

Advocate News Easter egg hunt in this issue!



Wilton-Durant



Idle Hour pizza kits take off, p. 2

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Wilton, Iowa

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Wahkonsa adds creek to alleviate water issues

By Derek Sawvell Managing Editor, Advocate News

Spring has sprung. Although the novel coronavirus COVID-19 has forced the stoppage of organized K-12 sports and any activities with more than 10 people, golf may be the answer — a sport played in wide-open spaces without large crowds.

At Wahkonsa Country Club on historic Highway 6 between Wilton and Durant, members are ready to dust off their golf clubs for play. When they arrive on course, they'll notice a new man-made creek to help with ongoing drainage issues the club has dealt with for years.

Some of the lowest spots on the course, according to elevations, are the right side of hole No. 7 extending from the clubhouse south toward the highway, extending through holes No. 8 and No. 5. These elevations were confirmed with drone work from Needham Excavating of Walcott, which helped create a new creek feature along one of the most heavily flooded portion of the course.

Last spring was extremely wet, resulting in most of hole No. 7 being under water for much of the early part of the season. The washed away area left the hole unplayable for most

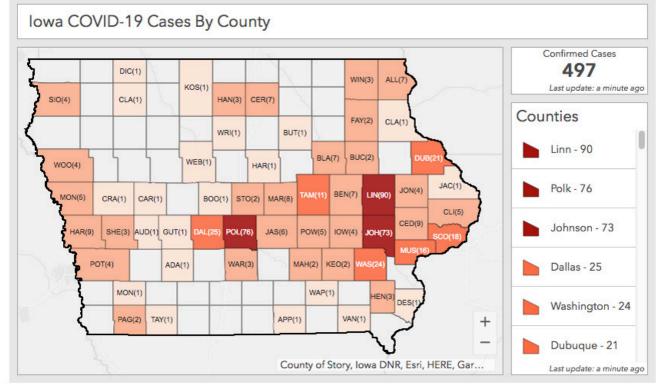
WAHKONSA

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Wahkonsa Country Club has added a man-made creek along hole No. 7 to help with continued water drainage issues. Needham Excavating of Walcott helped shape the new feature, which will direct water from the course along hole No. 7, south through holes 8 and 5 toward Highway 6. Photo by Derek Sawvell

COVID-19 not slowing down, nearing 500 lowa cases



Total COVID-19 cases in Iowa as of March 31, courtesy of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

■ First Muscatine County COVID-19 death confirmed

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been notified of 73 additional positive cases of Iowans with COVID-19, for a total of 497 positive cases. One death was reported in Muscatine County, a middle-aged (41-60) resident. This was the first Muscatine County death and seventh in Iowa. There have been a total of 6,888 negative tests to date, which includes testing reported by the State Hygienic Lab and other labs.

According to IDPH, the locations and age ranges of the 73 individuals include: Black Hawk County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years); Cedar County, 1 middle age adult (41-60 years); Clay County, 1 adult (18-40 years); Clinton County, 2 middleage adults (41-60 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years); Dallas County, 4 adults (18-40 years); Harrison County, 1 middle age adult (41-60 years); Iowa County, 1 middle-age adult (41-60 years); Jasper County, 1 elderly adult (81+); Johnson County, 2 adults (18-40 years), 1 middle-age (41-60 years); Jones County, 2 adults (18-40 years), 1 middle age (41-60 years); Keokuk County, 1 adult (18-40 years); Linn County, 3 adults (18-40 years), 7 middle age adults (41-60 years), 7 older adults (61-80 years), 2 elderly (81+); Marshall County, 1 adult (18-40 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years); Muscatine County, 2 middle-age

COVID CASES

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Idle Hour Lanes thinking outside the pizza box

By Teresa Benischek of the Advocate News

The idea of doing pizza kits at Idle Hour Lanes in Durant was being tossed around by owner Joel Carter, manager Austin Barclay, and

staffer Ronda Carpenter, for quite some time. Then when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and they were unable to open for normal business, a local resident asked if they would be able to do the kits and Austin and Ronda made it happen.

The pizza kits (pictured) sell for \$3 and include a dough ball, cheese, sauce and toppings. The customer spreads the dough and makes the pizza before

cooking it at home. There are instructions given with each kit.

"We honestly had mixed opinions on if people would even be interested in it due to temporary layoffs and the limited hours we have available to sell them. However, the Durant and Wilton communities have totally shocked us by the number of orders we received," Ronda said.

The first night Idle Hour sold 70 kits and

now is averaging about 20-30 kits per day.

They make their own dough daily with special ingredients passed down from former owner Geoff Huston.

They have also thought about continuing to offer the kits in the future and believe with

> the success and positive feedback they have gotten, they will continue with it after the pandemic is over. They may raise the price by a dollar or so as it is time consuming to prep and has many components that go into

> In addition to the pizza kits, Idle Hour Lanes has nightly grill and pizza specials at discounted prices. They were doing this even before the pan-

demic and will continue with it as everyone looks for deals. They post their daily specials on their Facebook page.

'We have had an unbelievable response from our community for the orders we still continue to receive nightly. We cannot thank people enough for using social media to spread the word about their children making our pizzas by themselves at home, or just enjoying our great food," Carpenter said. "We really do have an amazing community!"



From left, Ronda Carpenter, Braden Wagner, and Austin Barclay of Idle Hour Lanes in Durant are shown holding the different sizes of pizzas you can purchase, along with ingredients that go into their pizza kits (shown on the counter in front).

Photo by Teresa Benischek

HHS awards \$935,141 to Iowa for COVID-19 response

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded \$935,141 to 14 health centers in Iowa stemming from the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020. Health center recipients in Iowa may use these awards to address screening and testing needs, acquire medical supplies and boost their telehealth capacity in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Community Health Care, Inc. in Davenport is the nearest recipient and received \$80,189.

On March 6, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020, which provides \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, including \$100 million for HRSA-funded health centers nationwide. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, and the important role health centers play in their communities, HHS is making funding for health center recipients in Iowa available immediately.

"HRSA-funded health centers have been and will be critical players in our national response to the COVID-19 pandemic," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "The new grants we're releasing today are a rapid injection of resources secured by President Trump from Congress in the supplemental funding bill, building on the strong investments HHS has made in health centers over the years."

"HRSA-funded health centers provide high-quality primary care services to 28 million people in the United States. That is 1 in 12 people nationwide. These grantees operate 13,000 service delivery sites that are lifelines to services and networks of resources in their communities every day, and especially during a crisis," said HRSA Administrator Tom Engels. "HRSA-funded health centers will receive this funding as quickly as possible so they can maintain their ability to deliver quality primary health care services to their patients while responding to developing needs in their communities."

For a list of award recipients, visit https:// bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-covid19-FY2020-awards.

US leads world in COVID-19 cases

COVID CASES

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(41-60 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years); Polk County, 1 child (0-17), 5 adults (18-40 years), 3 middle age adults (41-60 years), 4 older adult (61-80 years), 2 elderly (81+); Pottawattamie County, 1 middle-age (41-60 years); Scott County, 2 middle-age (41-60 years); Sioux County, 1 middle age adult (41-60 years), 1 older adult (61-80 years); Tama County, 1 adult (18-40 years); Warren County, 2 middle-age (41-60 years); Washington County, 3 adults (18-40 years), 2 older adults (61-80 years), 1 elderly (81+).

A status report of monitoring and testing of COVID19 in Iowa is provided by IDPH. In addition, a public hotline has been established for Iowans with questions about COVID-19. The line is available 24/7 by calling 2-1-1 or 1-800-244-7431. The state of Iowa has started sharing the number of negative tests conducted at outside labs, and is providing additional information on the conditions of those infected with COVID-19.

Due in part to an outbreak in a Cedar Rapids nursing home, Linn County (90 cases) has overtaken Johnson County (73 cases) with reporting the most cases. Locally, there have been 16 cases in Muscatine County and nine cases in Cedar County.

Nationwide numbers spike

The United States leads the world in COVID-19 cases with more than 160,000 cases and 3,000 deaths, which is nearing the death toll in China (3,305). New York City has been the hotbed for the virus for more than a week but other major cities such as Detroit, Chicago and New Orleans are now showing a rapid number of cases.

On March 30 alone, there were more than 500 deaths in the U.S. and estimates from the White House virus response team are that the nation could see 100,000 to 200,000 deaths.

Iowa PBS to feature at-home learning programs for students

As schools across the state close in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic, Iowa PBS will aid students, families and teachers in at-home learning by providing special programming on its .3 channel each weekday. Beginning on Monday, March 30, Iowa PBS WORLD .3 will provide a daily, five-hour At-Home Learning Service for students in grades 6-12 statewide.

Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays, Iowa PBS WORLD .3 will offer programs on science, history and English language arts. Iowa PBS will also utilize its .3 channel to provide live coverage of Gov. Kim Reynolds' press conferences addressing the COVID-19 pandemic's status and impact on Iowa, currently occurring daily at 2:30 p.m.

'With our WORLD channel available statewide for free over the air, these educational programs can reach all Iowans, including those who do not have Internet access or computers at home," said Iowa PBS Executive Director and General Manager Molly Phillips. "In these trying times, we are proud to make the lives of Iowa's families easier — and continue our mission to educate, inform, enrich and inspire

The new broadcast programming will be supplemented with additional resources from PBS Learning Media. The resources, based on feedback from educators, are aligned to curriculum standards and contextualized for educational use. These include grab-and-go activities, lesson plans, interactive lessons and media that illustrate specific topics or themes and support materials across subjects.

While the Iowa PBS WORLD .3 channel is available over the air, there are many other opportunities to access much of the educational content offered on the channel. Iowa PBS content is available on all Iowa PBS platforms, including iowapbs.org, pbs.org andpbskids.org, as well as the PBS Video App and PBS KIDS Video app available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung TV, YouTube TV and Chromecast. Iowa PBS members are also able to view an extended library of quality public television programming via Iowa PBS Passport.

Learn more at iowapbs.org.

P.O. Box 40, Wilton, Iowa 52778 Phone (563) 732-2029 Fax (563) 732-3144

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Robots invade Durant High School, team makes progress

By Ashley Darnold of the Advocate News

Robots are taking over at Durant High School. Students not only can take a robotics class, but also can participate in various competitions throughout the school year featuring robots they have built.

"Robotics class teaches me to think outside the box and figure out different ways to solve something," said student Drake Roach.

Seven Durant High School students chose to take robotics this school year during the second semester. In the class, students work on different robots — even some from previous competitions. The students learn how to structurally build robots out of individual pieces, as well as code the robot to perform different tasks.

Funded by Inteletec, giving \$10,000, the class started out as an engineering course. For the first year, the class was focused mostly on teaching spreadsheets and tasks — no robots. Now in its fourth year, Joey Kramer teaches the class in two semesters, starting with direct teaching —the basics and parts of the robots. Knowing what a robot sees, learning how it moves and going over robot sensors takes up the first semester of learning.

"Normally it takes one to two class periods to build the robot, and when I get it to the design I want, I work on coding," said Roach.

The second semester of robotics includes seven to eight daylong projects. Each project normally lasts three weeks. During this semester, Kramer introduces the students to programming and lets the students build their own robots with less instruction. Students take apart previous robots and rebuild them

to perform different task via coding. Kramer uses old competition scorers during classroom competitions, and the student with the highest score receives a treat.

"He (Kramer) gives us challenges to figure out. He let's us try to figure it out ourselves first," said student Logan Wolf.

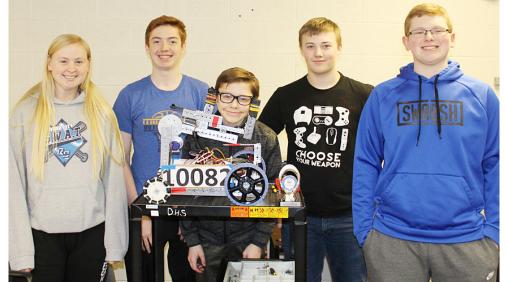
The robotics class equips students with a variety of life-long skills, one of which is problem solving. Kramer said, at the end of the day when something didn't work like the students thought, they have to rethink their design to figure out what the robot will look like next.

