, and others employed by the districts.

"Teachers were tasked with getting kids to the end of the school year with three less weeks plus talking with parents," said Burnett, who noted that the next meeting with staff will be March 30 and 31, upon coming off spring break.

With regard to school meals, the schools are unable to still provide school lunch due to the fact that they don't meet the free and reduced lunch numbers needed. Burnett said a district must have more than 50 percent of students receiving free or reduced lunches. The Wilton and Durant districts hover around 30 percent, yet Burnett said the schools were planning to apply for a federal waiver to hopefully allow them to serve some lunches in the future.

'God bless our local businesses that have offered free or reduced meals," said Burnett. "We've continued with our back pack programs too which provide food to kids. If someone is in a desperate situation, please call the schools."

When asked if he thought schools would in fact get back in session in mid April, Burnett said he wasn't sure. "I'm 50/50 on whether we'll come back again. What is this pandemic going to do?" he said, noting that as of now, important upcoming dates like prom and senior graduation at each school were still scheduled.

Wilton Elementary Principal Denise Austin and Jr./Sr. High Principal Marc Snavely said Wilton schools were in the middle of a deep clean last week. Snavely also said that the staff lounge in the high school was getting a facelift. Austin noted that lockers in the elementary wing were being cleaned out as well, as many had food and other debris inside.

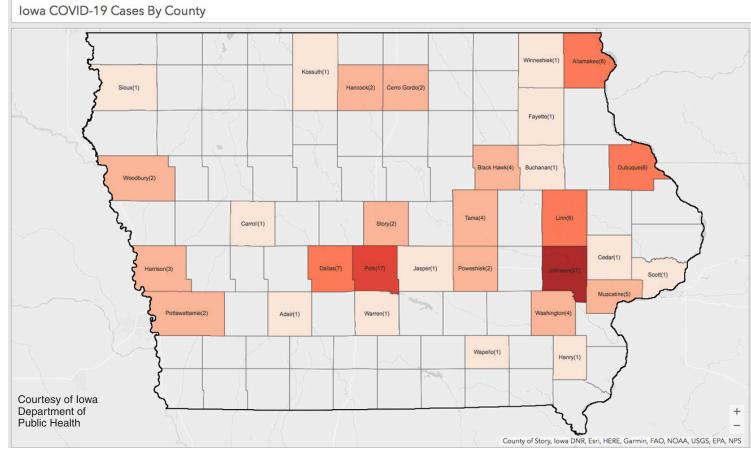
Snavely said that if that everything stays on schedule, students will come back and have one week to finish the third quarter before heading into the fourth quarter of the school year. While events like prom and graduation were still on as scheduled, Snavely noted a determining factor may be crowd sizes recommended by the state by those times.

The Wilton district also canceled an upcoming school trip to Ecuador in the summer, a spring chorus trip to Florida and the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. in April.

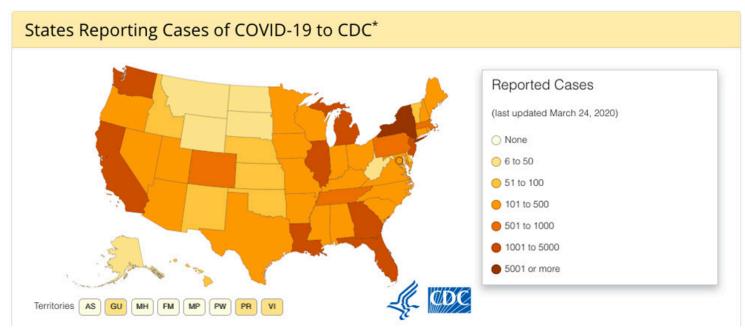
"In 20 years of education I've never seen anything like this," said Snavely.

Burnett, Austin and Snavely each said they'd been involved in several conference calls and meetings over the Internet.

"It's an ever changing environment. The



Iowa COVID-19 cases as of March 24, broken down by county. Muscatine County has five cases. Cedar County has one.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as of March 24 there are 44,183 cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. There have been 544 deaths.

most important is our kids to stay safe, stay away, read and exercise," added Austin. "It's all good learning that they're missing. The important thing is taking care of each other. We don't want our parents worrying about anything else right now."

Iowa State Parks' COVID-19 response

Editor's note: The following was submitted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

In accordance with CDC guidelines and state recommendations pertaining to COVID-19, we want to share with you important information about Iowa state parks.

At this point, Iowa State Parks are open. Our highest priority is the health and well being of our visitors, volunteers and employees. During this time, we remain diligent in taking steps to make your visit as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Here's how you can help

According to state of Iowa recommendations, limit your group to less than 10 people when visiting a state park.

If you have been sick in the last two weeks, please stay at home for your health and the safety of others.

Avoid popular areas where people may congregate, and also avoid larger groups in general. Areas to avoid may include scenic overlooks, buildings, playgrounds, etc.

Please maintain distance between you and other park visitors according to guidelines and recommendations by health officials. Please take into consideration the health of others when spending time outdoors.

Pack extra soap or hand sanitizer. Please be aware that bathrooms and showers are closed seasonally every year through April 15. Due to increased use or at remote locations, soap

or sanitizer may not be available.

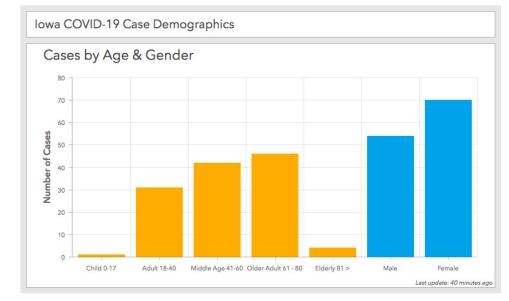
Here's what we are doing

If you feel canceling your stay is the safest choice, we will waive cancellation fees for visits (cabins, campsites, lodges) with arrival dates through April 30. To cancel without fees, contact the Customer Service Call Center at (877) 427-2757. If you have a lodge or cabin reservation involving groups of 10 or more, we will be contacting you to cancel your reservation. Additionally, the DNR is working to temporarily limit reservations at lodges and cabins to groups of less than 10, so please be aware of changes that may be coming if you are making plans for the spring.

We are implementing additional cleaning procedures, according to CDC guidelines, such as more stringent and frequent cleaning of cabins and other public areas.

We are postponing programs and events at all state parks through April 30. This will help keep visitors safe, and we will reassess this policy in mid-April. We are also temporarily closing any visitor centers or museums managed by state parks.

We are monitoring the situation. We promise to remain diligent and intentional in protecting you and making your visit a great experience. As conditions change, so may our policies on park visitation and overnight stays. We will keep you informed of any changes moving forward.



Demographics of COVID-19 in Iowa, courtesy of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

lowa extends June primary voting period

DES MOINES - Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate is extending the absentee voting period to 40 days for Iowans who choose to vote by mail in the June primary. He is also encouraging Iowans to cast ballots by mail, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This change will allow voters more time to send their ballots and provide county auditors a longer window for processing.

"The safety of voters takes precedence, and by encouraging Iowans to vote absentee, we can reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19," Secretary Pate said. "We still plan on having polls open on June 2 for voters who prefer to cast ballots in-person, but this effort will help reduce the risk of infecting

Curbside voting, as always, is an option for Iowans with disabilities and those who might have difficulty entering a polling place. This option will also be available in the June primary to voters who are in the high-risk population for the coronavirus.

The absentee voting period for mailed ballots in the June primary will begin on April 23. Iowans can request an absentee ballot from their county auditor now. For more information, visit VoterReady.Iowa.gov.

The Secretary of State has the authority to extend the absentee voting period during a disaster under the provisions of Iowa Code section 47.1.

Case

By Derek Sawvell

Follow @SawvellAN

OVID-19 is coming for our hometowns

or the third straight week, we come to you tired as we feel like we're running a race in which we're always behind. Like most of you, we're glued to our computer screens each day watching Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds update us on the condition of our state. We also wait for new rules and recommendations.

We watch the daily briefings at the White

House. Then we're flooded with one release after another with regard to fighting this novel coronavirus CO-VID-19. It's been a century since a global pandemic of such magnitude struck our hometowns.

And trust me when I say, it's coming to our home-

towns. It was last weekend before a case was confirmed in Muscatine County. Now there's five. By the time this gets on the newspaper page in front of you, they'll be more.

Due to the fact that the news is an essential service, our Advocate News office remains open. We've had several conversations about closing our office to the public. Yet we are here and, while healthy, we are working.

It would be hard for me to explain sitting

inside our office, watching someone trying to open a locked door. However, we are hoping that people practice social distancing — one of the many new terms we are learning through this outbreak.

We hope that if a customer's business is nonessential to do in person, that he or she use our mail slot, email or the postal service to get us

> information. You may also call on the telephone - you know, things you used to do seemingly when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

> It's frustrating that often by the time our news hits you it's old news. That's the world we're living in. All we're trying to do is keep

up and stay healthy.

Our staff was a bit shaken upon learning of the first local case. At the same time I think we all knew it was coming. Of the 105 cases in Iowa as of March 23, nearly half (50) are within a short drive from our hometowns, including 35 in Johnson County alone.

Last week I wrote about testing and hos- my two biggest worries throughout this whole pandemic, no matter how long it

While listening to the governor speak late last week, there was a point when she mentioned having 400 tests. "Clearly she meant in Des Moines or something, I thought."

