



# Wilton-Durant Advocate News



Candy Kitchen on COVID closure, p. 2

April 30, 2020

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## COVID-19: Some Iowa counties allowed to reopen with restrictions

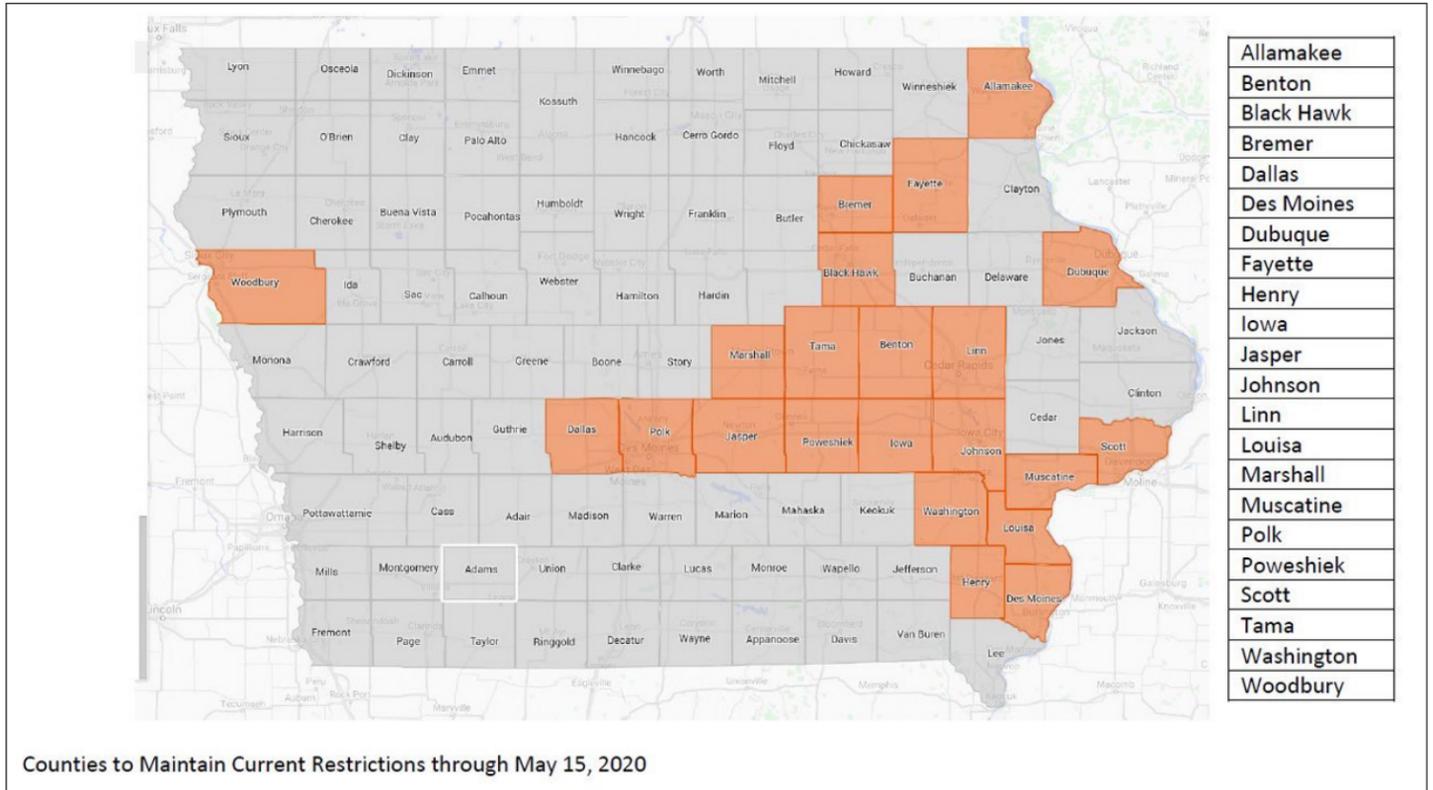
### ■ Cedar County can loosen restrictions, Muscatine County cannot

DES MOINES – On April 27, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Emergency Declaration until May 27. The proclamation loosens social distancing measures in 77 Iowa counties effective Friday, May 1 and continues other restrictions until 11:50 p.m. on Friday, May 15.

Cedar County is one of the 77 which will see lighter restrictions. Muscatine County is one of 22 where current restrictions will continue through May 15.

In the 77 counties with lighter restrictions, the proclamation permits restaurants, fitness centers, malls, libraries, racetracks, and certain other retail establishments to reopen in a limited fashion with public health measures in place.

In addition, the proclamation lifts the restriction on religious and spiritual gatherings so long as churches and other gathering hosts implement reasonable public health measures. All other regulatory relief previously provided



Counties to Maintain Current Restrictions through May 15, 2020

The 22 Iowa counties in orange, which includes Muscatine County, will see their COVID-19 related restrictions extended to May 15. The other remaining 77 counties may begin to lighten restrictions May 1.

**COVID COUNTIES**  
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## Wilton High School postpones commencement to July 12

By **Derek Sawvell**  
Managing Editor, Advocate News

When the Wilton school board held a virtual special meeting, followed by a work session April 22, the bulk of the discussion revolved around what to do with the school's annual graduation ceremony.

**Wilton school board**

On April 17, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Spring sports have also been canceled and a decision on summer sports will be made by June 1.

Prom has already been postponed. What to do about commencement was a bigger dilemma.

"It's the hot topic," said Wilton High School Principal Marc Snavelly. "In my mind the best solution was a virtual graduation."

According to Snavelly, a virtual graduation would include taped speeches from the principal, superintendent, senior class speakers, plus individual videos of each senior in their cap

and gown accepting their diplomas separately on the stage. A video would be spliced together later and a parade of cars could be held on May 17, the original date set for graduation prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Each senior could drive through in their own vehicle, where they'd be given their diplomas by administration with their name illuminated on the video board at the high school entrance.

Sounded like a good plan, until discussions were held with members of the senior class.

Snavelly said that class president Scott Martin and student council president Taylor Garvin were called into his office to present the idea. "They hated that idea. They wanted a live graduation ceremony," Snavelly said.

He said the students began texting other seniors while in his office and it seemed around 80 percent of those reached also wanted a live ceremony. Afterward, the district sent a survey to seniors and their parents. Although only 67 responded, 70 percent preferred a live ceremony.

In response, and with the eventual blessing of the school board, Wilton will postpone its graduation ceremony until July 12. Snavelly did warn that it was unknown what kind of

restrictions would be in place statewide, if any. Also, several students would be unable to attend at that time, including those leaving for the military. He also noted that a prom would be held at some point prior to that July 12 date.

"It's about the students and what they want. As long as they're clear on the risks, that's what we do," said board member Rob Metzger.

Board member Jeremy Lies added that if the state athletic unions decide to allow summer sports in June, that would increase the chances of having a live grad ceremony.

Board member Tara Oien said she agreed with the virtual idea. "As a parent of a senior, I agree with Marc's initial idea. My heart goes out to the kids but I don't want it to be less than what we could do now."

"They want the final chance to say goodbye. They are a tight-knit class," said Snavelly.

"We will not make everyone happy," added board president Linda Duncan.

"No one wins here. It's the world we live in right now. Not everyone gets what they want," said board member Tim Barrett.

After deciding on the July 12 date, a letter was sent to parents and seniors April 24. In it,

Snavelly noted that the ceremony would start at noon that day but the school would be following any guidelines still in place by the state. If crowd restrictions are in place, only seniors (and families) would be allowed to attend. It depends on numbers. If so, the ceremony would be broadcast live on Facebook. In the meantime, some of the components will be pre-recorded.

If social distancing rules say 75 or less people, a virtual ceremony will be held. At that time the pre-recorded parts would be released on Facebook, and the school plans to work with the Wilton Police Department to have a parade of seniors in their cars along the Founders Day parade route. The parade of cars would stop at the school electronic sign where their names will be displayed and read aloud, one-by-one.

Graduates will receive a pass/fail grade for the second semester based on work they completed prior to school closure March 15.

The annual awards night will also not happen. Snavelly noted that students would

**WILTON SCHOOL BOARD**  
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# Candy Kitchen: 'We shouldn't attract people at this time'

**By Derek Sawvell**  
Managing Editor, Advocate News

It's Wilton's longest standing business — a staple of its downtown. With roots dating back to 1860, the Wilton Candy Kitchen has been closed since March 16 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

With Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' orders of Muscatine County continuing its social distancing measures through May 15, that date will mark two months since the Candy Kitchen last opened its doors to the public.

It's the longest closure the business has had in more than a century, despite a nearly year-long hiatus when the Nopoulos family, who had owned and operated the business since 1910, sold it to Lynn Ochiltree and his wife Brenda after the death of longtime owner/operator George Nopoulos. The couple reopened the nation's longest running soda fountain in July of 2016 and the Ochiltrees have continued the same 7-day per week work ethic that the Nopouloses instilled in the business.

Lynn, a 1986 Wilton High School graduate, admitted there was some skepticism about the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the beginning. That changed when the governor began state-wide closures coupled with social distancing measures.

"When the governor said to close the schools and we heard from (Superintendent) Joe Burnett say our schools were closed, we decided to close in solidarity with the governor's orders," said Lynn. "The last thing I wanted was the governor to close schools and the Candy Kitchen be the place for kids to gather. We're an attraction and we felt we shouldn't attract people at this time. And this would have been an attraction for kids."

The Ochiltrees also own LorLen Candles on Fifth Street in Wilton. It also closed the

same day, March 16, a day after the governor's initial recommendation to close schools.

Lynn said there are around eight employees between the two businesses and that they've been helping their employees financially during the closures. They've also been trying to recognize and donate to those on the frontlines, such as teachers and healthcare workers, during the pandemic.

"The biggest thing for us is we are 'doers' for Wilton. That's a passion of ours," added Lynn. "We feel like our hands have been tied. When other businesses started giving things away, we wanted to, but what do you do? We're in a quandary."

The Candy Kitchen has no drive-thru window and the business is a tourist attraction, bringing in people from all over the U.S.

"The week before we closed, we had people from New York, Chicago, Des Moines, a lot of travelers from some of the (COVID-19) hot spots. We're a hub for locals and a destination for travelers," said Lynn. "We've talked a lot about when to reopen but we'd have to find a system with what we have. We look at logistics and want to consider employee safety."