"Some students are interested in engineering. Some just think robots are cool. Some want to learn coding. It's across the board," Kramer explained of the students that elect to take the robotics class.

Robotics is an elected credit course students can choose to take. After building their robots, students use a computer to code different tasks that are directed to the robot via Bluetooth: lifting up a block, parking in a designated area, navigating a course, etc. Grading throughout the class is based upon problem solving skills and a cumulative report of life skills learned throughout the course.

At the end of the course, students compare their starting robot to their end design. They are given a rubric that Kramer grades based on a thorough description of problems they encountered and solutions, a walk through of how their codes work, and a summary of how the students can use the learning in the future.

"I don't give them all the solutions, that is part of the class. I need them to figure out what didn't work and figure out how to solve it," explained Kramer.



Going into its fourth year, the Durant High School Robotics class first started as an engineering class and has morphed into a robotics and coding class. It is an elective for high school students to take, including two Wilton high school students. Throughout the class, students learn the basics of how to build a robot and move into how to properly code the robot to perform a variety of tasks. Pictured (from left) are some of the students who are enrolled in the robotics class: Allie Poston, Logan Wolf, Drake Roach, Christian Durham and Timothy Junis. Joey Kramer is the class instructor.

Photo by Ashley Darnold

FREE ESTIMATES!

The Durant robotics class has just recently been opened to include students from Wilton with an interest in robots and coding. The Wilton students are shuttled over to the high school during class time to work right alongside the Durant students. There are currently two Wilton students who make the trip to

ROBOTICS

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Martin P Brown CPA

Certified Public Accountant "Managing Peoples' Business"

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Our offices will be closed until April 7.



502 Ayres Progress, Wilton

Absolutely like new commercial/industrial facility on 2.5 acres in Wilton's industrial park. All steel framed and sided building with 18' sidewalls in warehouse. Has loading dock and 10X14 overhead door also. 400 amp 3 phase in warehouse and 250 amp single phase in office. Radiant heat in warehouse and GFA with C/A in offices. This Property Is Ideal for Any Business With This Location! 10 Minutes South Of Interstate 80 Exit 271



1181 Timber Ln, Tipton

Exquisite 'house on the hill' in Timber Run, ust south of Tipton on a 1 acre lot.Amazing all brick home features 2x6 construction, 3 bdrms, 2 thrms,open floor plan w/ custom kitchen & tons of pull out storage, granite counters in the kitchen and bthrms, hard wood & ceramic tile through-out the home. This home is perfect for 'age in place' w/ADA Toilets, high counters, main level laundry, low step showers & 2 step entry into the home. Rear deck gives you a great view of the valley off the rear of the property & underneath storage area, front porch is a perfect place to watch the rural sunset. Walk out lower level is ready for your finishing touches w/patio door,egress windows & gardening shed under the home w/ separate roll up door.25 minute commute to Iowa City,The Quad Cities or Muscatine,THIS IS IT



1401 Cedar St., Tipton

HORSES, ACREAGE & TOYS ALL IN ONE PLACE CLOSE TO TOWN! If you are lookregions to specific the control of t large detached garage, a horse barn / large shed. Relax on your expansive front porch, and enjoy the scenery. This 3, 640 sq ft home has 4 beds/2 baths and an extra large bonus room in the attic ready to be converted into your choice space, game room, large closet, you name it! The possibilities are endless!



1133 Rallie Lane, Moscow

Come take a look at this 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom home with attached 2 stall garage, 24'x36' workshop, wood boiler heat option, 24' pool and large deck and patio. Quiet rural subdivision on a paved road between Wilton and Moscow. Main level Master suite with vaulted ceilings, open living room and kitchen concept with gas fireplace, main level laundry, newel stainless steel appliances, finished walk out lower level including a game room with pool table.



Well kept 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom 2 story home located on the East end of Durant. It is located on a large lot with nice sized trees and mature landscaping on a dead end street. The outside is maintenance free and has a 2 year old roof. The inside features 4 bedrooms, master bathroom with whirlpool tub, 4 seasons room and a finished basement with 4th bedroom. This home is ready to move into with a complete appliance package, come check it out.



706 9th St.. Durant

Located just a few blocks from the school in an established neighborhood on the north side of Durant awaits this 3 bedroom 2 bathroom ranch. No need to worry about updates on the exterior of this home new roof, Anderson Casement Windows, vinyl siding exterior doors and concrete driveway are all new in 2018. The interior features 3 bedrooms on the main floor and a 4th non conforming bedroom in the base ment. The partially finished basement also includes ec room, bathroom and even another kitchen. An HOW could I forget an attached 4 stall garage that is completely dry walled, insulated and heated! All ap pliances stay as well. You have got to check this out!



1101 6th St., Durant

Wow, this is a flip house by Paper's Construction Co that you must check out! This is a 3 bdrm, 2 story house located on a corner lot across from the city park in Durant. The existing house was torn down to the studs. From there it has been totally remodeled to include all new plumbing, heating, electrical, roof, soffit, siding, windows, drywall, doors and trim, cabinets and flooring. Sounds like a new house doesn't it! Wait til you see the striking exterior, 10' tall great room walls, and the impressive staircase. Make this house a must seel Listing agent is the owner. This property qualifies for Durant's 7 year tax abatement program.



612 W. Wate St., Wilton

612 W. Wate St., Willon Great north end location just across the street from The Meadows Sub Division in Wilton sits this 3 bedroom 3 bathroom home with partially finished walk out lower level home with fenced yard and 12' x 15' patio. Main level has a large living room, dining room, oak kitchen, 3 bedrooms with master bathroom and main bathroom all with new interior doors. The finished lower level has newer carpeting in the spacious family room and the other half of the basement is currently unfinished, but is large enough for a game room, wet bar, etc. Fresh clean interior paint with modern color choices. Come take int with modern color choices. Come take



610 W. 6th St., Wilton

Move right in with fresh paint and spotless floor coverings. This 4 bedroom 2 bathroom home has a partially finished basement, large deck, attached 2 stall garage, private backyard and complete appliance package. This one will not last in this market.



108 W 5th St., Wilton

Large 2 Story 4 bedroom home located in Wilton. Recently updated bathrooms on each floor, fresh interior paint and updated vinyl windows. 2 decks off the back of the house to relax on and a 2 stall detached garage. All cleaned up and



118 E. 5th St., Wilton

very rarge 4 bedroom 2 bathroom home with single stall garage and alley access on a corrier for in Wilton. The second leve, of the home was completely remodeled from the studs out, vinyl windows, newer steel root, new front porch and vinyl siding. New lankless water heater and softener in 2017, new kitchen flooring in 2018, spacious pantry, formal dining room, whirlpool tub and complete appliance package seal the deal. Call today, homes are not lasting long in this market.



626 Lombard St., Clarence

Fresh exterior paint, corner lot and plenty of storage. This property consists of 2 buildings 30' x 64' and 40' x 100' connected by 10' x 21' walkway. Currently used as storage, but has endless possi



730 Lombard St., Clarence

Large Auto Repair/Sales Facility that could be home to a number of uses! Currently the property has 5/6 service bays, parts department, break room, show room and 3 offices. Originally built as a Chrysler Dealership in 1973. This prop-erty could be the start of your new business or a great place for the Auto/Motor-cycle/Steel or Wood Working Enthusiast. (Trade Fixtures do not stay)



615 Crestview, Tipton

A corner lot and walk out lower level in Tipton! 3 bedroom 2 bathroom home with partially finished lower level. Recent updates include New Steel Roof rear entry door and vinyl windows in 2017. Well maintained yard with smal back deck and storage shed as well. Nice quiet location.



119 Cherry St., Atalissa Great Turn Key Business! Property comes complete with:2 parcels of land,bar equipment,2 storage buildings, outdoor beer garden & serving area.3
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58 Walnut St., Tipton
Check out this cozy 2 bedroom home on
a quiet street in Tipton offering a large
kitchen with lovely custom counter tops fresh flooring and paint throughout, full basement, and a detached 2 car garage. Ready for you to move in today.



3 private offices or exam rooms, storage room. with the lease, snow removal is tenant respon-



210 5th St., Durant

1400 Sq. Ft. of commercial space currently available for lease for \$700 per month plus utilities. This space was last used for a chiropractic office and previously retail space. Currently inside has restroom and large waiting room. Parking lot will hold 9 to 10 cars. Lawn maintenance included



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Eastern Iowa REC COVID-19 response

Eastern Iowa REC has put a plan in action to protect the health and safety of its membership and employees while ensuring the continuity of electric service to all those served by the Cooperative during this time of increasing concern regarding the COVID-19 virus.

In an effort to provide a safe working environment for its employees and keeping key personnel, such as line workers and member service representatives, available so that they can continue to provide the excellent service and reliability expected from Eastern Iowa REC several actions have been implemented.

The lobbies of all Cooperative service centers have been closed to the public. Service centers remain open and members can use the telephone, 1-800-728-1242, or online options through our website, www.easterniowa.com, to pay bills and conduct business.

Disconnections and late fees for nonpayment have been suspended at this time. Meter reading will continue to be gathered and bills will be calculated during this crisis. The Cooperative does encourage members to continue to try to make payments toward their energy bill to avoid facing a large past due amount when this situation subsides. Those having difficulties with their bills are urged to contact the Cooperative's billing department, 1-800-728-1242 or billing@easterniowa.com, to discuss payment plan options.

If a Cooperative member is experiencing financial difficulty, they may apply for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) financial aid by contacting their local community action agency. The Iowa Department of Human Rights recently extended the LIHEAP application period for eligible Iowans until May 31, 2020.

Line crews remain on duty, working in twoman units unless emergency repairs require additional personnel. Eastern Iowa REC is communicating with its staff regarding controlling the spread of illnesses in the workplace and is taking steps through frequent cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces, equipment, and common areas. Additional Cooperative employees are working from home or on reduced in-office

In addition, all Cooperative employees are encouraged to stay home if they feel sick to reduce the exposure of illnesses to others. Employees are instructed to stay home until they are fever free without medication for 24

Statewide, electric cooperatives are coordinating through the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives to prepare for and respond to disasters or threats to critical infrastructure. This includes scenarios, such as pandemics that could impact the utility workforce.

Through this coordination, electric cooperatives and government partners focus on actions and strategies that help protect the energy grid, prevent threats that may disrupt electricity service, and develop capabilities that help electric cooperatives quickly respond and recover when major incidents impact the



REAL ESTATE

To advertise your listings with the Advocate News contact Carissa at anads@netwtc.net or 563-732-2029.



Wilton offers welcome packages to new members of the community! The package includes community information as well as gifts from area businesses. Wilton residents should contact

Wilton City Hall (563-732-2115) or Wilton Municipal (563-732-2228)

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left at The Meadows, ready



Absentee primary voting extended due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Cedar County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections, Cari Dauber is encouraging those wishing to vote in the June 2nd Primary Election to vote absentee by mail due to the recent concerns with coronavirus and

"I am encouraging our voters to cast ballots by mail to help reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19," Dauber said. "We are making this push for the safety of our voters and election precinct workers.

Secretary of State Paul Pate has extended the absentee voting period to 40 days for Iowans who choose to vote by mail in the June Primary. This action means the absentee voting period for mailing ballots in the June primary election will begin on April 23, 2020. Cedar County residents can request an absentee ballot form now from the auditor's office. Absentee ballots must be requested in

writing. Request forms are available on the Cedar County election website at https://www. cedarcountyelections.org. Absentee ballot requests may also be obtained by calling the Cedar County Auditor's Office and requesting one to be mailed. Please call the auditor's office at 563-886-3168.