Nope, that meant 400 statewide. To put it another way, imagine our schools were still in session. If a child at Wilton Elementary School got it, I'd imagine every parent would want their child tested. Unfortunately, only around 50-60 percent would be able to have a test. And we're just one small school.

They keep telling us more testing is coming. I believe them but it's at a much slower rate than what is being let on.

Yes drive-up testing is popping up all over the nation, but most who want a test can't get one. You only receive one when you are heavily symptomatic or you've been traveling or around someone who has it. At that point it's too late if we're thinking about the likelihood of giving it to someone else. And because of that, I believe what the experts are saying —the numbers are going to get a lot worse before they get better.

If I'm a betting man, I think our K-12 school year is over. I'd be surprised if our schools start back up April 13. I hate that we can't go to restaurants or movie theaters. I hate that our economy is free-falling. Yet we need to do our best to flatten this curve and we're just not there vet.

There is good news. We've watched our communities come together to provide supplies and meals to children in Wilton and Durant.

See our story on page 1 of local restaurants and grocery stores that have come together to keep our students fed. It's quite remarkable.

We also know that when you're spending an abundance of time at home, you could benefit from some reading. Teachers will tell kids home from school to read. We're jumping on that bandwagon. Starting with content from our March 19 edition, we're making all content on our website — wdadvocatenews. com — readable to all.

Keeping you informed is our top priority at this time. Also, we know that if you can get your news at home without having to brave public places to get it at newsstands, we may be helping to keep you safe, even in the smallest of ways.

While we're on the subject of our product, we're tightening our belt like any other business right now. Don't expect less quality, but perhaps less quantity. With no school activities and/or sports, coupled with the cancellation of several community events, content is going to be harder to find.

To all our families stuck at home, what are you doing to pass time? What kinds of games are you playing? Any fun story ideas coming out of what's happening? Fun photos? Reach out to me. Reach out to our staff. Email us at adnews@netwtc.net or me directly at dsawvell@netwtc.net. Share your stories with us. Tell us what you're doing to get through semi-quarantine. Be aware that some of it could end up in the paper. Or, we may just follow up with you for a story.

Practice social distancing

Cedar County residents are amazingly resilient! Over the past couple of weeks, many of you have worked together to solve problems and overcome challenges that have been presented by the COVID-19 virus. You have been patient as plans were developed and understanding as those plans have been adapted. This spirit of community will carry us through this uncertain time.

Please remember that the most important thing each one of you can do at this time is to practice social distancing. Limiting physical contact with others will slow down the spread of COVID-19, which will prevent us from overwhelming our healthcare system and save lives. Additional ideas for helping your community include:

- If you are sick, stay home! If you have severe symptoms which require a healthcare provider, please call ahead for instructions to avoid infecting others.
- If you are not sick, stay home except for required hours at work and essential errands such as purchasing groceries and filling prescriptions.
- When shopping for yourself, offer to pick up items for someone in a high-risk category so they can minimize their risk of exposure.
- Support local businesses by purchasing merchandise, take-out food, or gift certificates online or by phone.
 - Donate to local organizations that may

struggle due to restrictions on services or limited availability of resources.

- If you have personal protective equipment such as masks or gowns, consider donating it to medical professionals.
- Provide childcare for friends and family who are filling essential roles in healthcare, the grocery industry, public utilities, etc.
- If you are asked to volunteer, be sure to follow social distancing guidelines. Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others and work in groups of fewer than 10 people.
- If possible, work from home and conduct business and meetings electronically.
- If you have recently traveled outside of Iowa it is strongly recommended that you self-isolate for 14 days.
- Wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, and cover your cough.
- Avoid gatherings with others that are not a part of your household. Please do not hold parties or gatherings during this time.

If you have questions, please remember to go to a trusted source such as Cedar County Public Health, Iowa Department of Public Health, or the CDC so that you receive accurate information. Local updates are also available at www. cedarcountycovid19.org Bonnie Butler,

Cedar County Public Health Jodi Freet, **Cedar County Emergency Management**

'Addams Family' back this fall

The Wilton Fine Arts Guild started to celebrate our 34th Dinner Theatre the weekend of March 13. We were very fortunate to have wonderful audiences for those first three performances.

We sang, danced, and acted our hearts out and those of you who were able to attend responded with laughs and applause and even standing ovations. But by Monday March 16, it was a very different world and we made the hard decision to cancel our final two performances. We've already started returning ticket costs to those who had purchased for those final dates, and we appreciate your patience as we work through that task.

If you haven't received your refund by April 3, please send a private message to our Facebook page, Wilton Fine Arts Guild, or send a self-addressed envelope to PO Box 168, Wilton, 52778.

Most of all, we appreciate your continued

support! Many of you may know that any profits from our theatre productions and our Tasting Bees go toward scholarships and additional support for the arts in Wilton and Durant schools.

If you would like to make a donation to the Guild, send it to the Wilton Fine Arts Guild, PO Box 168, Wilton, 52778. Because we are a 501(c) non-profit organization, any donation you make is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Finally, we can't keep this secret! The entire cast and crew of "The Addams Family" has committed to performing the musical again, and we can't think of a better time to do that than October, 2020! We will keep you posted on this and other upcoming Guild events. Here's to good health!

> Connie Hoekstra, Wilton President Wilton Fine Arts Guild **Board of Directors**

Candidates to hold virtual town halls

Candidates for Muscatine County Supervisors Edward Askew (District 3) and Henry Marquard (District 4) will be holding weekly virtual Town Hall meetings every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. during the novel coronavirus outbreak.

To attend these virtual meetings on a computer or by phone, go to https://askewforsupervisor.com/ to find out how to connect to the meeting.

To help the candidates better understand the issues for Muscatine voters, a survey has been developed to reach out to voters during the COVID-19 emergency. Access to surveys can be found at https://askewforsupervisor. com/surveys and the survey results will be presented during the weekly Town Hall meeting. Access to the Town Hall meetings can be found at https://askewforsupervisor.com/ virtual-town-hall

Advocate News letter to the editor policy

The Advocate News welcomes letters to the editor. Letters have a 400word limit and will run at the editor's discretion. The author's name and address must be included, along with a phone number for verification. Writers are limited to one letter per month. Letters and/or questions may be directed to AN Editor Derek Sawvell, dsawvell@netwtc.net or 563-732-2029. Email is preferred. They may also be mailed to:

Letters to the editor Advocate News PO Box 40 Wilton, IA 52778



Living under public health emergency

From the

Wahls of

the Senate

By Sen. Zach Wahls

Legislators are receiving regular updates from state officials on coronavirus COVID-19

Since community transmission was identified within our state, we have entered a new chapter in the fight against the pandemic.

We are all now learning to live under a public health emergency. It is critical that

you and your family take steps to engage in "social distancing" to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and "flatten the curve."

At this time, I am doing my absolute best not to spend time with people who are elderly and/or

who may have compromised immune systems, and I encourage you to do the same. Until we have widespread testing available (and unfortunately, that may still be weeks away here in the United States), it can be difficult for people to truly know whether or not they are carrying the virus.

It is normal to be concerned, so I will work diligently to keep you posted on cases of COVID-19 and the state's response.

Many of you may be interested in a new Iowa Small Business Relief Program. It was specially created to address our current crisis by providing \$5,000 to \$25,000 grants to businesses with 2-25 employees. lows all Iowa businesses to defer sales and use or withholding taxes, and waives penalty and interest. Apply by noon on March 31 at iowabusinessrecovery.com.

The legislature has suspended session for 30

days as a public health and safety measure, but rest assured, I am still working for you. Please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

> Iowa Senate Democrats have established a webpage with emergency

resources and information from key state offices, department and agencies at wp.me/ p8aBRy-7oW. We will continue updating the page as new details become available.

To contact Sen. Wahls, who represents the people of Senate District 37 in Cedar County, portions of Johnson County, and Wilton in Muscatine County, when the legislature is in session, call the Senate Switchboard at 515-281-3371, or email him at zach.wahls@legis. iowa.gov.

Apply for Century & Heritage Farm recognition at Iowa State Fair

DES MOINES, — Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig encouraged eligible farm owners to apply for the 2020 Century and Heritage Farm Program. The program was created by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation to recognize families that

Authorities are still investigating a crash

According to a report from the Iowa

that occurred in Muscatine County March

13 at the intersection of Moscow Road and

have owned their farm for 100 years and 150 years, respectively.

"I look forward to the Century and Heritage Farm day at the Iowa State Fair each year. Recognizing and hearing the stories of each of these farm families is a great way to celebrate the history and impact that agriculture has on

All involved in the accident, including

Assisting the state patrol were the

De Leon, Gatzke, and Jessica Smith, 36, of

Buffalo, were transported to the University of

Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, Wilton

Police Department, Durant EMS, West Liberty

traveling westbound on Highway 6.

Iowa Hospitals & Clinics.

EMS and air care services.

farm families who are receiving this honor in To apply, download the application on the department's website at https://iowaagricul-

the state," said Secretary Naig. "It was an honor

for my family to be on the stage a few years

ago and I look forward to recognizing other

ture.gov/century-and-heritage-farm-program. Applications may also be requested from Kelley Reece, Coordinator of the Century and Heritage Farm Program via phone at 515-281-3645, email at Kelley.Reece@ IowaAgriculture.gov or by writing to Century or Heritage Farms Program, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Henry A. Wallace Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

Farm families seeking to qualify for the Century or Heritage Farms Program must submit an application to the Department no later than June 1, 2020.

