



Wilton-Durant Advocate News



Area churches host virtual sermons, p. 2

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COVID-19 finds Wilton Retirement Community



Wilton Retirement Community is one of two long-term care facilities in Muscatine County with confirmed COVID-19 cases. As of April 20, Wilton Retirement Community had 12 confirmed cases, two of which have died. Photo by Derek Sawvell

12 cases and two deaths from Wilton long-term care facility

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

On April 10, staff at Wilton Retirement Community began testing tenants for the novel coronavirus COVID-19. By April 20, 12 total COVID-19 cases had been confirmed and further testing was ongoing.

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, there have been COVID-19 outbreaks in 10 long-term care facilities in Iowa. Wilton Retirement Community is one of two in Muscatine County with outbreaks. Lutheran Living Senior Campus in Muscatine also reported 11 COVID-19 cases as of April 20.

Wilton Retirement Community has 57 total residents. Of those, 23 live in the Leland R. Smith Assisted Living wing of the community. The remaining 34 are in the nursing home and memory care facility known as the Townsend Family Care Center.

Of the 23 tenants in the Leland R. Smith assisted living apartments, three have tested positive for COVID-19 as of April 20. The remaining nine cases are among the 34 residents in the nursing home facility. Currently, three of those nine COVID-19 patients have been taken to hospitals in Iowa City due to breathing-related issues. Two have died, and one was due to return April 21.

Wilton Retirement Community Administrator Shelley Wicks posted the following to Facebook April 15:

We are working closely with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Muscatine County Emergency Management in following the CDC guidelines for COVID-19. Early in March, when we first heard about this virus, we started to prepare the campus for the long haul. Our facility has been locked down to all visitors and other non-essential staff. We have educated our employees on the virus, proper hand washing, infection control, proper use of personal protective equipment, social distancing. All of it. We have stopped communal dining, group activities and outings. In spite of all this, it still crept into our building and has afflicted some of our residents. Please know that we continue to work hard to keep it from spreading further within our community. All of our families have been notified that the virus is present in our building. We ask that you send cards and letters to our residents and that you keep us all in your prayers that this will pass soon. We are thankful for the community who has supported our facility through the years. I am grateful for our excellent staff who are working tirelessly because they care for our residents. We will get through this together!

As of April 20, all of the residents in the nursing home and assisted living have been tested. Those who were tested first were showing signs of the virus — fever, cough or scratchy throat, shortness of breath, etc.

Wicks said she then asked for test kits for the rest of the inhabitants and that IDPH (Iowa Department of Public Health) granted the request. The rest of the tenants were tested with the cotton swab test.

Wilton Retirement Community has a staff of 80. Wicks said two staff members have tested positive (through April 20) and if an



Nine of the 12 positive COVID-19 cases at Wilton Retirement Community were within the Townsend Family Care Center, the nursing and memory care facility. Two have since died.

employee becomes ill, they can be tested on-site and the kit is sent to the Coralville hygienic lab. Employees are also screened each day at the front door — the only door available to go in or out. Temperatures are taken daily and, if a staff member has a temp of 99.5 or higher, he or she is sent home, where they then have to contact their primary care provider and abide by protocol prescribed.

The two employees who have tested positive are now quarantined at home.

The facility has been on lockdown since March 5. Since March 26, Wicks said she has been filling out a tracking sheet courtesy of the IDPH with regard to sickness among employees.

As for the COVID-19 patients, they've been moved to double rooms where they may be in with other positive tenants. "We're a small facility that's full. We're trying to group (COVID-19 patients) together as roommates.

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School's out for 2019-20

DES MOINES — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Education announced, on April 17, that all school districts and nonpublic schools will be closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and will continue to offer continuous learning to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This also includes the cancellation of spring sports activities.

"While I would like nothing more than to open up our schools and classrooms in May, we have to prioritize the health and safety of Iowans," said Gov. Reynolds. "With our students at home, we must rely on continuous learning plans that are in place and prepare school districts for 'Return to Learn' in the fall. I greatly appreciate the work of Director Ann Lebo and all our school administrators, educators, and staff during this unprecedented time."

The decision, which was announced during Gov. Kim Reynolds' press conference, is based on recommendations from the Iowa Department of Public Health to ensure the health and safety of Iowa students, teachers, school administrators and other school staff.

"Iowa teachers should be commended for how quickly they have transitioned from the classroom to online and distance learning," said Iowa Department of Education Director Ann Lebo. "Our schools have really stepped up to the plate and worked hard to develop and implement continuous learning solutions in only a matter of weeks. We appreciate everything schools and families are doing to support children's well-being while continuing to support their academic progress while school buildings are closed."

The governor and the Iowa Department of Education also announced that the state of Iowa will: Waive instructional time requirements for the remainder of the 2019-2020 regularly scheduled academic year for schools that continue to provide continuous learning through one of two approved options, voluntary educational enrichment opportunities, required educational services, or a combination of the two; Require schools to submit a "Return to Learn Plan" to the Iowa Department of Education by July 1 outlining

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Kim Reynolds

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Churches holding virtual sermons amidst COVID-19

By Phil Roberts
for the Advocate News

With large groups prohibited from gathering in Iowa because of the COVID-19 virus, pity the poor pastor and parishioner who are not up to speed on using modern technology to spread the word of God.

A survey of some of the churches in Durant and Wilton indicates, however, that is not a problem. Pastors and parishioners are, indeed, ready, willing and able to use technology to their advantage.

“We are keeping in touch by phone and email and worshipping with the bishop’s online services out of the cathedral church in Wheaton, Illinois,” said the Rev. Greg Graybill of St. David’s Anglican Church in Durant

“During Holy Week we posted some of our own music and homilies on our church website. We are looking forward to meeting again in person!”

The Rev. John Grebner is the interim pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Durant and New Era Lutheran in rural Muscatine.

“Our Sunday ‘gatherings’ are on Facebook and Youtube,” he said. “I produce a video which we upload for people to watch and participate in together.”

In addition, a daily reading of scripture and prayer is uploaded for people’s use.

“We lift up our community, country and world in prayer,” said Grebner. “We absolutely desire to be together worshipping God but understand that the best way for us to serve our neighbor is to stay apart.”

United Methodist Church of Wilton’s story is similar. That’s according to the pastor, the Rev. Steve Braudt.

Beginning on Sunday, March 15, the church no longer held in-person worship but began providing its 10:15 Sunday morning and 7 p.m. services on Facebook Live.

“We are not allowing groups to meet at the church, but we do hold virtual meetings of our vital church committees,” Braudt added. “Every day I also give an online devotion and prayer at 3 p.m. with an update on our congregation’s particular prayer concerns along with prayers for our state, nation and world coping with COVID-19.

“All of our worship services and daily devotions can be found on our church’s Facebook page and Youtube channel.”

Braudt also said he rings the church bell every day at noon for each death in the state of Iowa.

He said, “We have links for the worship services, daily devotions and giving methods on our church’s website, umcofwilton.org.”

Starting this week, Braudt is also sending a weekly email and voicemail to those members who have provided him with their contact information.

Technology and the U.S. mail are helping keep members of St. Mary’s Catholic Church



Wilton United Methodist Church pastor, the Rev. Steve Braudt, is shown looking out into an empty church in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to social distancing rules, prohibiting groups of 10 or more people, area churches have resorted to online filmed presentations to spread the gospel. Contributed photo

of Wilton informed.

“Unfortunately we can’t hold public masses or meetings,” said the Rev. David Steinle. “We are communicating to our parishioners through our website, and every other week we are mailing a hard copy of our Sunday bulletin to each parishioner. We feel that is a good way to stay connected.”

He said they’re not streaming any masses from St. Mary’s but are giving the parishioners the technology addresses and sites where they can watch a mass from their homes.

The current situation also has provided one unexpected opportunity.

“During these days when the church is not being used, we are having our parking lot resurfaced and paved,” Steinle said. “This is a huge project that was to take place this summer, but Triple B Construction was able to start now.

“The biggest void for our parishioners,” said Steinle, “is that we can’t be together on Sunday as a family in the church, and we can’t receive holy communion together.”

At Zion Lutheran Church in Wilton, members can worship in their homes, watching the services conducted on Zion’s Youtube channel, Zion Lutheran Church LC-MS.

Said the Rev. Daniel Ognoskie: “We send out, via email, our service order so the members can follow along and participate with the readings and hymns and listen to the sermon proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the forgiveness of their sins and eternal life.”

The church is also keeping in contact with members via phone and email.

Iowa high school sports canceled

Following Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds’ April 17 recommendations to keep Iowa schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year due to the spread of novel coronavirus COVID-19, all spring activities of the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and the Iowa High School Athletic Association are canceled.

The cancellation of all four boys’ and girls’ sports — golf, soccer, tennis and track and field — was made by the IGHSAU and IHSAA in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Education and state officials. The decision was also approved by the IGHSAU and IHSAA boards.

Guidance from Reynolds, the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health had previously suspended spring activities through April 12, then through April 30. Gov. Reynolds announced the extended closure of in-person schooling and school activities with Department of Education executive director Dr. Ann Lebo at a news conference April 17.

This cancellation is effective for all spring practices, competitions and postseason events.

“While we are disappointed that student-athletes will not have the opportunity to compete this spring, we remain committed to our primary goal of keeping students, coaches, officials and communities safe,” IHSAA executive director Tom Keating said. “This cancellation comes out of an abundance of caution for the well-being of all. Conducting our spring season would involve moving groups of people in and out of various communities for competition. At this time we believe that

is a risk we should not take.”

The spread of COVID-19 has caused an unsatisfying and unfortunate end to the 2019-20 school year as students across Iowa and the United States have faced cancellations and suspensions of school and athletic competition.

“We understand the important role that athletics and activities play in the lives of our students, schools and communities,” IGHSAU executive director Jean Berger said. “But during this time of uncertainty, we must support the health and safety recommendations of our state and national leaders. This decision is especially heartbreaking for our senior competitors, and we thank them for all they have done to represent their schools throughout their careers.”

Summer sports (boys’ baseball, girls’ softball) are suspended pending an assessment made in collaboration with state officials before June. Practice, competition, and post-season dates will be announced when they become available.

Both organizations will continue to follow guidelines from health and government officials in determining when it is safe to resume school activities and mass gatherings.

In the 2018-19 school year, the four spring sports accounted for more than 45,000 participants among Iowa high school boys and girls. Track and field was the second most popular sport by participation for both the IHSAA (12,012 boys) and the IGHSAU (9,908 girls).

Updates will continue to be made online and shared with member schools on summer and 2020-21 activities.



Area churches being closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Wilton to have its parking lot resurfaced and paved. Photo by Derek Sawvell

Wilton - Durant

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Planning ongoing in Wilton, Durant

SCHOOLS CLOSED
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ways they will address disruptions to learning as a result of COVID-19. This could include summer school, enrichment activities or other opportunities to address the needs of learners; Waive the requirement that schools start no earlier than Aug. 23, allowing school districts and nonpublic schools to make local decisions about the length of their 2020-2021 academic year.

The governor had previously ordered schools to close through April 30. All of Iowa's 327 public school districts, as well as 179 nonpublic schools, currently offer continuous learning through one of the approved continuous learning options outlined above. Continuous learning encompasses a variety of approaches used to extend learning beyond brick and mortar buildings — online learning, e-learning, distance learning, including paper packets, and virtual learning.

School buildings will remain closed through the end of the school year except for approved meal site locations participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program and those providing temporary emergency childcare.

An announcement on summer sports activities and when other school-sponsored activities can resume will be made by June 1. For more information, visit the Iowa Department of Education's COVID-19 Guidance and Information web page.

Reynolds noted that Iowa hadn't reached its peak yet with COVID-19 cases and that it would be local board decisions as to whether or not students would advance to the next grades or not.

In Wilton and Durant, prom, originally scheduled for April 25, has been postponed. Both districts have shown interest in having some kind of modified commencement exercises but when and what they'd look like is yet to be determined.

Thus far no COVID-19 cases in West Liberty care center

WILTON RETIREMENT
continued from page 1

Then one staff member in full PPE takes care of them," said Wicks.

All staff at Wilton Retirement Community is working with masks, face shields and gloves. Full PPE is worn when treating COVID-19 patients, including disposable gowns, gloves, N95 masks and face shields.

"IDPH tells us we can reuse some things but we're careful. These gowns are thin and we have enough that we can dispose of them to get clean gowns," said Wicks.

Wicks also noted that the facility will be receiving 160 washable gowns and that a brewery out of LeClaire has been supplying hand sanitizer.