Voters are reminded that for the primary election they must choose a political party on the request form in order to receive the correct ballot. Absentee voters are also reminded they will need to provide a personal identification number (PIN) when voting absentee either in person or by mail. That PIN will most likely be your Iowa driver's license number or your Iowa non-operator's ID number. If a voter does not have either of those, the voter should have been sent a PIN from the Iowa Secretary of State's Office.

For more information about absentee voting or the 2020 primary election please contact the Cedar County Auditor Cari Dauber.

Cedar County Sheriff's Office seeking help in locating a missing person

The Cedar County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in locating

Kristopher Todd Johnson age 39. Kristopher left his residence in rural Tipton on March 5 and was reported missing on March 18 to the Cedar County Sheriff's Office. Kristopher moved to rural Tipton early in January and has ties to Oklahoma.

Kristopher is an Uber and Lyft driver who is operating a 2005 Chevrolet

Malibu Maxx that is gray in color with Iowa plate IYS781. Kristopher was last seen in Cedar Rapids by witnesses on March 14. Kristopher's family has not had any contact with him since March 5 and feels that he is living out of his

Kristopher

Johnson



Kristopher Johnson's car, a 2005 Chevy Malibu Maxx.

car and may be in danger.

Please contact the Cedar County Sheriff's Office at 563-886-2121 or Cedar County Crime Stoppers at 563-886-6618 with information.

New Cedar County elections site

Cedar County voters now have a userfriendly website to find all of their election information.

Cedar County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections Cari Dauber announced that www. cedarcountyelections.com is now online.

Dauber said the site will be easier to navigate to find election information, register to vote or find a form to request an absentee ballot.

"We've been working for some time on ways to improve displaying information about elections on our Cedar County site," Dauber said. "We believe that voters will find everything they need in a user-friendly format at this site."

Dauber said the site also includes past election information and a section listing officials voted on by Cedar County voters. The

site also converts to a mobile format for those looking up information on their mobile device or tablet.

"Neapolitan Labs presented us with a great platform for this site that was affordable and they have been great to work with," Dauber said. "We encourage Cedar County voters to check out the site and find how clean it looks and how easy it is to use."

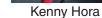
She said voters who go to the Cedar County website, www.cedarcounty.org, for election information will be redirected to the new elections site.

Hora announces bid for Muscatine County Sheriff

MUSCATINE — Kenny Hora, a Detective for Muscatine County Sheriff's Office, officially filed petitions for nomination and affidavit of

candidacy. Hora seeks to win the Republican nomination for sheriff in the upcoming primary election June 2.

Hora places high value on his reputation for being a trustworthy, dependable, and respectful member of his community.



School. He received his Associate's Degree from Kirkwood Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice through Upper Iowa University.

Hora has worked in law enforcement for nearly 16 years, starting his career with the Wilton and West Liberty police departments. He went through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and was hired by the Muscatine County Sheriff's Office in 2013.

Hora is well versed in many areas of the agency. He started in the Patrol Division before transferring to the Criminal Investigations Division. There he managed the domestic violence program and served as an investigator with the Muscatine County Medical Examiner's Office. He currently serves as an MDT member with the local Child Protection Center, and he is a member of the Muscatine County Dive Team. Hora is also a member of the Muscatine Special Operations Response Team (MSORT), where he began serving on the Entry Team, and has since progressed to Sniper Team, receiving a promotion to assistant team leader.

If elected, Hora will work to restore the vote of confidence within the agency, implement a JOBS over JAILS program, develop a pipeline in the jail to help inmates gain job skills, create real opportunities for employment, improve local level sex offender processes, and enhance the domestic violence programs countywide.



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Hora is the only candidate in this election who grew up in Muscatine County, graduating from West Liberty High





Follow the Wilton-Durant Advocate News Facebook page for current cancelations and postponed events in our area.

Support your local independent businesse

Askew-Marquard Virtual Town Hall

Thursday, this week, 6-7 p.m. CDT online link at http://askewforsupervisor.com/ or call **646-749-3112**, access code 382-617-141

NEW TOPICS

County Mental Health Services Corona Virus Concerns First Survey Results from County Residents New Survey for County Residnets on Mental Health Issues





The Durant and Wilton fire departments came together to show strength and hope during the COVID-19 pandemic. What started with one small community has spread nationwide. The following was posted for fire departments to participate in: The doors are down, all is quiet but we do stand ready. On Wednesday, March 25, at 7 p.m. the doors will open, lights on our trucks will go on. A sign of strength and hope for all. Hope for all who work daily in EMS, fire, and law enforcement to be ready, strength for those working around the clock to provide care, those who strive to find the right medicine to help, those in the food/grocery industry to feed us and those trucking daily to keep us going. Residents were also asked to turn on their porch lights to let everyone know they too have hope. Durant Fire Chief Jared Semsch said, "The community liked that they did it, but didn't get word out quick enough though for a large number of folks to come out. When things calm down, they would like to parade the fire trucks and ambulances with lights and sirens through town." Damien Maynard, a Wilton volunteer firefighter, said, "I got the idea from my buddy who works at the Solon Fire Department. We wanted to do it to show a sign of strength and hope for everyone who is still working. A moment of recognition." Community members gathered that night to share a moment of silence for individuals who continue to work during this pandemic. Maynard said the community response was very positive.

Photos by Teresa Benischek and contributed



Public drinking water is safe

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is providing important information about COVID-19 as it relates to public drinking water to provide clarity to the public.

The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water supplies. Based on current evidence, the risk to water supplies is very low. Disinfection methods used in drinking water treatment plants are effective for inactivation of coronaviruses and all other viruses.

Iowans can continue to use and drink water from their tap as usual. The Iowa DNR recommends obtaining potable water from the tap as much as possible to conserve bottled water for emergency situations if needed.

What to and not to flush

The DNR is reminding Iowans of the importance of flushing ONLY toilet paper and human waste down toilets to avoid disruption of sewer systems.

The Department recognizes the temporary shortage of toilet paper products during the COVID-19 outbreak, but warns items such as flushable wipes, disinfecting wipes, surface cleaning wipes, baby wipes, even though advertised as flushable, are not recommended for disposal by flushing down a toilet. Diapers, paper towels, tissues and feminine hygiene products should also not be flushed down toilets.

Even though these products may not clog your sewer system at your residence, when deposited together, in an entire community, can pose a serious risk of overwhelming a community's sewer system. If a sewer system is clogged, it can lead to backups of sewage into residences and overflows into the environment. Additionally, it can cause pump failures and lead to several hours of repairs and expenses to city wastewater systems.

Residents are encouraged to dispose of the items in bags and dispose in the trash.

#InThisT@gether

- bringing the community together when we are apart -



Allison Cameron, of Durant, along with her five boys, Drake, Payton, Breslin (left), Sloan (middle), and Ciaran (right) have decorated their windows as part of the Heart Hunters movement."We put up hearts on the house to spread a message of hope and positivity. It's really important to me that my boys look back on this unprecedented time, and remember feeling safe and loved - not scared. We want that for others, too!" said Allison.

Contributed Photo



Many local businesses and people, including The Wilton Chamber of Commerce and Rock Valley Physical Therapy in Durant, have joined CHAMBER in the Heart Hunters movement, originally starting with a women in Galesburg (Krista Wynes) COMMERCE who shared a post on March 21 to promote social distancing. Looking for something to do with her boys outside, she thought it would be fun to walk around in a virtual scavenger hunt looking for hearts hung in windows. This movement encourages parents and children to make hearts and display them in the windows of their home. The movement has been viewed in all 50 states and 11 countries to include South Korea, Japan, Germany, the UK and the Middle East. Photos by Teresa Benischek



The Rostenbach family, Nicole, Nick and daughter Emberlynn of Wilton, decorated their window as part of the Heart Hunters movement. Each color of heart represents people around the world who are going through this troubling time. From law enforcement, healthcare workers, food providers, postal workers, etc. "We wanted to let people around the world know that we thank them for all that they are doing right now. Our biggest thank you's are for our community and surrounding areas. There are so many people/places bringing light into the world when we need it the most in the Wilton and Durant communities during this time, by doing things that they do not have to do-but have the kindness in their hearts to do so. We wanted to let them know, especially, that we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. It's important during this time that we all hold onto each other and know that whatever the outcome maybe - we'll always have each other," Nicole explained.

Contributed Photo

Rosalie DeBaets

Rosalie "Rosie" DeBaets, 88, of Davenport, died March 25, 2020 at the Clarissa C Cook Hospice House.

Private family funeral services will be at Cunnick-Collins Mortuary and Cremation Service. The family will be hosting a celebration of life for Rosie at a later date yet to be determined. Memorials may be made to the family.

Rosie was born Nov. 3, 1931 in rural Davenport, to George and Loretta Hirl. She married Henry "Hank" DeBaets on Jan. 28, 1950 in Davenport. After 58 years of marriage, Hank passed away on March 10, 2008.

Rosie spent a lot of her time tending to her large garden, cooking and canning for all of her friends and family. She loved to entertain and play cards. Rosie also had her own dance band "Rosie and the Polka Dots" that she shared with her husband for more than 35 years, playing in the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

She is survived by her daughters Donna (Steve Courtney) Ahrens, Victoria (Tony)





Johnston, Diane (Jeff) Bell, Bonnie (Merle) VanDeWalle; 11 grandchildren, 13 greatgrandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She is also survived by other family members including Sheila (Hacinto) Haskins, as well as son-in-law Pat Fox.

She was preceded in death by her parents George and Loretta Hirl; her husband Hank; daughters Marjorie and Janet Fox; grandson Christopher; brothers Ambrose, Glen, Ed and Bernard; as well as sisters Genevieve and Celia.

Curt Newcomb

Curtis C. Newcomb, 56, of West Liberty died March 28, 2020 at his home. A celebration of life will be held at a later date at the West Liberty Community Center.

The Henderson-Barker Funeral Home in West Liberty is caring for Curt's family. Memorials may be made to West Liberty Fire Department and Rescue Unit or the Curt Newcomb Memorial fund. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hendersonbarkerfuneralhome.com.

Curt was born Sept. 24, 1963 in Iowa City. He graduated from West Liberty High School in 1982 and received his associate degree in electronics from Hamilton Tech College. He married Lisa Noring on April 28, 1984 in West Liberty.

Newcomb was employed with True Value/ Brook Enterprises for 13 years. In 1997 he began working with Ron Alpen Ford.

He was a member of First Church United and West Liberty Fire Department, where he served as chief from 2000-2009, assistant chief, and trustee. He was also a member of the ambulance for 35 years; West Liberty Lions Club, serving as president, and West Liberty

Curt Newcomb



Booster Club as former president. He enjoyed his grandchildren and woodworking.

He is survived by his wife Lisa; his sons Sean (Katie) of West Liberty, B. J. (Sarah) of Grimes and Zachary (Leslie Torres) of West Liberty; two grandchildren Logan, Libby, and baby Newcomb due summer of 2020; parents Charles and Louise Newcomb of West Liberty; sister Chris Newcomb of Dumont; father-inlaw Wayne Noring of West Liberty; and his dog Hawkeye.

He was preceded in death by his paternal and maternal grandparents and mother-in-law Audrey Noring.

Kory Kaufmann

Kory F. Kaufmann, 39, of Moscow died on March 28, 2020 at his home. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Burial will take place in Greenwood Cemetery.

The Ralph J. Wittich-Riley-Freers Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements. Memorials may be made to the family in care of Fred Kaufmann. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.wittichfuneralhome. com.

Kory was born July 30, 1980 in Davenport. Kaufmann worked as a truck driver for Oveson Refuse and Recycling in Wilton.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, cooking, and spending time with his family.

He is survived by three children, Alex Kaufmann, Hunter Kaufmann and Hailey Kaufmann, all of Muscatine; his father Fred Kaufmann of Moscow; three siblings, Jennifer Kory Kaufmann



Ann Kaufmann of Naperville, Illinois, Larry Crees of Muscatine, and Paul Murray of Wilton; and his girlfriend Kourtney Kane and her children of Lowden.