The Candy Kitchen was considering a May 1 reopen but with the recent extension to May 15 from Gov. Reynolds, Wilton's oldest business may have to regroup at that point. Every day it's closed is closer and closer to summer, the best months for any ice cream shop and soda fountain, just one of the many layers that has made it frustrating for the owners.

"This is a destination. It's not as much about what we serve, it's the history behind what we serve. It's like a novel with so many great chapters," said Lynn.

A Wilton historian, Lynn noted that the shutdown has given him more time to comb through his many archives and artifacts, many of which are housed in the former Star Drug



Wilton Candy Kitchen owner/operator Lynn Ochiltree is shown mixing a drink behind the counter of the oldest soda fountain in the U.S. For nearly two months, the Candy Kitchen has had no one to serve treats. The staple downtown Wilton business has been closed since March 16 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It's unknown when the business will reopen, as owners Lynn and Brenda Ochiltree are abiding by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' orders.  
Photo by Derek Sawvell

Store in downtown Wilton. "It's a blessing to be able to do that, but I'd much rather be serving customers," he said.

"We're dedicated to reopening. Being available to your clientele is important. For my whole working life I've been available to the communities I serve. That's the hardest part," said Lynn, who used to be a funeral home director in Winterset.

While the "when" of the Candy Kitchen and

LorLen Candles reopening is still in question and dependent on governor's orders, Lynn's confident Wilton can persevere. "In 1918 we had the Spanish Flu pandemic. There's really no documentation with how the community handled it but we overcame. We've gone through the Depression, world wars, this too is a temporary setback."

# Apply for hemp licenses and seed permits by May 15

DES MOINES – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has issued its first round of hemp licenses and seed permits for the 2020 growing season. As of April 22, 11 hemp licenses and 38 seed permits specific to hemp have been approved since it became legal to possess hemp in Iowa on April 8, 2020. License applications for outdoor hemp crops will be accepted until May 15. There is no deadline to apply for a license for indoor hemp crops.

"The introduction of hemp brings Iowa farmers another cash crop option for the 2020 growing season," said Secretary Naig. "As with any new market, there are lessons to learn and challenges to overcome, but we continue to hear from farmers who are excited for this

new opportunity."

### Applying for a hemp license

Detailed instructions on how to apply for a hemp license are available at [iowaagriculture.gov/hemp](http://iowaagriculture.gov/hemp). All individuals associated with the hemp production operation must be listed on the hemp license application and must submit their fingerprints for a background check. Interested growers can request a fingerprint card at 515-725-1470 or [hemp@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:hemp@iowaagriculture.gov). A license cannot be issued until all applicants associated with the hemp license pass the background check.

### Applying to sell hemp seed

Before selling, distributing, advertising, soliciting orders, offering or exposing hemp

seed for sale in Iowa, a retailer must obtain a seed permit from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Seed dealers can apply for a seed permit now. Detailed information about hemp seed testing and labeling requirements are available at [iowaagriculture.gov/hemp](http://iowaagriculture.gov/hemp).

All questions about applying for a hemp license or seed permit should be directed to [hemp@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:hemp@iowaagriculture.gov) or 515-725-1470. Additional resources for hemp growers are

available at [iowaagriculture.gov/hemp](http://iowaagriculture.gov/hemp).

This commercial hemp production program does not legalize the use of cannabidiol (CBD) for human consumption, extraction or processing in Iowa. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is still working to determine if CBD is safe for human consumption. Hemp grain, hemp seed oil and protein powder derived from hemp grain have been cleared by the FDA for human consumption.

## Oops! Correction

With regard to the headline of a story on school cancellations in the April 23 edition of the *Wilton-Durant Advocate News*, it should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has

caused the rest of the 2019-2020 school year to be canceled.

The *Advocate News* continues its mission to provide information in an accurate, dependable and professional manner.

## 18 COVID-19 cases at Wilton Retirement Community



First reported last week, Wilton Retirement Community is dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak. In a follow-up with Administrator Shelley Wicks, Wilton Retirement Community is dealing with 18 positive cases of COVID-19. Two of those cases live in the assisted living wing while the remaining 16 are residents of the Townsend Family Care Center nursing home. Of those 16, four have died. One tenant, Lewis Morrison, has recovered.  
AN file photo

## Wilton - Durant Advocate News

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# Durant to host grad car parade May 17, ceremony July 12

**By Derek Sawvell**  
Managing Editor, Advocate News

The Durant School District will celebrate the class of 2020 on two separate dates — May 17 and July 12.

In the wake of Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds ordering schools to remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year, members of the Durant school board discussed graduation at a work session held April 27.

## Durant school board

High School Principal Joel Diederichs said he held a virtual meeting with the senior class, with 21 of the possible 42 graduates partaking. Diederichs said that the school's original commencement date was May 17. On that day, starting at 1 p.m., graduates will take part in a parade of cars that will use the annual Durant Firefighters' Festival route, with the addition of taking Seventh Street back to the High School, where their names will be read aloud at the school upon driving through at the end of the route.

The event will be broadcast live on Facebook.

Seniors will then have a more traditional graduation ceremony July 12, where they will receive their diplomas. Diederichs said the weather would dictate whether it would be held in the gym or perhaps outdoors at the football field. Prom has been postponed with the makeup date "still in limbo," he said.

With the final day of school being March 12 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Diederichs said the second semester would be graded pass/fail based on grades at that time. Three seniors are in question when it comes to passing but they've been contacted and the school is working with them to get their grades up in order to graduate.

On May 7, seniors will pick up their things from their lockers in curbside fashion at the school. The rest in grades 7-11 will do it May 27-28. Apple iPads will also be turned back into the school at that time.

In the elementary school, Principal Rebecca Stineman said teachers were focusing on

routines with students via virtual meetings. Also the teachers have been taking "pencil and paper work" to students in-person and through the mail. Stineman said parents wanted more hands-on activities and that teachers have been complying with those wishes.

Superintendent Joe Burnett said that Gov. Reynolds waived the Aug. 23 start date for the upcoming school year for districts that wanted to start earlier, however Durant will not do that. The school doesn't have air conditioning and teachers' contracts won't change, meaning that starting school a lot earlier would also mean getting out earlier in 2021.

## Roofing bid approved

The board approved a roofing repair bid for Duro-Last products, in the amount of \$325,052.64.

The bid allows for phase I and II of the district's roof repair plan to be completed this summer, and then some, according to Maintenance Director Tom Wuestenberg. All sections except the middle school and middle

school commons will get roofing and insulation repairs done, which is more than originally planned for, Wuestenberg noted.

The price point also came in within the original budget for the first two phases of the project, according to Burnett.

The Duro-Last pricing proposal was submitted via The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) that the district is now a part of. Riddell Roofing of Aledo, Illinois will provide installation of the Duro-Last products, which come with a 20-year warranty.

## Miscellany

In other action, the board:

\* Set a budget amendment hearing for Monday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. at the start of the next regular school board meeting.

Board members Julie Rivera, Katy Oberlander, Tara Lindsay, Carla Whitlock and Travis Bullard were present. All action taken was unanimous.

## 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](http://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.

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# Iowa began allowing elective surgeries, farmers markets April 27

DES MOINES — On April 24, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a new proclamation continuing the State Public Health Emergency Declaration. The proclamation permits health care providers to begin the process of resuming some elective surgeries and procedures through a phased approach, permits farmers markets to begin limited operations with appropriate public health precautions, and provides other relief to Iowans affected by this disaster.

## Nonessential Elective Surgeries

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 135.144(3), and in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health, unless otherwise modified by subsequent proclamation or order of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I hereby order that effective at 5 a.m. on April 27, 2020, and continuing until this disaster proclamation expires:

A. A hospital, outpatient surgery provider, or outpatient procedure provider may conduct in-patient surgeries and procedures that, if further delayed, will pose a significant risk to quality of life and any outpatient surgeries or procedures if the hospital or provider complies with the following requirements:

- (1) A hospital or provider must have:
  - (a) Adequate inventories of personal protective equipment (PPE) and access to a reliable supply chain without relying on state or local government PPE stockpiles to support continued operations and respond to an unexpected surge in a timely manner; and
  - (b) A plan to conserve PPE consistent with guidance from the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health;
- (2) A hospital or provider must have a plan for timely COVID-19 testing of symptomatic patients and staff to rapidly mitigate potential clusters of infection and as otherwise clinically indicated. Providers must comply with any relevant guidance related to testing requirements for patients and staff issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health, the CDC, or a provider's professional specialty society. For scheduled surgeries patients should have a negative COVID-19 test performed within 48 hours of surgery date. If a COVID-19 test is not available, a hospital or provider should consider alternative methods to determine the patient's probability of COVID-19. If the patient has symptoms of fever, cough, or low oxygen saturation, then postponing the surgery

is recommended.

(3) A hospital must continue to accept and treat COVID-19 patients and must not transfer COVID-19 patients to create capacity for elective procedures.

(4) A hospital must reserve at least 30 percent of intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 30 percent of medical/surgical beds for COVID-19 patients.

(5) A hospital or provider that begins conducting surgeries or procedures as authorized by this paragraph but is no longer able to satisfy all these requirements must cease conducting such surgeries or procedures except as authorized by paragraph B. All hospitals and providers shall have a plan in place to monitor compliance and a transition plan to reduce or suspend procedures and surgeries as necessary.

B. Except as provided in paragraph A, all nonessential or elective surgeries and procedures that utilize PPE must not be conducted by any hospital, outpatient surgery provider, or outpatient procedure provider, whether public, private, or nonprofit.

C. A nonessential surgery or procedure is one that can be delayed without undue risk to the current or future health of a patient, considering all appropriate factors including, but not limited to any: (1) threat to the patient's life if the surgery or procedure is not performed; (2) threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system; (3) risk of metastasis or progression of staging; and (4) risk of rapidly worsening to severe symptoms.

D. Each hospital, outpatient surgery provider, and outpatient procedure provider shall limit all nonessential individuals in surgery and

procedure suites and patient care areas where PPE is required. Only individuals essential to conducting the surgery or procedure shall be present in such areas.

E. Each hospital, outpatient surgery provider, and outpatient procedure provider shall establish an internal governance structure to ensure that the principles outlined above are followed.

## Farmers Markets

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 29C.6(6) and Iowa Code § 135.144(3), and in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health, I hereby order that farmers markets, as defined in Iowa Code § 137F shall not be prohibited as a mass gathering under the Proclamations of Disaster Emergency issued on April 6, 2020, or April 16, 2020, but only to the extent that the farmers market complies with the following requirements:

A. Farm Products and Food: The farmers market may only permit vendors who sell farm products or food. Vendors selling other goods or services are not permitted.