The Century Farm program was started in 1976 as part of the Nation's Bicentennial Celebration. To date, more than 20,000 farms from across the state have received this recognition. The Heritage Farm program was started in 2006, on the 30th anniversary of the Century Farm program, and more than 1,000 farms have been recognized. Last year 332 Century Farms and 153 Heritage Farms were recognized.

Past awardees and photos can be accessed on the Department's website. To search the applications of past recipients, visit https:// centuryfarms.iowaagriculture.gov/.

The ceremony to recognize the 2020 Century and Heritage Farm award winners is scheduled to be held at the Iowa State Fair on Thursday, Aug. 20 in the Pioneer Livestock Pavilion.

State Patrol, a 2015 Buick Lacrosse driven by Desiree De Leon, 34, of Muscatine was traveling northbound on Moscow Road and collided with a 2019 Ford F150 driven by Donald Gatzke, 61, of Atalissa, who was

Highway 6.

Police Reports

Muscatine County crash under investigation



Twitter: @WDAdvocateNews Facebook: WDAdvocateNews

Wilton

The following information was received from the office of the Wilton Police Department:

March 15-Police assisted the Wilton First Responders and the Durant Ambulance with a medical call at a residence within the 100 block of Cherry Street. The subject was transported by ambulance to an area hospital.

March 15—Police assisted a Muscatine County Deputy in an attempt to locate a male walking in the 3000 block of 110th Street. The male was located and transported by the deputy to Muscatine due to weather conditions.

March 15—Police took a report of a missing juvenile from Wilton.

March 15—Police performed a welfare check in the 500 block of East First Street.

March 15—Police performed a traffic stop in the 600 block of West Fifth Street for a violation that occurred in the 1000 block of West Third Street. A warning was issued.

March 15—Police performed a traffic stop in the 100 block of West Summit Street. A warning was issued for equipment.

March 15—Police performed a traffic stop in the 500 block of Chestnut Street for a vehicle with no plates. The vehicle was found to be purchased a week ago with appropriate documents.

March 15-Police followed up with a missing person report taken earlier. The investigation is ongoing.

March 16—Police were dispatched to Idle Hour Lanes to assist the Cedar County Sheriff's

March 16—Police responded to a subpoena for records referencing a civil matter.

March 16—Police followed up to an ongoing investigation.

March 16—Police observed three elementary aged kids climbing on the shelter at City Park. The officer handled the situation.

March 16—Police performed a business check in the 600 block of West Sixth Street.

March 16—Police received complaints of subjects causing a disturbance with a vehicle in the 500 block of West Sixth Street. Subjects were not being disruptive at the time of the complaint. The officer stayed in the area to observe.

March 16—Police performed a welfare check in the 100 block of East Wate Street. The subject was located and OK.

March 16—Police gave extra patrol at Wilton High School.

March 16—Police responded to reports of suspicious activity at Rose and Seminary streets. The occupants were found to be OK.

March 17—Police responded to a parking complaint in the 800 block of West Third

March 17—Police responded to a parking complaint in the 300 block of Cedar Street.

March 17—Police performed a vehicle unlock in the 100 block of East Fourth Street. March 17—Police gave extra patrol for vacationing residents.

March 17—Police responded to a disturbance at Elder Park. Police resolved the issue.

March 17—Police performed a business check in the 300 block of Cedar Street.

March 17—Police responded to a medical call in the 500 block of West Third Street. First Responders handled the call.

March 18—Police responded to a reported

burglary in the 100 block of South Vine Street. A report was taken and the incident remains under investigation.

March 18—Police responded to a broken down vehicle in the 700 block of West Fifth Street.

March 18—Police responded to reports of theft in the 100 block of Spruce Street. A report was taken.

March 19—Police were called to the 100 block of Spruce Street for a city report of fraudulent practice.

March 20—Police responded to a civil issue in the 500 block of East Fifth Street. Options

March 20—Police responded to a subject for removal call in the 100 block of East Fourth Street. The subject was identified and removed from the location.

March 20—Police responded to a city nuisance violation in the 300 block of Cypress Street. Residents were advised of the current city code.

March 20—Police performed extra patrol in the 300 block of Cedar Street.

March 20—Police performed a traffic stop

in the area of Fifth and Elm streets. A warning was issued for equipment.

March 21—Police responded to East Fifth and Cypress streets due to a two-vehicle crash. A vehicle in traffic struck a parked vehicle. Christopher L. Behal, 26 of Davenport, was arrested for operating while intoxicated and also charged with striking an unattended vehicle. Behal was taken into custody and transported to the Muscatine County Jail.

March 21—Police responded to a medical call in the 600 block of West Sixth Street. The call was handled by the Wilton First Responders.

March 21—Police were dispatched to a soliciting violation in the area of 311 West Sixth Street. Subjects were advised of the city ordinance and vacated the area.

Durant

The following information was received from the office of the Durant Police Department:

March 15—Police responded to a noise complaint in the 800 block of 11th Avenue. The officer handled the call.

March 15—Police performed a traffic stop between 11th Avenue and Fifth Street. Chad Lehman, of Wilton, was cited for speed and not having a valid driver's license.

March 15—Police performed a welfare check in the 800 block of Third Street.

March 15—Police conducted a traffic stop between Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street. A warning for a traffic violation was given.

March 15—Police performed a traffic stop between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street. A warning for a traffic violation was given.

March 16—Police responded to a business alarm in Durant.

March 16—Police responded to a motor vehicle collision at Jeff's Market. Information was exchanged.

March 16—Police responded to a nuisance/ abatement call in the 1200 block of Fifth Street. The officer handled the call.

March 16—Police assisted a resident who needed help off the floor in the 600 block of 13th Avenue.

March 16—Police responded to reports of

a burglary in the 1000 block of Fifth Street. A report was initiated.

March 16—Police responded to a dog at large in the 900 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 16—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue. March 16—Police assisted the Wilton

Police Department with a welfare check. March 16—Police responded to reports

of an open door between Fourth Street and Seventh Avenue.

March 17—Police had a meeting at the Durant School.

March 17—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 17—Police responded to Idle Hour Lanes for reports of a suspicious person/activity. The officer handled the call.

March 18—Police responded to the Durant Cemetery for reports of suspicious activity/ person. The officer handled the call.

March 18—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 18—Police assisted the Durant Ambulance with a medical call on Eighth

March 19—Police performed a vehicle inspection at the Durant Police Station for IDOT licensing requirements.

March 19—Police received a report of a phone scam in the 100 block of Fifth Avenue.

March 19—Police responded to criminal mischief in the 400 block of Second Street.

March 19—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 20—Police performed finger printing for a subject at the Durant Police Station. March 20—Police gave extra patrol at a

Durant residence. March 20—Police gave extra patrol at the

Community Center and performed a routine walk through. March 20—Police gave extra patrol in the

100 block of Eighth Street. March 20—Police gave extra patrol at

Casey's General Store. March 21—Police responded to a dog at

large in the 200 block of Eighth Avenue. March 21—Police performed a routine

walk through at Jeff's Market in Durant. March 21—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.



LEGAL NOTICES

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Special Session Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2020
The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 9:00 A.M. with Holliday, Sauer, Sorensen, Mather and Saucedo present. Chairperson Sorensen presid-

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the agenda

was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

Discussion was held regarding policies/procedures related to COVID-19. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber presented a draft policy for Board consideration. Sorensen stated the draft policy would close the Administration Building and Muscatine County Courthouse, as well as other outlying County offices, including Community Services, Secondary Roads and Zoning to the Public effective March 19, 2020 at 4:30 P.M. Sorensen stated the policy would have Muscatine County employees continue to report to work and provide County services available online, buy phone, or through mail or email or by appointment for urgent needs. Sorensen stated contact information for all County departments would be posted on doors as well as the website. Sorensen stated before being allowed to

access a building for an urgent need, a citizen would be asked screening questions about their health.

Discussion was held regarding how to hold Board of Supervisor meetings. Schreiber stated there are two options the Board can continue to meet in the Board room or use a program like Go To Meeting. Mather stated comments from the public could be done through written means like mail or email. County Attorney Alan Ostergren stated that would work as a public comment period is not required anyway. Sorensen asked the Board if it would make sense for the short term to have public comments limited to email or mail and read into the minutes. Mather stated anyone who had direct business with the Board could come in after being screened, but the rest would still have electronic access. Bill Riley stated Go To Meeting could be muted for people to be able to listen in to the meeting and then unmute if the person needs to make a comment. Sorensen stated the City of Muscatine is going to do electronic meetings.