He was preceded in death by his mother Cindy Kaufmann and his grandparents.

Town Criers

Brandt Anderson

Brandt Keith is the name selected for the son born March 8, 2020 to Austin and Kara Anderson of Wilton.

Born at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, Brandt weighed 8 pounds and measured 22 inches

He is welcomed home by sister Lake, 2 years old.

Grandparents are Chad and Stephanie Anderson and Kelly and Jill Proctor, all of

Great-grandparents are Sandra and the

late Keith Mueller of Camdenton, Missouri, Pete and Helen Anderson of Sylvania, Ohio, Dorothy and the late Leon Dietz of Durant, and Violet and the late Alva Proctor of Moscow.



The family of **Janet Ketelsen** would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, texts, flowers, food and memorials in memory of our mom, grandma and great grandma.

> Funeral Home, Pastor John Grebner Deb Mohr and the Gloria Dei Ladies Mike & Diane Ketelsen and Family Julie & Leo Chase

A special thank you to Bentley

Iowa's Disaster Declaration approved by President Trump

DES MOINES — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds received notification that President Trump has approved her request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for COVID-19, removing a \$5 million cap on federal funds as well as making available the Community Disaster Loan program.

"I want to thank President Trump for his

quick response in approving Iowa's disaster declaration because it will open up federal resources to Iowa as we combat the spread of COVID-19," said Reynolds.

The declaration provides assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, to include emergency protective measures.

Reynolds had also requested activation of the federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Crisis Counseling programs and statewide Hazard Mitigation Assistance funding. Those portions of her request are still under consideration.

AREA

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

Vouth interested in taking part in Wold life 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 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 www.graceuccwilton.or No church activities until April 30 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., Wilton 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.



Do not worry about tomorrow. Matthew 6:34





Iowa receives 'D' social distancing grade

Por parents at home wondering how to keep their kids on track right now academically when they abruptly miss four weeks of school, I have a question:

What would you do if your child brought home a report card with a "D" grade? I realize we may no longer be living in the world of report cards with everything being online, but stay with me. What would you do? Certainly talk with your child. Certainly talk with the teacher. Find out what work is missing or didn't get turned in. Does the child need extra help? Is there extra attention needed? Extra credit?

Needless to say it would be a problem I'm quite sure.

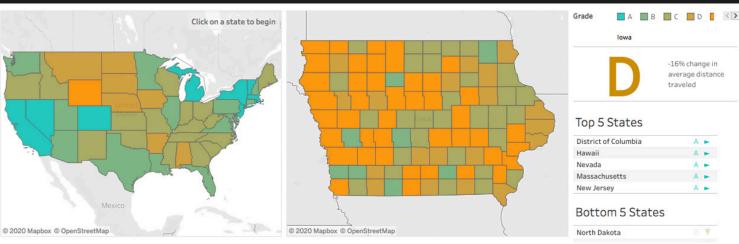
Yet what would you say if I told you that in the past few days we've all gotten a "D." ALL of us.

I was reading an interesting article early this week reported on yahoo.com about a company called Uncast that collects and analyzes GPS phone location data. In other words, they track our movement based on our cellphone location. With most states implementing rules and regulations surrounding social gatherings, business closures, etc. coupled with the federal government's social distancing and stay at home requests, Uncast decided to create a "Social Distancing Scoreboard," ranking all 50 states with how well they are adhering to the rules.

My basic understanding is the company looked at data from states prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and compared it to data since being under "stay at home" precautions.

Again this is all based on our travel and

Compare your community's social distancing activity to its activity prior to COVID-19



According to data from www.unacast.com/covid19/social-distancing-scoreboard lowa ranks 48th of 50 states with regard to following social distancing rules. The state has a "D" rating and locally, both Muscatine and Cedar counties have "F" rankings. States and areas in blue are staying at home more and receiving better rankings than states and areas in orange, which are ranked lowest.

movement via cellphone data. The results, while fluid I'm sure, are quite intriguing — dare I say scary — when looking at Iowa.

Compared to the rest of the nation, Iowa ranked 48th among 50 states on the social distancing activity scale. We received a "D" grade. The only states below Iowa were Arkansas ("D") and Wyoming ("F).

When looking at Iowa specifically, according to Uncast, our average distance traveled

is down just 16 percent post COVID-19. It's even worse in our counties. We're down just 4 percent in Muscatine County and actually UP 9 percent in Cedar County. As counties, we have "F" grades.

I'll give us a little slack with regard to

Case

By Derek Sawvell

Follow @SawvellAN

counties as perhaps we are traveling a little bit more to the grocery stores, which are not in our backyards and require a bit of a trip.

Nevertheless, it's about time we start taking this thing seriously. The United States has far more cases than any other country in

the world. We still have testing issues. There still is no government mandate. There are strong recommendations that we should be abiding by, yet it's up to the states to set and enforce rules.

I'll commend Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds. She's been out front with closings and social distancing. But if we're not going to practice

what she's preaching, we're in trouble.

The good news is that as a country, the U.S. received a "B" rating with distance traveled down 32 percent nationwide. That's a good start. The top five states and territories, all receiving "A" ratings, were Washington,

D.C., Hawaii, Nevada, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

I wrote weeks ago that this isn't a 4-week spring break. Then I turn on the TV and see people living it up in Florida on spring break, only to fly back "home" all over the

country. Florida is one of the states now hit the hardest and is yet to be under mandates like ours

I said it would be coming to our hometowns and it's here. We're hearing of cases right now in our own hometowns, happening in and around businesses we know well.

As the numbers in this country skyrocket,

I've been trying to reach out to medical professionals locally for the last week. Most of them aren't returning my calls, but I will say that I have heard from some and am awaiting correspondence that I'm confident will come from others.

I want to tell their stories. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said this week that the COVID-19 war is being fought in our hospitals. That's the battleground. And the soldiers are our healthcare workers. Where are we with testing? How dire are PPE (personal protective equipment) needs around here? Who locally has the virus? We've heard names but will anyone go on the record? I'd be more than willing to tell your story.

We don't want to hang anyone out to dry here. We're in this together. We need to learn from each other.

And, getting back to this "D" grade, we must all live like we have COVID-19. If you won't do it for yourself, do it for your mother, your father, your son, and yourdaughter. Do it for you grandparent who, if he or she gets infected and has to go to the hospital, won't be able to have visitors regardless of the outcome.

Advocate News letter to the editor policy

The Advocate News welcomes letters to the editor. Letters have a 400-word 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





Acrocate News

2. See how many of these "AN eggs" you can find in the paper...

3. Make sure you find us & "Like" us on Facebook!

4. "Share" the contest from our page...

5. "Comment"# of eggs found by Monday,
April 6 at noon.

6. Watch our Facbook page for the winner!!



to Small Businesses affected by COVID-19

On Friday, March 27, the President signed into law the CARES Act. This law contains many provisions to provide assistance to workers, families, businesses, and the health care industry who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A provision designed to provide direct assistance to small businesses is the "Paycheck Protection Program". This program provides \$349 billion for expedited individual loans through approved lenders that are guaranteed 100 percent by the U.S. government through the Small Business Administration (SBA). The loan proceeds can be used to cover payroll costs, such as employee salaries, paid sick or medical leave, insurance premiums, and mortgage, rent, and utility payments incurred from February 15, 2020, through June 30, 2020.

Loan Terms:

The maximum amount of a loan equals 2.5 months of regular payroll expenses or net earnings from self-employment (subject to a cap of \$100,000 of annual salary per employee). Borrower and lender fees are waived. Collateral and personal guarantee requirements are waived. The maximum interest rate is four percent and loan maturity can be as long as 10 years. No prepayment fees will be charged. Loan payments can be deferred for 6-12 months.

Loan Forgiveness:

Borrowers are eligible for loan forgiveness equal to the amount spent by the borrower during an eight week period after the origination date of the loan on payroll costs, interest payment on any mortgage incurred prior to February 15, 2020, payment of rent on any lease in force prior to February 15, 2020, and payment on any utility for which service began before February 15, 2020. The amount of loan forgiveness will be reduced if the borrower does not maintain its level of employment that existed prior to the pandemic.

Eligibility:

Generally, any business with fewer than 500 employees is eligible if it was operational on February 15, 2020, and had employees for whom it paid salaries and payroll taxes, or had paid a worker classified as an independent contractor. Nonprofits also are eligible.

Information Needed:

Until we receive guidance from SBA, the amount and type information needed to support an application is not clear. However, we anticipate it will require payroll records, payroll tax reports, and income tax returns. We advise you begin organizing these records for 2019 and 2020. If your business is organized as an entity (corporation or LLC), we may also need copies of your organizing documents such as articles of incorporation, bylaws, and operating agreements.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

DeWitt Bank & Trust Co. is authorized to accept and approve applications for this program and will participate fully. We have mobilized staff and are engaging our lenders, bankers, and tax and accounting professionals in this very important endeavor. We are presently establishing procedures and waiting for guidance from the SBA before opening the application process. **You do not need to be a current customer to apply.** Monitor our Facebook and website www.dewittbank.com or email us at PPP@dewittbank.com for additional information, including announcement of the application opening date which is targeted for the latter part of the week of March 29.



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Wilton and Durant to compete in same 1A district

By Derek Sawvell Managing Editor, Advocate News

For the first time in a long time, the Wilton and Durant football teams didn't have to worry about ensuring they were at the top of each other's rivalry list when planning for the upcoming football season.

In 2020, not only will the Wildcats and Beavers be in the same class, they will also be in the same district. After a 2-year stint in Class A, Durant has moved back into Class 1A and will join Wilton in Class 1A District 5 this fall.

The following teams will compete in Class 1A District 5 in 2020: Dyersville Beckman, Cascade, Durant, Northeast Goose Lake, West Branch and Wilton.

After facing each other in the first game of the season each of the last two years, Wilton and Durant will not meet until week five Sept. 25, when the Beavers will travel to Durant.

Both the Beavers and Wildcats received favorable non-district schedules with regard to travel. Durant's non-district opponents will be North Cedar, Bellevue, Louisa-Muscatine and Wapello. Wilton's non-district schedule will include West Liberty, Highland, Mount Vernon and Lisbon.

Durant's non-district schedule—Bellevue, North Cedar and Wapello are all in Class A while Louisa-Muscatine is in Class 1A.

"Hopefully we get to play it," said Durant head coach Joel Diederichs, referencing the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he couldn't complain about the non-district schedule as the teams that were scheduled were teams he had listed as desired opponents.

When asked about bumping up to Class 1A, Diederichs said, "I think we can get 11 good guys on the field but for depth, it will be harder. We can play in 1A as long as we don't have injuries."

When looking at the district, Diederichs said he felt West Branch, Cascade and Beckman would be "the heavy hitters," and that Wilton would be improved. "We've got solid returning players but have some gaps to fill," he said when assessing his own team.

Keagen Head will return for a second year at starting quarterback. The Cats will also have a 1,000-yard running back return in sophomore Nolan DeLong. Cameron Ruggiero will return

Class 1A District 5

Cascade
Durant
Dyersville Beckman
Northeast Goose Lake
West Branch
Wilton

from a knee injury and will be helped at linebacker by Ben Orr. Tony Dillabough will return at wide receiver and for the first time in several years, the Cats will have holes to fill on its offensive and defensive lines, with Brian Graves looking to serve as the anchor.

Wilton's non-district schedule—West Liberty and Mount Vernon are 2A, Lisbon and Highland are Class A.

Wilton head coach Ryan Hetzler called having Durant in the district "unique," meaning that the Beavers had to find a new team to rank No. 1 with regard to their non-district schedule. Wilton's top two on the list of desired opponents — Louisa-Muscatine and Wapello — didn't show up on the schedule but did show up on Durant's.

Hetzler said it was the first time in his career, entering his seventh year, that he didn't get either No. 1 or 2 on the schedule. Yet West Liberty was high on the list of desired opponents. So was Highland. Lisbon and Mount Vernon (coached by former Wilton coach Lance Pedersen) were further down on the Beavers' list.