B. Entertainment and Activities Prohibited: Musical performances, children's activities, contests, or other entertainment or activities organized by the farmers market or vendors are prohibited.

C. Common Seating Prohibited: Farmers markets must eliminate all common seating areas, picnic tables, or dining areas and shall prohibit vendors from having any seating for

## FARMERS MARKETS

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Wilton-Durant

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- Protect the taxpayer by spending public money wisely, better managing of equipment, establish better fuel conservation practices, and pursue other avenues of revenue and alternate funding sources to offset costs of the Sheriff's Office and local government to the residents.
- Increase and develop community outreach programs within the county, ensuring more community policing, especially during holidays, the fair, and town festivals.
- Research and develop mental health jail diversion programs & alternative sentencing programs with the county.
- Improve the jail intake practices, including working with the Courts to restore the ability for arrestees to bond out of jail prior to seeing a judge.
- Work to improve the radio system within the county without a cost to the taxpayer of 6-8 million dollars. I will request additional radio proposals, including an option of combining radio systems with a nearby existing network for a 1/4 of that cost, to include research into dispatch regionalization to improve staffing, increase dispatch services, and qualifying for additional government funding.

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# Muscatine's jail administrator reportedly placed on leave

*Editor's note: The following story was posted online at iowacapitaldispatch.com April 24, written by Deputy Editor Clark Kaufmann. This is a follow-up to the report from Iowa Capital Dispatch to articles published in last week's Wilton-Durant Advocate News and West Liberty Index.*

**By Clark Kaufmann**  
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Muscatine County Jail Administrator Dean Naylor was reportedly placed on administrative leave this week, less than a month after his anti-Muslim writings were reported by the Iowa Capital Dispatch.

The Quad-City Times reported Friday that Muscatine County Supervisor Santo Saucedo said Sheriff C.J. Ryan had placed Naylor on administrative leave as of Thursday. No reason was given for the decision, the Times reported.

On April 10, the Iowa Capital Dispatch reported that Naylor, a captain with the sheriff's department, had published online a lengthy treatise in which he called Muslims "pawns of the devil" and that he had created and posted seven related YouTube videos. All of the content was produced five to six years ago but it remains 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. He also predicts a global conflict that will pit Muslims, led by Satan, against Christians and result in the death of 2 billion people.

At the time, Sheriff Ryan said his only concern was "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."

On Thursday, the Capital Dispatch reported that officials in Johnson County — which uses the Muscatine County Jail to house some of its inmates — were threatening to cancel their contract with the jail over Naylor's "hateful" commentary. That contract provides Muscatine County with \$657,000 in annual revenue.

Naylor's placement on leave appears to have taken effect Thursday, Saucedo told the Quad-City Times.

The letter from the Johnson County Board of Supervisors states that "Captain Naylor's reprehensible comments about Muslims and members of the LGBTQ+ community have caused us to fear for the civil liberties of the inmates housed at your jail. We find Captain Naylor's hateful speech to be unacceptable, particularly considering the high standard we hold for sworn law enforcement officers. We

denounce his comments and actions."

The letter goes on to suggest that if Muscatine County takes no steps to address the matter and "concerns remain, we may have no choice but to terminate our contract with Muscatine County and seek housing for our county's overflow inmates elsewhere."

Muscatine County expanded its jail years ago with the intent of having it generate revenue through fees paid other Iowa counties, including Johnson and Clinton, and by the federal government for housing some of their inmates.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, has publicly urged Muscatine County to fire Naylor. The organization's director of government affairs, Robert McCaw, said "Naylor's hostility and twisted apocalyptic end-times beliefs directly impacts his ability to impartially ensure the safety, security and religious rights of Muslim inmates."

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 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 that "people following the Muslim faith are nothing more than pawns to the devil ... 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."

Naylor also warns that "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."

In one of his videos, Naylor 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. "Wake up. We need to start preparing for war — spiritual war and physical war."

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

Stay in the know online at [wdadvocateneews.com](http://wdadvocateneews.com)

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**COMMUNITY calendar**

**City of Durant**

Street Sweeping  
Monday, May 4  
5 a.m. starting on 5th Street

Please remove all vehicles from 5th Street

**Askew-Marquard Virtual Town Hall**

APRIL 30 **Thursday, this week, 6-7 p.m. CDT**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82313957055?pwd=dEpEbUtUMj d2V2IVSzhmOTR5NHRLUT09>

Meeting ID: 823 1395 7055 Password: 019632

Phone #: 312-626-6799

**NEW TOPICS**

- More On County Personnel Management
- Corona Virus Concerns
- Senate Candidate Kimberly Graham to Speak

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The schools will provide us with photos!

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Look for graduation sections in our May editions!

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# Wilton School District receives \$5,000 Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine grant

MUSCATINE — The Wilton Community School District recently received a \$5,000 Community Continuity Grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine to help provide food for area students and families, as well as hotspots to allow children the ability to access course work remotely.

Marc Snively, principal at the Wilton Jr./Sr. High School, stated, "I would like to first thank the Wilton Café, Jeff's Market, and the Durant-Wilton Food Pantry for stepping up to provide food and other necessities for the students and families in Wilton and surrounding areas. I also would like to thank the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine for their generosity. As a school, we really wanted to help support these individuals and businesses that stepped up to help feed children while we were waiting on funding in order to start providing meals at school.

"In addition, WTC generously stepped forward to provide internet access for the students that needed it in the city of Wilton. The grant money received provided funding to purchase hot spots through US Cellular for those students living in the rural areas.

"The Community Foundation helped us achieve these goals. I can't express how blessed we are to live in this community. A special thank you to everyone that has stepped up to help during the unprecedented times!"

Portions of the grant supported the efforts of:

- Wilton Café who volunteered to provide free meals to students during the school closure. They have been providing 80 free meals a day to students.
- Jeff's Market and Catering who has also been filling the meal gap for students while school is in recess.

• Durant-Wilton Food Pantry who is working to meet the growing demand for food for vulnerable area families.

• Wilton Schools to provide rural hotspots for students' Internet access.

Charla Schafer, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, noted, "We are pleased to be able to direct dollars to the Wilton schools to help soften the edges of this difficult time. Feeding our children, ensuring their health and safety, and providing the tools to continue their education are paramount.

"We are grateful to the Wilton schools, and the leadership of Joe Burnett, Marc Snively, and Denise Austin, Wilton Café, Jeff's Market, the Durant-Wilton Food Pantry, WTC, area donors and others that have worked in concert to ensure our children are fed, their fears are reduced, families are stabilized, and the

children are poised to successfully resume academic opportunity.

"This collaborative effort of school, business, individuals and non-profits is a true testament of the strength of the Wilton community."

The Community Continuity Fund exists to support the immediate and emerging needs of neighbors in Muscatine County caused by coronavirus containment efforts. The Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine will match each gift to this countywide Fund up to \$70,000; thus, any donations to the fund will be doubled. To learn more or donate go to [www.muscatinecommunityfoundation.org](http://www.muscatinecommunityfoundation.org). Or mail checks to Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, 208 West Second St., #213, Muscatine, Iowa 52761.

# COVID-19 restrictions to lighten in 77 Iowa counties

## COVID COUNTIES

*continued from page 1*

to affected Iowans is also extended until Wednesday, May 27.

## Reopening of businesses and establishments in 77 counties

\* All counties except Allamakee, Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Dallas, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Henry, Iowa, Jasper, Johnson, Linn, Louisa, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Tama, Washington, or Woodbury County.

Effective at 5 a.m. on May 1, and until 11:59 p.m. on May 15:

**A. Restaurants:** A restaurant may reopen to serve food and beverages on its premises, but only to the extent that it complies with the following requirements:

(1) Capacity limited: The restaurant must limit the number of customers present at indoor or outdoor spaces to 50 percent of its normal operating capacity to ensure adequate spacing of groups.

(2) Groups limited: The restaurant must ensure that no group of customers seated together in the restaurant is larger than six people.

(3) Social distancing: The restaurant must ensure at least six feet of physical distance between each group or individual dining alone.

(4) Self-service prohibited: The restaurant must not have any self-service of food or beverages, including buffets or salad bars.

(5) Social distancing, hygiene, and public health measures: The restaurant shall also implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each restaurant to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals and the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**B. Fitness centers:** A fitness center, health club, health spa or gym may reopen, but only to the extent that it complies with the following requirements:

(1) Capacity limited: The establishment must limit the number of customers present to 50 percent of its maximum legal occupancy capacity.

(2) Social distancing: The establishment must ensure that all equipment, such as treadmills, bikes, weight machines, benches and power racks, are spaced at least six feet apart or take other appropriate measures to ensure that more closely spaced equipment is not used.

(3) Group activities: Any group activities or classes must be limited to 10 or fewer people and all people participating must maintain a

distance of six feet apart at all times.

(4) Social distancing, hygiene, and public health measures: The establishment shall also implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each establishment to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**C. Malls:** An enclosed mall may reopen, but only to the extent that it complies with the following requirements:

(1) Capacity limited: The mall must limit the number of customers present to 50 percent of its maximum legal occupancy capacity.

(2) Common seating areas: All common seating areas, such as food courts, shall remain closed. Restaurants in food courts may operate on a carryout basis.

(3) Play areas: Any play area or playground must remain closed.

(4) Social distancing, hygiene, and public health measures: The mall shall also implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each mall to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**D. Libraries:** A library may reopen provided that it limits the number of patrons present to 50 percent of its maximum legal occupancy capacity and implements reasonable measures under the circumstances of each library to ensure social distancing of employees and patrons, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**E. Race tracks:** A speedway or race track, other than a track conducting horse or dog races, may reopen its operations provided that it does not permit any spectators to attend its events in person.

**F. Other retail establishments:** A retail establishments that was previously ordered to be closed statewide, and is now ordered to be closed only in certain counties under section 5, paragraph I, may reopen, but only to the extent that it limits the number of customers present to 50 percent of its maximum legal occupancy capacity and implements reasonable measures under the circumstances of each establishment to ensure social distancing of employees and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

## Advocate News Easter egg hunt winner



Twyla LaMaack of Wilton was the lucky winner of the annual Advocate News Easter egg hunt held within the pages of the April 2 issue, where there were 11 special "AN" eggs hidden throughout the paper. Several readers correctly predicted the amount of eggs but LaMaack's name was drawn to win a special Advocate News themed Easter basket. She's pictured above picking the basket up curbside during the week of Easter.