Mather expressed concern about the ability for citizens to get license plates. County Treasurer Amy Zybarth stated the 30-day grace period has been extended to a 60-day grace period. Saucedo asked about social distancing for staff, cleaning by custodial staff and hand sanitizer for of-

fices. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated General Services is not responsible for social distancing in the various offices, but they are sanitizing once a day. Seright stated employees provide their own tissues and hand sanitizer, but if an employee is sick, General Services will typically go into the department and deep clean the office. Schreiber reported legislation was signed last night to reimburse employers for employees on sick leave due COVID-19 Sorensen stated most counties are work as usual unless sick. Schreiber stated department heads should be left with the flexibility to determine non-essential employees and allowing them to take vacation, sick leave, etc. Information Services Director Bill Riley stated there is limited access to laptops, webcams and microphones, but the County does have 25 remote access licenses. In response to a question from Saucedo, Ostergren stated they are still enforcing laws, but are careful about how they use jail resources to protect the public and the jail at the same time.

Schreiber asked for direction regarding Board of Supervisor meetings. Board consensus was to still hold the meetings in the Board room, but broadcast them live on You Tube and only allow public to communicate by phone or email unless they have an item on the agenda. Mather

requested a standing agenda item on every meeting until further notice on whether to continue, alter or discontinue the COVID-19 policy. Mather stated he wants the COVID-19 policy placed on the County website and would also like to

see the policy run in an ad on the radio and in the newspaper.
Riley stated he will look into pricing of a Go To or Zoom
meeting in case the County needs it in the future. Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas asked about holding Zoning Board meetings. Sorensen stated since there are none until April, Furnas can determine whether to hold the meetings or look into alternatives for holding the meetings.

On a motion by Mather, second by Saucedo, the Board

approved the COVID-19 policy as presented with screening questions. Ayes: All.

Saucedo asked about big projects like the construction of the new maintenance facility. Sorensen stated the Board will be dealing with Mike Nolan electronically. Sorensen stated the general contractor has taken steps to limit the number of subcontractors on premises and providing sanitizing systems throughout the facility.

systems throughout the tacılıty.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson

Board of Supervisors



LEGAL NOTICES

Durant Municipal Electric Plant Regular Meeting March 11, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Durant Municipal Electric Plant met in regular session at the Durant Municipal Electric Plant Building. Chairperson, David Krohn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Krohn & Paustian, Trustees Absent:

Head, DMEP employees: Joel Meincke, Superintendent, Tami Allison General Manager, & Koby Lund. Also Present: Kim Belitz from Liberty Insurance & Heith Hocken-

berry from Jester Insurance
Public Comments: There were no public comments.
Superintendent's Report: Joel updated the board members on the daily operations of the month with several items being discussed.

items being discussed.

Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting Minutes held February 12, 2020: A motion was made by Trustee Krohn, seconded by Trustee Paustian, to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held on February 12,2020 as written. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

EMC Representative Property & Liability Insurance: Kim Relitz & Haith Hockenberry attended the meeting to

Kim Belitz & Heith Hockenberry attended the meeting to review with the board our Property and Liability Insurance. Heith discussed the program advantages, program dividends, equipment breakdown policy, cyber liability policy and went through our coverage and premium compari-

Update on building plans: Joel reviewed with the board the building plans to date but not complete that were prepared by Townsend Engineering.

Discuss Potential Development – Industrial Park: Brief

discussion was held on potential development in the industrial park.

Health Insurance: Discussion was held for clarification

on the employee health insurance.
Possible Change April Board Meeting: After discussion it was decided to leave the date of the April Board

Meeting on the regular date, April 8, 2020. Review Energy Cost Adjustment: After review of the documents prepared, a motion was made by Trustee Paustian, seconded by Trustee Krohn, to not add an energy cost adjustment to the April 1 bills. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

Approval of Disbursements: On a motion by Trustee Paustian, seconded by Trustee Krohn, warrants numbered 17060 through and to include number 17090 were approved. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

There being no further business to come before the

board, a motion was made by Trustee Krohn, seconded by Trustee Paustian, to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Motion carried by a 2-0 vote.

David Krohn, Chairman of the Board Tami Allison, General Manager

DURANT MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC CLAIMS REPORT AED FIRST RESPONSE 4 SETS AED PADS/1..

BATTERY KIT.. .415.90 AVENUE RENTAL CHIPPER RENTAL428.00 CARDMEMBER SERVICE 2020 eSCREEN ENROLL-.. MENT/OFFICE SUPPLIES737.45 CITY OF DURANT CITY WATER. . 138.52 CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING BOTTLED... WATER... .40.06

DURANT POSTMASTER ANNUAL BOX RENT/700 ... POSTCARD STAMPS..... 309 00 EFTPS FED/FICA TAX6.053.47 FLETCHER-REINHARDT CO SQUIRREL.....

.1,438.42 GUARD. IITI TAYLOR INSULATION INC ASBESTOS REMOVAL. PLANT... .4.800.00 IOWA ASSN MUNI UTILITIES EIASSO DUES MARCH-

.. 272.72 IPAIT JANUARY PURCHASE POWER..... 63,217.07 IPERS IPERS ..3,744.32

LIBERTY TRUST & SAVINGS MARCH MTU... PAYMENT..... 6,955.45 PAPERS LUMBER & SUPPLY CO PLANT...... 65.90

MAINTENANCE MATERIALS PRICE OIL COMPANY TRUCK FUEL. .204.18 RELIABLE NETWORK SOLUTION MARCH NETWORK MANAGEMENT..... S J SMITH CO ACETYLENE/OXYGEN.. 18 62

SINCLAIR TRACTOR CHAIN SAW412.04 TREASURER CEDAR CODIRT VAC TRAILER LICENSE FEES/DUMP TRAILER RENEWAL344.00

TREASURER STATE OF IA01 STATE TAX 1,170.00 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA FEBRUARY SALES. ...4,023.00 U.S. CELLULAR CELL PHONES. ... 266.88

WELLMARK INC MARCH EMPLOYEE HEALTH6,181.09 WENDLING QUARRIES INC. MANSAND321.19 WILTON/DURANT ADVOCATE FEBRUARY MEETING.

WINDSTREAM BASIC/LONG DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE .. 413.31

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TOTAL......102,636.54

Date of Hearing:

4/8/20

Re-est. 2020

Time of Hearing:

5:15PM

Actual 2019

Avg %19

21

Department of Management - Form S-PB-6

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Wilton School Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Budget 2021

Location of Public Hearing: Jr/Sr Media Center, Wilton Comm School District, 1002

Cypress Street

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2020/21 school budget at the above-noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections

o, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Duuget 2021	110 0511 2020	Actual 2017	
Taxes Levied on Property	1	3,974,397	3,889,547	3,676,950	4.09
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	54,096	54,942	122,034	-33.49
Income Surtaxes	3	235,888	269,464	188,343	11.99
Tuition\Transportation Received	4	795,000	765,000	757,578	
Earnings on Investments	5	160,000	140,895	118,619	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	275,900	247,000	245,310	
Student Activities and Sales	7	404,900	369,050	338,857	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	1,540,350	1,606,150	1,325,076	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	0	
State Foundation Aid	10	5,805,662	5,568,201	5,343,894	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	28,194	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	1,009,600	936,055	911,737	
Commercial & Industrial State Replacement	13	78,970	66,598	75,856	
Title 1 Grants	14	110,000	85,000	84,724	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	315,000	300,500	320,205	
Total Revenues	16	14,787,957	14,298,402	13,509,183	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	2,000,000	0	
Transfers In	18	1,471,800	1,003,000	504,088	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	4,000	5,000	1,893	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	517,416	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	16,263,757	17,306,402	14,532,580	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	8,098,514	5,269,356	5,321,841	
Total Resources	23	24,362,271	22,575,758	19,854,421	
				, ,	
*Instruction	24	9,640,500	7,410,975	7,156,201	16.19
Student Support Services	25	384,900	202,800	191,827	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	726,200	559,200	553,849	
General Administration	27	443,800	342,350	334,291	
School Administration	28	520,700	406,730	395,642	
Business & Central Administration	29	671,300	430,290	406,935	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	1,441,300	1,058,700	1,037,677	
Student Transportation	31	571,400	391,953	286,048	
This row is intentionally left blank	32	0	0	0	
*Total Support Services (lines 25-32)	32A	4,759,600	3,392,023	3,206,269	21.8
*Noninstructional Programs	33	924,900	610,950	688,648	15.9
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	34	3,418,550	481,120	943,786	150000
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	35	1,415,570	1,184,524	1,185,559	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	36	400,765	360,752	349,157	
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 34-36)	36A	5,234,885	2,026,396	2,478,502	45.3
Total Expenditures	37	20,559,885	13,440,344	13,529,620	:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
Transfers Out	38	1,471,800	1,036,900	504,088	
Other Uses	39	0	0	551,357	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	40	22,031,685	14,477,244	14,585,065	
Ending Fund Balance	41	2,330,586	8,098,514	5,269,356	
Total Requirements	42	24,362,271	22,575,758	19,854,421	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable	1	,,2 / 1	, , , , , , ,	,1,121	
valuation)	ı	14.78074			
· 		1 , 50 / 1			

Wilton Municipal Light and Power Regular Meeting Minutes March 17, 2019

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Light & Power System of the City of Wilton, Iowa, met in regular session at the Light Plant Office at 7:00 p.m. on the 17th day of

Chairman Janney called the meeting to order, and the following Trustees were present Hartman & Hunter. Absent: Jasperson. Also present Dave Mohr from Eastern Iowa Light

Trustee Hunter made a motion to add annual insurance renewal to the agenda, Trustee Hartman seconded. Vote: Ayes: All. Motion carried

Trustee Said arrived at 7:10pm

Dave Mohr from Eastern Iowa Light & Power talked about model home rebate. Eastern Iowa is requesting to share rebate with Wilton Light & Power. Trustee Hunter made a motion to share rebate with Eastern Iowa Light & Power,

Trustee Said seconded. Vote: Ayes: All. Motion carried.
Trustee Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes from the last regular meeting, Trustee Said seconded. Vote: Ayes: All. Motion carried.