Hetzler called the district well rounded and agreed with Diederichs that West Branch, Cascade and Beckman would be the frontrunners.

Wilton also returns experience from last year's squad, starting with wide receiver Colby Sawvell, a 3-tool player that led the Beavers in several statistical categories last season. Starting quarterback Mason Ormsby will return while Caleb Sawvell, who was out with a shoulder injury last season, will also compete for the quarterback spot.

Four of the five offensive linemen from last season will return, anchored by Briggs

2020 Football Schedule



Aug. 28 vs. North Cedar Sept. 4 @ Bellevue Sept. 11 @ Louisa-Muscatine Sept. 18 vs. Wapello Sept. 25 vs. Wilton @ Northeast Goose Lake Oct. 2 @ Dyersville Beckman Oct. 9 vs. West Branch Oct. 16 Oct. 23 vs. Cascade

Hartley. Jackson Hull will be back at running back and Kael Brisker will return at safety.

"We have plenty of pieces with experience. Now we need to put it together to see what it takes to win at this level," said Hetzler.

With a tough opening non-district schedule, Hetzler added that the Beavers will scrimmage perennial powerhouse Regina prior to the start of the season.

There are 54 teams in Class 1A with nine districts (six teams in each). Sixteen (16) teams will qualify for the playoffs with nine automatic bids (district champs) and seven at-large berths.

The 2020 district classifications will be for just one year as opposed to a 2-year cycle. An Iowa High School Athletic Association Board of Control brief from Feb. 5, stated the following:

Following months of study, the Iowa High School Athletic Association's Board of Control decided to shift football to a one-year scheduling cycle and adjust the regular season format of large-school Class 4A over competitive concerns.

In response to ongoing classification discussions and the implementation of a success model to 4A, the board used the special session to approve football districts for just one season, dropping the typical two-year scheduling alignment as a one-time measure.

2020 Football Schedule



Wilton

Aug. 28 @ West Liberty Sept. 4 @ Highland, Riverside Sept. 11 vs. Mount Vernon Sept. 18 vs. Lisbon Sept. 25 @ Durant Oct. 2 vs. West Branch Oct. 9 @ Cascade Oct. 16 vs. Dyersville, Beckman Oct. 23 @ Northeast Goose Lake

As a result, the IHSAA will reassess football formats again following the 2020 season.

"We have solicited lots of feedback from our membership and a one-year cycle gives us more time to evaluate that feedback and work on making classifications better," IHSAA Board of Control chairperson Rod Earleywine said. "It's never going to be perfect, but we acknowledge that there are problems with our current classification system and we need to see what kind of improvements we can make..."

The postseason featured 32 qualifying teams per class from 2008 to 2015, and consistent requests from the advisory committee and Iowa Football Coaches Association to return to that expanded field were heard, but put on hold during the unique one-year scheduling cycle. A recommendation for nine regular season games and 32 qualifiers was declined by the board of control back in December over concerns of reduced player recovery time and scheduling.

The 2020 season will feature nine regular season games and 16 playoff qualifiers in all classes. Playoff procedures — district champions earning automatic berths, Ratings Percentage Index ranking the remaining atlarge qualifiers — will stay the same in 3A, 2A, 1A, A, and 8-Player. All 16 playoff spots in 4A will be considered at-large and determined via RPI.

lowa hunters harvest nearly 95,000 deer from the 2019-20 seasons

Hunters reported harvesting nearly 94,000 deer during Iowa's 2019-2020 hunting seasons, which is a decline from 2018-19, when hunters reported nearly 108,000 deer.

Wildlife experts say while there are a number of factors that likely contributed to the decline, the most prominent is the outbreak of hemorrhagic disease that killed thousands of deer across the state. It was the second largest outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in Iowa, behind only the 2012-2013 outbreak, and the reduced harvest is consistent with that following the 2013 outbreak.

Tyler Harms, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said one of the department's best population survey tools is the bow hunter observation survey where bow hunters record the number of deer and other wildlife species they observe each day from their tree stand. The survey is conducted from Oct. 1 through the opening of first shotgun season.

"The lower harvest corresponds with fewer deer bow hunters reported in their survey, and while the impact from hemorrhagic disease may have contributed to some of that decline, our hunters are also conservationists and if they perceive a drop in the deer population, they will make a decision on whether or not to kill more deer. This year, many of them decided not to," Harms said.

The Iowa DNR manages the deer herd to support a harvest of 100,000 to 120,000 deer that was based on the recommendations from the legislatively mandated deer advisory committee.

"Our deer population has rebounded after hemorrhagic outbreaks in the past and we expect the same will be true after this outbreak," Harms said. "From our perspective, we manage the population for the long term and impacts from this year — while significant — are likely a short blip on the horizon.

E OF E BEAVERS HIGH SCHOOL

Emmy Drake signs with Central—Wilton senior Emmy Drake recently signed a letter of intent to play soccer for Central College in Pella. She has played soccer for Muscatine High School the last three years and is looking to play her senior year with the team. She also played for the Muscatine Soccer Club and the lowa Soccer Club in Iowa City in the past. When asked why she chose Central, Emmy said, "I went to their soccer camp and really enjoyed the coaching staff and the girls on the team. It's definitely a family atmosphere and I feel like it's a great place for me to continue my soccer career." She plans to major in political science. Pictured with Emmy is (front from left) brother Ethan Drake, mother Shelley Drake, and father Kevin Drake; back row, grandparents Amber Owens, Don and Nancy Drake.

Cedar/Jones ECI accepting funding proposals

The Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa Board is now accepting proposals for funds from organizations that provide comprehensive services for children prenatal through 5 years of age in Cedar and Jones counties for state Fiscal Year 2021 beginning July 1st, 2020.

Programs need to address the priorities of:
1) increasing access to quality early care and education opportunities for young children and their families; 2) promoting the development

of a local mental health system that identifies and addresses the needs of young children and their families; and 3) supporting the dental health needs of young

children and their families.

For an application, please contact Sherri Hunt, Cedar/Jones Early Childhood Iowa Director, at sherri.hunt@co.jones.ia.us. Proposals must be post marked by April 10.

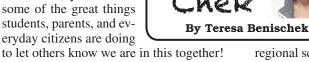


'Wonderful things happening around us'

When I initially started writing this column for this week's paper, I was going to address specific topics for the month of April. But, I really want to keep it light-hearted and uplifting during these uncertain crazy times we are in right now.

Let's talk about all the wonderful things that are happening around

I know that if you have watched any news or been on any social media platform at all, you've seen some of the great things students, parents, and everyday citizens are doing



Jadelynn Brown and her cousins Kearston and Kyleigh Reinier handed out thank you bags full of food to truck drivers at the I-80 rest stop near Wilton on Saturday, March 21. The girls come from a family of truck drivers and have noticed how busy they are making sure grocery store shelves across the country get stocked. The girls filled the bags with water, sandwiches, chips and pudding. Receiving the thank you made truck drivers' day.

Meanwhile, you have parents at home with their kids wondering how to keep them entertained. Many have created activities to creatively teach their kids. One parent built a homemade obstacle course in her house, made with items and furniture she already had. Another family built the largest fort made

with blankets. You have farm families teaching their children about things on the farm. Even though kids are not in school, they are still learning.

It's amazing to me how innovative people are being to help get through this pandemic, even here at the Advocate News. We posted

signs on the windows with #InThisTogether along with hearts in support of the Heart Hunters campaign, which is a movement that was started by a woman in Galesburg to promote social distancing that later turned into a

regional scavenger hunt looking for hearts in windows.

Since April is National Humor Month, I thought I would throw in a little humor here. Sometimes you have two options – laugh or cry. I choose to laugh.

If the schools are closed for too long, the parents are going to find a vaccine before the scientists do.

It's National Humor Month, except in Washington, where there is always something funny going on.

The curative power of laughter and its ability to relieve debilitating stress and burnout may indeed be one of the great medical discoveries

Have a great week!

DHS robotics gets competitive

ROBOTICS

continued from page 3

Durant High School weekly.

Going into its sixth year, Kramer has led a team of kids to various competitions that showcase their hand-built team robot performing different tasks. Four high school students currently attend the competitions, practicing during seminar times, study hall blocks and at 7 a.m. Wednesday mornings.

Competition practice starts right away in August with the first competition guidelines being released in September. Kramer received a grant from the state of Iowa to help jump-start their ability to attend competitions. The grant gave the kids a competition field, all parts of the robot and school laptops used for coding. From October to January, the kids attend four competitions that

pair two teams against each other. During one competition, the scorekeeper keeps track of points accumulated throughout the game based on different coding tasks — and the team with the highest accumulative score wins.

The competition (the game) takes place on a 12-by-12 foot field with a soft foam mat floor. Two alliances are paired against each other. With their robots in place, both teams complete three different periods during the game: 30-second autonomous period, two-minute driver controlled period; and a 30-second end

During the autonomous period, the robots operate on pre-programmed instructions and sensors only. The robots perform different tasks in those 30 seconds: picking up and delivering stones to designated areas and navigating under a bridge.

The two-minute driver-controlled period allows the students to control their robots in real time. The kids have to move the robot to pick up and place stones on top of each other. making a skyscraper without falling over.

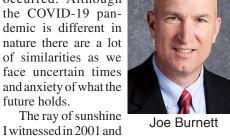
> The final period during the competition is the end game. In this driver-controlled period, the team has to place a team capper on top of their skyscraper and park their robot in a designated building site. During each period of the game, students accumulate points based on the completion of each described task.

Recently, the Durant Robotics Team went to Qualifiers where the team placed fourth over all. Because of their placement, the team went on to Super Qualifiers Feb. 15 at Regina High School in Iowa City. Unfortunately, the season stopped there for the Durant team. If advanced, the team would have moved on to State Qualifiers followed by World Qualifiers, originally set in Detroit or Chicago at the end of April.

Community on display during pandemic

I started my administrative career in Wilton as the assistant high school principal/activities director in the fall of 2001. Less than a

month into that role, the terrorist attacks of 9/11 occurred. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is different in nature there are a lot of similarities as we face uncertain times and anxiety of what the future holds.



again in 2020 is the resiliency and good that is brought out in people during these times. Our Wilton and Durant communities have done so much to support our children who are out of school, and parents who are struggling because of economic uncertainty.

I want to thank the school employees, community members and local businesses that have stepped up to help feed, support, encourage and reach out to those in need. The stories that get back to me about these efforts remind me of how blessed I am to be a part of two loving communities.

I encourage everyone to focus on your faith, your families, and your friends — it is what matters the most. Lastly, please support your local businesses not only in these times, but in ALL times. They are the backbone of our communities. God bless.

Superintendent Joe Burnett Wilton & Durant school districts

All bathrooms closed in Iowa state parks

Iowa state parks are continuing to look at ways to help protect the health of visitors and staff during the COVID-19 health emergency. Iowa state parks are still open. However, please be aware of the following operational changes, effectively immediately, before visiting a state

* All bathrooms, including pit latrines, are closed in Iowa state parks through April 15. Visitors should bring their own hand sanitizer, as no soap or sanitizer will be available in the park.

Because bathrooms are not available, camping is limited to self-contained (enclosed) campers with their own bathrooms through April 15. Camping through April 15 will be available for walk-ins only on a first-come, first-served basis. More details can be found on the park alerts page.

* Shelters, camping cabins, youth camps and lodges are closed and not available for rentals because of the lack of bathroom facilities available

* Playgrounds are not advised to be used during this health emergency. Park staff is unable to keep them clean according to CDC guidelines. User discretion is advised.

* Please remember to keep physical distance of at least six feet between you and other visitors, and avoid areas in parks where people may congregate such as points of interest, scenic overlooks, buildings and busy trails.

Please visit the Iowa DNR's COVID-19 web page https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_ source=govdelivery for more information about how COVID-19 is affecting DNR events, facilities and services.