Photo by Ashley Darnold



## OBITUARIES

### Eleanor Frenzel

Eleanor L. Houseman Frenzel, 94, of Wilton died Monday, April 27, 2020 at the Wilton Retirement Community. Private family graveside services will be held at Muscatine Memorial Park Cemetery in Muscatine.

Memorial contributions may be made to Iowa Department of the Blind, Library service or the Wilton Retirement Community. Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.bentleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.bentleyfuneralhome.com).

Eleanor was born in Collinsville, Illinois on Oct. 7, 1925 to Jacob and Felista (Rousseau) Klusacek. She graduated from Grandview High School in 1943. Eleanor married Raymond Houseman on Sept. 9, 1945 in Raleigh, North Carolina. He preceded her in death on Jan. 27, 1970. She later married Raymond R. Frenzel on July 31, 1976 in rural Muscatine County. He preceded her in death on April 11, 2011.

Eleanor was a cook at Wilton Community Schools for 17 years.

She was a member of Spangler Chapel, where she taught Sunday and Bible School, Muscatine Farm Bureau and the Bloomington Grange. She was a Moscow Township 4-H leader for many years. She loved fishing and



Eleanor Frenzel

traveling. She enjoyed bowling, dancing, playing cards and Dominos, and listening to music.

Eleanor is survived by her children James Houseman of Muscatine, Julie (Steve) Hopewell of Davenport and Jeff (Edna) Houseman of Wilton; 5 grandchildren Sean and Joshua (Michelle) Hopewell, Cameron and Chad Houseman and Lindsay (Chris) Houseman Kremer; and 4 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands; her daughter-in-law Betty Houseman; sisters Lavonne, Thelma and Elvera; and her brother Jake.

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# OBITUARIES



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## Eugene Frahm

Eugene "Gene" Herman Frahm, Sr., 86, of Durant, died Friday, April 24, 2020 at Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House in Bettendorf.

There will be no services held at this time. Halligan McCabe DeVries Funeral Home in Davenport is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to Gene's family by viewing his obituary at www.hmdfuneralhome.com.

Gene was born Nov. 2, 1933 in Davenport, the son of Herman and Florence (Goodell) Frahm. On Jan. 8, 1955, he married Marilyn Petersen. The couple later divorced.

Gene farmed and worked for WG Block and Valley Construction. In his younger years, he enjoyed horseback riding and playing cards. Gene spent many years with his family showing horses, he participated in antique tractor pulls and tractor rides. Gene loved watching his grandchildren playing sports and showing in 4-H. He will be remembered for sharing his opinions while being a spectator.

Those left to honor his memory include his children, Suzanne "Freddie" Frahm of Durant, Tina (William) Yoder of Buffalo, JR (Sue) Frahm of Highland, Illinois, Rich



Eugene Frahm

"Hans" Frahm of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Sarah (Brett) Zindel of Durant; grandchildren Charley (Jeff) Wise, Hannah (T.J.) Britten, Joslyne Moore (Mike Frank, Jr.), Nicole Yoder, Breanna Frahm, Griffin Frahm, Chaz Frahm, Spencer Meinert, and Savannah Meinert; great-grandson Jordan Moore; brother Wyatt Frahm of Long Grove; Sisters Cynthia Dekeukeleire of Las Vegas, Nevada, Marvella (Richard) Block of DeWitt, and Ruby Claussen of Eldridge.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister Janet Rathjen.

Custom obituary

## Kenneth Paulsen

Kenneth W. Paulsen, 93, of Wheatland died on Tuesday April 21, 2020 at the Wilton Retirement Community in Wilton. Private family services will be held with burial at St. Paul's Cemetery in Wheatland.

Chapman Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Memorials may be sent to: 100 Golfview Drive Durant, Iowa 52747. Memories and condolences may also be shared at www.chapmanfh.com.

Ken was born on Jan. 22, 1927 to Walter and Esther (Otto) Paulsen in Muscatine County. He married Evelyn Heick on April 3, 1948 in Davenport. She passed away on April 18, 2015.

Ken farmed near Stockton and moved off the farm in 1988 to Wheatland, where he continued farming before retiring in 1990.

He was a Farm Bureau member and a member of the Lion's Club. Ken and Evelyn enjoyed playing cards, traveling in their RV, camping, dancing, family events, and spending time at Mac's Triangle restaurant. Ken also



Kenneth Paulsen

loved playing his accordion at several nursing homes and woodworking in his shop.

He is survived by his sons, Ronald (Ellen) of Durant, Dennis (Linda) of Waterloo, Myron (Julie) of Wilton; daughter, Pam (Jeff) Turkle of Stockton; 9 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Evelyn of more than 67 years; brother, Don Paulsen; and sisters, Elna Schroder and Mildred E. Quigley.

## Audrey Johnston

Audrey Jean Johnston, 95, of Davenport died Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Davenport Good Samaritan Society. At Audrey's request, there will be no services or visitation.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Scott County Meal Service in her memory. Online condolences may be left at www.bentleyfuneralhome.com.

Audrey was born in Muscatine on Nov. 15, 1924 to Roy and Gladys Miller Kingman. She married Wayne A. Johnston on May 19, 1979 in Davenport. He preceded her in death on Sept. 10, 2011.

She graduated from Muscatine High School and retired from Genesis Medical Center East

Campus, where she worked in housekeeping.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Davenport. She volunteered for more than 20 years at the Scott County Meal Service. Audrey enjoyed dancing and country music. Above all, she loved her family and cherished the time she spent with them.

Audrey is survived by her daughters Shirley Dahms of Durant, and Charlotte (Denny) Luerssen of Branson West, Missouri; step-daughter Patricia (Jim) Fortune of Corydon, and numerous grand, great- and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; daughter Marilyn Petersen; son Ray Blake; son-in-law Kevin Dahms and brothers Richard and Carol Kingman.



# ORGANIZATIONS

## Senior dining at Gloria Dei

Normally meeting at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Durant each Thursday, senior dining meals will now only be delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 75 meals were delivered to homes in the last five weeks.

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

Due to the coronavirus, only home delivered

meals will be served:

May 7 — Ham loaf, roasted red potatoes, California blend, raisin rice pudding, milk and bread.

May 14 — Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, creamed spinach, peach salad, lemon bar, milk and bread.

May 21 — Pepper steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, California blend, strawberry banana medley, milk and bread.

May 28 — Cream chicken, biscuit, green beans, applesauce gelatin, brownie and milk.

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

# WORSHIP DIRECTORY

## AREA

**Calvary United Methodist**, Walcott  
Rev. Allen Coffin • www.walcofchurch.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.  
website: stpaulsdurant.org  
9 a.m. Sunday Worship w/Eucharist  
Children's service, 2nd Sunday  
Healing service, 3rd Sunday

## WILTON

**First Presbyterian Church**  
563-732-2258  
213 W. 5th St., Wilton • 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  
www.umcofwilton.org  
email: umcwilt@netwtc.net  
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Daily Devotional Mon-Sat 3 p.m.  
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



Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.  
His greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145:3

Sponsored By: Bentley Funeral Homes, Ervin's Incorporated, WTC Communications, Wilton-Durant Advocate News, CDS Global

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(563) 732-5067  
307 Ovesen Dr., Wilton  
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Wilton, Iowa  
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# Finding creative ways to recognize class of 2020 grads

By Teresa Benischek  
of the Advocate News

Jami Skinner wanted to do something special for her daughter Addisyn Skinner, a senior at Durant High School. Jami's sister Kayci, who also has a son who is a senior in high school, made window decals to honor him in light of the COVID-19 pandemic causing schools to close for the rest of the school year. Jami liked the idea, and had Kayci create decals specific to her daughter.

In addition to the window decals (pictured) made by her sister, Jami had a special banner created by Images in Ink in Durant that is displayed at their house. "Heather (at Images in Ink) did an excellent job and got them to me in two days," said Jami.

Jami surprised her daughter by putting the decorations in the window of their home for Addisyn to wake up to Easter morning. She put the rest of decorations up this past weekend.

She explained that it was important to do something special for her. "She's my little girl and I've been looking forward to this for

a long time. When I found out graduation was canceled, it broke my heart probably more than Addisyn's. We aren't going to let a little virus ruin her graduation celebration. We are going to celebrate social distancing style!"

Addisyn said that "not being in school is like a colder and longer summer break. Just been extremely boring." She added that she doesn't hang out with many people but spends more time with her boyfriend. She is able to stay in touch with friends by texting and going to get food occasionally. She misses playing sports. Track is her favorite sport and, sadly, spring sports have been canceled as well due to COVID-19.

With online schooling being optional, Addisyn said she has only participated in one class.

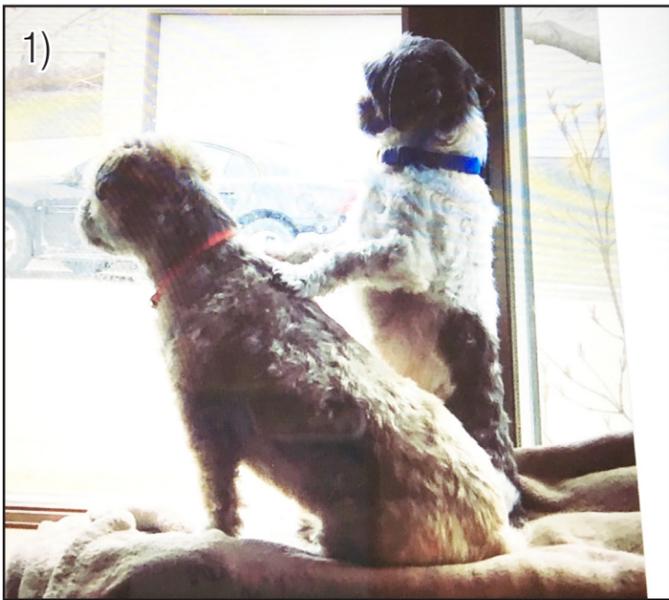
On May 17 at 1 p.m. the school is putting on a parade for the seniors. Cars will be decorated and the parade will go down Sixth and Seventh streets. Seniors are to be at the school at 12:30 p.m. and will remain in their cars to maintain social distancing.



Durant class of 2020 grad Addisyn Skinner is shown with her mother Jami, standing next to a special banner created to note Addisyn's upcoming graduation from Durant High School. Her mother also decorated the windows of the house in an ongoing effort to create positive messages during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo by Teresa Benischek

## #InThisTogether

- bringing the community together when we are apart -



1) *It's ok, I've got your back!* is the Facebook post made by Dori Maag of Durant who shared her two dogs looking out their front window. Even our animals are supporting one another during the quarantine.