When asked if she had any idea of how COVID-19 got into the building, Wicks said she was unsure. "I don't want to say it had to come in on an employee. It could have. But it could have come in on our mail too. I might have been exposed. Any of us could have brought it in," she said. "We don't want to point fingers. No matter what you do, this

virus creeps in."

She said it's also affecting those who tested positive in different ways, depending primarily on previous health issues such as diabetes, heart or lung issues, weakened immune systems, etc.

Wilton Retirement Community has tightened restrictions on staff. They are still allowed to come and go, but are limited once inside the premises. Those working in the nursing home wing are forbidden to work in the assisted living side and vice versa. "Everyone stays in their area. And we've tried to assign by those wanting to work with COVID-19 patients. No one has said they don't want to work. Everyone has been working as a team to care for our residents. When they leave work, they go home. They care about our residents," said Wicks. "This virus runs its course. We're keeping residents hydrated and fed and we keep taking temperatures. If things get worse and their breathing gets bad, we transport them to the hospital ... This will pass but it's running its course."

Every resident at Wilton Retirement Community has a window. While no one has

been allowed in since March 5, Wicks said there are several occasions where residents have gotten visits from the outside, where family members wave or shown signs outside the windows. Gifts and mail have been allowed in but are sanitized.

The only exception is in an end-of-life situation. At that point, a spouse or significant other is allowed in, but go through the same screening as employees and must wear a mask and face shield. A staff member then leads them directly to and from the family member's room.

No cases in West Liberty

Wicks is also administrator of Simpson Memorial Home in West Liberty, which also has nursing home and assisted living wings.

Thus far, there are no reported COVID-19 cases at the West Liberty facility among residents or staff. Simpson will also be receiving 200 washable PPE gowns for future needs/use.

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Tiffany's Tipton Bakery gets helping window from Monty's Pizza & Grill

By Teresa Benischek
of the Advocate News

As soon as the COVID-19 pandemic was breaking, Tiffany Meinert of Tiffany’s Tipton Bakery was impacted. All commercial businesses she worked with originally canceled their orders as well as all weddings and other events.

On March 17, she laid off all her staff, leaving just her husband Stacy to help her run the bakery until they closed it completely March 21. Initially, they offered curbside pick up and carry out, but did not see enough business to cover the product costs and leftover items not purchased. Tiffany said, “We could not justify staying open.”

After the first week, they began to work again with their wholesale bread accounts. Monty’s Pizza & Grill in Tipton, and Bomber’s Tap and TJ’s Gas in Bennett are getting fresh bread weekly from the bakery.

Bart Montgomery from Monty’s Pizza, one of the few businesses that stayed open in downtown Tipton, reached out to them April 15 and offered to let them use their drive thru one morning each week so they could generate some income. They had an overwhelming response after promoting for less than 24 hours the first drive thru April 17. They had such an overwhelming response, they are doing pre-order and pick up

again on April 24 and May 1 from 7 to 10:00 a.m. Pre-orders must be in by noon the day before pick up.

The menu consists of sweets, pastries, breads, and cookies. Pre-orders can be sent via Facebook message or by calling the bakery at 563-886-2558 and leaving a voicemail.

“We do not have a reopen date at this time. Bart has been gracious enough to let us use his drive thru as long as we need to. We can’t thank him enough,” said Tiffany.

Meinert also had an anonymous donor purchase 200 loaves of bread for the local food pantry on April 18 and another donor committed to 200-plus loaves for the food pantry on May 16.

Tiffany said, “We really appreciate Monty’s, Bombers, and TJ’s for continuing to support our local business. Our hope is that people see just how important the small businesses are to our communities and continue to support them.”

Tiffany's Tipton Bakery closed March 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Monty's Pizza & Grill, another small business in Tipton, offered to let the bakery use its drive thru one morning per week so she could generate some income. Tiffany is pictured at right with her husband Stacy.

Contributed photo



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- bringing the community together when we are apart -

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1) & 2) — Terri Becker of rural Wilton received a surprise under her front yard rooster sculpture on Easter. Someone left several Easter eggs under the rooster — maybe a surprise from the Easter Bunny? Becker then put a sign on it saying, “Thank you Easter Bunny” wondering if someone would respond and collect the eggs.

Contributed photos

3), 4), & 5) — Barb Reesink of rural Muscatine invited her neighbors and friends to a snowman building contest April 17. About nine friends participated, building creative snowmen during the unexpected snowfall. All snowmen were declared winners and a surprise gift is on its way to all participants.

Contributed photos

6) & 7) — Tiffany's Tipton Bakery closed March 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Monty's Pizza & Grill, another small business in Tipton, offered to let the bakery use its drive thru one morning per week so the bakery could generate some income. If interested in ordering sweets, pastries, breads, or cookies, pre-order via Facebook messenger or call 563-886-2558 and leave an order via voicemail. Dates for future drives thru are April 24 and May 1 from 7 to 10 a.m.

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Muscatine jailer makes disparaging remarks toward Muslims, homosexuals

Editor’s note: The following story was posted online at iowacapitaldispatch.com April 10, written by Deputy Editor Clark Kaufmann.

By Clark Kaufmann
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The top administrator at one of Iowa’s largest jails says Muslims are “pawns of the devil” and will soon be hunting down and killing Christians.

Muscatine County Jail Administrator Dean Naylor has placed online a lengthy treatise on the subject, as well as seven videos, all of which were produced five to six years ago but remain publicly accessible online.

In his written treatise, Naylor describes “the gay lifestyle” as an abomination and denounces court rulings that have led to the removal of the Ten Commandments from courthouses and government buildings.

Naylor’s YouTube channel includes three hours of video lectures on the scriptures and the coming “tribulations and rapture” that he says will take place sometime before 2023.

For the past 10 years, Naylor has run the Muscatine County Jail, which has roughly 250 beds and houses inmates for other eastern Iowa counties and the federal government. The jail frequently houses Muslim inmates, some of whom have complained of discrimination.

In a federal lawsuit filed in 2013, seven months before Naylor posted his written condemnation of Muslims, a Muslim inmate sued Naylor in federal court, claiming the jail administrator had ignored his request for a copy of the Quran, the central religious text of Islam. The case was tossed out of court after

the inmate failed to respond to the county’s motion to dismiss.

In the 11,500-word treatise entitled “End Times — We Are Here!!,” Naylor characterizes Muslims as “the beast” that will set out to kill all Christians and Jews just before the rapture occurs.

He writes:

* “The people following the Muslim faith are nothing more than pawns to the devil ... Allah is Satan, no doubt. Christians need to wake up and understand this. The Muslim world is bowing five times a day to the devil and they don’t know it ... Islam has 2 billion followers, they hate Jews and Christians (and) they can have a 200-million-man army ... Our fellow servants will turn on us and rat us out to the Satanically led Muslims who will be hunting us.”

* “Muslims also do not have any use for Christians. They will attack and kill any ‘infidel.’ An ‘infidel’ is anyone who does not believe in Islam or in other words worship ‘Satan.’ This includes both Christians and Jews ... Muslims that are currently worshiping Satan and do not realize that they are actually worshiping Satan but they are being influenced now to kill and eradicate all Christians and Jews.”

* “The next thing on the horizon is a world war. This war will kill a third of mankind. That is about 2 billion people ... It wouldn’t take long to kill 2 billion people with nuclear weapons. So the war could only take a few days or a year or two. So it could start anytime and probably already has.”

* “Very soon Christians will be faced with a

world that is hunting them worldwide and they will not be able to participate in the economy.”

* “The public and governmental acceptance of the gay lifestyle which is an abomination that according to scripture even defiles the land has caused great harm on our nation. Schools not allowing prayer and teaching atheistic views to our children has also caused great harm not to mention removing truths like the Ten Commandments from our courthouses and government offices.”

Rita Bettis Austen, legal director for the ACLU of Iowa, said that while the organization doesn’t know whether Naylor’s views have resulted in discrimination at the jail, “religious discrimination by officials has no place in America, which prizes religious freedom and pluralism among all our people. Regardless of the comments, we would encourage any Muslim who has experienced religious discrimination while held in the Muscatine County Jail in the last two years to contact the ACLU of Iowa, or another attorney, promptly. Federal law, and the U.S. and Iowa Constitutions, protect against discrimination based on religion in jails and prisons, and officials may be sued when they do so.”

In one of his videos, Naylor vehemently urges viewers to “buckle up” and prepare for a war that will take place between 2016 and 2023 and will kill one-third of mankind.

“The beast is coming, all right? Whether you want to wake up to it or not, he’s coming. Our time is nearing the end,” Naylor says in the video. “The clock on the end time is ticking ... Wake up. We need to start preparing

for war — spiritual war and physical war.”

Asked whether his videos and written statements reflect his current way of thinking, Naylor declined to comment.

Naylor’s boss, Muscatine County Sheriff C.J. Ryan, said that as sheriff his “concern is the actions of my employees, not their personal beliefs. I have no comment on the personal beliefs of Mr. Naylor or any of my other employees.”

Ryan said “it is departmental policy that all employees are required to treat individuals with whom they interact without regard to their personal characteristics such as race, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or other factors protected by law.”

Muscatine County Supervisor Scott Sauer said he knows Naylor, but doesn’t know anything about his public statements or online postings.

“I know nothing of what you’re speaking of, nothing at all,” he said. “I don’t get online looking for whatever. I’m just not a person who does that, that gets online and searches for whatever you can search for. I’ve got way too much work to do to be doing that.”

Supervisor Doug Holliday said he, too, was unaware of any online postings by the jail administrator. He said he’s not sure it would be an issue for the board to consider, as they have been busy dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said he has some initial thoughts on Naylor’s views, but added that he’s reluctant to share them until he can find out more about the situation.

Iowa Workforce Development reports 46,356 unemployment insurance claims

DES MOINES — The number of initial claims in Iowa reported by the U.S. Department of Labor, filed between Sunday, April 5, and Saturday, April 11, was 46,356. There were 43,862 initial claims by individuals who work and live in Iowa, and 2,494 claims by individuals who work in Iowa and live in another state.

The number of continuing weekly unemployment claims is 128,819.

A total of \$37,881,985.37 of unemployment insurance benefits was paid to claimants for the same week.

The following industries had the most claims:

- * Health Care and Social Assistance (6,789)
- * Manufacturing (6,002)
- * Retail Trade (5,813)
- * Accommodation and Food Services (4,292)
- * Industry Not Recognized (9,604)

Iowa Workforce Development began paying CARES Act benefits this week including the additional \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) weekly benefit amount as well as unemployment claims for the self-employed. This week a total of \$60,999,000 in benefits were paid to 93,546 Iowans.

Employers or claimants with questions can email Iowa Workforce Development at uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov or call us at 1-866-239-0843. Please check www.IowaWorkforceDevelopment.gov for the specific information needed within the email in order for us to answer your questions. The website is updated several times a day and it contains the most recent and accurate information. It also contains videos, webinars, FAQs and other forms of assistance for all of the different types of claims and programs such as the most updated information on the CARES Act benefits and payments.

Iowa Workforce Development does not accept paper applications for unemployment benefits. We ask that Iowans not file paper applications or utilize applications that provide paper applications on your behalf. This will significantly delay processing and payment of unemployment claims. We encourage Iowans to continue to utilize the website to file for unemployment benefits.

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

COMMUNITY

calendar

Let the Advocate News ad team help you design & promote your next event!

Contact Carissa at 563-732-2029 or anads@netwtc.net

Askew-Marquard Virtual Town Hall

APRIL 23

Thursday, this week, 6-7 p.m. CDT

NEW ZOOM® ONLINE LINK

<http://askewforsupervisor.com/>

NEW ZOOM® PHONE NUMBER AT ONLINE LINK

• NEW TOPICS •

- More On County Personnel Management
- Senate Candidate Mike Franken to Speak

Survey For County Residents on County Fair: Go to Online Link to Participate

Durant & Wilton Graduating Seniors

Submit Graduation Forms by April 30

1. Visit www.wdadvocatenews.com
2. Click on the Graduation Form link
3. Fill out the form
4. Click submit

The schools will provide us with photos!

Wilton-Durant Advocate News

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Look for graduation sections in our May editions!

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David Brown

David H Brown, 76, our devoted father and grandfather, died Saturday April 18, 2020, to go farm the golden fields of heaven.

A drive-thru visitation will be held at the Wilton Community Center/Public Library on Sunday April 26 from 3 to 5 p.m. The casket and families will be under the portico, please use the north entrance and not exit your vehicle.