Iowa Insurance Division available during COVID-19

DES MOINES - The Iowa Insurance Division is reminding Iowans that staff and volunteers with the Iowa Insurance Division, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) are available to assist Iowans. Public access to the Iowa Insurance Division office may be limited effective Friday, March 20, 2020 and will remain in place until further notice. These practices are being implemented to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Iowans with questions or concerns with

their insurance policies, securities or investments can file a complaint with the Iowa Insurance Division online at https://iid.iowa. gov/insurance-consumer-complaint or by phone at 515-281-6348.

Iowans with questions or concerns regarding Medicare or Medicare Fraud can contact SHIIP and SMP at shiip@iid.iowa. gov or by phone at 800-351-4664. In addition, most SHIIP and SMP sites in communities throughout Iowa are available by phone to

STEM education produces positive impact

CEDAR FALLS-The Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council released the 2018-2019 Iowa STEM Evaluation Report showing continued growth and impact on Iowa's educators and future workforce. This independent evaluation measures the STEM Council's progress toward increasing student interest and achievement in STEM subjects and careers through the implementation of high-quality STEM programs for PreK-12 students in preparation for Iowa's future workforce needs.

Highlights of the report include:

* In 2018-19, 95 percent of Iowans said STEM education should be a priority in their local school district.

* Nearly nine out of 10 Iowans support state efforts to devote resources and develop initiatives to promote STEM education.

* Students who participated in STEM Scale-Up programs performed better on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress. On average, 2 percent more Scale-Up program students met or exceeded proficiency benchmarks in mathematics, science and English language arts.

* Among educators taking part in the STEM Scale-Up program, 94 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they now have more confidence to teach STEM topics and have increased their STEM knowledge.

* The percent of students who said they were very interested in someday working in Iowa was 46 percent of STEM Scale-Up Program participants compared to 37 percent of students statewide.

* From 2013 to 2016, Iowa high school graduates who took part in the STEM Scale-Up program were 22 percent more likely to major in a STEM field for those enrolled in an Iowa Regent University and 5 percent for those enrolled in an Iowa community college, compared to their counterparts.

* Community college STEM diplomas, certificates and degrees increased 13 percent among white graduates and 31 percent among minority graduates compared to 2013.

* STEM jobs pay an average of \$22,330 higher per year at \$67,057 compared to \$44,727 for all other jobs.

"Each year, the STEM Council is producing powerful results through programming and events in Iowa and this year is no different. These programs are addressing the workforce needs of businesses in Iowa and preparing students for a bright future," said Accumold President and CEO Roger Hargens, co-chair of the STEM Council.

The Iowa STEM Evaluation Report is conducted by a collaboration of partners from Iowa's three Regent universities: the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Social and Behavioral Research (CSBR), the Iowa State University Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE) and Iowa Testing Programs at the University of Iowa.

To view the entire report, please visit http:// IowaSTEM.gov/iowa-stem-evaluation.

Be aware of con artists during pandemic

DES MOINES — Due to ongoing develop- Insurance Division has provided three quesments related to the current coronavirus COVID-19 impact on financial markets, the Iowa Insurance Division is reminding Iowa investors to beware of con artists seeking to capitalize on fear and uncertainty.

"We know con artists are opportunistic and use current events to cloak their schemes with an air of immediacy and legitimacy. Never make an investment decision without understanding what you are investing in, who you are doing business with, where your money is going, how it will be used, and how you can get it back," said Deputy Administrator for Securities Andrew Hartnett. "Always ask if the salesperson and the security are registered in Iowa."

Iowans should be on the lookout for scam artists trying to use the market downturn and the coronavirus to scare investors into so-called safer or guaranteed investments.

"If you have concerns about your retirement accounts or investments, talk to your financial professional," Hartnett said. "Avoid making decisions based on panic or fear."

To help investors identify common telltale signs of possible investment fraud, the Iowa tions to ask before making a new investment.

* Is the investment being offered with a guaranteed high return with little or no risk? All investments carry risk that you may potentially lose some or all of your money.

* Is there a sense of urgency or limited availability surrounding the investment? If the offer is legitimate, it will be there later. If someone offers you a "can't miss" investment opportunity and puts you on the spot, don't be afraid to walk away.

* Is the person offering the investment, and the investment itself, properly licensed or registered? For the same reasons you wouldn't go to an unlicensed doctor or dentist, you should avoid unregistered investment salespeople and their products.

"Make sure you have all the facts before you hand your money over to someone else to invest," Hartnett said. "Iowans are encouraged to contact us if they have concerns about the investment professional or the product being

The Iowa Insurance Division can be reached at iid.iowa.gov or 877-955-1212.

Wahkonsa renovations also include removing bunkers, trees

WAHKONSA

continued from page 1

of the summer.

According to Matt Finck, a 2001 Durant High School graduate who serves on the club's board of directors, there was also tile in the area that had been damaged over the years due to tree roots and other debris infiltrating the lines.

"The field tile worked well until it got plugged up," said Finck, who noted that a portion of tile that ran in front of the pond on hole No. 9 and the green on hole No. 6 was also repaired last year to help alleviate water issues.

"We made some Band-Aids last year to try and make it playable, then put together a long-term plan. This was Needham's design," Finck said.

Rather than dig up and replace all the tile along No. 7 and south to the highway, Needham used the tile route, along with elevation mapping, to decide where a new creek could go in order to help water naturally flow away from the course and to a drain that eventually runs underneath Highway 6 after exiting the course through the natural gully on hole No. 5.

The result is a creek that was recently graded and seeded in preparation for the 2020 season. "Ideally it will be a dry creek but there hasn't been a time since that there hasn't been water in it," said Finck. "The tile from holes 7, 8 and 5 will drain into the creek to give it a quicker route out."

Finck said the work was 99 percent done. Concrete bridges have been added on holes 7, 8 and 5 to help carts and walkers get across at all times. With most of the excavating work being done on hole No. 7, it will play as a short par 3 for the 2020 season as the new creek and

ground around it settles and grows.

Finck also noted that four members of the Needham crew were members at Wahkonsa, making the company a natural fit to do the project. "Needham helped out greatly. We worked with their schedule," Finck said. "They're slower in the winter so it helped keep their staff working. They've gone above and beyond."

Other renovations

Wahkonsa is also tackling several other projects around the course, providing a new look for several long-time members. One involves filling in some of the sand bunkers around the 9-hole layout, like those on holes 7 and 5. They were filled in with dirt from the creek project.

Other sand traps around the course have also been modified due erosion issues, according to Finck

More of the fill dirt helped create a 12-foot berm in the area between holes 7 and 9 where there used to be a "no mow" zone.

The club is also in the process of taking down several ash trees due to the Emerald ash borer beetle outbreak that has been spreading around portions of the United States, including Iowa.

There were 43 ash trees located throughout the golf course that needed to be taken down. Around half have been removed and Finck noted about 10-12 have been removed this year, leaving 10-12 left to go.

Ash trees around the grounds are marked with white spray-paint around the trunks to note which ones need to be cut down. Members have created a separate tree fund in order to try and raise money to plant new trees throughout the course in coming years.



A look at the new man-made creek running through Wahkonsa Country Club's 9-hole golf course. The creek runs along hole No. 7 before crossing holes 8 and 5 to eventually drain at Highway 6. The creek and one of the cement cart paths are shown above on hole No. 8, looking south toward No. 5. More photos available at wdadvocatenews. com.

Photos by Derek Sawvell

Iowa banks promoting social distancing

JOHNSTON — Iowa banks are doing their part to protect our communities in this time of social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. For some time, banks have been investing in technology to meet customers where they are — through online and mobile banking. Iowans can check account balances, transfer money and deposit checks without leaving their home.

Many banks are encouraging use of their online, mobile, ATM or drive-thru options when conducting banking over the next month. Some are taking the added step of limiting access to physical locations to protect customers and staff. Even with these changes, customers can be assured that they'll continue to have access to their money.

Iowa banks are working with consumers and businesses that have been economically impacted by COVID-19. In many cases, banks are providing targeted relief or support for those affected. This low interest rate environment may also offer Iowans opportunities to borrow or refinance loans for a home, business or other purpose.

The coronavirus is also impacting the financial markets. Volatile markets are a reminder of the importance of a diversified allocation for savings and investments. Local banks are Iowans' first choice for protecting their hardearned dollars. Deposits up to \$250,000 are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and are backed by an additional \$10 billion in bank capital.



Clubs, Organizations

Meals on wheels

Meals on wheels, a senior nutrition program for Muscatine County residents over 60 years old, is delivering meals to residents in Wilton. Any individual age 60-plus and their spouse of any age can receive daily meals if requested.

A contribution of \$5 per meal is suggested, but the agency will work with any individual who cannot afford to pay. Hot meals are delivered Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Cold meals are delivered Tuesday and Thursday.

Currently the meals are distributed from the Wilton meal site. Individuals under the age of 60 can still receive meals, but will need to pay the full price.

Menus are subject to change. Meals provide

1/3 of the current dietary reference daily intake for individuals age 60-plus. Eight ounces of milk is served daily with meals.

April 1—Three BBQ peach chicken tenders, six baked potato wedges, one cup of grapes and one cup of garden salad.

April 2—A hamburger on a wheat bun, half of cup of sweet potato fries, half a cup of corn, half a cup of cantaloupe and five wafer cookies.

April 3—Three ounces of Sloppy Joe on a wheat bun, one cup of roasted red potatoes, half a cup of mixed vegetables, one banana and orange sherbet.

For a full menu, please contact 732-3556. For reservations or cancellations, please call 732-3556. To make meal reservations, call one to two days in advance.



College News



Miller graduates from Upper Iowa University

Upper Iowa University announces Sarah

Miller, of Durant, graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in October 2019.



POLICE REPORTS



Twitter: @WDAdvocateNews Facebook: WDAdvocateNews

Wilton

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

March 22—Police were dispatched to the 500 block of Maple Street for a welfare check. The Wilton Fire Department cleared the location.

March 23—Police responded to a parking issue in the 200 block of West Summit Street.

March 24—Police took a report of a possible no contact order violation in the 100 block of South Vine Street. It remains under investigation.

March 24—Police gave options referencing a possible harassment complaint.

March 25—Police removed a subject for trespassing in the 100 block of Vine Street.

March 25—Police responded to a civil dispute at the police department regarding a civil matter in Cedar County. Options were given to the subjects.

March 26—Police responded to a public assist in the 500 block of West Sixth Street.

March 26—Police were dispatched to a civil disturbance in the area of 200 East Wate Street. Options were given to the complaint due to actions being civil.

March 26—Police responded to a suspicious activity in the 600 block of West Fifth Street. The subject vehicle was stopped and all parties were identified and released.

March 26—Police responded to a loud music complaint in the 500 block of Chestnut Street. Police advised subjects to not have music up too loud.

March 27—Police received reports of an Internet fraud involving an application for an online loan.

March 27—Police responded to the 400 block of East Fifth Street for a follow-up to an ongoing investigation.

March 27—Police responded to debris in the roadway in the 100 block of East Fourth Street.

March 27—Police were dispatched to a noise complaint in the 600 block of Sixth Street. Police were unable to locate.

March 28—Police received a report of an assault at a residence in the 300 block of Cedar Street.

March 28—Police received a report of criminal mischief in the 300 block of Pine Street. A report was taken.

March 28—A resident stopped at the police department to say thank you for everything the police department does — and to a specific officer for his handling of a suicidal subject.

Durant

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

March 22—Police performed a residential

security check.

March 22—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 23—Police performed a business check at Jeff's Market.

March 23—Police gave extra patrol in the

100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 24—Police performed a traffic stop between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street

stop between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street. A warning for a traffic violation was given.

March 24—Police were requested to speak with a subject at the Durant Police Station.

March 24—Police gave extra patrol at the

Hy-Vee Pharmacy.
March 24—Police performed extra patrol

in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 24—Police performed a business check at Jeff's Market.