Contributed Photo



2) & 3) When you have had enough of being quarantined, who knows what you'll do for entertainment for yourself and your Facebook friends. Donna Fitzer of Durant had some friends show up April 19 around 10 a.m. for coffee and cookies. As you can see, they were wearing their masks. That afternoon around 3 p.m. Donna's friends found their eggs and decided to go home before bad weather hit. They told her they would be back for her birthday.

Contributed Photo



Watch for our **weekly special section** of #InThisTogether. Please email [adnews@netwtc.net](mailto:adnews@netwtc.net) with pictures that may be featured in the paper.

### #InThisTogether

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# West Liberty Foods working to slow COVID-19 outbreak

*Editor's note: The following was submitted to the West Liberty Index and Advocate News by West Liberty Foods April 23.*

**WEST LIBERTY** —West Liberty Foods reported April 23 that 39 out of 994 team members at its West Liberty facility have tested positive for the novel coronavirus COVID-19 since the company's first reported case on April 5.

"Our first priority is the health and well-being of our team," said Ed Garrett, Chief Executive Officer. "The impact of this virus on the West Liberty Foods family cannot be overstated. Our leadership group will continue to work around the clock with the full force of all our resources to fight against this virus and ensure the health and safety of our team and our community," Garrett explained.

"We have been in daily communication with those affected by COVID-19 to offer our support. At this time, I am happy to report that all of our affected team members are either fully recovered or are on the road to recovery at home without the need for hospitalization. However, we understand that many in our communities have not been so fortunate. As a result, we will continue to make every effort to protect our family and our community from the threat of COVID-19" said Garrett.

"Our efforts to combat COVID-19 have been much more aggressive than CDC recommendations. For example, our advanced sanitation procedures, conservative contact tracing, screening techniques and personal protective equipment far exceed CDC guidelines. We are hopeful that these measures will reduce the impact of a virus that has already touched so many lives," Garrett explained.

As previously reported in March, before its first positive case, West Liberty Foods formed local response teams at each of its facilities, implemented standard operating procedures for COVID-19 prevention and response, and conducted training exercises to strategize about how best to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and respond to any positive cases within its organization.

Upon learning about the first positive case on April 5, West Liberty Foods' Crisis Management Team immediately activated its Local COVID-19 Response Protocols. West Liberty Foods conducted a conservative risk assessment that exceeded the CDC and health department guidelines. As part of that assessment, the company identified other individuals in the work area who could be at an elevated risk for contracting the illness. The company called each of those team members to advise them to self-isolate, monitor for any symptoms, and not report to work until authorized. Any team member directed by West Liberty Foods to self-isolate is provided with full pay.

On April 9, West Liberty Foods learned that it had two more positive cases of COVID-19 bringing the total number of cases to three. Out of an abundance of caution, West Liberty Foods suspended all operations at the West Liberty facility until Tuesday, April 14. In the meantime, West Liberty Foods conducted advanced sanitation of the entire facility and instructed all team members to monitor for symptoms and seek medical testing, if appropriate. As a result of the increased focus on testing, West Liberty Foods has now identified a total of 39 positive cases at its West Liberty facility.

West Liberty Foods has notified all personnel at the West Liberty facility of the confirmed cases. All of those who have tested positive and those who may be at an elevated risk for contracting the illness have been notified and are on paid leave. The company is working in close partnership with the city of West Liberty, Governor Reynolds's office, and the Iowa Department of Public Health to monitor the situation and implement best practices.

Acting City Manager Lee Geertz said, "The City of West Liberty has been working in close partnership with West Liberty Foods to ensure it has all the necessary resources to fight against this illness. I am confident West Liberty Foods is making every effort to keep its team and our community safe."

Notably, West Liberty Foods has been design-

nated as an "essential business" and a "critical infrastructure industry." These designations can be confusing. "To us, it's simple: We have a responsibility to help feed the nation. As a farmer-owned company based in the heartland of Iowa, we take that responsibility very seriously," Garrett explained.

"Many Americans are able to shelter-in-place or work from home during the pandemic. We cannot," Garrett said. The Department of Homeland Security issued updated coronavirus guidance with the following directive: "If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."

Garrett explained that "the responsibility of continuing operations during the pandemic poses unique challenges for our front line team members. As a result, we have implemented a comprehensive plan comprised of best practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including the following:

- Educating team members on illness prevention and detection measures;
- Screening every person who enters our facilities with infrared thermometers or computerized thermal imaging cameras to detect fever or other signs of illness;
- Providing face masks to all team members and ordering face shields for all team members;
- Staggering start times and breaks to improve social distancing;
- Reducing production line speeds and increasing distance between team members on production lines;
- Providing Plexiglas or plastic barriers between team members;
- Conducting advanced sanitation procedures including fogging common areas with disinfectant and meticulously disinfecting equipment and all high contact areas;

- Suspending operations for four days over Easter weekend to sanitize the entire West Liberty facility with high potency cleaning solutions;

- Relaxing attendance and leave policies help ensure no one is incentivized to come to work sick, and those who are sick are provided with paid medical leave;

- Providing health insurance for any team member who is on temporary furlough;

- Prohibiting unnecessary travel and reducing in-person meetings;

- Utilizing medical professionals and public health experts to conduct risk assessments and contact tracing after reports of positive COVID-19 cases;

- Forming local response teams at each facility to implement best practices; and

- Communicating with our entire team on a weekly basis to provide updates on new developments and to implement suggestions on how to improve safety measures."

"We also understand that it is not enough to simply remain operational during this pandemic. We must help those who cannot help themselves. In particular, there is a tremendous strain on Iowa food banks. Schools that sometimes provide the only reliable meal for children are closed. Over 20 million Americans are unemployed. Many families do not know where their next meal will come from. That is why West Liberty Foods has donated over 150,000 servings of food to Iowa food banks in the month of April alone," said Garrett.

"West Liberty Foods is not alone in the fight against the coronavirus," Garrett concluded. "As our company continues to meet the nation's food supply needs, we are committed to helping those who cannot help themselves, and ensuring the health and safety of all our front line team members. We will continue to monitor this situation as it evolves and update our team and our community of any changes."

## Commons project back on budget

**WILTON SCHOOL BOARD**  
*continued from page 1*

be given the option to come to school and receive their awards in front of the school's green screen on video.

### Commons project back on budget

In a special meeting prior to the lengthy graduation discussion, the board approved several contracts and change orders surrounding the upcoming high school gym commons project. Point Builders will serve as the general contractor and Precision Builders of Bettendorf will handle general construction; Trace Fire Protection of Milan, Illinois was awarded the fire sprinkler bid; Crawford Company of Rock Island was awarded the mechanical bid; and Ace Electric of North Liberty was awarded the electrical bid.

The total project cost, plus contingency and architectural fees, is roughly \$2.676 million and included several change orders in order to bring the cost back down into the \$2.6 million range that was originally targeted. It was also noted that the high school gym would receive air conditioning as part of the project.

With school being out early, Tim Anderson of Point Builders said the project might begin early, possibly May 1.

### Miscellany

- In other action, the board:
- \* Approved the 2020-2021 master contract with roughly a 3.036 percent package increase.
  - \* The 2020-2021 staff handbook was approved.
  - \* Approved a student-teacher agreement with Iowa Wesleyan University.
  - \* Approved the purchase of 78 Chromebooks for sixth grade at a cost of \$22,104.22.
  - \* Approved the resignations of Nicole Anderson, high school wrestling cheer coach; and Marcia Hetzler, academic team adviser.
  - \* Approved the job description for the new upcoming HR position, which Superintendent Joe Burnett noted would include operational sharing dollars for the equivalent of five students.

Board members Metzger, Oien, Duncan, Lies and Barrett were present virtually. All action taken was unanimous. The next regular meeting is May 13.

## Burglary at Wilton Express. Two teens charged



On April 20, a forced entry occurred at Wilton Express. At approximately 12:59 a.m., the initial break-in happened with a following entry time of 1:03 a.m. by two offenders. The front glass door was broken (pictured) when a juvenile offender threw a large broken chunk of concrete through one of two front doors to the building. No store employees were present, the store was closed at the time. Two offenders were found to be juvenile males from the Wilton area, both age 15. Both were charged with 3rd degree (felony) burglary, 2nd degree (felony) criminal mischief, and 5th degree (simple misdemeanor) theft. Both offenders were released to the custody of their parents. The approximate cost to replace the glass door is thought to be around \$1,500 dollars, according to the Wilton Police Department, but an official estimate has not been generated. Various types of alcohol and tobacco products were stolen, with an estimated value of \$120. "This was just a very poor decision by a couple of young men that were certainly taught better than this. This is a very unfortunate situation for all involved, the young offenders, their parents and store owner Ajay Kshetry alike," said Wilton Police Chief Dave Clark.

Contributed photo

## Wilton-Durant AN COLLEGE NEWS

### Rouse receives scholarships

Elizabeth Rouse of Durant was one of more than 700 students at Central College (in Pella) who would have been honored at the college's annual scholarship celebration on April 23.

The event was canceled because of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The scholarship

celebration in P.H. Kuyper Gymnasium gives student scholarship recipients the opportunity to personally thank and share dinner with donors who help make their Central education possible.

Rouse received Marion Wormhoudt Scholarship, Mephibosheth Endowed Scholarship and Vander Lugt-Voss Scholarship.

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# OPINION



Twitter: @WDAAdvocateNews  
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## Communicative rules have been turned upside down

For the last 2-3 weeks, I've been taking part in Wilton and Durant school board meetings virtually. It's been a nightmare.

Suppose you can say I'm old school. I'm the guy in our office my coworkers make fun of because I still use No. 2 pencils that need to be sharpened. And when it comes to covering city government and school boards, I like to be IN the room with papers in hand.

Thankfully, our local city councils are still holding meetings with an option of virtual call-ins. Yet some are offering documents virtually only, which I'm not a fan. Our school boards have been meeting virtually for a month.

I must refrain from complaining for a moment, however, to recognize both Durant and

Wilton school districts for making sure that a rookie like me can get logged on.

It's commonplace for me to be texting the superintendent or principals because I'm staring at a blank screen when the meeting is supposed to be starting. In my defense, I'm not that computer illiterate. It's usually more of a technicality with how I'm "invited" to the meetings since I'm not a school board member.

Beau Huber at Wilton School District has been very helpful in helping me log into meet-

ings and he's often online the whole time to troubleshoot when Wilton board members or administrators have issues — and there's been a few.