Private family interment will be held next week at Wildasin Cemetery, rural Wilton. Memorials can be directed to Peace United Methodist Church or Mercy Wound Clinic, Iowa City. A memorial service will be planned for a later date. Visit <https://www.bentleyfuneralhome.com/> to view a video tribute.

David was born January 30, 1944 to Harris and Charlotte Robison Brown. He was later adopted by Edward Brown, his stepfather.

He was president of Wilton High School class of 1962 and attended Iowa State University.

He married Marilyn MacCanon Brown on April 9, 1966; they later divorced. He was a fifth generation farmer on the Brown family farms and a lifelong member of Peace UMC, rural Wilton.

David was a member of various community organizations and served as president of



David Brown

the Wilton Community Foundation board of directors. He was a member of the Muscatine County Farm Bureau, had served on the Muscatine County Extension council, and on the board of the Wilton Rifle Club.

He will be deeply missed by his sons, Joel (Lori) Brown, Ben (Maria) Brown of Wilton; and daughter Hannah (Jeff) Reid of Moscow; his loving grandchildren, Justin, Abby, Colby, Gavin and Casen; his loyal brothers James (Connie) Brown and John (Kim) Brown of Wilton; his Aunt Roberta Jewell, Muscatine; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Custom obituary

Sharon Sterner

Sharon E. Sterner, 73, of Wilton, died Friday, April 17, 2020, at Lutheran Living of Muscatine. A private family visitation will be held.

Memorial contributions may be made to Wilton Fire/EMS in her memory. Online condolences may be left at www.bentleyfuneralhome.com.

Sharon was born in Iowa City on Sept. 1, 1946 to John and Phyllis (Dierdorff) Walker. Sharon graduated from West Liberty High School in 1964 and later attended Muscatine Community College. Sharon married David M. Sterner on July 17, 1965 in Moscow.

She worked as a CNA for numerous area nursing homes. She enjoyed reading, cats and puzzles.

Sharon is survived by her husband David; daughter, Wanetta (Sue) Dykema-Sterner; sons Troy (Pam) Sterner, Raymond (Erin)



Sharon Sterner

Sterner and Travis Sterner all of Wilton; 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; sisters Sandy Keim of LeClaire, Mary (Bill) Carr of Wilton, Denise (Raymond) Salemink of South Bend, Indiana and Jill Peterson of Wilton; and brothers, Terry (Bobbie) Walker of Walcott and Bruce (Sally) Walker of Wilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Jerry Coss

Jerry L. Coss, 77, of Wilton died Monday, April 20, 2020 at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City. Private family visitation and services will be held. Interment will be in the Klein Cemetery, Moscow, Iowa.

Memorials may be made to the Wilton Athletic Program. Online condolence may be left for the family at www.bentleyfuneralhome.com.

Jerry was born in Iowa City on June 12, 1942 to Floyd and Murney “Iola” (Christofferson) Coss. He graduated from Wilton High School in 1959 and proudly served his country in the United States Navy. Jerry married Joyce D. McKillip on Nov. 21, 1964 in Atalissa.

He retired from HON, Geneva Plant after 42 years of service.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and was an avid sports fan.



Jerry Coss

Jerry is survived by his wife Joyce; daughter Deanna (Tim) Barrett of Wilton; son Michael (Melissa) Coss of Wilton; 7 grandchildren; his sister, Janice (Nevin) Roberts of Muscatine; and his brother, Donald Coss of Muscatine.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister-in-law Pat Coss.

Wilton-Durant

AN

POLICE REPORTS

Wilton

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

April 13—Police were dispatched to a fire call in the 300 block of West Fifth Street.

April 14—Police conducted extra patrol at the school.

April 14—Police conducted extra patrol at the community center.

April 14—Police performed a vehicle unlock in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

April 14—Police responded to a civil dispute in the 100 block of Spruce Street.

April 14—Police received a call regarding a parking problem in the 700 block of East First Street.

April 14—Police received a call of cows on the roadway in the 1000 block of Highway 38.

April 15—Police received reports of possible trespassing in the 100 block of East Third Street.

April 15—Police received a report of suspicious activity in the 700 block of West Fifth Street.

April 15—Police returned a phone call referencing a civil protection order violation.

April 16—Police received a report of a subject burning leaves in the 600 block of West Water Street.

April 16—Police were dispatched to a welfare check in the 400 block of Maurer Street. The involved party advised police they were OK.

April 16—Police responded to the 500 block of East Wate Street referencing an illegal burning. The owner was advised of the ordinance.

April 17—Police performed a vehicle unlock in the 600 block of West Fifth Street.

April 17—Police were dispatched to assist the Muscatine County Sheriff’s Office with a traffic accident at Taylor Avenue and Highway 927.

April 18—Police took a report of property damage in the 1000 block of Nicolaus Drive.

April 18—Police received a report of a hit and run damage accident in the 300 block of East Fifth Street. A report was taken and is under investigation.

April 18—Police received a report of a

possible theft in the 900 block of Seminary Street. Information was taken.

April 18—Police followed up in the 1300 block of Nicolaus Drive.

April 18—Police were dispatched to a harassment call in the 400 block of West Fifth Street. Options were given.

April 18—Police responded to a follow-up for a burglary that occurred at Wilton Express. The investigation is still ongoing.

April 18—Police responded to debris in the roadway in the 600 block of West Third Street. The item was removed.

April 18—Police were dispatched to a noise complaint in the 300 block of East Fourth Street.

Durant

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

April 12—Police assisted a motorist between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street.

April 12—Police explained to residents in the 1200 block of Sixth Street the number of people allowed in groups is no more than 10 because of social distancing.

April 12—Police performed a business check at Jeff’s Market.

April 12—Police performed a traffic stop in the 500 block of Ninth Avenue. Rusty Wadden, of Atalissa, was cited and released for driving under suspension.

April 12—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 12—Police assisted the Muscatine County Sheriff’s Department with a report of a suspicious vehicle in Muscatine County.

April 13—Police performed a business check at Jeff’s Market.

April 13—Police performed a traffic stop on Yankee Avenue and assisted a distraught resident.

April 13—Police gave extra patrol to a residence in Durant.

April 13—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 13—Police gave extra patrol at Casey’s.

April 14—Police gave extra patrol at the Durant School.

Maquoketa Caves closed through April 30

MAQUOKETA — The caves at Maquoketa Caves State Park will remain closed through April 30, in accordance with Governor Kim Reynolds’ social distancing efforts. The trail system for the park’s most popular caves involves narrow boardwalks and handrails, making it difficult for visitors to maintain physical distances of at least six feet. Visitors can access the rest of the park while the caves

are closed.

When planning a trip to an Iowa state park, be sure to check the DNR’s State Park Alerts and Closures page at www.iowadnr.gov/parkclosures for information on any seasonal, construction or weather-related closures that may impact your visit, along with COVID-19 related operational changes at Iowa state parks.

April 14—Police performed a traffic stop in the 700 block of Ninth Avenue. A warning for a traffic violation was given.

April 14—Police spoke with a resident in the 200 block of Seventh Avenue.

April 14—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 14—Police assisted a motorist between 14th Avenue and Fourth Street.

April 15—Police responded to suspicious activity near Hy-Vee Pharmacy.

April 15—Police performed a vehicle inspection for IDOT licensing requirements at the Durant Police Station.

April 15—Police gave extra patrol at Jeff’s Market.

April 15—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 15—Police responded to a parking violation in the 1200 block of Sixth Street. A warning for a vehicle nuisance was given.

April 16—Police responded to a nuisance/abatement call in the 1200 block of Fifth Street. A warning for a vehicle nuisance was given.

April 16—Police gave extra patrol at the Community Center.

April 16—Police performed a vehicle inspection for IDOT licensing requirements.

April 16—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 17—Police responded to a motor vehicle collision with a deer in the 2200 block of Highway 927.

April 17—Police gave extra patrol at the Durant School.

April 17—Police responded to a public intoxication call in the 100 block of Norfolk Iron Drive.

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

April 18—Police assisted the Wilton Police Department with a call in Wilton.

April 18—Police responded to suspicious activity in the 500 block of West First Avenue.

April 18—Police assisted the Durant Ambulance with a mental health call in Durant.

April 18—Police performed a traffic stop between Highway 927 and Vermont Avenue.

April 18—Police responded to loitering at the Hy-Vee Pharmacy.

April 18—Police responded to a traffic complaint in the 700 block of Sixth Street.

April 18—Police responded to a residential alarm in Durant.

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

April 18—Police gave extra patrol at Casey’s.

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Don Patterson

Don Patterson, 89, of Villisca died Monday, March 30, 2020, at Good Samaritan Society in Villisca. Private family services were held April 3 at Wolfe-Billings Funeral Chapel in Villisca.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.walkermerrickwolfe.com.

Donald Clark Patterson was born March 18, 1931, to Albert and Irma (Doggett) Patterson in Villisca. He was raised in Villisca until his family moved to Bergman, Arkansas, where he graduated from high school, but the Villisca class of 1950 made him an honorary graduate. Don moved back to Villisca and on May 26, 1957, he married Anna Marie Belding.

In his early years he worked at LA Moore’s Tire Shop, and he was also a janitor at the Lincoln School building in Villisca. He started working at the Villisca Municipal Light and Power Plant in 1953 until he retired, and then came out of retirement to work as a superintendent at the power plant until he retired for good after 44 years. While working at the light and power plant, he worked after hours for Herb and Jim’s Tree Service. When Don retired, he could be found working on a farm. One of Don’s passions was gardening and he loved to spend time taking care of the flowers around the square. He also loved to help

Don Patterson



anyone in the community that needed it. Don spent time in the Army National Guard and was an E5 when he retired after 30 years. He also served on the Villisca library board and was a member of the Villisca American Legion and helped perform military rites. Don is survived by his daughters Becky (David) Nolte of Wilton, and Susan Johnson (Rick Smith) of Villisca; 4 grandchildren: Kathleen (Mike) Rouse, Jacob Nolte, Doug (Jen) Raney, Donnie Patterson; sisters Carol Greenfield and Norma Parish; along with 5 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Anna Marie, brother John Patterson, son Jeff Patterson and brother-in-law Jerry Greenfield.

Leadership Iowa nominations due May 1

The deadline is approaching quickly to nominate for Leadership Iowa, Iowa’s state-wide issues awareness program hosted by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Foundation. Leadership Iowa provides opportunities for 40 Iowa leaders, offering participants a seat at the table with our state’s top subject-matter experts. Over the course of eight sessions held in communities throughout the state, together class members rediscover what makes Iowa such a special place to live and work. More than 1,200 leaders of differing in-

dustries and interests have graduated from Leadership Iowa over the past 38 years. The program is open to all interested in learning about issues important to our state. The program is designed to educate, inspire and grow a network of informed leaders and to encourage their ongoing local and statewide engagement to create a better future for Iowans. Participants gain the resources they need to have a positive impact on organizations, communities and Iowa. All are encouraged to nominate current and emerging leaders representing any industry

Shirley Souhrada

Shirley F. Souhrada, 99, of Wilton, formerly of Pekin, Illinois and Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, died Saturday, April 18, 2020 of natural causes at the Wilton Retirement Community.

She will be interred with her husband at Glendale Memorial Gardens in Pekin, Illinois. Memorial contributions may be made to the activity fund at the Wilton Retirement Community. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.bentleyfuneralhome.com.

Shirley was born in Flanagan, Illinois on Feb. 2, 1921 to Harry and Susan (Carmen) Zehr. She graduated from Pekin Community High School in 1938 and attended Brown Business College in Peoria, Illinois. Shirley married Edward R. Souhrada on July 17, 1944 in Pensacola, Florida. He preceded her in death on Oct. 28, 2009.

She was a secretary at State Farm in Bloomington, Illinois and Pekin Community Schools from which she retired in 1982. She was a former member of Calvary Baptist Church in Pekin, Illinois and the Community Presbyterian Church in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin.

She was an avid sports fan, especially the Chicago Bears and White Sox. She enjoyed working crossword puzzles and was an accomplished seamstress. Shirley was very active at the Leland Smith Retirement Community in Wilton, where she enjoyed bingo, playing cards, and participated in all the provided activities.

Shirley is survived and lovingly remem-

bered by her sons Tom (Linda) Souhrada of Davenport and Mike (Linda) Souhrada of El Paso, Illinois; her daughter-in-law, Sheryl Souhrada and her family of DeWitt; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, Jake (Karie) Souhrada and their children, Peyton and Cade; Luke (Krista) Souhrada and their children, Tyler and Kyle; Jared (Paige) Souhrada; and Jenna Souhrada. She was preceded in death by her husband and son, Jeff Souhrada.