March 25—Police assisted the Wilton Police Department with a medical call.

March 25—Police received reports of vandalism at Jaycee Park. Damage to the park sign was found.

March 25—Police performed a business check at Jeff's Market.

March 25—Police were requested to speak with a subject at the Durant Police Department about questions on a civil issue.

March 25—Police performed a business check at Jeff's Market.

March 25—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 25—Police gave extra patrol at Casey's.

March 26—Police were requested to speak with an officer in the 1300 block of Third

March 26—Police gave extra patrol at a residence in Durant.

March 26—Police gave extra patrol at Hy-Vee Pharmacy.

March 26—Police gave extra patrol in the

100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 26—Police gave an intoxicated subject a ride home between Fifth Street and

Sixth Avenue.

March 27—Police performed a traffic stop between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street.

A warning for a traffic violation was given.

March 27—Police performed a business check at Jeff's Market.

March 27—Police assisted the Durant Ambulance with a medical call on Ninth Avenue.

inspection at the Durant Police Department for IDOT licensing requirements.

March 27 Police performed a business

March 27—Police performed a vehicle

March 27—Police performed a business check at Idle Hour Lanes.

March 27—Police performed a business check at Hy-Vee Pharmacy.

March 27—Police gave extra patrol in the

100 block of Eighth Avenue.

March 28—Police performed a business

check at Jeff's Market.

March 28—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

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 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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DURANT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pursuant to Chapters 21 and 298A Code of Iowa, NO-TICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by Durant Community School District, on April 13, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Durant Community School District Board Room. This hearing is on a resolution to expend funds from district's Flexibility Account for purchasing textbooks, curriculum materials and administering assessments. These funds, in the amount of \$15,000, were unexpended and unobligated from the Professional Development Supplement

All persons interested are invited to attend this hearing and be heard. Written comments may be submitted to Lesa Kephart, Board Secretary on or before April 10, 2020 at 4:00

Published on order of the Durant Community School District Board of Directors

City of Durant Regular Council Meeting Minutes March 23, 2020

Mayor Scott Spengler called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Notice was provided via agenda, posted on city website and at city hall, that council would meet by electronic venue administered at City Hall Council Chambers, Aphone number was provided for anyone to call in to listen or take part in the was provided for anyone to call into lister of take part in the meeting. This number will change with each meeting. Per lowa Code Section 21.8 (1) Statement of rationale due to pandemic conditions and with recommendations from the Governor of the State of lowa, it will be safer to conduct an electronic meeting to help mitigate spread of the COVID-19. Now, therefore, council meetings shall be conducted in this manner until further notice. Roll call of members present was Quiram (phone), Sterner, Schulz, and Mundt (phone) (Mundt joined the meeting at 6:04p.m. City staff present: City Operations Officer/Clerk Deana Cavin, Police Chief Orville Randolph and Public Works Director Jared Semsch (phone). MSA Engineer Kevin Bailey was also present per

phone. Member Price was absent.

Consent agenda: Member Sterner motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve the Approval of Agenda, City Bills, and minutes for 03/09/2020 (corrected from 03/23/2020minutes) council meetings. Ayes: Quiram, Sterner, Schulz Nays: None Motion carried. Consider proclamation of Emergency Declaration:

Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Schulz, to approve the emergency proclamation. (See full declaration at end of minutes.) Ayes: Schulz, Sterner, Quiram Nays: None Motion carried. Clerk explained this may help area

businesses with any disaster funding related to COVID-19. Consider Res. 2020-15 approving temporary electronic public meetings in regards to Emergency preparedness planning: Clerk explained this is formal action for electronic meetings besides the declaration by Iowa Governor Reynolds. Member Schulz motioned, seconded by Member Sterner, to approve Res. 2020-15 approving electronic meetings until further notice for City of Durant City Council. Other city boards and committees shall meet only when absolutely necessary. Ayes: Quiram, Sterner, Schulz Nays: None Motion carried.

Engineer Report: Consider Professional Service Agreement with MSA for 12th Avenue Sewer replacement: Kevin Bailey reported after viewing the video of the televising done on 5th Street, the section between 5th Street and 4th Streets, at 12th Avenue under the railroad tracks, shows a severe sag, and joint separations, that are not allowing the sewer to flow as it should. Mayor Spengler inquired if this would cause back up on 8th Street or other areas. Kevin replied, he is speaking of a few feet of back up not hundreds of feet. So no it would not cause back up to 8th Street, nor the cause of the issues at 7th Street and 13th Avenue This needs a new section so it will flow freely under the tracks. The design plan includes contacting lowa Interstate Railroad, Hawkeye Land, and Iowa DNR for this project Member Sterner motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve MSA Professional Services for the design of the project in the amount of \$35,250. Ayes: Schulz, Quiram,

Sterner, Mundt Nays: None Motion carried.

Kevin is working with Triple B construction for the contracts, and Iowa DNR for the permitting for 4th Street

sewer section replacement.

Police Dept.: Consider approval for purchase of rifle & shot gun for squad: Chief Randolph presented council with two bids; one for shot gun and one for rifle to equip the SRO squad. R-O Guns prices were \$650 and \$1,125 respectively. Member Quiram asked if a second quote was considered. Mayor Spengler explained with what is going on right now, (COVID-19), guns are getting harder to purchase. R-O Guns has both guns in stock. Member Schulz motioned, seconded by Member Sterner, to approve the purchase in total of \$1,775. Ayes: Mundt, Schulz, Sterner, Quiram Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval of ammunition purchase: Chief Randolph provided order of ammunition for \$613.48; the police department will have qualification training coming up and does not want to deplete any supply on hand. The order is just what is needed for now. Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Mundt to approve the purchase of the ammo in the amount of \$613.48 from Speer LE. Ayes Schulz, Quiram, Sterner, Mundt Navs; None Motion carried.

Consider purchase of Watch dog camera paid for by GTSB grant: Chief Randolph provided information from Watch Dog for a camera for 4th Squad (SRO). The Governor's Safety Traffic Bureau grant will pay up to \$4500 for the camera. Total cost plus install will be \$6,451. The department will begin upgrading the cameras each year. Member Quiram motioned, seconded by member Sterner, to approve the purchase in the amount of \$6,451 with GTSB grant funding of \$4,500. Ayes: Mundt, Schulz, Sterner, Quiram Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Works Dept.: Consider approval to order new lawnmower from Sinclair Tractor for July 1, 2020 delivery: PW Dir. Jared Semsch provided a quote from Sinclair Tractor in the amount of \$21,000 after trade in for John Deere 1570 Commercial Mower, He explained the 2021 Budget had \$25,000 included for a new mower. Member Schulz inquired if this is the main mower. Dir. Semsch responded we bought the current mower new. It has 2,000 hours on it. The current and new one is the main mower for parks, it runs every day nonstop. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve the purchase of the mower for twenty-one thousand dollars (trade in value already deducted) from Sinclair, Durant, Iowa. Ayes: Sterner, Mundt, Schulz, Quiram Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval for Kleusner Construction to repair following three areas: 1.) Asphalt Overlay of 1st Avenue (Yankee Ave) from Hwy 6 to driveway of Lift station. Proposal amount \$33,360.00; PW Director explained this part is getting very broken up with increased truck traffic over time. The following year, from the lift station drive north to the bridge would be done. Mayor Spengler inquired if a quote for concrete could be provided because it would hold up longer with truck traffic. Member Quiram inquired if any of the area is covered by Cedar County. Clerk explained that anything in corporate limits is city responsibility. Dir. Semsch will come back to next council meeting with concrete estimate. 2.) Asphalt repair between streets 5th Street, 7th Ave. in amount of \$ 21,628.60 Dir. Semsch explained this is the area in front of the drug store and fire station, that they tried to patch with cold patch, but needs to be grinded out and relayed. 3.) Asphalt Overlay of streets: 9th St. from 9th Ave to 7th Ave & 7th Ave from 9th St top 100ft. north of 9th St. amount of \$66,057.20; Dir. Semsch explained this is for part of Shiloh sub division. Originally the street was blacktop, then seal coated. Unfortunately it is breaking up and some curbing needs repaired. Clerk reported all the asphaltrepairs are paid from Road Use Tax Funding. Member Sterner motioned, seconded by Member Schulz, to approve the second and third items for a total of \$87,685.80. Ayes: Quiram, Sterner, Mundt, Schulz Navs; None Motion carried

Fire Dept.: Consider approval to order new Fire Chief's Vehicle for July 1, 2020 delivery: Chief Semsch provided a quote for new Fire Chief Truck from Alpen Ford \$41,178 plus install of light bar and accessories from Business Radio for \$6,533.32. He explained \$10,000 of the \$20,000 of the Joey Gehrls Memorial money would be used. Fire Fighters Inc. will be paying \$25,000 towards the truck, and balance would come from fire department budget. Fire Fighter Paarman had also submitted a grant for \$5,000 towards the truck. Member Quiram inquired if a used vehicle was considered. Semsch reported, they did not look for used. Semsch explained the current 2001 Suburban was purchased used several years ago, and needs replaced. The new truck would be used for attending the required meetings in the counties, and taking equipment back and forth to fire scenes. Member Sterner motioned, seconded by Member Schulz to approve the bid for the truck and for the city portion not to exceed \$25,000. Ayes: Quiram, Schulz, Mundt, Sterner, Nays: None Motion carried. Chief Semsch added Cedar County has decided on ew radios that will affect all emergency services switching to new radios in Cedar County.

Clerk Report: A reminder that customers can go to www.cityofdurantiowa.com, under city utilities and pay their water/sewer/garbage bills by credit card now. It was general consensus city hall and city buildings will stay closed to the public until further notice.

Mayor/Council Report: Consider Res. 2020-16 protocol policies for City Emergencies: Clerk explained this is the emergency policy for COVID-19. It explains the protocol for sick time, closures, prioritizing services, electronic meetings, staffing needs, and utility bills. Clerk asked for guidance on the utility billing which will stay as is for now. Customers who cannot pay their bills in full are strongly urged to pay at least half of their hills due so their outstanding hal will not be so high, at shut off time. Written payment agreement can be arranged with city hall. Council reserves the right to revisit this issue monthly. Sick time paragraph will be deleted and "see U.S. Senate Law COVID-19. Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Mundt, to approve Res. 2020-16 setting protocol policies for City Emergencies.

Ayes: Sterner, Mundt, Quiram, Schulz Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Input: None
With no other business before council, meeting adjourned at 6:36p.m.

Scott Spengler, Mayor Deana Cavin, City Operations Officer/Clerk

CLAIMS LIST 03/23/2020
7G Distributing * CC bar beer692.30
Airgas USA, LLC CC bar rent CO2 cylinders 56.56
Bosch Pest Control City buildings pest control 100.00
Central City Electric Inc CC-exit light bulbs 13.08
Cintas Corporation #342 CC mats & shop towels . 200.31
EFTPS Fed/FICA tax5455.53
Diederichs, Joel CC refund-cancellation 4-4-20575.00
Duran, Celen CC deposit refund130.00
Durant Chamber of Commerce * Chamber

D 0000	75.00
Dues 2020	
Hach Company WA-spectrophotometer	
Hopkins & Huebner P.C. * Legal fees	
IA Assn Municipal Utilities EIASSO dues Mar-I	•
2020	
Iowa Prison Industries Roads-speed limit sign:	s &
flags	
IPERS IPERS	7598.13
McDonald, Amanda CC refund-cancellation	
3-21-20	125.00
Meier, Mike Police-PO box key	12.00
MidAmerican Energy Natural gas	1399.85
Miracle Recreation JC Park replacement parts	64.89
MSA Professional Services Inc Engineering	
fees	
Postmaster WA billing postage	245.00
Price Oil Co Fuel	
Quad City Door Co Shop-garage door parts	
Scott County Sheriff's Office Jail booking fees	
Shaffer Automotive Inc Police Tahoe-wipers	
Teledyne Instruments Inc WWTF-refrigeration	
assembly	
Treasurer of Iowa-IA-WH State taxes	
UPS * WA-ship meter to Hach	46.48
US Postal Service Personalized stamped	
envelopes	
USA Blue Book WA chemicals	
Walls, Karen CC refund-cancellation 4-11-20	
Payroll	
Total	
* Denotes paid early due to invoice due date	
Fund Totals	
General	
Road Use Tax	- ,
Fire Department	,
THE DEPARTMENT	0 10.03

CITY of DURANT **Emergency Declaration**

WHEREAS; Because of the potential health, economic, and social risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the State of Iowa declared a disaster on March 9, 2020. The City of Durant, Iowa, under the recommendation of the Cedar County Emergency Management agency, has declared a State of Emergency in an effort to proactively reduce the effects of the pandemic in Durant,

WHEREAS; the potential effect of an outbreak in City of Durant is overwhelming. Local school districts are announcing closures for a period of time; local businesses, social groups and charitable organizations may see economic losses; residents may face restricted access to public services. In addition, with through this declaration, we wish to minimize potential community exposure and spread of COVID-19 by limiting social contact and movement in an effort to reduce the physical load on the public health care system and reduce the risk to the public; and,

WHEREAS; the community spread of the COVID-19 virus will result in undue human suffering and hardship and threatens the safety, health, welfare, and well-being of citizens and economic function of Cedar County; and the City of Durant, Iowa.