It just feels like the precautions for the COVID-19 virus, which we take seriously here and are abiding by, is severely pushing us backwards on our (or MY) hierarchy of communication.

When hiring a new employee, especially in sales, I always break down communication in three ways:

1. Email or text
2. Calling on the phone
3. Meeting face-to-face

What's the best way to communicate? The answer used to be easy: face-to-face of course. It's the most meaningful, thoughtful, and it's the only way to read body language.

If a face-to-face discussion is not available, try calling someone on the phone. Not as personal but at least it's in real time and you can hear and pick up on tone.

The last resort is sending an email or a text. A less personal form of communication I don't know.

Yet in the last 15 years, those rules have

been turned upside down.

How many times do you meet someone who says, "Text me. I'd rather text than talk." Really? Wow!

I remember walking the campus of the University of Iowa circa 2004, watching people stop on the sidewalk to sit on a bench only to send a text. Back then, phones weren't smart and they didn't have keyboards or touchscreens. You had to hit the same eight buttons over and over until you found the letters you wanted when sending a text.

This will be a fad, and a foolish one, I remember telling myself.

I've never been more wrong about anything in my life. It's created an entire new world of communication. Don't even get me started on emojis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us here at the AN to resort to doing more emailing and texting as opposed to real conversations and/or face-to-face meetings. If there's any silver lining to this ongoing outbreak, perhaps it's that some of us will be yearning for in-person meetings whenever things get back to normal. That's my hope at least.

Until then, you can find me on a webcam near you, trying my best to be a watchdog of our communities from the lonely confines of my office.

### Case in Point

By Derek Sawvell

Follow @SawvellAN



## What will 'new normal' look like?

We are ending the month on a sad note. While it was somewhat expected, still the reality is harsh that schools are closed for the remainder of the school year. What a great disappointment this must be for the class of 2020.

As a parent of two boys who graduated from Durant High School, I can't imagine how I would feel if they had to miss out on their graduation or any of their "lasts" during their senior year. My youngest son played basketball all through school and was the pitcher and first baseman for the high school baseball team. I know it's a tough pill to swallow for the students and the parents. But as communities we will get through this together. #COMMUNITYSTRONG!

This begs the question of when will we get back to normal or what is being referred to as our "new normal" and what will that look like?

Handshakes may become just doing fist bumps or going by the wayside all together. I know a lot of folks, myself included, are huggers. This may be totally frowned upon in the "new normal." One of the biggest things that should change, if we as a society expect people to stay home when they are sick, is

that those employers who do not offer paid sick days to their employees should do so. Many of them go to work when they are sick because they have to pay their bills. A big part of our new normal will be relationships we

have with people. Some will become stronger and others will unfortunately fade away. It only takes a minute to check in on someone and checking in lets people know they are important to you.

We will need to adapt and live our lives as best as we can.

I want to leave you with some resiliency tips to help you to continue to get through this crisis. 1.) A healthy breakfast sets the pace for a resilient day; think twice before indulging in heavy foods like biscuits, gravy, fried eggs and bacon. 2.) Get moving; jog, walk or bike outside for sunshine and fresh air. 3.) Maintain adequate hydration; coffee and soda may give you a caffeine high, but nothing can refresh like a cool glass of water. 4.) *Hunt the Good Stuff!* Write down three good things from each day and focus on them so you bounce and don't break when stressed. And finally, laugh! Finding humor and being positive releases tension, refreshes the spirit and improves emotional health.

#INTHISTOGETHER

### Keeping you in 'Chek

By Teresa Benischek



## A school year to remember

Editor:

Hi kids! Just want you to know I miss all of you guys. We always had so much fun and treats, along with learning too. I miss Miss Kirkman too — we talk a couple times per week.

I want to tell you, if I ever see you guys when I ride around and don't stop that means I just can't talk with anyone until this COVID-19 virus gets over. I'm sure your moms and dads feel the same.

Miss Kirkman just called me and said she got the news, no more school for the rest of

the year 2019-2020. I was planning on seeing all of you one more time during your second grade school year. So I'm closing for now and telling you all when school starts again late this summer, I'll be able to see you and meet you in the halls or the library.

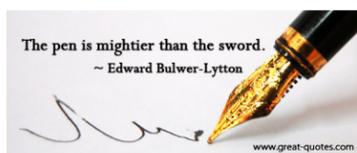
You will all be in the third grade when I see you again. Stay strong and keep up the good work. Always remember you had a special teacher this year. She was the best of the best.

**Jan Carstens, Wilton Volunteer in Kelly Kirkman's Wilton second grade classroom**

### Advocate News letter to the editor policy

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

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



### Bennett alumni banquet canceled

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Bennett High School Alumni Banquet, which was scheduled for May 9, is canceled. Mark your calendars for next year's banquet, which will be May 8, 2021.

### #InThisTogether

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# Durant council approves vehicle parade for Durant seniors May 17

By Layce DeLong  
for the Advocate News

Durant city council members approved a parade route for this year's Durant High School graduating class at the April 27 meeting. Due to social distancing requirements, seniors will celebrate with a parade in lieu of a traditional commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 17 at 1 p.m.

A more traditional ceremony has been set for July 12, though it's unknown what social distancing parameters, if any, will be in place.

The parade route May 17 will be similar to the route taken during the Firefighters' Festival. It will begin at the high school parking lot, turn onto Fourth Avenue to Sixth Street; from Sixth Street they will travel to 13th Avenue, then turn to Seventh Street and back to the school parking lot.

Due to pandemic restrictions, all partici-

pating parties and spectators shall remain in their vehicles. There is to be no gathering of people allowed on the route. Finally, the parade participants will not be allowed to throw candy or other items to the public.

## Durant PD to write tickets from city and state code

At the previous council meeting, officials were asked by Police Chief Orville Randolph to begin allowing city officers to write citations on the state of Iowa code and the city's code. Randolph presented officials will additional data at Monday's meeting.

If an officer writes a citation on the state code, 10 percent of the fine is returned. If these cases were to go to court, the county attorney would be responsible for legal representation at no cost to the city. Tickets are currently issued this way.

If officers choose to write on the city code, 90 percent is returned. However, the city attorney would be responsible for legal representation at a cost of around \$180 per hour to the city if

necessary.

"We're not appearing in court a lot," said Randolph, who explained that serious offenses like OWIs and serious misdemeanors would continue to be processed through the county.

Randolph presented data to council for minor traffic infractions that took place between October and December of last year, choosing not to use the past three months as COVID-19 has reduced traffic. In that time, the department earned \$358 on tickets issued writing solely on the state code. If these minor tickets had been written on the city code, they could have brought in \$3,222.

Officials questioned whether it would be worth the switch, as one case that needed the attorney could become costly and offset the additional revenue. City Clerk Deana Cavin noted that of the cases presented in the data, none had gone to court.

Randolph told council that several neighboring cities also write between the state and city code. He suggested reviewing and monitoring the change to make sure it is financially

responsible.

Council unanimously approved the police department to write between the city and state code under the discretion of the officer issuing the ticket.

## Engineer report

\* Council approved change order No. 1 for the Fourth Street project for an increase of \$1,736. Officials also approved the first pay application for the project of \$73,184.20.

\* The engineer updated council on the 12th Avenue sanitary sewer replacement project. He said they were waiting for the insurance company to obtain approval and access to the railroad right-of-ways.

\* Planning and zoning met April 21 and recommended officials go ahead with changing the zoning ordinance of the city's industrial park from light industry to heavy industry. Per the recommendation, council approved the

## DURANT COUNCIL

continued on page 13



## POLICE REPORTS



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### Wilton

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

April 19—Police responded to the area of Sycamore and East Third streets for reports of a reckless driver.

April 19—Police took a report of damage to a vehicle in the 700 block of Maurer Street. A report was taken.

April 19—Police assisted the Durant Police Department with a domestic call in the 300 block of Fourth Street.

April 20—Police were dispatched to a suspicious vehicle in the 800 block of West Third Street. The vehicle was legally parked and identified.

April 20—Police followed up to an ongoing investigation. The matter remains under investigation.

April 20—Police responded to the 100 block of West Third Street for a subject exhibiting an altered mental status.

April 20—Police followed up with a pending criminal mischief investigation. A report was taken.

April 20—Police charged two juveniles with burglary, criminal mischief and theft referencing an incident at Wilton Express.

April 20—Police responded to a road hazard in the 900 block of West Wate Street.

April 20—Police responded to a road hazard in the 600 block of Maurer Street.

April 21—Police took a report of fraud in the 500 block of East First Street. Options were given.

April 21—A disturbance was reported in the 300 block of West Fifth Street due to a subject having a sign that told residents to honk since it was the subject's birthday.

April 21—Police responded to a domestic dispute reported in the 300 block of Cedar Street. The parties were separated.

April 21—Police received a report of suspicious activity in the area of a residence within the 300 block of York Street.

April 22—Police assisted a subject in the 100 block of East Third Street.

April 22—Police assisted the Wilton First Responders and the Durant Ambulance with a medical call at the Wilton Fire Department.

April 22—Police assisted a Muscatine County deputy with an alarm call in the 1200 block of Trail Avenue.

April 22—Police followed up in the 500 block of Maple Street. Tanner Esmoil, 23 of Wilton, was cited for driving while barred.

April 22—Police performed a traffic stop in the 1100 block of Highway 38. A verbal warning was given.

April 22—Police assisted a motorist in the 100 block of 104th Street and Highway 38.

April 23—Police were called to the 100 block of Sycamore Street for a disturbance.

April 23—Police were called to Cherrydale Park for a found bike.

April 23—Police were called to the 300 block of York Street for a report of harassment. A report was taken.

April 23—Police followed up to an open harassment complaint that remains under investigation.

April 23—Police found property in the 300 block of East Third Street. The property was returned to its owner.

April 23—Police responded to a follow-up for the Cedar County Sheriff's Office in the 300 block of Maurer Street.

April 23—Police followed up in the 100 block of Cherry Street.

April 23—Police received a 911 hang-up in the 1600 block of West Division Street. It was a misdial.

April 24—Police responded to the 100 block of East Third Street for a medical issue. The subject was transported to an area hospital.

April 24—Police took a report of theft in the 1200 block of West Fifth Street. The matter remains under investigation.

April 24—Police were dispatched for a suicidal call in the 100 block of West Second Street. The call was then transferred to the Durant Police Department.

April 25—Police assisted the Durant Police Department with a domestic call in the 200 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 25—Police responded to a motorist assist in the 300 block of West Wate Street.