Custom obituary

Shirley Souhrada



bered by her sons Tom (Linda) Souhrada of Davenport and Mike (Linda) Souhrada of El Paso, Illinois; her daughter-in-law, Sheryl Souhrada and her family of DeWitt; 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, Jake (Karie) Souhrada and their children, Peyton and Cade; Luke (Krista) Souhrada and their children, Tyler and Kyle; Jared (Paige) Souhrada; and Jenna Souhrada.

She was preceded in death by her husband and son, Jeff Souhrada.

The family of Bryan Dobbins

would like to thank you for the cards, flowers, food, memorials, and kind expressions of sympathy. Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and will always be remembered. We would also like to thank all family, friends, and coworkers who lined the streets of Durant for the funeral.

A celebration of life/benefit will be held when the COVID restrictions are lifted.

Sincerely,
Howard and Glenda Dobbins,
Troy and Craig,
Julie and family,
Herb and Twyla LaMaack

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

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

1791 155th St. (South of West Liberty on F70)

5:30 p.m. Sundays - Free Dinner, Worship & Discussion at Living Faith Service

8:30-9:30 a.m. every other Saturday Adult Confirmation Class

Church of Christ, Atalissa

Pastor Karl Roberts • (563) 649-2220

8:30-9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:30-10:45 a.m. Morning Worship Service

10:15-10:45 a.m. Junior Church

Moscow United Methodist Church

Jon Gimmy, Pastor • (319) 351-1877

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship

Peace Church of Christ United, UCC

www.peacechurchofchristunited.com

414 Maple St., Bennett

Pastor Scott Meyer • 563-893-2565

Office hours: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wed-Fri

9 a.m. Worship

10 a.m. Fellowship

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Bennett

260 E. 4th St. • 563-890-6619

Pastor Bill Traphagan

7:15 a.m. Bible Class

8:30 a.m. Church Service, followed by Sunday School

Trinity United Church of Christ, Rural Moscow • Pastor Jon M. Merritt

8 a.m. Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sundays

9 a.m. Worship every Sunday

Zion Lutheran, ELCA, Atalissa

(563) 649-3343

10:30 a.m. Worship

DURANT

Gloria Dei Lutheran, ELCA

John Grebner, Interim Pastor

606 4th Ave., Durant • 785-4936

9 a.m. Worship

Confirmation Wednesday 8 a.m.

Bible Study Monday 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Everyone Welcome

St. David's Anglican Church

Fr. Peter Vaughn, Pastor

peterrvaughn@gmail.com • 309-798-8376

801 5th St., Durant • 563-785-4916

www.stdavidsdurant.info

9:30 Sunday Worship, followed by refreshments

3rd Sunday outreach service at Courtyard Estates in Walcott at 11:30 a.m.

6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study led by Pastor Greg Graybill gregory.graybill@gmail.com

509-301-1760 Pastor Greg Graybill

Youth interested in taking part in WyldLife or Young Life should call 563-785-4916.

St. Paul's Episcopal

Rev. Dr. Alice Haugen, Pastor

206 6th St.

www.stpaulsdurant.org

9 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Eucharist

Children's service, 2nd Sunday

Healing service, 3rd Sunday

WILTON

First Presbyterian Church

563-732-2258

213 W. 5th St., Wilton • fpcfowilton.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.org

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

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Links can be found at www.UMCofWilton.org

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

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Isaiah 35:1

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Wilton, Iowa

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DHS and WHS seniors: Fill out your senior bio online by April 30

With the birth of our new website wdadvocatenews.com in 2016, I was asked a few times about the newspaper, more specifically, if we were “getting rid of the paper” or “Will we still have the paper?”

The answer was a resounding YES. Perhaps we should print that larger and bolder but hopefully you get the point.

While our website is exciting, it will never be *what* we do. The newspaper, now referred to more accurately as our print product, is who we are. It’s who we have been since 1867. It’s whom we WILL BE moving forward — 153 years and counting!

The website can be looked at as an extension of what we do. Another way of getting you the same local news you’ve expected and trusted over the years. And while we enjoy being at your fingertips with newsprint residue left over, we also realize that often times you are on your smartphones wanting and needing information.

Our site can help bridge that gap. It’s also a nice way to integrate it into our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

This has been very useful in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We’ve been able to get you information in real time much quicker than with ONLY our weekly print product. We’ve also broken news on our site and have been publishing stories free of charge in April as a way to give back to the community with the top goal always of keeping you informed.

While there is no fear of the web replacing print for the Advocate News, I will say it has forced us to rethink some things. Better yet, it has given us the chance to adapt.

One of those areas, we think, is with gathering information.

We have put all our forms online. For anything from a birth to an obituary, you can go

to our website and submit forms electronically rather than having to come into our office or call us to have a form faxed or emailed. You can also submit news, photos and letters to the editor through our site.

One specific change we implemented in 2016 was collecting our Durant and Wilton senior class bios online rather than with paper forms sent to the school.

We’ve gone above and beyond with our high school graduation sections for years. On top of a name and photo, we add a brief bio on each Durant and Wilton graduate. This had previously been done by sending forms to the schools, where they were filled out longhand.

With the launch of our website, I decided to recreate our high school senior bio form online in 2016 and put a link to it on our website. We sent emails to both schools explaining that we were trying something new. I also turned to social media and posted a link to the form on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

We’ve been collecting them the same way since and we’re at it again. I can’t begin to tell our 2020 seniors how heartbroken I am that you won’t be returning to school.

WENEEDALLDHSANDWHSSENIORBIOSBYAPRIL30.

Parents, we need your help too. If you are reading this, ask your high school senior if he or she has turned in their Advocate News senior bio.

The form (pictured) tells us what we need to know and will help us with putting together your senior bios. In this digital world with both schools having a 1:1 computer initiative, it just makes sense to do this.

It will take no more than a few minutes to fill out and submit a form. It will help with the timeliness of us putting them together as we’re planning to still run full graduation sections in the month of May.

Case in Point

By Derek Sawvell



Follow @SawvellAN



Twitter: @WDAdvocateNews
Facebook: WDAdvocateNews

High school graduation announcement

Congratulations Seniors!!! The Wilton-Durant Advocate News will publish its annual special graduation issues in May. We ask that you complete the following questionnaire.
Please contact us with questions at 563-732-2029 or adnews@netwtc.net.

* Required Fields

Student information

High school:*

First Name:*

Last Name:*

E-mail:*(A valid e-mail is required.)

Phone:*

Mother's First Name:*

Mother's Last Name:*

Father's First Name:*

Father's Last Name:*

Please fill out this field.

Activities, memberships and special honors while in high school:*

Employment while in school:

Future plans: (college, military, workforce, etc.)*

Submit

Reset

Sample

Jumping from one failure to another

Editor:

If the great Yogi Berra could sum up the current Muscatine County Board of Supervisors and County Sheriff, it would be “Déjà vu all Over Again.” We have a county government that has jumped from one failure to another.

First it was toxic slag on our gravel roads, then the breakdown of relationships with the other counties in the Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disabilities Services Region, after that let’s not forget the disrespect shown the Geertz family by the sheriff or the defunding of Special Olympics.

Finally we get to the offensive, homophobic, racist and puerile postings of the Muscatine County jail administrator. By the board members’ and sheriff’s lack of action on this issue, they are saying that they agree

with what the jail administrator has posted. The board of supervisors and the sheriff must be held accountable for these actions. To do that, the residents of Muscatine County need to go to the polls this November and vote in new leadership.

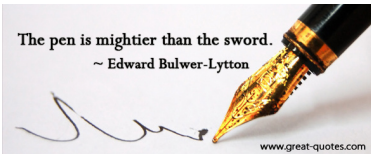
Supervisor candidates Edward Askew (District 3) and Henry Marquard (District 4), and sheriff’s candidate Mike Channon will make sure these types of problems will be solved before Muscatine County becomes an embarrassment to our residents and the State of Iowa.

**Edward Askew
Henry Marquard
Candidates for the Muscatine
County Board of Supervisors**

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
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Wilton, IA 52778



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How to avoid and repair flat tires

Nothing can delay road trips more suddenly than flat tires. Unfortunately, because tires are the only part of the vehicle constantly in contact with the road, wear and tear is to be expected.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that flat tires and blowouts are a leading cause of highway traffic accidents. Even though flats cannot be prevented, there are ways to make tires less vulnerable and make vehicles safer along the way.

Flat tire avoidance routine inspection and tire maintenance is essential to their performance. In addition, paying attention to road hazards and avoiding them when possible can prolong the life of tires.

- Tire pressure: Tires should be main-



Developing a routine tire inspection and tire maintenance schedule can help keep road trips moving.

tained at the correct air pressure indicated on the sidewall or as advised by the manufacturer. Tires with too much air can be damaged by bumpy roads and potholes. Tires that are not inflated enough may increase friction on the roadway, resulting in a blowout. Check tire pressure routinely, and do so when the tires have rested for three hours. Many vehicles now monitor tire pressure automatically and alert drivers through a signal on the dashboard.

- Tire wear: The advisors at Select Auto Imports say that inspecting tires for uneven wear should be a routine part of maintenance. If tires show uneven wear, they may be more susceptible to flats or blowouts. Tire rotations can help alleviate uneven wear. The NHTSA recommends tires be rotated every 5,000 miles.

- Tire treads: The Allstate Insurance company says to look for worn tire treads. Check for wear bar indicator marks located between the tread pattern of the tires. If the wear bar is level with the treads, it's time for new tires. Otherwise, place a quarter between the grooves of the tire. If the tread doesn't extend beyond the top of Washington's head, it's a good idea to replace the tires.

- Construction sites: Drivers should try to avoid areas under construction. Rocks, nails, metal shards, glass, and divots in the roads can cause punctures and eventually flats.

When flats occur, having the right tools and understanding the procedure for fixing the flat is key. Drivers will need an inflated spare tire, a jack, a lug wrench, bracing material (to keep the vehicle from rolling, such as

a brick or piece of wood), and the vehicle's owner's manual. Goodyear says it is essential to fix the flat in a safe area away from traffic and on a flat surface.

- Use the owner's manual to find the correct position to place the jack to lift the car.
- Remove hubcaps or center covers to access the lug nuts. With the lug wrench, loosen lug nuts in a

counterclockwise direction.

- Take off the tire and put on the spare. Replace and tighten the lug nuts. Replace hubcaps or covers.
- Slowly lower the vehicle and drive cautiously to ensure the spare is in working order.
- Purchase a new tire or have a hole plugged or repaired at a tire center.

How to maintain car value over the long-term

When shopping for a new car, savvy buyers know finding the right car involves more than just finding the most comfortable or flashy vehicle. Numerous factors, including resale value, determine what makes a car the right car for a particular buyer.

Various websites and automotive resources rank vehicles based on their potential resale value, and drivers can do much to ensure their cars and trucks maintain that resale value over the long-term.

- Pay attention to the exterior. Much like homes with strong curb appeal can help homeowners get the best price for their homes when those homes are on the market, vehicles that look good can make strong first impressions on prospective buyers. Address any dings or dents on the car before putting it on the market, and make sure the car gets a thorough washing and waxing prior to showcasing it for potential buyers.

- Protect the interior. A well-maintained interior will impress buy-

ers on multiple levels. Preowned buyers may feel more comfortable buying cars with well-maintained interiors that still make them feel as if they're buying a new vehicle. Vehicles with well-maintained interiors also give buyers the impression that sellers care about the vehicle and prioritized maintenance.

Avoid eating in the car, and immediately address any spills or stains. When taking the vehicle to a car wash, spend the extra money to have the interior cleaned as well. Seat covers can help protect cloth and leather interiors from spills, stains and cracking.

- Keep maintenance receipts. Another way to maintain resale value is to keep all maintenance receipts from the moment the vehicle is purchased. Preowned vehicle buyers are making substantial investments when buying preowned cars, and many will want to be certain they're investing in the right cars and trucks.



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Prevent bugs, sap and other substances from ruining a vehicle

Keeping vehicles looking pristine requires care and diligent cleaning. So



Many environmental materials can potentially damage the finish on vehicles.

many day-to-day activities and environmental materials have the potential to damage the finish on cars and trucks. While winter weather and chemicals used to keep roadways passable are often blamed for affecting the appearance of cars and trucks, winter is not the only time of year when substances can cause damage to vehicles.