After a review of the February disbursements, Trustee Hunter made a motion to approve Trustee Hartman seconded. Vote: Ayes: All. Motion carried.

The Board approved the annual insurance renewal from

White Pigeon.
The Chairman announced that this was the time and date set for public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget as published in the Advocate News.

The Chairman asked if there were any written or oral

Whereupon, the Chairman declared the time for receiving oral and written objections to be closed. The proposed fiscal year 2020-2021 budget was then presented to the Board. After due consideration Trustee Said introduced "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021" and moved the same be adopted. Trustee Hunter seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: All, whereupon the Chairman declared

the Resolution No. 03172020 duly adopted.

Manager Smith discussed and updated the Board of several ongoing items.

There being no other business, Trustee Hunter made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Said seconded.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Secretary to the Board of Trustees Sarah Grace

Advanced Business Systems, semi-annual	
contract	\$299.55
Advocate News, publishing, subscription	
renewal	\$207.70
Aetna, employees health	\$11,824.59
Aflac, supplemental ins	\$38.04
Arnold Motor Supply, oil filter	\$22.95
Auditor of the State, auditor filing fee	\$175.00
Avesis, vision	\$142.70
Jenny Brisker, cleaning	\$120.00
Chemsearch, shop supplies	\$376.40
City of Wilton, utilities, unapplied credits	\$1,206.53
Eastern Iowa Light & Power, purchased power	er, fuse
holder	\$108,573.02
Energy Pioneer Solutions, zero out account .	\$1,752.24
Ervin's, boiler repair, water softner ball valve	\$5,130.02
Fletcher-Reinhardt, marker flags	\$125.53
GIS Benefits	\$217.68
HDC, billing envelopes	\$1,522.44
Integrated Technology, monthly backup	\$167.70
Internal Revenue Service	\$6,878.22
Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, safety	
dues	\$384.03
lpers	\$4,572.99
Jeff's, office supplies	\$21.47
MidAmerican Energy, gas service	\$426.10
Phelps Uniform Specialists, mat service	\$108.02

Treasurer State of Iowa, withholding tax \$5,991.00

EMC, ins renewal\$47,891.00

SALARIES\$19,860.19

Price Oil Co Inc., fuel.....

US Cellular, cell phone serv

Wellmark, dental ins

LIGHT DEPOSITS REFUNDED.....

TOTAL BILLS

TOTAL

TRANSFER

Visa, plant & operating supplies

Wilton Community School District Work Session Minutes March 19, 2020

.. \$286.69

...\$183.47

... \$393.66

.....\$25,000.00

.\$770.44

.\$600.00

..\$245.631.77

On March 19, 2020 at 5:10 P.M., the Wilton Community School Board of Directors met in the Jr/Sr Media Center for the purpose of a work session. Present were: Linda Duncan, Jeremy Lies (via telephone conference), Rob Metzger, and Tara Oien. Absent: Tim Barrett. Also present were Superintendent Joe Burnett, School Business Official/ Board Treasurer Staci Owens-Kirkman, Jr/Sr High School Principal Marc Snavely, and Elementary Principal Denise Austin.

The work session began with a discussion of the CO-VID-19 virus and how it is impacting the Wilton Community School District as well as other school districts. Superintendent Burnett stated that he had met with the administrators to plan a course of action for the next four weeks and how to move forward from this point. Elementary Principal Denise Austin shared plans for staff workdays, student learning and resources available for the elementary students during this time. Jf/Sr High Principal Marc Snavely informed the Board that he has been in contact with the various travel companies to inquire about refunds for the various student trips that had been scheduled and now cancelled due to the concerns of the COVID-19 virus. He also shared a plan of action for the next four weeks. Plans for the various spring activities such as sports, prom, graduation, etc. remain on the school calendar as planned but there are many unknowns at this point which may cause cancellation of activities

School Business Official/Board Treasurer Staci Owens-Kirkman presented the 2020-2021 proposed budget with Board member Jeremy Lies exited from the meeting at

6:20 P.M. There being no other business, the work session was adjourned at 6:33 P.M.

President, Board of Directors Secretary, Board of Directors

Wilton Community School District Vendor Totals Report by Fund 02/01/2020 – 02/29/2020

GENERAL FUND ADVOCATE NEWS LEGAL NOTICES PRINTED. 109.40 BMOMC 0459-GASOHOL 2 DISTRICT GASOHOL 42.32 BMOMC 0467-GASOHOL 3 DISTRICT GASOHOL 84.20 BMOMC 2231-CENTRAL OFFICE PAYMENT FOR. GOODS & SERVICES17.501.24 BMOMC 3244-D AUSTIN SAI SCHOOL LAW REG...110.00 FEE-DA..... BMOMC 3269-GASOHOL 1 DISTRICT GASOHOL..... .387.21 BMOMC 3293-TRAVEL 2 DORIAN FESTIVAL HOTEL/ .. GASOHOL.... ... 415.93 BMOMC 3327-TRAVEL 5 CCIRA RDG CONF.. BMOMC 3343-MAINTENANCE PAYMENT FOR GOODS & SERVICES..... BMOMC 3350-TRANSPORTATION BUS PARTS/. SUPPLIES/GASOHOL..... BMOMC 3368-GEN PURCH 1 CLASSROOM...... SUPPLIES... 34 91 BMOMC 3374-TECHNOLOGY PAYMENT FOR GOODS & SERVICES..... 27,001.33 BMOMC 4006-TRAVEL 1 SCIENCE BOWL HOTEL/ .. DISTRICT GASOHOL..... ... 164.07 BMOMC 5064-ACT FUND 6 DISTRICT..... GASOHOL..... .. 81.11 BMOMC 6847-VEHICLE REPAIR VEHICLE CAR 18.00 BMOMC4144-MARC SNAVLEY SAI LAW CONF REG 110.00 CAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPEN. ENROLLMENT TUITION/TLC..... CENTERPOINT ENERGY SERVICES RETAIL, LLC..... PK-12 BLDG NATURAL GAS..... . 4.274.87 CENTURY LINK DISTRICT LONG DISTANCE PHONE.. SVC CHAPMAN CPA PC, KAY FY19 AUDIT FIELD WORK. CMPLTN.... .. 7,500.00 CITY OF WILTON DISTRICT ELECTRIC/SEWER/ 13.084.51

WATER/GARBAGE..... CLAYTON RIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.... OPEN ENROLL/SPED TUITION/TLC.......29,724.06 DURANT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 1ST SEM.. SHARED TUIT/OE/TLC/ 77,270.22

ERVINS INCORPORATED PLUMB/ELEC..... PARTS..... GENESIS HEALTH SYSTEMS EAP PRGM FFFS .316.25 GETZ FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY ANNUAL. KITCHEN HOOD INSPECTION...... . 183.00

......108,005.65

EBS HEALTH INSURANCE/FLEX SPENDING ...

HEARTLAND FIRE SECURITY ANNUAL FIRE ALARM.. INSPECTION700.00 IA DIVISION OF LABOR- ELEVATOR SAFTEY ELEVA-TOR/CHAIR LIFT INSPECTION FEES......565.00 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

MEDICAID STATE PORTION16,192.54 ISFIS INC BACKGROUND CHECKS......28.50 IT SAVVY LLC TECH CHROMEBOOK/ANTIVIRUS.... SOFTWARE1,305.00 JOURNEY ED COMPUTER SOFTWARE.

KELLIWEST EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LLC ELEM...

STAFF PD700.00 LYNCH DALLAS, PC FY19 AUDIT LETTER... MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC PRINTER/COPIER CHRGS

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY BUS BARN... NATURAL GAS 180.20 MISSISSIPPI BEND AEA 9 BUS DRIVER TRAINING/... PRINTER..... .. 286.50 MUSCATINE COMM SCHOOL DISTRICT 1ST SEM ...

OPEN ENROLL TUIT/TLC/HSAP TUIT...... 43,434.38 MUSCATINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 28E/CON-.... CURRENT ENROLLMENT TUIT/BKS 47,345.80 NUTRITION FUND PK SNACKS/MILK

PATTERSON, MARK WELLNESS SHOE REIMB .. 25.00 PEPSI COLA BOTTLING CO OF DAVENPORT KICK-START/POP/TEA/CREDITS.... .284.05 PETTY CASH WCSD CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER...

.. 25.00 TICKET-JB REINHART FOODS FLOOR CLEANER66.30 RIVER VALLEY COOPERATIVE PREM BUS DYED... DIESEL. ...332.96

RMS VISUAL DESIGNS/ROBERT STRUNKS.... MARCHING BAND DRILL DESIGN SELF INSURANCE FUND DENTAL/VISION.

TIPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OPEN ... ENROLL/TLC TUITION..... TS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONSULTING, LLC.

J/S AIW PD QTRLY FEE WTC COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT PHONE..... SVC..... Total:.