WHEREAS; all locally available public and private resources and forces available to mitigate and alleviate the damage are deemed insufficient to cope with the resulting situation, initiate recovery, and meet restoration require-

NOW, THEREFORE; I, Mayor Scott Spengler, by virtue of the authority provided by City of Durant and by the lowa Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (NMSA 1978, 12-10-01 to 12-10-11) do hereby declare City of Durant to be in a State of Emergency for the purpose of exercising necessary emergency powers and expenditure of available resources, and requesting aid, assistance, and relief programs, and funds available from the State of Iowa

Passed, Approved, and Adopted, at the Office of the City of Durant, this 23rd day of March, 2020.
Scott Spengler, Mayor
ATTEST: Deana Cavin, City Operations Officer/Clerk

5:30 PM

epartment of Management - Form S-PB

of the details will be furnished upon request.

ocation of Public Hearing:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **Proposed Durant School Budget Summary** Fiscal Year 2020-2021

4,587.11

.43.910.03

.79,765.49

Date of Hearing: Time of Hearing:

4/13/2020

DURANT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD ROOM

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2020/21 school budget at he 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 he supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy

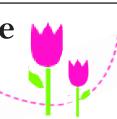
		Budget 2021	Re-est. 2020	Actual 2019	Av
Taxes Levied on Property	1	2,922,374	2,966,111	2,722,735	
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	68,998	75,247	74,362	_
Income Surtaxes	3	307,698	333,549	308,068	_
Tuition\Transportation Received	4	852,875	817,337	896,946	
Earnings on Investments	5	28,900	28,962	53,035	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	220,374	218,192	203,515	
Student Activities and Sales	7	318,500	318,500	246,085	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	146,000	196,589	256,383	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	3,500	5,802	3,780	
State Foundation Aid	10	3,487,825	3,428,547	3,408,790	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	12,508	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	578,765	645,253	658,480	
Commercial & Industrial State Replacement	13	73,180	61,860	58,234	
Title 1 Grants	14	101,613	78,710	88,938	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	276,200	292,395	306,288	
Total Revenues	16	9,399,310	9,467,054	9,285,639	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	294,385	0	
Transfers In	18	100,059	127,000	165,856	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	1,000	79,463	180	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	0	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	9,500,369	9,967,902	9,451,675	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	1,634,252	2,422,212	2,159,131	
Total Resources	23	11,134,621	12,390,114	11,610,806	

Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	0	1
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	9,500,369	9,967,902	9,451,675	1
Beginning Fund Balance	22	1,634,252	2,422,212	2,159,131	1
Total Resources	23	11,134,621	12,390,114	11,610,806	ı
Instruction	24	5,461,093	5,660,439	5,050,995	4.0
Student Support Services	25	399,202	386,833	292,917	
nstructional Staff Support Services	26	488,005	482,101	508,562	1
General Administration	27	251,052	292,046	276,982	1
School Administration	28	425,942	411,785	377,804	1
Business & Central Administration	29	303,171	208,792	125,480	i
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	920,633	844,886	821,008	ı
Student Transportation	31	439,945	457,958	322,097	4
This row is intentionally left blank	32	0	0	0	ı
Total Support Services (lines 25-32)	32A	3,227,950	3,084,401	2,724,850	8.
Noninstructional Programs	33	357,775	346,963	332,048	3.
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	34	534,171	954,058	434,174	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	35	101,059	336,159	235,650	ı
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	36	270,714	246,842	244,820	
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 34-36)	36A	905,944	1,537,059	914,644	-0.
otal Expenditures	37	9,952,762	10,628,862	9,022,537	ĺ
ransfers Out	38	100,059	127,000	165,856	ı
Other Uses	39	0	0	201	4
otal Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	s 40	10,052,821	10,755,862	9,188,594	ı
Ending Fund Balance	41	1,081,800	1,634,252	2,422,212	4
Total Requirements	42	11,134,621	12,390,114	11,610,806	



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Alliant Energy donates \$100,000 to COVID-19 relief efforts

ing \$100,000 to the coronavirus COVID-19 relief efforts in Iowa and Wisconsin through its foundation. The immediate support will benefit non-profit organizations and directly assist community needs in response to the crisis. These efforts support Alliant Energy's core value of safety and assures the well being of customers, employees and communities.

"Our employees are working diligently to continue safe and reliable operations and working to minimize the impact of the COVID-19 crisis for our customers and the communities they live in. But we want to do more," said John Larsen, Chairman, president and CEO of Alliant Energy. "We are providing immediate support to organizations that help our customers and communities in these unsettling times,

Alliant Energy worked with non-profit partners to understand needs of the communities and determine what support is most critical. Donations were the top need of the communities.

"We are committed to the health and safety of our customers and the communities they live in," said David de Leon, president of Alliant

Energy in Wisconsin. "We understand how this crisis is impacting our communities, and we want to help."

The contributions will directly help several non-profits in Iowa and Wisconsin. Alliant Energy will continue to monitor the needs of communities as the situation changes.



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Deadline: Thursday, 11 a.m.

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West Liberty Index

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Stockton: Durant Schools. Spacious 3 bedrooms. Stove, refrigerator and washer/dryer. Newly renovated. No pets. No smoking. Water/sewer/garbage included. \$690/month 563-210-7088 52-TFN-AN

Wilton: Spacious 2 bedroom condo for rent, some newly decorated. Northcrest Apartments in Wilton offers over 1,000 square ft. Kitchen appliances, AC, cable connections, on-site laundry, off-street parking and much more! Call Maynard: 48-TFN-AN

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Durant: 3 bdrm house. Excellent condition. 2 car garage. Great neighborhood. \$950/month. No pets. No smoking. Call: 563-210-2181.

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2012 Ford F150 XLT: SuperCrew, 4x4, 5.0L V8, 128,000 miles, trailer package, chrome package, reverse sensing, rearview camera, sync, 36 gallon tank, trifold tonneau cover, 7,500 miles on tires. Blue metallic, one owner and very good condition. \$16,500 Call: 563-343-1057 45-NSP

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tools, etc. \$9,250 OBO. Call Nichols: 319-723-4440 or email ecinc05@ho-

tmail.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2020

The Muscatine County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Sauer, Sorensen, Mather and Saucedo present. Holliday was absent. Chairperson Sorensen presiding.
On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the agenda

was approved as presented. Ayes: All.
On a motion by Sauer, second by Mather, claims dated
March 23, 2020 were approved in the amount of \$445,263.45.

Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved the following utility permit: Eastern lowa Light and Power – replace a single phase line with a three phase line running from Bayfield Road South along Jewett Avenue to

1968 Jewett Avenue. Ayes: All.
County Engineer Keith White updated the Board on secondary road projects.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved Resolution #03-23-20-01 Homestead Credit Application. Roll call vote: Aves: All.

RESOLUTION #03-23-20-01 HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Code of Iowa, Chapters 425 and 426A, the Board of Supervisors is empowered to establish by resolution that any person may request, in writing, from the Muscatine County Assessor, forms for the filing of Homestead Tax Credit and/or Military Service Tax Exemption; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the residents of Muscatine County to be allowed to make such written quests, through regular mail or electronic mailing

NOWTHEREFORE, BEIT RESOLVED by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Section 1. That pursuant to Code of Iowa, Chapters 425 and 426A any person may request, in writing, from the Muscatine County Assessor, forms for the filing of Homestead Tax Credit and/or Military Service Tax Exemption.

Section 2. That the assessor may make the forms available through the office by mail and accessed online

through the Muscatine County website.
Section 3. This resolution shall be effective upon pas-

section 3. This resolution shall be effective upon passage by the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors.
PASSED and APPROVED this 23rd day of March, 2020.

/s/Leslie A. Soule, Muscatine County Auditor
/s/Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson
Muscatine County Board of Supervisors
Discussion was held with Mike Nolan, Horizon Architecture regarding change orders for the Muscatine Maintenance

ture, regarding change orders for the Muscatine Maintenance Facility Project as follows:

Nolan stated COR#9 is needed for a drain pain to collect condensation from the boiler in the mechanical room and pipe it through to the floor drain. On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, the Board approved COR#9 Mechanical Room Drain Pan for the Muscatine Maintenance Facility Project in the amount of \$263.80. Ayes: All.
Nolan stated COR#10 is needed for a modification to add

a gate to a railing making it easier and safer for workers to

access the mezzanine and to add railing to the ADA ramp on the exterior of the facility. On a motion by Sorensen, second by Sauer, the Board approved COR#10 Gate Modification and ADA Ramp Railing in the amount of \$11,835.79. Ayes: All.

accepted a quote from Storey Kenworthy for furniture for the Muscatine County General Services Building in the amount of \$8,742.10. Ayes: All.

Nolan updated the Board on construction projects at County buildings.

On a motion by Sauer, second by Saucedo, the Chairperson was authorized to sign a 2-year agreement with CenturyLink on all the analog lines for various County offices. Ayes: All.

On a motion by Mather, second by Sauer, minutes of the March 16, 2020 regular meeting and March 19, 2020 special meeting were approved as written. Ayes: All.

All Supervisors received an email from Edward Askew with a public records request for 5 years of budget informa-

Saucedo reported an email regarding concerns about a roundabout in the City of Muscatine.

Committee Reports:
Sauer attended a Muscatine County Conservation Board meeting March 16th.
Sauer attended a Muscatine Board of Health meeting

electronically March 18th. Sorensen attended an Eastern Iowa Mental Health/

Disability Services Region meeting March 16th. Sorensen attended a CEO meeting for the Mississippi Valley Regional Workforce Board electronically March 19th. Sorensen attended an Emergency Operations Center

(EOC) update meeting March 20th.
Sorensen informed the citizens of Muscatine County that property tax payment penalties and penalties on vehicle

transfers have been abated until April 16, 2020. On a motion by Mather, second by Saucedo, the Board approved a Muscatine County Emergency Disaster Declaration related to COVID-19. Ayes: All.

Chairperson Sorensen provided a COVID-19 update stating Muscatine County has had their first cases of Coronavirus. Sorensen encouraged people to be safe and follow the guidelines recommended by the health professionals. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber read a letter from MUSCOM Manager Chris Jasper stating MUSCOM is still open and operating. Schreiber stated the letter says MUSCOM is screening callers before dispatching emergency services to a residence. Schreiber stated Jasper's letter stated MUSCOM has a Contingency plan in place with Cedar and Louisa Counties, if any of the centers are hit with COVID-19, then service will continue through the other two counties.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 A.M.

Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor

Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson

Board of Supervisors

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