Spring and summer are prime seasons for sap, birds and insects. These times of year tend to see an uptick in road work as

well, and such projects can contribute to damage caused by loose asphalt, gravel and tar. Addressing problems resulting from tree sap, insect and bird droppings and tar may not be something to look forward to, but it is necessary to keep cars looking pristine.

Tree sap according to Cars.com, an automotive information resource and vehicle sales website, although tree sap won't cause immediate damage to vehicle paint, it should not be ignored.

Over time, sap can become more difficult to remove, etch through the clear coat on the vehicle and cause discoloration. When the temperature is hot, damage from sap can accelerate.

On windows and windshields, drivers may be able to gently remove dried sap with a ra-

zor blade. However, use cleaning products on more delicate paint. Automotive stores sell specialty sap and tar cleaners. Otherwise, you can try rubbing alcohol. It may take a few attempts to remove sap entirely.

Splattered bugs and avian surprises dropped from above can be a messy, unsightly nuisance. Their acidic composition also may cause them to damage paint over time. Bugs and droppings can be sticky, so you will need to work with something that will remove the splatter without removing the paint in the process. A product like WD-40 may help. This oily product is normally used on rust and hinges. When applied with a cloth and allowed to penetrate the stain, it can loosen difficult-to-remove sticky substances. Always test any product you use in an inconspicuous spot first to make sure it doesn't damage or discolor your the paint.

Insects or droppings that are fresh may come off relatively easily with a good washing or hosing off of the car. Retailers also sell specialty insect sponges to remove bugs and other debris.

Tar Soap and water will do little to remove tar and other petroleum-based products from vehicles. Commercial tar removal products use a strong solvent or detergent to loosen the tar. This may include kerosene, mineral spirits or another item mixed with lubricants. Go slowly and use caution so that you remove the tar and not the paint.

Drivers who are hesitant to clean their vehicles of common residue can have their cars or trucks professionally detailed, leaving the work in the hands of experts.



Keep vehicles clean and prevent damage by promptly removing sap, insects, droppings, and tar. If left on vehicle, these substances can ruin the finish.

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Wash your car like a pro to protect its value

Vehicle owners know maintaining a vehicle can be a lot of work. Taking the time to properly care for a vehicle can prolong its life expectancy and help owners avoid breakdowns and other issues along the way.

Regular washing is an aspect of vehicle maintenance that some may classify as a purely cosmetic benefit. Certainly a car wash can keep the vehicle looking its best, but there are other advantages to washing as well. Washing offers preventative maintenance for the car's paint and can help prevent rust and corrosion resulting from dirt, acid rain and road salt. Rust can compromise hydraulic brake and fuel lines, as well as many moving parts in the chassis and frame. Corrosion of electrical connectors and other parts under the hood can lead to leaks, electrical shorts and a host of additional problems. It's easy to see how washing the car is more essential than one might have suspected.

If you live in an area with a high amount of dust or industry, you may need to wash your car as frequently as once a week. Drivers who live along or near coastal areas may need to wash their vehicles frequently to combat sea salt buildup. Garage-kept vehicles may be able to go longer between washes, but in general washing a vehicle ev-

ery two to three weeks is a good rule of thumb. In addition, a good sealant will protect the paint and other trims throughout the year.

The following are some other car-wash tips to follow.

- Always use a proper washing soap solution. This will preserve the car's finish better than other homemade soaps. Avoid using dish washing liquid, which can strip protective wax coatings.
- Be prompt when cleaning off bugs, sap and bird droppings that may stick to the paint and become difficult to remove over time.
- Wait until a car has cooled down before washing. Heat speeds up the drying of soap and water and can make it more difficult to clean.
- Always use a clean, non-abrasive sponge. Resist the urge to move the sponge in circles as you clean. Doing so can create noticeable swirl scratch marks. Instead, move the sponge lengthwise across the body panels and hood.
- Keep a separate rinsing bucket to clean the sponge or washing mitt so that dirt is not mixed into the clean, sudsy water.
- Consumer Reports suggests using a soft squeegee to remove most of the

water on the body of the car after washing and rinsing. Blot up any extra water with a chamois.

- Wax the car every season to ensure it has maximum protection. In between, apply a liquid spray wax to touch up spots. Water beading is not an ideal indicator of whether or not the car needs a coat of wax.
- Don't forget to pay attention to the

interior. Vacuum the carpets regularly to prevent ground-in dirt and routinely clean the upholstery with a product specific to your vehicle's interior, whether that interior is leather or fabric. Protecting a vehicle investment involves keeping the car clean. Know the right ways to help a car or truck look and perform like new.



Use a clean sponge and proper cleaning solution when washing your vehicle. Move the sponge lengthwise along the body panels.



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING
BEFORE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS
WILTON, IOWA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all persons in the City of Wilton, Muscatine County, Iowa that a public hearing will be held on Wednesday May 6, 2020 at the hour of 6:00 PM at the Wilton City Hall Community Room. Relative to a proposal to vary the terms of the Wilton Zoning Ordinance as to the R-1 Single Family Residential, on the following described real estate:

6-78-1W TRACT 85 X 155 S PT NE NW
To the City of Wilton in
Muscatine County, Iowa
This permit was filed by AJ & Laura Darting of 720 Cypress St Wilton, Iowa. Proposed garage does not meet the zoning requirements in this district and such permit does not comply with the Zoning Ordinance of The City of Wilton. All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard.

Board of Adjustments
Wilton, Iowa

2019 WATER QUALITY REPORT
FOR
WILTON WATER SUPPLY

This report contains important information regarding the water quality in our water system. The source of our water is groundwater. Our water quality testing shows the following results:

CONTAMINANT	MCL - (MCLG)	Compliance		Date	Violation	Source
		Type	Value & (Range)		Yes/No	
Lead (ppb)	AL=15 (0)	90th	2.60 (ND - 5)	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	AL=1.3 (1.3)	90th	0.165 (0.0236 - 0.240)	2017	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
950 - DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM						
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL=4.0 (MRDLG=4.0)	RAA	0.9 (0.6 - 1.2)	12/31/2019	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Fluoride (ppm)	4 (4)	RAA	0.57 (0.530 - 0.600)	06/30/2019	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Total Haloacetic Acids (ppb) [HAAS]	60 (N/A)	SGL	<0.6	08/14/2019	No	By-products of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb) [TTHM]	80 (N/A)	SGL	<0.2	08/14/2019	No	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Asbestos	7 MFL	SGL	<0.197 MFL	12/11/2017	No	Concrete Water Mains
03 - S/EP FRM WELLS #1,#2 & #3						
Sodium (ppm)	N/A (N/A)	SGL	9.93	08/14/2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Added to water during treatment process
Fluoride (ppm)	4 (4)	Raw water	0.2	03/31/2018	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	5 (0)	SGL	<1	03/14/2018	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate [as N] (ppm)	10 (10)	SGL	<0.250	11/20/2019	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2 (2)	SGL	0.268	12/11/2012	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Contaminants with dates indicate results from the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

DEFINITIONS

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) -- The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- ppb -- parts per billion.
- ppm -- parts per million.
- pCi/L – picocuries per liter
- N/A – Not applicable
- RAA – Running Annual Average
- Treatment Technique (TT) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- SGL – Single Sample Result
- RTCR – Revised Total Coliform Rule
- MFL - million fibers per liter

GENERAL INFORMATION

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water posed a health risk. More information about contaminants or potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. WILTON WATER SUPPLY is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

This water supply obtains its water from the buried sand and gravel of the Buried Sand and Gravel aquifer. The Buried Sand and Gravel aquifer was determined to be slightly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide moderate protection from contaminants at the land surface. The Buried Sand and Gravel well will be slightly susceptible to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Water Operator at 563-732-2156 .

This water supply obtains its water from the dolomite of the Silurian aquifer. The Silurian aquifer was determined to be slightly susceptible to contamination because the characteristics of the aquifer and overlying materials provide moderate protection from contaminants at the land surface. The Silurian wells will be slightly susceptible to surface contaminants such as leaking underground storage tanks, contaminant spills, and excess fertilizer application. A detailed evaluation of your source water was completed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is available from the Water Operator at 563-732-2156 .

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding this information or how you can get involved in decisions regarding the water system, please contact WILTON WATER SUPPLY at 563-732-2156.

City of Wilton
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020

The Council for the City of Wilton, Iowa met in regular session in the Community Room at City Hall on Monday April 13, 2020. Mayor Robert L Barrett called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present at this meeting: Wayne Budding, Keith Stanley, with Sheryl Lenker, Steve Owens and Ted Marolf connected remotely. Absent: None

The agenda was presented for approval. It was moved by Member Stanley seconded by Member Budding that the agenda be approved. The roll was called and the vote recorded as follows: Ayes: Owens, Budding, Stanley, Lenker and Marolf Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Minutes from 3-23-20 meeting and closed session were presented for approval. It was moved by Member Lenker seconded by Member Stanley that the minutes be approved as presented. The roll was called and the vote recorded as follows: Ayes: Owens, Budding, Stanley, Marolf and Lenker Nays: None. Motion Carried.

CITIZEN APPEARANCE:
City Administrator Ball received an email from property owner Dan Oien expressing his concern and displeasure with the recent protesting that he feels is negatively affecting his business and property access. The protestors are using the public part of the sidewalk and have a right under the constitution for protection of religious speech. The City advised them that the use of an amplified sound was illegal. The Mayor and the City Administrator will be asking other towns if they have this problem and what solutions they have used. Ball reminded the Council that whatever solution they agree upon will have to be applied to all groups.

CONSULTANTS:
Member Stanley updated the council on the sale of the model home and the continued interest in the remaining corner lots. The person interested in buying the home is currently working on getting a loan. The WDC also received an interest in 10 acres for an agriculture/industrial business. WDC quoted a price per acre and have not heard any further updates on this situation.

MAYOR ITEMS:
Mayor discussed the letter of resignation from the Board of Adjustment. Dick Valet has decided to retire from the Board after having served for many years. Member Budding moved to accept, with regret, the resignation of Dick Valet, seconded by Member Stanley. Ayes: Owens, Budding, Stanley, Lenker and Marolf Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Mayor Barrett requested an update on the current projects the City has been working on. The virus situation has obviously affected the dead line we have set for these projects. Ball is waiting for an update on the apartment building, and no other updates are available at this time for the Motel project or the proposed Recreation Center. The Mayor wanted to remind all the citizens to reply to the Census that is being conducted at this time. It is extremely important to the City of Wilton to get the correct Census numbers for our population.

COUNCIL ITEMS:
City Administrator Ball presented a letter to the council from City Clerk Lori Brown stating that because of the current situation with the virus, she will not be leaving her position as previously stated. As of now, her predicted last day at City Hall has moved to May 29, 2020.

Matt Wagaman started as an employee with the City April 22, 2019. At this time his salary is at 85% of the base pay. It was recommended by Ball that his pay should increase to 90% of the base salary per the City policy. Matt has done a great job with the City and is now working with the water and wastewater department, studying for his grades. It was moved by Member Stanley, seconded by Member Marolf to make the motion to approve Matt’s wage increase to 90% (\$19.07) of the base pay. Ayes: Owens, Budding, Stanley, Lenker and Marolf Nays: None. Motion Carried.

In response to the current Covid 19 situation the City has begun to rotate employees. We are operating a split shift schedule and when the employee has been requested to stay home they are still required to be on call. When on call they might be required to help out in other ways outside of their usual work assignments. Ball would like further direction on how to proceed with additional time off regarding pay or compensation. The Council felt that the full time employees should get paid their usual wage at this time and recommended to revisit this situation again at the beginning of the next month. It was so moved by Member Stanley, seconded by Member Budding. Ayes: Owens, Budding, Stanley, Lenker and Marolf Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Member Marolf updated the council on the Freedom Rock project. He reported that work on the landscaping should begin on this project next week. Pavers are still available for this project.

Member Budding commented how great the town has responded to the virus situation and the good things he has seen come out of this difficult time. He has noticed people helping friends and neighbors, and citizens getting outside and practicing the social distancing.

Police Chief Dave Clark gave an update on the continued work being done on the new squad car. Clark has completed most of the work and is waiting for the printing for the detailing for the car, which has been delayed at this time, but he hopes to have it finished soon.

At this time the City is not accepting recycling during garbage pick up for the safety of our employees. If a resident places recycling at the curb we are currently throwing it out with the regular garbage. The cardboard is being picked up but we have advised our employees not to sort through the recycling to retrieve it. We do not want to discourage resident from recycling. Citizens can continue to put their bin out with recycling.

Ball informed the Council the hiring for the parks position is put on a temporary hold while this Virus situation continues. We have employees available at this time to fill this position, and will call the applicants when this situation is resolved.