April 25—Police responded to a call for suspicious activity in the area of Cedar and York streets. William Arthur Compton was processed and issued a citation for operating while intoxicated (OWI) and with no driver's license.

### Durant

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

April 19—Police gave extra patrol at Casey's.

April 19—Police advised citizens of Feldhahn Park being closed due to the governor's proclamation.

April 19—Police spoke with a subject at the Durant Police Station.

April 19—Police received a domestic disturbance call in the 300 block of Fourth Street.

April 19—Police gave extra patrol in the

100 block of Eighth Street.

April 19—Police received an animal complaint in the 1300 block of Third Street.

April 20—Police responded to a suspicious person/activity between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street.

April 20—Police assisted a motorist between First Avenue and Fifth Street.

April 20—Police performed a vehicle inspection at the Durant Police Station for IDOT licensing requirements.

April 20—Police assisted the Durant Ambulance on Seventh Street.

April 20—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 21—Police received a traffic complaint call in the 1500 block of Sixth Street.

April 21—Police spoke with a subject at Feldhahn Park.

April 21—Police received a nuisance/abatement call in the 600 block of Fifth Street.

April 21—Police removed a sick/injured raccoon for a resident in the 1100 block of 11th Avenue.

April 21—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 21—Police gave extra patrol at Casey's.

April 22—Police assisted a motorist between 14th Avenue and Third Street.

April 22—Police gave extra patrol at West Park.

April 22—Police gave extra patrol at the Durant School.

April 22—Police conducted a traffic stop between 11th Street and 14th Avenue. A warning for a traffic violation was given.

April 22—Police received a nuisance/abatement call in the 200 block of Eighth Avenue. A verbal warning for a nuisance violation was given.

April 22—Police gave extra patrol at West Park and advised residents of the park closure due to the governor's proclamation.

April 22—Police performed a traffic stop on Highway 6. A warning for a traffic violation was given.

April 22—Police received a call regarding a subject walking on a railroad right of way between West Third Avenue and Fifth Street.

April 22—Police were called for illegal dumping at the Durant compost site. Thomas Murphy, of Wilton, was cited for illegal dumping.

April 22—Police received a reckless driver complaint between 13th Avenue and Eighth Street. Both the driver and vehicle were located in Durant. The case was turned over to the Iowa State Patrol. Offenses occurred in rural areas.

April 22—Police received an animal

complaint in the 500 block of 14th Avenue. Brandon Sparrow, of Durant, was cited for a dog at large.

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

April 23—Police attended a meeting for Eastern Iowa Mental Health & Disability Services Region.

April 23—Police gave extra patrol at Pythian Sisters Park. Citizens were advised of park closures due to the governor's proclamation.

April 23—Police received a noise complaint in the 700 block of Fourth Street.

April 23—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 23—Police performed a welfare check at the Durant Police Station.

April 24—Police took a report of a Medicare phone scam in the 700 block of Third Street.

April 24—Police gave extra patrol at Jeff's Market.

April 24—Police gave extra patrol at Pythian Sisters Park.

April 24—Police responded to suspicious activity between 14th Avenue and Fifth Street.

April 24—Police gave extra patrol at Jeff's Market.

April 24—Police received a noise complaint in the 700 block of Fourth Street. A warning for a noise complaint was given.

April 24—Police gave extra patrol in the 100 block of Eighth Avenue.

April 24—Police attempted to locate a subject making suicidal statements.

April 25—Police performed a vehicle inspection at the Durant Police Station for IDOT licensing requirements.

April 25—Police responded to a domestic disturbance in the 200 block of Eighth Avenue. April Ewoldt and Thaddeus Foster, both of Durant, were arrested for domestic assault and transported to the Scott County Jail.

April 25—Police took a report of a juvenile runaway.

April 25—Police gave extra patrol at Jeff's Market.

April 25—Police assisted the Walcott Police with a short vehicle pursuit in the 3800 block of 200th Street.

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

April 25—Police received a 911 call in the 200 block of Third Street. A small child called 911 by mistake.

April 25—Police found a runaway juvenile and notified the guardian.

April 25—Police gave a warning for display of safety equipment at night for bicycles between Sixth Street and Eighth Avenue.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Cedar County Board of Supervisors will be conducting a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 12 & 19, 2020, at 8:45 a.m. This meeting will be held by electronic telephone conference with the call originating from the Cedar County Courthouse with no public access in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The public may join the meeting by phone by dialing 1-872-240-3212 and entering the access code 45955309#. Please place your phone on mute until you are called upon from the Chairman. The electronic meeting is allowed by Iowa Code Section 21.8(1)(b).

At this time, the Board will consider the following petition:

1. Rob and Andrea Schmidt, 1944 Spicer Avenue, Wilton, IA (Owners) - Requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential District for the purpose of allowing construction of a single-family dwelling on property located in Parcel H, in the SW ¼, NW ¼, Section 7, T-79N, R-1W, in Farmington Township, consisting of 1.78 acres more or less.

At said Public Hearing, any person present, and so wishing, will be given the opportunity to be heard, for or against, said petition. Any person so wishing may file a document with the Cedar County Auditor prior to the time of the hearing should the person wish the document to be read for them at the time of the hearing.

Cari A. Dauber  
Cedar County Auditor

## Wilton Community School District Work Session Minutes April 22, 2020

On April 22, 2020 at 5:43 P.M., the Wilton Community School Board of Directors met in a virtual setting via Google Meet for the purpose of a work session. Present were: Tim Barrett, Linda Duncan, Jeremy Lies, Rob Metzger, and Tara Oien. Absent: None. Also present were Superintendent

Joe Burnett, School Business Official/Board Treasurer Staci Owens-Kirkman, Jr/Sr High School Principal Marc Snavey, Elementary Principal Denise Austin, and Assistant Technology Director Beau Huber.

The work session began with a discussion concerning graduation for the Class of 2020. Jr/Sr High School Principal Marc Snavey presented to the Board his ideas for graduation. He said that the first possibility was for a virtual graduation on May 17, 2020 with a parade around town and then the receiving of diplomas in the high school parking lot. He told the Board that he had also met with representatives from the senior class and they would like an actual graduation ceremony scheduled sometime for summer 2020. However, directives from the State of Iowa concerning restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing will play a big part in what graduation will be for the Class of 2020. A lengthy discussion concerning graduation followed.

Next, Mr. Snavey updated the Board with information concerning the voluntary learning programs for students and how schedules have been adjusted for student participation.

Elementary Principal Denise Austin told the Board that the elementary teachers continue with activities for student engagement via on-line meetings, stopping by homes to visit with students, and supplying packets of activities for students. Teachers also continue with training. Austin said that she continues with IEP's for special education students, making plans for summer school 2020 and plans for next school year. She added that a "return to learn" plan for the upcoming school year will need to be submitted during the summer to the Iowa Department of Education.

Superintendent Burnett informed the Board that the State had waived for the upcoming school year, the August 23rd start date ruling for districts. He told the Board that at this time he does not intend on pursuing a start date before August 23rd as there are many variables that would come in to play to make this possible.

There being no other business, the work session was adjourned at 6:54 P.M.

President, Board of Directors  
Secretary, Board of Directors

## Wilton Community School District Special Meeting Minutes April 22, 2020

On April 22, 2020 at 5:08 P.M., The Wilton Community School Board of Directors met in a virtual setting via Google Meet for the purpose of a special meeting. President Linda Duncan called the meeting to order and roll was taken. Present were: Tim Barrett, Linda Duncan, Jeremy Lies, Rob Metzger, and Tara Oien. Absent: None. Also present were Superintendent Joe Burnett, School Business Official Staci Owens-Kirkman, Jr/Sr High School Principal Marc Snavey, Elementary Principal Denise Austin, Assistant Technology Director Beau Huber, and Point Builders Representative Tim Anderson.

Motion by Oien, second by Barrett to approve the 2020-2021 master contract with the WEA (Wilton Education Association). All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Metzger, second by Lies to approve the 2020-2021 certified staff handbook (with salary schedules). All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Oien, second by Barrett to approve the contract to Precision Builders for the base bid of \$1,881,000.00 and alternate M-1 (high school gym air conditioning) in the amount of \$3,577.00 for a total contract amount of \$1,884,577.00. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Metzger, second by Lies to approve change order #1 to Precision Builders for the credit amount of (\$199,591.00). All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lies, second by Metzger to approve the contract to Traco Fire Protection, LLC for the base bid of \$34,860.00. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Metzger, second by Lies to approve change order #1 to Traco Fire Protection, LLC for the credit amount of (\$354.00). All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Barrett, second by Metzger to approve the contract to Crawford Company for the base bid of \$270,150.00 and alternate M-1 (high school gym air conditioning) in the amount \$66,105.00 for a total contract amount of \$336,255.00. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Oien, second by Barrett to approve change order #1 to Crawford Company for the credit amount of (\$10,850.00). All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lies, second by Barrett to approve the contract to Ace Electric for the base bid of \$333,240.00 and alternate M-1 (high school gym air conditioning) in the amount of \$11,336.00 for a total contract amount of \$344,576.00. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Oien, second by Barrett to approve change order #1 to Ace Electric for the credit amount of (\$85,920.00). All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Oien, second by Metzger to approve the 2020-2021 agreement with Iowa Wesleyan University for student teacher placement. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lies, second by Barrett to approve the bid of \$22,104.22 from JourneyEd for the purchase of seventy-eight (78) HP chromebooks which will replace the devices currently being used in the 6th grade classrooms. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Oien, second by Barrett to approve the resignation from Nicole Anderson, high school wrestling cheer coach. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Barrett, second by Lies to approve the resignation from Marcia Hetzler, academic team advisor. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Barrett, second by Metzger to approve the job description for human resources director. All yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Lies, second by Oien to adjourn the meeting. There being no other business, President Linda Duncan adjourned the meeting at 5:42 P.M.

President, Board of Directors  
Secretary, Board of Directors

## Wilton Municipal Light and Power Regular Meeting Minutes April 21, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Municipal Light & Power System of the City of Wilton, Iowa, met in regular session via Zoom, Trustee Jasperson was on conference call at 7:00 p.m. on the 21st day of April 2020.

Chairman Janney called the meeting to order, and the following Trustees were present Hunter, Jasperson & Said. Trustee Hartman arrived at 7:10pm

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

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

Manager Smith advised the Board that Austin Halferty has completed year 1 bookwork and ½ his required year 1 field hours. After discussion the Board agreed to adjust his wage accordingly. The Board also, discussed completion of 6 month probation and approved a merit raise for Secretary Grace.