MANAGEMENT FUND HEARTLAND FIRE SECURITY LIGHTNING DMG. CLAIM777.60

Total:... **DEBT SERVICES FUND** UMB BANK REVENUE BOND PAYING AGENT...

FEES.....1.000.00 LOSST CAPITAL PROJECTS MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE HS GYM LOBBY/

CONC ARCHITECT FEES TERRACON CONSULTANTS INC SUBSURFACE REPORT-HS LOBBY/CONC ADDITION...... 4,200.00 .. 72,362.00

LOCAL OPTION SALES/SERVICE TAX BMOMC 0045-GEN PURCH 4 INTERNET.. SERVICE DRAKE, DONALD BATHROOM TRIM-MULTIPURPOSE

BLDG.... HEARTLAND FIRE SECURITY CARD CONTROL ACCESS-MULTIPURPOSE BLDG1,465.00 WTC COMMUNICATIONS BUS BARN INTERNET...

2,558.93

LEGAL NOTICES

Probate

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
CEDAR COUNTY
Probate No. ESPR019303
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF
APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Judy Kay Oyesen.

Judy Kay Ovesen,
Deceased.
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Judy Kay
Ovesen, Deceased, who died on or about February 22,

You are hereby notified that on the 23rd day of March, 2020, the last will and testament of Judy Kay Ovesen, deceased, bearing date of the 18th day of November, 2014, * was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Susan Lynn Suhr was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated this 23rd day of March 2020.

Susan Lynn Suhr 2020 East 59th St. Davenport, IA 52807 **Executor of estate**

* Designate Codicil(s) if any, with date(s). Jordan A. Kaplan, ICIS#: AT0009818 Attorney for Executor Betty, Neuman & McMahon, PLC 1900 E. 54th St. Davenport, IA 52807 Date of second publication 2nd day of April 2020.

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2020
The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Holliday, Sauer, Sorensen and Saucedo present. Mather was absent. Chairperson Sorensen presiding

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the agenda was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

was approved as presented. Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson
Sorensen at 9:00 A.M. on the proposed Fiscal Year 20/21
Muscatine County Budget. Henry Marquard, 108 Eagle
Watch Road, Muscatine, asked if the County Board was prepared to increase services due to COVID-19. Sorensen responded yes. No one spoke for or against the proposed budget. On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the public hearing was closed at 9:02 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes:

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board approved Resolution #03-16-20-01 Approving Fiscal Year 20/21 Elected Officials Salaries. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #03-16-20-01 APPROVAL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FISCAL YEAR 20/21 SALARIES WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Compensation Board

meets annually to recommend a compensation schedule for elected officials for the fiscal year immediately following, in accordance with lowa Code Chapters 331.905 and 331.907;

 $WHEREAS, the \, Muscatine \, County \, Compensation \, Board$ met on February 27, 2020 and made the following salary recommendations for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020

RESOLUTION #03-16-20-02 ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020/21 COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors conducted a public hearing on March 16, 2020, where citizens of Muscatine County were invited to comment on the Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget, as duly published according

to Section 331.434(2) of the Code of Iowa; and WHEREAS, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors appreciates comments from the citizens and encourages all citizens to be informed and participate in county government.

NOW. THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors that the Fiscal Year 2020/21 County budget is adopted as per the Proposed County Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 2020/21.

PASSED and APPROVED this 16th day of March, 2020. /s/Leslie A. Soule, Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:28 A.M. on proposed amendments to the FY19/20 Muscatine County Budget. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright reviewed the proposed amendments with the Board. No one spoke for or against the proposed budget amendments. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:29 A.M. Roll call vote:

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board approved Resolution #03-16-20-03 Amending the Fiscal

Year 19/20 Budget. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #03-16-20-03

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019/20 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has held a Public

Hearing pursuant to Chapter 331, Code of Iowa, to amend the Fiscal Year 2019/20 County Budget; and

WHEREAS, the explanation is increased expenditures and revenues during the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, after consideration of all comments at said hearing, the Board of Supervisors has determined that it will be necessary to amend the Fiscal Year 2019/20 budget;

WHEREAS, the amendment does not increase the taxes to be collected in the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020; THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the following service area expenditures and revenues of the

Fiscal Year 2019/20 County Budget be amended: PUBLIC SAFETY & LEGAL SERVICES expenditures increased by \$518,067 PHYSICAL HLTH & SOCIAL SERVICES expenditures

increased by \$120,711 MENTAL HEALTH expenditures increased by COUNTY ENVIRONMENT expenditures increased by

\$39,875 ROADS & TRANSPORTATION expenditures increased by \$885,000 GOV'T SERVICES TO RESIDENTS expenditures increased

by \$0 ADMINISTRATION expenditures increased by NONPROGRAM expenditures increased by

CAPITAL PROJECTS expenditures increased by \$2,725,549 DEBT SERVICE expenditures increased by \$4,331,702

INTERGOVERNMENTAL revenues increased by \$1,033,575 CHARGES FOR SERVICES revenues increased by LICENSES & PERMITS revenues increased by USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY revenues increased by

\$150,000 MISCELLANEOUS revenues increased by \$47,000 PROCEEDS OF FIXED ASSET SALES increased by \$0 LONG TERM DEBT PROCEEDS increased by \$45,758 \$1,229,333

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of March,

/s/Leslie A. Soule, Muscatine County Auditor /s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board
approved Resolution #03-16-20-04 FY19/20 Budget Appropriations. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.
RESOLUTION #03-16-20-04

FY 2019/20 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Elected Official	Current Salary	Proposed Increase	Recommended Salary
Auditor	\$72,805	4.0%	\$75,717
County Attorney	\$135,737	4.0%	\$141,166
Recorder	\$72,805	4.0%	\$75,717
Sheriff	\$110,200	4.0%	\$114,608
Supervisors	\$28,177*	4.0%	\$29,304
Treasurer	\$72,805	4.0%	\$75,717

*Plus \$2,500 for Board Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors approves the following salary adjustments for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020:

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held pursuant to Section 331.434(6), Code of lowa, regarding proposed increases in expenditure amounts for Fiscal Year 2019/20:

WHEREAS, the amendment does not increase the taxes to be collected in the Fiscal Year ending June 30,

Elected Official	Approved Salary	Approved Increase
Auditor	\$75,717	4.0%
County Attorney	\$141,166	7.0%
Recorder	\$75,717	4.0%
Sheriff	\$114,608	4.0%
Supervisors	\$28,177*	4.0%
Treasurer	\$75.717	4.0%

Plus \$2,500 for Board Chair and \$1,500 for Vice-Chair. APPROVED this 16th day of March, 2020. /s/Leslie A. Soule, Muscatine County Auditor
/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Saucedo stated he has had multiple requests regarding amending the budget to include funding for Special Olympics and proposed removing \$20,000 from MCSA and transferring it to Special Olympics. Budget Administrator Sherry Seright stated there is an impact to cutting the MCSACase Manager. Community Services Director Felicia Toppert stated if money to the MCSA Case Manager is cut, case coordination will go down and shelter expenses will ao up. Sorensen stated the County must provide housing for someone who becomes homeless short term and the Case Manager was added several years ago to help coordinate cases, so there would be fewer needing to go into the shelter. In response to a question from Sauer, Toppert stated she would take the \$20,000 from DHS. Seright stated the funding would have to come out of Service Area 3 with another option being to take it from Unity Public Health for their new Diabetes Coordinator position. Saucedo stated he is open to cutting it out of DHS. Sorensen suggested \$10,000 from DHS and \$10,000 out of Unity Public Health. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Holliday, the Board approved reducing \$10,000 from Unity Public Health and \$10,000 from DHS and adding \$20,000 of funding to Special Olympics. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board approved Resolution #03-16-20-02 Adopting the Fiscal Year 20/21 County Budget as amended. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

2020: and

WHEREAS, all comments from the public have been

THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED that the following

amounts be appropriated as follows:	· ·
01 Board/Administration	0
02 Auditor	Ō
03 Treasurer	0
04 Attorney	11,000
05 Sheriff	83,897
06 Jail	285,270
07 Recorder	0
20 Engineer	885,000
22 Conservation Board	8,000
24 DHS	0
25 Community Services	110,711
28 Medical Examiner	87,900
30 Court Services	50,000
31 Board of Health	10,000
51 General Services	42,500
52 Information Services	0
53 Zoning	0
60 Mental Health Administration	0
99 Nondepartmental	2,757,424
00 Nonprogram	<u></u>
	\$4,331,702

It is further resolved that all appropriations made pursuant to this RESOLUTION lapse at the close of business on

June 30, 2020.

Passed and approved this 16th day of March, 2020. /s/Leslie A. Soule, Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson
Sorensen at 9:33 A.M. for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$750,000 for the purpose of financing an expansion of the booking area at the Muscatine County Jail. No one spoke against the loan agreement. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:34 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:34 A.M. for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$600,000 for the purpose of financing insulation of the exterior walls at the Muscatine County Jail. No one spoke against the loan agreement. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:34 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:34 A.M. for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the purpose of financing replacement of the hot water system at the Muscatine County Jail. No one spoke against the loan agreement. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer the public hearing was closed at 9:35 A.M. Roll call vote

A Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson Sorensen at 9:35 A.M. for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$450,000 for the purpose of financing roof replacement of the Muscatine County Attorney Building and update the façade of the Muscatine County Administration and County Attorney Buildings. No one spoke against the loan agreement. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the public hearing was closed at 9:35 A.M. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Board approved Resolution #03-16-20-05 Expressing Intent to Enter Into a Loan Agreement and Providing for the Levy of Taxes. Roll call vote: Ayes: All.