The storm water project in our Industrial Park has been pushed back until June with plans to complete it in September or October. Land purchases and exchange of property with Triple B Construction, WDC and the City are in the works and will need to be completed before the City can proceed with this project.

The City is currently not cutting off services or adding penalties at this time for non-payment. We are advising residents to call City Hall to make payment agreements and we are willing to work with them while this situation continues.

Being no further business, this meeting was adjourned.
Mayor Robert Barrett

Deputy Clerk Kathryn Koele

Durant Community School District
FY 21 Budget and Flexibility Account
Resolution Public Hearing

Unofficial Minutes
April 13, 2020
President Julie Rivera brought the meeting to order at 5:30 pm with roll call. Present: Carla Whitlock, Julie Rivera, Katy Oberlander, Tara Lindsay and Travis Bullard.

Board Secretary/SBO Lesa Kephart presented proposed budget information for FY21. Review of the components of the budget included a proposed tax rate of \$11.49726 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, Income Surtax for Instructional Support Levy in the General Fund, Solvency Ratio history, Unspent Authorized Budget balances history, Miscellaneous Income estimates/history, historical tax rates and historical enrollment data.

Ms. Kephart also reviewed the proposed resolution to transfer Professional Development Supplement dollars to provide flexibility to purchase textbooks, curriculum materials and administering assessments in the amount of \$15,000.

Ms. Oberlander inquired about ways to improve the General Fund financial position. Mr. Burnett stated that enrollment is the key driver of funding for the district, however; the district is always looking for opportunities to reduce costs whenever possible.

There being no public comments, Ms. Rivera declared the hearing adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Secretary, Board of Directors

Durant Community School District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2020

President Julie Rivera brought the meeting to order at 6:06 pm with the reading of the district mission statement and roll call. Present: Julie Rivera, Katy Oberlander, Tara Lindsay, Travis Bullard and Carla Whitlock.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Lindsay, seconded by Ms. Oberlander and carried 5-0.

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting and the March 16, 2020 Special Meeting was made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Whitlock and carried 5-0.

Ryan Kinneberg, Allen Consulting Group, provided information to the board regarding using the TIPS Program to bid our roof project. TIPS is a national purchasing cooperative and provides a free membership. The membership insures a national discount and insures the scope and specifications of our project/s are met with bidders. Mr. Kinneberg has been working with Maintenance Director Tom Wuestenberg and the district has signed up and received a membership number from TIPS. The process, according to Mr. Kinneberg, could take as few as five days or whenever the board is ready to act on it.

Mr. Wuestenberg shared current projects including Floor Abatement, Epoxy flooring bids, track tiling, roofing, gym bleachers, bus barn renovation and parking lot work. Daily duties for the last month were also reviewed.

Ms. Kephart reviewed the financial reports and lists of bills. Motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Mr. Bullard, seconded by Ms. Whitlock and carried 5-0.

Mr. Burnett spoke to the board regarding the temporary shutdown due to Covid-19 and is waiting for the Governors meeting on Friday regarding the status of social distancing recommendations. Some summer projects may be able to be moved up if the social distancing recommendations are extended into May.

Ms. Stineman reported that the district had submitted an education plan as required by the state and it has been approved. Weekly meetings have been held regarding special education and IEP’s, staff meetings and planning team meetings. During the first week of the shutdown a packet was sent home for PK – 8th grades, teachers participated in Professional Development and will turn in weekly learning plans and attendance. Week two, Facebook pages were created for each grade level for immediate families only to provide an avenue of sharing information with parents. Ipad’s were distributed to families and Professional Development continued for teachers. Week three, teachers dropped off goodie bags at student houses and professional development continued.

Mr. Diederichs provided information about 7-12th grades and how students have an opportunity to participate in on-line classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Middle school and high school teachers are making weekly contact and participating in professional development. Mr. Diederichs talked about options for Prom and Graduation. The popular option is to hold Prom after the social distancing ban is lifted. Mr. Diederichs is trying to plan a graduation ceremony that is as close to the real thing as possible if students are out through May. This would allow the district to recognize seniors for their accomplishments at Durant CSD.

There were no recommendations for Consent Agenda #1.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda #2 as presented was made by Ms. Lindsay, seconded by Mr. Bullard and carried 5-0. Consent Agenda #2 includes a review of the following policies:

- 405.1 Licensed Employee Defined
- 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
- 405.3 Licensed Employee Individual Contracts
- 405.4 Licensed Employee Continuing Contracts
- 405.5 Licensed Employee Work Day
- 405.6 Licensed Employee Assignment
- 405.7 Licensed Employee Transfers
- 405.8 Licensed Employee Evaluation
- 405.9 Licensed Employee Probationary Status
- 405.10 Licensed Employee organization Affiliation
- Motion to approve Consent Agenda #3 as presented was made by Ms. Whitlock, seconded by Ms. Lindsay and carried 5-0. Consent Agenda #3 includes:
 - Durant Community School District Covid-19 Pandemic Temporary Supplemental Policy Provisions
 - FY21 Cooperative Sharing Agreement with Host Muscatine for Swimming, Tennis and Soccer
 - FY21 Cooperative Sharing Agreement Durant Host with Wilton for Bowling
 - FY21 Durant/Bennett Teacher Sharing Agreement
 - FY21 Durant/Wilton 50% Band Teacher Sharing Agreement
 - FY21 Durant/Wilton 50% Spanish Teacher Sharing Agreement
 - FY21 Durant/Wilton 50% Shared Transportation Management 28E Agreement
 - FY21 Durant/Wilton Program Sharing 28E Agreements: Vocational Agriculture, Business, Art, Family & Consumer Science and Robotics/Computer Science
 - FY21 School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding
 - Second Reading of Board Wellness Policy 507.9
 - Motion to approve the FY21 Budget Guarantee Resolution

Continued on page 13...

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LEGAL NOTICES

...Continued from page 12

tion was made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Lindsay and carried with a 5-0 roll call vote.
Motion to approve the Expenditures from Flexibility Account Board Resolution was made by Mr. Bullard, seconded by Ms. Oberlander and carried with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Motion to approve the Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy Resolution was made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Whitlock and carried with a 5-0 roll call vote.

Motion to approve the Master Agreement was made by Ms. Lindsay, seconded by Ms. Oberlander and carried 4-0. Mr. Bullard abstained. The Master Agreement is for the FY21 school year.

Motion to approve the Teacher Handbook as presented was made by Mr. Bullard, seconded by Ms. Whitlock and carried 5-0. The Teacher Handbook is for the FY21 school year.

Motion to approve the FY21 Administrative and Classified Staff Salary and Wages was made by Mr. Bullard, seconded by Ms. Whitlock and carried 5-0.

Motion to approve the bid from Advanced Environmental for asbestos removal in the amount of \$27,840 was made by Mr. Bullard, seconded by Ms. Oberlander and carried 5-0. A bid was also received from ITI for \$33,841.

Motion to approve the bid from HTF for epoxy flooring in the amount of \$93,520 with additional \$5,000 dumpster allowance was made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Whitlock and carried 5-0. A bid was also received from CGI Flooring for \$127,065.

Motion to approve the FY21 Budget was made by Ms. Oberlander, seconded by Ms. Lindsay and carried 5-0.

Mr. Burnett informed the board that Hannah Happ will be hired as the JH Softball Coach if the social distancing ban allows for the softball season.

The next board work session will be Monday, April 27, 2020 at 5:30 pm and the next regular board meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

There being no further business, Ms. Rivera declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Secretary, Board of Directors	
APRIL 2020 GENERAL FUND LIST OF BILLS	
Advocate News legal publication.....	\$225.94
Camelot Education March tuitioned out billing.....	\$8,808.89
Doors Inc door repair.....	\$1,385.00
Employee Benefit Systems May health.....	
insurance.....	\$59,858.38
Global Security Services booster building alarm.....	
monitoring.....	\$192.28
Grigg's Music instrument repair.....	\$129.50
Herff Jones graduation supplies.....	\$528.17
Iowa Communications Network long distance.....	
service.....	\$51.58
Learning Farm subscription licenses.....	\$2,249.00
Millennium Waste garbage pick-up.....	\$653.00
Paper's Lumber & Supply maintenance supplies.....	\$218.69
Postal Source annual maintenance.....	\$202.00
Price Oil vehicle fuel.....	\$1,430.56
Roxanna Moritz, C.E.R.A. 2019 election.....	
reimbursement.....	\$171.13
Star Equipment LTD skid loader.....	\$25,775.00
Thoma Enterprises fcs supplies.....	\$181.88
Thomas Bus Sales bus parts.....	\$60.68
TMI air conditioning system repair.....	\$258.50
Visa.....	
Little Caesars pbis rewards.....	\$96.30
Staples ink cartridges.....	\$297.98
SUB-TOTAL.....	\$102,774.46
OTHER FUNDS:	
Iowa Communications Network networking.....	
services.....	\$764.40
Touchpoint Industries time clocks.....	\$6,500.00
TOTAL.....	\$110,038.86
Advanced Environmental asbestos inspection.....	\$770.00
AEI Speakers Bureau guest speaker deposit.....	
fee.....	\$4,250.00
Amazon maintenance/tech/classroom supplies.....	\$707.38
Camelot Edducation-Quad Cities Feb tuitioned out.....	
billing.....	\$9,327.06
Carolina Biological Supply Co science class.....	
supplies.....	\$83.49
Centerpoint Energy utilities.....	\$4,820.10
Chemsearch building maintenance supplies.....	\$372.70
City of Durant SRO reimbursement.....	\$4,509.07
City of Durant water/sewer.....	\$3,530.24
Cummins Sales and Service bus supplies.....	\$91.80
Durant Municipal Electric Plant utilities.....	\$9,699.52
Durant School Nutrition Fund water.....	\$7.59
Employee Benefit Systems April health.....	
insurance.....	\$58,879.67
Greenwood Cleaning Systems custodial.....	
supplies.....	\$3,394.70
Hy-Vee fcs supplies.....	\$11.75
J.W. Pepper choral music.....	\$38.13
Kirkwood CC secondary tuition.....	\$175.00
Lane & Waterman LLP legal services.....	\$759.00
Marco staples.....	\$304.99
MidAmerican Energy utilities.....	\$69.23
Potter, Charles piano tuning.....	\$148.75
PS3 Enterprises port-a-potty rental.....	\$49.00
Riverside Insights testing supplies.....	\$2,433.30
Ron Alpen Ford oil change.....	\$66.02
Scholastic Book Fair book fair.....	\$3,689.43
School Specialty art/classroom supplies.....	\$569.94
Tipton Electric Motors power washer repair.....	\$137.52
TMI hot water heating system repair.....	\$2,346.00
Top Shelf freezer repair.....	\$155.50
White, Cristie pd activity treats.....	\$76.28
Windstream telephone service.....	\$1,005.32
TOTAL.....	\$112,478.48
OTHER FUNDS:	
Greenwood Cleaning Systems rider scrubber.....	\$9,928.75
ITsavvy LLC tech supplies.....	\$1,960.00
Marco printing/rental.....	\$1,209.59
Rock Solid FOAM bus barn project.....	\$2,409.60
TOTAL.....	\$15,507.94

APRIL 2020 ACTIVITY FUND BILLS	
Advocate News Wildcat Chronicles Processing.....	\$296.00
Apex HS Dance Camp T-Shirts.....	\$286.00
Amazon Drama Play Supplies.....	\$219.08
Amazon Vocal CD's.....	\$13.99
Breedlove Sporting Goods Baseball/Softball.....	
Supplies.....	\$1,168.45
BSN Sports Baseball/Softball Supplies.....	\$63.92
Instrumental Awards Band Award.....	\$15.00
Paper's Lumber Drama Play Supplies.....	\$12.00
Richardson Athletics Softball Supplies.....	\$100.83
rSchool Today Athletics Facilities Scheduler.....	\$1,095.00
Sam's Club Vending Supplies.....	\$115.44
School Specialty Athletics Supply.....	\$32.03
Shirk Photography Cheer/Dance Supplies.....	\$411.40
Sickels, Cassandra Drama Play Supplies.....	\$43.58
Stalder, Andrea 8th Grade Trip Refund.....	\$350.00
Stineman, Rebecca HS Dance Lodging.....	\$395.66
Temples Track Hip Numbers.....	\$55.75
VISA	
Vice Sporting Goods Boys/Girls Golf Supplies.....	\$280.70
MF Athletic & Perform Better Football Supply.....	\$89.95
Gaiam.com/SPRI.com Football Supply.....	\$268.97
Broadway Licensing Drama Playscripts.....	\$71.04
Baseball Savings Baseball Supplies.....	\$589.90
TOTAL.....	\$5,974.69

City of Durant

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2020

The council meeting was held in part electronically and in person, with notice provided on agenda, and city website with call in number and access ID for the public. Per Iowa Code Section 21.8 (1) Statement of rationale due to pandemic conditions and with recommendations from the Governor of the State of Iowa, it will be safer to conduct an electronic meeting to help mitigate spread of the COVID-19. Mayor Scott Spengler called meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Roll call of Members: Quiram (phone), Price (phone), Sterner, Schulz (phone), and Mundt. City staff present: Public Works Director Jared Semsch (phone), Police Chief Orville Randolph (phone), City Operations Officer/Clerk Deana Cavin, and MSA Engineers Kevin Bailey and Sarah Fosbinder (phone).

Consent agenda: Member Sterner motioned, seconded by Member Mundt, to approve the city bills, minutes from 3/23/2020 council meeting, and agenda. Ayes: Quiram, Sterner, Mundt, Schulz, Price Nays: None Motion carried.

Legal: Attorney Sprague: Authorization for Mayor to sign receipt and waiver for Joey Gehrls Memorial money: Attorney Sprague gave an accounting of the estate. The will read the city receives the net proceeds of farm sale and prorate share of the cost of administration of the will. She explained the beneficiaries need to return the waiver and receipt in order for the estate to close and the funding to be paid by month end. The waiver means the beneficiary received the funds and waive any hearing on the estate. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to authorize the mayor to sign the receipt and waiver as requested. Ayes: Price, Schulz, Sterner, Mundt, Quiram Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider authorization for police department to charge on city code, and potential legal fee increase/explanation by Attorney Sprague. Attorney Sprague reported the Police Chief contacted her office to inquire about the department writing traffic tickets on city code instead of state code. Attorney Sprague explained in cases that could go to court, she cannot guarantee the amount of legal fees, and there is no flat fee, involved. Chief Randolph reported the department uses Trax to write traffic tickets on, and the city code was input into the state wide system. Member Sterner inquired how other police departments are handling citations. Attorney Sprague was able to provide Wilton writes on state code, Atalissa writes on both dependent upon the issue; City of Muscatine has a 28E agreement that officers will write the citations on city code, but the county attorney takes care of all the court cases. Member Mundt suggested tabling the issue. Mayor Spengler requested an accounting of three months' worth of citations with revenue generated and costs generated; and list of what other area cities use. Chief Randolph will follow up.

Police Dept.: Approve monthly police report: Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Price to approve the monthly police report. Ayes: Mundt, Sterner, Quiram, Price, Schulz Nays: None Motion carried.

Engineer Report: Consider Durant Development request for rezoning south industrial park: Information and plat map was included in the council packets concerning the Durant Industrial Park South. Clerk explained Durant Development Corporation has been contacted by Quad River LLC, to purchase a lot. Due to the makeup of the product produced, it was determined by Building Inspector Terry GoerdT that the company should be considered heavy industrial zoned. Durant Development Corporation requested the zoning change. The clerk reported the city cannot support "spot" zoning, therefore the industrial park would need to be rezoned. Any industry allowed in light industrial zone (which is current zoning) is also allowed in heavy industrial zone. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Schulz, to approve the request of rezoning and refer matter to Planning and Zoning Commission for review. Ayes: Price, Quiram, Sterner, Mundt, Schulz Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider water usage and pressure requirements for potential new business in industrial park: Kevin Bailey reported on the city's water system analysis with respect to Quad River LLC. After conversing with Quad River there were three main concerns addressed: 1.) Industrial strength waste into the public sewer system: the company will not have anything stronger than residential strength. No production wastewater. 2.) Capacity of water supply: Quad River's anticipated max usage is 40,000 gallons a day if they go to a two shift operation. The city's system can handle this amount of water. 3.) System pressure: Quad River had initially stated they would like 60 pounds per square inch (psi). The city's system normally is 45 to 58 psi. MSA recommends the company install a storage tank and that will produce the psi needed without any disruption to the city's system. The analysis considered worst case scenario and the city's system is capable of handling the demand. Member Quiram thanked Kevin for his thoroughness. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Sterner, to accept MSA's recommendation of Quad River installing a private storage tank on site. Ayes: Quiram, Sterner, Mundt, Schulz, Price Nays: None Motion carried.

4th Street Project update: Triple B Construction has been on site starting at 5th Ave and working west. They are about 70% complete. One illegally connected sewer was discovered and will be fixed by city and owner. Kevin Bailey will bring a change order to next council meeting. Overall the project is going well. 12th Ave Project update: Terra Conn will be on site this week for soil borings and railroad has agreed to negotiate the required flagger fees.

Public Works Dept.: Consider meeting with Public Works committee to discuss position for summer/fall opening: Director Semsch requested the committee set a date and time to discuss hiring a fourth person upon the retirement of current employee June 1. Committee will meet following the April 27th council meeting. Member Price inquired what work is not getting completed with the three employees currently, and is there a need for a fourth full time person. Dir. Semsch explained mowing season will require one person full time on the mower, that only leaves two people for other work, and one of those two will have to be testing at the sewer plant a few hours per day. Price requested to save money, can the committee consider hiring a person but not requiring the grade certification. Member Sterner inquired of the clerk if that is possible. Clerk explained the union, the human resource attorney and city insurance all reported if the individual does the jobs the other employees due, they are considered public works. If they wish to proceed with grade certification, the attorney and union stated they must be allowed. An employee who is not currently working towards a grade certification cannot do chores on the weekend at either plant according to the insurance company. They would not be covered because they have no active certifications, and would not be earning hours toward a certification. Union concurred with this as well.

Consider Yankee Avenue repairs to lift station: Asphalt versus concrete: At the previous council meeting it was requested to find out how much concrete would be for this section of roadway versus the quote for asphalt at \$33,360. Dir. Semsch explained SUDAS would have to be followed, and that would mean culverts and shoulder widening. The estimated costs was \$170,000+. Kevin Bailey reported adding in the seeding needed and filling in the ditches would cost closer to \$300,000. He would recommend doing the asphalt layover. Member Sterner motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve the proposal from Kluesner Construction for asphalt repair in amount of \$33,360. Ayes: Quiram, Price, Schulz, Mundt, Sterner Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider rescinding approval for Shilo addition street repairs due to cuts in revenues for road use tax: Clerk reported they had received the estimated sealcoating for the city in the amount of \$62,003.25; Dir. Semsch worked with the contractor to cut some areas out. At the same time the clerk has learned the Iowa Department of Transportation is expecting Road Use Tax Revenues to decrease by minimum twenty-five percent due to travel has dropped fifty percent since COVID. The clerk and public works director reviewed the information and recommend that the city cut the Shilo project approved at the last meeting so the money can be used to cover more streets with seal coating. Shilo project may be able to be done next year, after review of the revenues from the state. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Price, to approve rescinding the Shilo street project repairs in light of the reduced revenues from state road use tax revenues. Ayes: Sterner, Mundt, Schulz, Price, Quiram Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider approval of seal coating certain streets by L.L. Pelling: Member Quiram motioned, seconded by Member Mundt to approve the revised proposal for L.L. Pelling seal coating of certain streets in the amount of \$46,437.00 Ayes: Price, Quiram, Sterner, Mundt, Schulz Nays: None Motion carried.

Clerk Report: Consider Authorization of complaint form for City of Durant: Clerk reported the city attorney had reviewed the complaint form and saw no changes needed. Member Price stated the form is very thorough. The form will be located in the website, and city Facebook page. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Price, to approve the complaint form. Ayes: Schulz, Mundt, Sterner, Quiram, Price Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider March Financial Statements: Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Quiram, to approve the March financial statements. Ayes: Sterner, Quiram, Mundt, Schulz, Price Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider installation of security cameras at city hall: Clerk explained after the A.L.I.C.E. training last year several recommendations were made to make city hall more secure. The cameras would also allow the librarian to see who is approaching the building or in the hallway when city hall is closed, and library is open. Member Mundt motioned, seconded by Member Sterner, to approve the quote of \$2,447.00 from Heartland Fire and Security. This company provides security for community center and security equipment for compost area. Ayes: Sterner, Quiram, Mundt, Schulz, Price Nays: None Motion carried.

Clerk reported at a future meeting she will have quotes for a new service window that is more secure, and installing new countertop and storage for deputy clerk area. A new code lock will be installed so the clerk office door can remain locked. These were also safety suggestions after the A.L.I.C.E. training.

Farmer's Market: Clerk reported the Community Center board was in a quandary for the farmer's market opening. Member Quiram recommended the market not open until June 1, barring any other directives concerning COVID-19. Member Mundt stated whether to waive the fee or not, is up to the board. Clerk will report back to the board.

Clerk explained there have been six accounts for water and sewer that have not paid. Shut off day was Friday April 10th. Two accounts have been turned off because the resident or property owner has not returned calls to city hall to make any type of payment arrangements. It is thought that these people could be out of town during COVID 19 restrictions. Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be contacting the remaining to either arrange a written payment agreement or receive payment. If there is no contact, the water will be shut off. City hall needs communication from account holders.

With no other business before council, meeting was adjourned at 6:52p.m.

Scott Spengler, Mayor	
Deana Cavin, City Operations Officer/Clerk	
CLAIMS LIST 04/13/2020	
Advocate News CH-publishing.....	119.41
Airgas USA LLC CC bar rent CO2 cylinders.....	59.68
Alliant Energy * Scott Co electric-lift station, wa tower, st lights.....	266.01
CCP Industries Inc Paper products.....	254.49
CDW government Police-toner.....	696.44
Central States H & W Funds * Health & Life.....	
Insurance.....	13964.40
Cintas Corporation #342 Shop towels, CH & CC.....	

mats.....	264.01
City of Durant Water.....	3491.08
Compass Minerals America Roads-salt.....	
24.76 ton).....	1999.87
Cove Equipment WWTP-spreader repair & roads-LP.....	
shank tip.....	1098.39
Culligan-Quad Cities Distilled water.....	27.95
Durant Cemetery Association Annual payment.....	3000.00
Durant Muncipal Electric Electric.....	5068.26
EFTPS Fed/FICA tax.....	5250.41
Gworks Permit module-remaining balance.....	1895.83
Hopkins & Huebner P.C. Legal fees.....	769.50
Iowa Interstate RR LTD Norfolk Dr sign/maint/.....	
elec.....	235.04
Jeff's Market Supplies.....	95.71
Kiesler's Police Supply Inc Police ammunition.....	362.40
King, Kay JC park shelter refund.....	35.00
Liberty Insurance Agency Inc Annual.....	
insurance.....	114801.00
Liberty Trust & Savings Bank ACH fees.....	66.00
McMaster Carr Supply Co Supplies for disinfectant.....	83.52
Mediacom Police-static IP.....	19.44
Menards Supplies.....	413.15
MidAmerican Energy Natural gas.....	897.85
NCL of Wisconsin Inc WWTP supplies.....	298.68
Oveson Refuse & Recycling LLC April GB service &.....	
stickers.....	13313.50
Paper's Lumber & Supply Inc Misc supplies.....	409.00
R/O Guns Police-Rock River & Remington 1100.....	1775.00
Scott County Auditor Election expenses 2019.....	66.51
Scott County Library System Lib 2nd pymt.....	
19-20.....	32572.95
Shaffer Automotive Inc Pol '13 Tahoe srvc &.....	
wiring.....	173.45
Sinclair Tractor Fire-moto mix (4).....	31.96
Sprague Law Legal fees 2-16-20 to 3-15-20.....	2628.00
Staples * Office supplies.....	565.00
State Hygienic Laboratory Wa testing.....	45.50
Treasurer State of Iowa Sales & WET tax.....	1877.00
Tri County Heritage & Gen Museum Annual.....	
payment.....	1500.00
UPS * WWTP-online pick up.....	6.90
USA Blue Book Safety glasses & disposable.....	
respirators.....	205.80
Verizon Wireless * Telephones, internet,cellphones,.....	
hotspot,GIS.....	754.57
Visa * CH-certified postage.....	6.40
Walt Lambach Fire Protection Police & parks-fire.....	
extinguishers.....	140.85
WEX Bank * Fuel.....	636.25
Payroll.....	15869.01
Total.....	228,111.17
* Denotes paid early due to invoice due date.....	
Fund Totals.....	
General.....	166,636.41
Road Use Tax.....	7,319.02
Tax Increment Financing.....	235.04
Fire Department.....	13,392.33
Water.....	16,599.75
Sewer.....	23,928.62
Total.....	228,111.17
March 2020 Revenues.....	
General.....	103914.94
Community Center Memorial.....	100.00
Road Use Tax.....	9286.44
Durant LOSST (75% share).....	8358.81
Special Levy (Emp Ins).....	14911.10
Urban Renewal Fund (TIF).....	595.21
Fire Fund.....	5185.50
Debt Service.....	40619.82
Water Utility.....	28605.02
Water Rev Bond Sinking Fund.....	6757.33
Sewer Utility.....	62949.28
Sewer Rev Bond Sinking Fund.....	30001.67
TOTAL.....	311285.12

NOTICE OF INTENT

TO APPOINT A COUNTY ATTORNEY

In accordance with Section 69.14A, Code of Iowa, the Muscatine County Board of Supervisors hereby gives public notice that they intend to fill the vacancy of County Attorney created by the resignation of Alan Ostergren by appointment.