RESOLUTION #03-16-20-05 EXPRESSING INTENT TO ENTER INTO LOAN AGREEMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF **TAXES**

WHEREAS, Sections 331.402 and 331.441 of the Code of lowa authorize counties to enter into loan agreements and borrow money for the purpose of financing improvements and repairs to County buildings; and WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") of

Muscatine County, lowa (the "County"), has proposed to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$750,000, for the purpose of expanding the booking area in the County Jail (the "Jail Booking Area Loan Agreement"), and has published a notice and held a hearing on that proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$600,000, for the purpose of insulating the exterior walls of the County Jail (the "Jail Insulation Loan Agreement"), and has published a notice and held a hearing on that proposal;

WHEREAS, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$200,000, for the purpose of updating and replacing the hot water system in the County Jail (the "Jail Hot Water System Loan Agreement"), and has published a notice and held a hearing on that proposal; and WHEREAS, the Board has also proposed to enter

into a loan agreement in a principal amount not to exceed \$450,000, for the purpose of replacing the roof on the County Attorney building and updating the façade of the County Attorney Building and the Administration Building (the "County Attorney and Administration Buildings Loan Agreement"), and has published a notice and held a hearing on that proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends to issue a General Obligation County Building Improvements Note in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 (the "Note") in the future in evidence of the obligation of the County under the loan agreements; and
WHEREAS, the Board has been advised that, because

principal and interest will come due on the Note before June 30, 2021, it is necessary for the Board to make provision for the levy of a debt service property tax to be collected in the fiscal year that will begin July 1, 2020 for the payment of such principal and interest; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board

of Supervisors of Muscatine County, Iowa, as follows

The Board Section 1. hereby expresses its intent to enter into the Jail Booking Area Loan Agreement, the Jail Insulation Loan Agreement, the Jail Hot Water System Loan Agreement and the County Attorney and Administration Buildings Loan Agreement in the future and declares that this action complies with the provisions of Sections 331.402 and 331.441 of the Code of lowa

Section 2 For the purpose of providing for the levy and collection of a direct nnual tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Note, there is hereby ordered levied on all the taxable property in the County a direct annual tax for collection in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, sufficient to produce the amount of \$260,000.

A certified copy of Section 3. this resolution shall be filed with the County Auditor, and the County Auditor is hereby instructed to enter for collection and assess the tax hereby authorized. When entering such taxes for collection, the County Auditor shall include the same as a part of the tax levy for Debt Service Fund purposes of the County and when collected, the proceeds of the taxes shall be converted into the Debt Service Fund of the County and set aside therein as a special account to be used solely and only for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Note.

Section 4. All resolutions or parts thereof in

conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such

PASSED AND APPROVED this 16th day of March,

/s/Leslie A. Soule, Muscatine County Auditor

/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson **Muscatine County Board of Supervisors**

Discussion was held with County Engineer Keith White and Conservation Director Curt Weiss regarding issues related to maintenance of trails in rural Muscatine County. Sorensen stated there is a trail through the City of Muscatine down to Deep Lakes Park that was put in by a grant and asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the trails Weiss stated the Conservation Board took general daily maintenance of the County portion between Kent Stein Park and Deep Lakes Park as well as within Discovery Park. Weiss stated the City of Muscatine is liable if a trail breaks up because they are the grant holders. White stated the County cannot spend Secondary Road funds for trails per code. White stated the G28 portion that has the large bump is in the County, but the County never accepted that portion of the trail and the City is responsible for maintaining it. Saucedo stated the City knew that trail was not installed well and they had discussion about possibly setting up a maintenance fund for the trails. Saucedo suggested asking the City of Muscatine how they propose maintaining the trails Weiss stated the trails are being used and a major one in the County will be from Deep Lakes Park down to Louisa County, but that has been put on hold by the Conservation Board. Weiss stated the more trails are added, the more there is to maintain. Sorensen stated he supports the trails, but is concerned about how to maintain them. Saucedo asked Weiss to gather some maintenance cost information. Weiss stated the biggest cost is not in the general maintenance of the trail, but it gets costly when damage happens.

Discussion was held regarding a proposed letter to

the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region rescinding Muscatine County's withdrawal from the Region. Henry Marquard, 108 Eagle Watch Road, Muscatine, stated the earlier letter was accepted by the Region, so he feels the Region would have to rescind acceptance of the previous letter of withdrawal. Sorensen stated Muscatine County is still part of the Region because the Region has never amended the 28E Agreement. Sorensen stated the budget portion is fairly straight forward, the bigger decision will be what services will be offered with the shortfall in funding Community Services Director Felicia Toppert stated the Region would be better off with fewer cuts if Muscatine County is accepted back into the Region. Marquard suggested the Board put forward a considerable amount of diplomacy to smooth over the last few months of discussions. On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Chairperson was authorized to sign a letter to the Eastern Iowa Mental Health/Disability Services Region rescinding its withdrawal from the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region, as set forth in a letter dated November 4, 2019. Ayes: All.

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met as a

Board of Canvassers in order to canvas the West Liberty School Revenue Purpose Statement Special Election Public Measure Aheld Tuesday, March 3, 2020 for which Muscatine is the control county. The Board of Canyassers certified the following results to be a true and correct abstract of the votes cast in the election with Cedar County votes included: Yes Votes: 72; No Votes: 10; Total Votes: 82. Public Measure A is adopted.

On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the Chairperson to sign Statement of Election Costs for the March 3, 2020 West Liberty School Revenue Purpose Statement Special Election. Ayes: All.
On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, minutes

of the March 9, 2020 regular meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Holliday, the Board acted to document an amendment to the March 9, 2020 minutes to reflect that the Eligibility Support Specialist position, Grade 9 was approved and the current employee was placed at Grade 9, Step 7. Ayes: all. Correspondence:

Santos reported correspondence regarding a joint city/ county meeting over drainage concerns.
Santos, Sorensen, Sauer and Holliday reported emails

regarding funding of the Special Olympics.

Holliday reported a call from Elsie Paul regarding utilities

located in her ditch and a power line on her property. Committee Reports:

Holliday attended a Muscatine County Safety Committee meeting March 4th.

Sauer attended performance reviews for MAGIC March 9th

Sorensen attended a Regional Workforce Board meeting March 11th.

Saucedo attended WeLead meetings on March 11th and March 13th.

County Auditor Leslie Soule showed the Board two retractable banners commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote which were given to the County by the lowa Secretary of State. Soule stated the banners are easily transported and available for groups to display at events such as voter registration drives, temporary display at libraries, etc. Interested groups may contact the Auditor's Office to request use of the banners. Soule stated the banners will be placed in the Administration Building

the sidewalk. Planning and Zoning Administrator Eric Furnas stated he attended another meeting of a group of landowners on the high voltage transmission lines and he believes things are getting worked out. Furnas stated Muscatine Power and Water has worked very hard to address the concerns of the property owners.

front windows after the meeting for citizens to view from

Furnas stated two bills passed the legislature regarding zoning issues and have been forwarded to the Governor. Furnas stated lowa Zoning Officials have worked hard to slow it down in the Governor's Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson Board of Supervisors

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Deadline: Thursday, 11 a.m.

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Beautiful scenic land. \$6,522/ A. Dennis REDUCED: 73 A +/- On N. Utah in Davenport. Mostly tillable. 78 Avg. CSR2, \$9.902/A. Make offer, Dennis

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Hy-Vee announces temporary store changes amid COVID-19

WEST DES MOINES — Hy-Vee, Inc. announces that due to evolving concerns regarding novel coronavirus COVID-19, it is adapting the ways in which it serves customers to ensure they receive the products they need while keeping customers, employees and communities healthy and safe.

STORE HOURS: Starting Wednesday, March 18, Hy-Vee stores will close at 8 p.m. Until further notice, Hy-Vee's new store hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. These shortened hours will allow employees additional time to clean and sanitize all areas of the store, as well as restock the items in highest demand. Operating with shorter hours also will allow employees additional time to care for their families and loved ones.

CONVENIENCE STORES: All Hy-Vee convenience stores will continue to operate under their normal hours at this time. Customers can continue to purchase snacks, fuel and other items at these locations.

DINING AREAS: All dining areas in all Hy-Vee stores, restaurants and convenience stores are now closed to the public. Food service areas will still operate during their normal hours, offering freshly prepared meal options for carry-out only. Also, all bars inside Hv-Vee Market Grille locations have been closed until further notice.

HY-VEE AISLES ONLINE: For Hy-Vee

Aisles Online customers, deliveries will now be made by third-party partners like Shipt and Door Dash (where available) in order to help in-store employees focus on pickup orders and other needs at the stores. Hy-Vee Aisles Online customers may find that their preferred delivery or pickup time isn't available at the moment due to increased demand. During this very unusual time, Hy-Vee is asking customers who are able to do so to shop in stores so that the available Hy-Vee Aisles Online timeslots can be used for those who are unable to shop for themselves or have been advised by health care professionals to limit their public expo-

CORPORATE AD: For the time being, Hy-Vee is suspending its weekly corporate advertising circular that is distributed to all stores and found in many local newspapers. Due to the current high demand for many products, suppliers are unable to guarantee the fulfillment of certain products. This makes it difficult to determine in advance which products can be advertised in print publications. Customers are also encouraged to check Hy-Vee's social media pages and Hy-VeeDeals. com for the company's latest sales during this

"This is an unprecedented situation for all of us. We've never dealt with anything like this before, and we know our customers haven't either. We appreciate their patience and loyalty as we navigate these changing times," said Randy Edeker, Hy-Vee's chairman, CEO and president. "We are committed to doing all

we can to keep our customers and employees healthy and safe, and to being the helpful smile in every aisle that is needed during this time."

WTC announces new procedures

In keeping with our commitment to safely and reliably deliver the communications services our customers expect, WTC is responding and preparing to ensure we'll continue to be here for you as COVID-19 affects a growing number of people.

We've experienced emergencies in the past, continually prepare for them, and have a strong track record of ensuring our community has the services they need in times of crisis. In an effort to continue to meet customer needs, here are some things that are changing:

Lobby use: Our lobby will be closed as of Wednesday, March 18 at 8 a.m. The drop box is always open.

Please call us at 563 732 3000 or email to general@wtccommunications.com for more information.

Appointments, installations and visits: For the protection of our customers and our employees, we will try to avoid in-home/faceto-face appointments.

- Existing, non-emergency appointments might be rescheduled
- Self-installation options are available and can be discussed with customer service.
- We encourage you to do business with us over the phone, Internet, email or mail.

As always, our team will continue to work to deliver the services you count on. As we take these necessary precautions and put our preparedness plan into action, the health and safety of every one of our team members, our customer and our entire community remains a strong focus, and we stand ready to serve you all.

Alternate ways to pay your bill:

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Businesses receiving donations to help feed children

FFFDING KIDS

continued from page 1

the hands of every kid who needs one."

He also wants to ensure that no one feels uncomfortable asking for one. Thoma said, "Everyone needs a little help from time to time and these times are particularly difficult."

At this time, Jeff's is only providing lunches. However, customers can purchase breakfast at The Creamery in Durant via drive through or carryout.

Jeff's free sack lunches include a sandwich, chips and some kind of fruit. However, the contents of the lunch may change as certain foods are in short supply currently. They also are providing \$3 hot lunches to kids who prefer that to sack lunches at The Creamery and Jeff's Market.

Milotte said that they are experiencing a lot of shortages, much like every other store. They are continuously reordering supplies but many things are just not available.

Milotte stated that The Creamery is currently doing a pretty steady stream of "to-go" orders. She said, "Customers are really appreciating our drive-through window, so they do not even need to leave their car to pick up their meals." She noted that The Creamery has extended hours and is now open until 8 pm.

This pandemic is already starting to impact many businesses. People seem to be cooking meals at home a lot more, so grocery stores are very busy. "It's been harder on The Creamery since the dining room had to close," said Milotte

On Friday, March 20, the staff was in the process of placing plastic sheeting in front of their meat and deli counters as well as the cashier stations. This is in an effort to protect their employees from the customers to prevent the spread of the virus. Milotte and Thoma said, "We want to do absolutely everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our staff and customers." This means doing extra cleaning both before the store opens and after it closes, and encouraging employees to wear gloves when handling food and to continue their regular routine of washing hands thoroughly and often.

Starting this past Friday, they put a limit on bread and toilet paper. Customers are allowed only two loaves of bread and two packages of toilet paper.

Thoma noted that he's had quite a few people who have donated money to keep the program going. "I never intended for people to give me money for this program. That's not why we are doing it," he said.

The Durant school donated extra food it had ordered to help out its sack lunch program. The school originally was planning to be a food hub for students, but did not receive approval to do so. Milotte said, "It has really been amazing to see everyone's generosity. We plan to ensure that any extra funds when this is all over go to feeding the children in the Durant and Wilton communities, whether that is donating it to the free and reduced lunch program at school, milk buddies, or the school

snack program for food insecure kids."

Thoma recently started offering weekend specials for drive through or pick up at The Creamery. Last weekend, he offered prime rib and chicken options. A Facebook post stated he sold out of the prime rib special. Thoma said, "This won't happen next time." Folks were offered a ribeye in place of the prime rib. He's requesting suggestions for specials to offer on the weekends.

Wilton Café and Arty's Ice Cream and Grill help feed children in Wilton

Sakir "Chili" Alimoski, owner of the Wilton Café and Arty's Ice Cream and Grill in Wilton is also providing free lunches to Wilton students. While it's a limited menu at the café, everything for the students is free. Breakfast options include two big doughnuts, a breakfast sandwich of egg and cheese on toast or two pancakes. Limited options from the kids' menu for lunch consist of a cheeseburger basket, a corn dog with fries or a grilled cheese with fries. Foods available are posted on his Facebook page.

"I did more free meals than paid customers. It felt like for every business meal we had three kids meals. It's been a great response to this effort," Alimoski said. "I think people who need it use it, or if don't need it, but mom and dad work, it doesn't hurt to come down and grab some."

Alimoski said he decided to do this to make things easier for parents. Going into this he wasn't thinking about donations, saying, "Everyone has stepped up to do their part to say 'he's not alone' which is really cool." Several people have donated money to support his effort. To date, he has not used any of the fund but donors keep donating. Right now his plan is to use all the supplies he already has on hand. He will see where he's at after the end of the four-week school closure and reassess at that point.

Alimoski noted, "I eventually may have to use the funds to keep going until the end of the school year." Money he doesn't use will be put to good use. He opened a new checking account titled, "Kids Eat Free Program" and all the donations he receives go into the

He has shortened hours at the Café to be able to keep a full staff. If he has to shut down for any reason, he'll take care of them, stating, "Do what we can to help them." He plans to just keep doing what he's doing, adjusting to carryout orders.

Currently there are no changes at Arty's Ice Cream and Grill. He had to add staff Saturday nights to help with deliveries. In the future as the pandemic continues, he may consider combining The Café with Arty's, running limited breakfasts and lunches out of Arty's. A couple reasons for doing this is to cut down on overhead costs as much as he can and the fact that Arty's has an actual drive-through window. If he does end up with a combination, he will create a menu and run both from Arty's. For now though his plan remains to keep both locations open while supplies last.



Jeff's Market owner Jeff Thoma (right) is shown with his daughter Kristin Milotte in the Durant Jeff's Market store. Jeff's has stepped up to offer free and reduced meals for children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by Teresa Benischek

Community Foundation establishes Continuity Fund, commits \$50,000 matching dollars

The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine's board leadership team has established a Community Continuity Fund and committed \$50,000 in matching money to support the immediate needs of neighbors in Muscatine County created by interruptions in services, potential shortages, gaps in nutrition for food-insecure children, families, and seniors in Muscatine County caused by coronavirus containment efforts.

The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine will match each gift to this fund up to \$50,000.

"We know that assistance is best provided by a network of experts and experienced service providers, but funding may be a barrier to successful implementation and continuity. We will work with our partners to align the resources received to fill the identified gaps quickly and effectively. We believe this framework will allow fluidity in addressing needs." Noted Charla Schafer, executive director of the Community Foundation. United Way of Muscatine will be partnering in this community funding and granting.

Muscatine County, will all be impacted in small or large ways by these containment efforts. Lend a hand in support whether through adherence to recommended protocol, effectively managing resources, sharing time and treasures, or providing emotional support for those most impacted and those tasked with the role of caretaker or care provider.

Donate using a credit card via the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine website Donate page, by selecting Muscatine County Funds, Community Continuity Fund.

Gifts can also be accepted by cash or check by sending to: Community Continuity Fund; Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine; 208 W. Second Street, Suite 213; Muscatine, IA 52761

For more information, please visit our website or contact our office at (563) 264-3863 or info@givinggreater.org.

No Catholic Masses permitted

Until further notice, there are to be no public Masses at Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Davenport. This includes St. Mary's in Wilton.

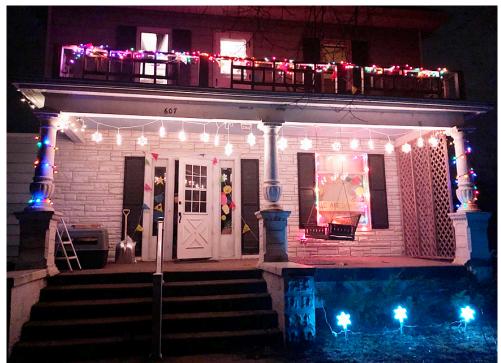
All faith formation classes and activities are canceled including Wednesday night Lenten

devotions and daily Mass. For updates, visit St. Mary's website at www.stmarywilton.org and click on "bulletins" or contact Father David Steinle at steinled@diodav.org.



Durant businesses have been decorating flowerpots in an Easter theme along Fifth Street which helps to lift spirits during uncertain times. Photo by Teresa Benischek





Amilia, Delilah and Rebekah Lerma are making the most of their time off from school. To help bring cheer to Durant residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, they made a sign and decorated their window and their mom, Brooke Lerma, put up Christmas lights. The sign in the window reads "WE ARE In This Together."