The appointee must meet the following Code of Iowa requirements to hold the office: (1) must be a registered voter of the county; and (2) must be admitted to the practice of law in the courts of Iowa.

A copy of the position responsibilities per the Code of Iowa may be requested from the Muscatine County Administration Office. To be considered for the appointment, a letter of interest and resume must be received in the Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, May 1, 2020. Due to the current closure of the Administration Building to the public, application materials should either be emailed to nschreiber@co.muscatine.ia.us or placed in a sealed envelope marked to the attention of Nancy Schreiber and placed in the secure drop box located at the front of the Administration Building at 414 E. Third Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Items received after 4:00 pm on May 1st will not be accepted.

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to make an appointment at their Monday, May 11, 2020 regular Board meeting. Said appointment will be effective from May 11, 2020 until the official canvass following the November 3, 2020 General Election.

If within fourteen days after publication of this notice or within fourteen days after the appointment is made, a petition is filed with the County Auditor requesting a special election to fill the vacancy, the appointment is temporary and a special election shall be called as provided by Section 69.14A(2)(a)(2), Code of Iowa. A petition for special election must comply with Iowa Code Section 331.306.

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TOGETHER, WE ARE THE DIFFERENCE!

Iowa's unemployment rate increases to 3.7 percent in March

DES MOINES – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.7 percent in March. The state's jobless rate was 2.7 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in March.

"The unemployment rate in March only reflects the very beginning of the impact of the substantial increase in unemployment claims we have seen since March 16, however the more reflective month will be April," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "While there were more unemployed than March 2019, there were 1.67 million Iowans employed last month. The more Iowans who remain employed throughout should help reduce the economic impact and hopefully assist in a faster recovery period when the economy begins to reopen. There are dozens of employers looking for workers now and those who are temporarily unemployed are encouraged to check these out at: www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov"

The number of unemployed Iowans jumped to 63,500 in March from 49,300 in February. The current estimate is 16,700 higher than the year ago level of 46,800.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,665,300 in March. This figure was 38,100 less than February and 12,300 lower than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Iowa shed 3,500 jobs in March. While some decline in payrolls was anticipated this month, the majority of the loss associated with efforts to contain the coronavirus will not be evident until April's estimates. Private service industries continue to trend down in Iowa's economy and have shed a combined 5,600 jobs over the past twelve months. Goods-producing

sectors trail last year's mark (-1,900) due to durable goods factories trimming staff over uncertainty. Government shed jobs in March (-400), yet remains up slightly versus last March (+400).

Accommodation and food services posted the biggest movement in March — a loss of 1,600 jobs. This was an early symptom of firms laying off staff early in response to the coronavirus. This sector had fared well stretching back to last summer and is still up 800 jobs versus last year. Health care pared jobs in March (-1,100) with many of the jobs lost being in social assistance and medical offices. Durable goods manufacturing again trimmed jobs in March (-800). This drop is the fourth in the last five months, but the decline is partially offset by a gain of 400 jobs in nondurable goods shops. Retail trade shed 200 jobs, although staffing levels are expected to drop in April as many non-essential businesses furlough employees.

Small gains this month included construction (+200), financial activities (+200), and professional and business services (+100), which saw hiring in administrative and support services being hindered by cutbacks in professional, scientific, and technical services.

Over the past 12 months, Iowa has lost 7,100 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities has shed 4,100 jobs with transportation and warehousing trimming the most jobs (-2,400). There is evidence that this sector should increase over the next few years thanks to new warehousing and distribution industries arriving in the state and increasing consumer reliance on delivered goods. Manufacturing is down 3,100 jobs with all of the loss being centered in durable goods shops. Annual growth has been highest in other services (+1,700) and construction (+1,400).

500 small businesses receive more than \$10 million in grants

DES MOINES – The Iowa Economic Development Authority announced that 500 small businesses have been awarded a total of more than \$10 million in grants through the Iowa Small Business Relief Grant program. The program has a total of \$24 million available to allocate, the additional grant recipients to be notified through additional rounds.

Nearly 14,000 businesses applied through the program requesting a total of more than

\$148 million in eligible assistance.

Due to the high demand, the funding capacity of the program has been expanded to a current total of \$24 million, provided through the state Economic Emergency Fund and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The application period is closed and any additional awards will be made from the current pool of applicants.

The assistance provided through the Iowa

Small Business Relief program is intended to provide businesses with immediate, short-term cash flow assistance. Businesses with 2-25 employees that had been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic were eligible to apply.

The grants awarded through the program range from \$5,000-\$25,000. Applications were triaged for eligibility and the businesses identifying the greatest revenue disruption

were awarded in the first round of funding.

The Iowa Department of Revenue continues to take applications for sales and withholding tax deferral as part of the Iowa Small Business Relief Program. The relief is available to employers and businesses of all sizes that have been impacted by COVID-19. The application period for tax deferral will remain open through April 30.



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Durant hosts first virtual school board meeting

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

The Durant school board held its first entirely virtual school board meeting April 13, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting began with a FY21 Budget and flex account resolution public hearing.

Business manager and board secretary Lesa Kephart went over several aspects of the budget with board members. She noted an estimated 6.3 percent increase in health insurance premiums next year, plus the addition of a human resources director position between the Durant and Wilton school districts, made possible by the retirement of both a teacher and central office secretary, and the saving of more than \$34,000 due to sharing a Spanish teacher with Wilton next year.

The tax levy rate (per \$1,000 of assessed value) is projected at roughly \$11.50. The district’s bond debt will also be paid off in May 2020.

She noted that the district’s unspent authorized budget, or what Superintendent Joe Burnett calls the savings account, is dropping. The unspent balance was \$1.735 million in 2019-2020 and is projected (on the low end) at \$880,902 for 2020-2021.

The drop is due to declining enrollment. “The next few years are going to be challenging if our enrollment doesn’t stabilize or increase,” said Burnett.

The flex spending resolution involved transferring \$15,000 from the flex account, from excess funds in FY20, to be spent in the professional development supplement account, primarily to purchase textbooks for next year, according to Kephart.

It was also noted that classified/exempt staff would receive a package increase of 4.308 percent next year.

Moments later, the regular meeting began. Maintenance Director Tom Wuestenberg, reporting from Burnett’s office, was present to talk about maintenance projects upcoming, namely doing the first two phases of the district roof repairs this summer.

Also present virtually was Ryan Kinneberg of Allen Consulting Group, who spoke to the board about the TIPS consortium, which would allow the district to choose particular products for projects from a group of local and national companies that are part of the TIPS program.

The district wants to use Duro-Last products to do its roof repairs and Burnett noted that there should be enough in the budget to take care of two phases this summer.

Other maintenance projects include fixing tile under the high school track, courtesy of Ellsworth Excavating and Triple B Construction; new high school gym bleacher replacement scheduled in August; Affordable Parking Lot Services to repair the parking lot in the summer; and continued work at the bus barn.

Administrative reports

The meeting was held prior to Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds’ announcement that school would be canceled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. In their reports to the board, Elementary Principal Rebecca Stineman and Jr./Sr. High Principal Joel Diederichs presented a sheet outlining what’s been done with staff and students during the shutdown.

K-12 students are taking part in voluntary learning initiatives approved by the state. Diederichs said his teachers are planning through each week then presenting to students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If students were not allowed to come back this school year, he said the district was looking at a pass/fail model for the second semester based, in part, on where students’ grades were in the third quarter when the shutdown began.

Students with failing grades will be allowed to turn in work for full credit in hopes of getting grades up.

Stineman noted that elementary teachers have set up private Facebook pages for interaction with students that are only for parents and not the public. Teachers have also provided “goodie bags” to students.

Diederichs said he recently sent workout plans home to students in order to try and promote physical activity.

Member Tara Lindsay asked about seniors, and if they’d met all requirements to graduate if school was to be canceled for the rest of the year. Yes, Burnett noted.

Prom, scheduled for April 25, has been postponed until later in the summer. Diederichs said he was more concerned with having some kind of graduation exercise on or around the original May 17 date, “Even if we have to have them come in individually, we’ll see what we can do,” he said.

Miscellany

In other action, the board:

- * Reviewed policies 405.1; 405.2; 405.3; 405.4; 405.5; 405.6 (with edits); 405.7; 405.8; 405.9; and 405.10.
- * Approved two resolutions with regard to the recent COVID-19 pandemic. One included a response and emergency suspension of policy; and the other included pandemic temporary supplemental policy provisions. Burnett noted that both help explain and secure that district employees continue getting paid through closure due to pandemics.
- * Approved a FY21 sharing agreement with Muscatine Community School District



The Durant school board held its first completely virtual meeting April 13 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Board President Julie Rivera is shown above, via computer screen, referencing notes while speaking during the meeting. Fellow board members are shown at right, also partaking in the meeting.

Photo by Derek Sawvell

for swimming, tennis and soccer.

* Approved a sharing agreement to host Wilton students for the bowling team.

* Approved annual sharing of Casey Strub’s services with the Bennett School District, with Bennett paying 40 percent.

* Approved 2020-2021 sharing agreements with Durant for the following positions: transportation director, elementary band teacher, half-time Spanish teacher, vocational ag, business education, art education, family and consumer science education and computer science.

* Approved the FY21 School Resource Officer agreement with the Durant Police Department, via the city of Durant.

* Held the second reading of board wellness policy 507.9

* Approved the FY21 budget guarantee resolution.

* Approved the 2020-2021 master contract with the Durant Education Association, with member Travis Bullard abstaining from the vote.

* Approved the teacher handbook for 2020-2021.

* Approved FY21 administrative and classified staff salary and wages.

* Approved the low bid of \$27,840 from Advanced Environmental for asbestos removal in the elementary hallway from the superintendent’s office to the middle school gym.

* Approved the low bid of \$93,520 with additional \$5,000 dumpster allowance to High Traffic Flooring Solutions to put epoxy flooring in the elementary wing, preschool halls, cafeteria hall, middle school gym hall, cracker box hall, high school hall, middle school commons hall and middle school hall.

* Approved hiring Hannah Happ, junior high softball coach, salary to be determined.

Members Julie Rivera, Katy Oberlander, Carla Whitlock, Bullard and Lindsay were present. All action taken was unanimous unless otherwise stated. The next work session is April 27 at 5:30 p.m. The next regular meeting is May 11 at 5:30 p.m.

EICC fall registration began April 20

Fall registration for new students began April 20 at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, which includes Muscatine Community College. Students are encouraged to begin the registration process as soon as possible to provide a better chance to not only get the classes they want, but to get them at the times they want them.

EICC’s college transfer program allows students to complete their first two years of a four-year degree close to home. The state universities and area private colleges work closely with EICC to ensure students completing their Associate in Arts degree will be able to easily transfer their credits.

The college also offers more than 30 career technology programs designed to allow students to enter directly into the job market. The programs range from a semester in length to a full Associate in Applied Science Degree. Many even qualify for Iowa’s Last Dollar Program, which covers the cost of tuition in more than two dozen high-demand fields.

Financial aid is still available for the upcoming academic year and EICC’s tuition continues to be among the most competitive in the state.

For more information about starting classes give the college a call at 1-888-336-3907 or visit online at eicc.edu/fall2020.



As depicted on the sign in Wilton's City Park posted April 7, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds ordered the closing of outdoor playgrounds, which included equipment in area public parks. Parks were ordered closed through April 30 as part of Iowa's social distancing rules during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Above left, playground equipment in Durant's Jaycee Park is shown wrapped with snow fence. Above right, the city of Wilton posted signs in each of its parks, including City Park.

Photos by Derek Sawvell and Contributed