There being no other business, Trustee Hartman made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Hunter seconded. Vote: Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Rick Janney

Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Sarah Grace

Advocate News, publishing, public hearing	\$115.67
Aetna, employees health	\$11,824.59
Arnold Motor Supply, oil & oil filter	\$36.12
Avesis, vision	\$142.70
Jenny Brisker, cleaning	\$30.00
City of Wilton, utilities, unapplied credits	\$1,943.94
Eastern Iowa Light & Power, purchased power, fuse holder	\$106,646.42
Fletcher-Reinhardt, wire & connectors	\$1,954.24
GIS Benefits	\$217.68
Integrated Technology, monthly backup	\$167.70
Internal Revenue Service	\$6,465.22
Iowa Interactive, fee	\$5.00
Ipers	\$4,302.55
Midamerican Energy, gas service	\$318.70
Midwest Spray Team, spray substation weeds	\$200.00
Paper's Lumber Supply, screws & torque	\$7.75
Phelps Uniform Specialists, mat service	\$111.28
Power Line Supply, photo cells	\$797.69
Price Oil Co Inc., fuel	\$188.53

Continued on page 13...

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AMENDMENT OF FY2019-2020 CITY BUDGET			
Form 653.C1			
The City Council of <u>Durant</u> in <u>CEDAR, MUSCATINE &amp; SCOTT</u> County, Iowa			
will meet at <u>402 6th Street</u>			
at <u>6:00PM</u> on <u>5/11/20</u>			
(hour) (Date)			
for the purpose of amending the current budget of the city for the fiscal year ending June 30, <u>2020</u>			
(year)			
by changing estimates of revenue and expenditure appropriations in the following programs for the reasons given. Additional detail is available at the city clerk's office showing revenues and expenditures by fund type and by activity.			
	Total Budget as certified or last amended	Current Amendment	Total Budget after Current Amendment
<b>Revenues &amp; Other Financing Sources</b>			
Taxes Levied on Property	1 1,246,078	-23,450	1,222,628
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2 0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3 1,246,078	-23,450	1,222,628
Delinquent Property Taxes	4 0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5 0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6 186,077	7,420	193,497
Licenses & Permits	7 10,250	4,736	14,986
Use of Money and Property	8 48,939	9,139	58,078
Intergovernmental	9 421,823	8,422	430,245
Charges for Services	10 1,208,840	-6,842	1,201,998
Special Assessments	11 6,000	104,359	110,359
Miscellaneous	12 196,500	-22,565	173,935
Other Financing Sources	13 400,000	-400,000	0
Transfers In	14 673,745	3,100	676,845
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15 4,398,252	-315,681	4,082,571
<b>Expenditures &amp; Other Financing Uses</b>			
Public Safety	16 651,116	-38,392	612,724
Public Works	17 617,056	114,812	731,868
Health and Social Services	18 0	0	0
Culture and Recreation	19 457,830	-71,443	386,387
Community and Economic Development	20 251,214	-74,972	176,242
General Government	21 225,051	31,877	256,928
Debt Service	22 402,682	29,667	432,349
Capital Projects	23 50,000	79,000	129,000
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24 2,654,949	70,549	2,725,498
Business Type / Enterprises	25 1,525,189	-355,225	1,169,964
Total Gov Activities & Business Expenditures	26 4,180,138	-284,676	3,895,462
Transfers Out	27 673,745	3,100	676,845
Total Expenditures/Transfers Out	28 4,853,883	-281,576	4,572,307
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out for Fiscal Year	29 -455,631	-34,105	-489,736
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30 2,018,887	369,944	2,388,831
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31 1,563,256	335,839	1,899,095
Explanation of increases or decreases in revenue estimates, appropriations, or available cash: This second amendment is needed as the revenues for this fiscal year end are predicted to be less due to effects of COVID 19 for property and sales tax. The community center rent and parks revenue rental is less than projected due to COVID 19. As well as reduction of water and sewer revenues. Some expenses have been reduced as much as possible with less revenues than projected. Other expenses had to be increased due to additional costs due to COVID 19 and due to equipment repairs at WWTF.			
There will be no increase in tax levies to be paid in the current fiscal year named above. Any increase in expenditures set out above will be met from the increased non-property tax revenues and cash balances not budgeted or considered in this current budget. This will provide for a balanced budget.			
Deana Cavin City Clerk/Finance Officer			

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# HHS Awards \$7,588,530 to Iowa to combat COVID-19 in rural communities

On April 22, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded \$7,588,530 to Iowa to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities. Specifically, this funding was awarded to the Iowa Department of Public Health as an investment to support small rural hospitals in Iowa.

“Today’s funding gives rural hospitals in Iowa critical support to build up their capacity for fighting COVID-19 in their communi-

ties,” said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. “This funding will build on historic efforts by the Trump Administration to help all Americans in Iowa access the care they need during the pandemic.”

HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) received \$150 million through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to assist hospitals across the nation, funded through the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP), respond to this public health emer-

gency.

The CARES Act funding allows hospitals maximum flexibility in how they respond to COVID-19 within their communities, including the provision of testing and laboratory services as well as the purchase of personal protective equipment to minimize COVID-19 exposure.

“As the nation combats COVID-19, hospitals, particularly in rural communities, play an integral role in care delivery and are on the frontlines of this battle,” said HRSA Administrator Tom Engels. “Timely access to this funding enables them to expand their

ability to continue to provide care while adapting to the unique challenges posed by this pandemic.”

For a list of all award recipients, visit: <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/coronavirus-cares-FY2020-awards>.

To learn more about the HRSA’s Federal Office of Rural Health Policy’s response to COVID-19, visit, <https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions>.

For more information about COVID-19, visit: <http://coronavirus.gov/>.

## Shred day measure fails on 3-2 vote

### DURANT COUNCIL

*continued from page 11*

first of three readings of ordinance amendment 2020-01 updating the zoning.

### Miscellany

In other action, council:

\* Opened the meeting with the approval of the agenda, approval of city bills and approval of the minutes from the April 13 council meeting.

\* Council approved the renewal of alcohol licenses for the Dew Drop Inn and American Legion Post 430 with no objection from the police department.

\* Approved a memorandum of understanding between the school and police department for the school resource officer. Officials noted this would be a one-year extension due to uncertainty with COVID-19.

“He does a really good job; we’re grateful to have him there,” said council member Kevin Mundt, who is also a teacher at Durant High School.

\* Approved resolution 2020-18, approving May 11 as the date for a public hearing on the

FY2020 budget amendment.

\* Approved a \$1,600 annual contract with River City Engineering for technical support at the wastewater treatment facility for FY2021.

\* Approved the purchase of a new locator for water and sewer lines, to replace an existing one that is obsolete, at a cost of \$4,527.26.

\* Council discussed whether to host a city shred day with a cost of \$1,080 to be shared with Liberty Bank & Trust. Some officials were concerned with using taxpayer money for the event, with no way to monitor whether or not only Durant residents would take advantage of the service.

The measure failed on a split decision with council members Diane Quiram, Dan Sterner and Noel Price voting against it and Mundt and Dave Schulz in favor.

\* Community center director Dawn Smith has been putting together boxes of food and supplies for those in need during the pandemic. Contact her if you are in need.

All council members and mayor Scott Spengler were present. All action taken was unanimous unless otherwise noted. The next city council meeting will be held on Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

## Wellmark MATCH grant application available

DES MOINES — The Wellmark Foundation is now accepting applications for its small Matching Assets to Community Health (MATCH) grants. Applications are due June 5. The small MATCH grants are for up to \$25,000 and must be matched at 50 percent with cash or in-kind contributions. At least one-half of the matching support must be in cash.

“Even during these unprecedented times, The Wellmark Foundation’s commitment to the health and well-being of Iowans and South Dakotans has not wavered,” said Becky Wampler Bland, executive director for The Wellmark Foundation. “Eventually, our lives will achieve a new normalcy and communities will be able to work on initiatives that help citizens live healthy lives. When that time comes, our goal is to be a catalyst in bringing people together within a community to create safe and healthy environments that encourage physical activity and access to and consumption of nutritious foods now, and for generations to come.”

Examples of sustainable grants — projects that continue after The Wellmark Foundation grant funding ends — include:

\* Improving access to locally sourced foods

— establishing or improving infrastructure of farmers’ markets and establishing or improving community gardens.

\* Supporting connections between local food systems and health — advancing efforts of food policy councils.

\* Improving nutrition in school settings — farm-to-school programs, healthy vending and lunchroom redesign to encourage consumption of healthy foods.

\* Advancing active transportation concepts — Safe Routes to School projects, walking school buses and adding bicycle parking.

\* Providing safe, accessible venues for physical activity in a community.

Applications for the small MATCH grants are available online and must be submitted by June 5. Successful applicants will be announced in August. The prospective grantee will have 12 weeks to demonstrate the match has been secured. Funding will be awarded in November and grantees will have until December 2021 to complete their projects.

To view previous Wellmark Foundation MATCH grant recipients, visit [Wellmark.com/Foundation](http://Wellmark.com/Foundation).



## LEGAL NOTICES

...Continued from page 12

date of his leaving and the appointment date. On a motion by Saucedo, second by Sauer, the Board authorized the publication of a Notice of Intent to Appoint a County Attorney. Roll call vote: Ayes: All. Board consensus was for Mather and Saucedo to work with the County Attorney to interview applicants and bring forward a recommendation to the Board for action.

The Board reviewed health/dental fund balance as of March 31, 2020.

Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber provided a COVID-19 update stating the Board needs to be aware that Unity Public Health is incurring additional expenditures due to COVID-19 and although they have received some additional grant funding, the Board will need to do a budget amendment before the end of June and may have to provide Unity Public Health with some additional funds. Sorensen stated the State of Iowa has a new website that is much more detailed on COVID-19. Sorensen stated Muscatine County is in Region 5 which is currently at a level 9 which could be on the cusp for further regulations or shut down. Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on COVID-19 stating Muscatine County has 207 confirmed cases, 4 deaths, 682 total tested and 57 confirmed cases recovered. Wright stated there have been outbreaks in two long term care facilities in Muscatine County.

County Auditor Leslie Soule reminded the Board that polling places were being temporarily combined for the Primary Election to be held June 2, 2020 due to COVID-19. Soule strongly encouraged voters to consider voting absentee by mail for this election. Soule stated the Secretary of State will be mailing absentee request forms to all voters later this month. Soule stated there will be six polling sites open on Election Day. Soule stated the sites and precinct assignments are posted on the Auditor’s page on the County’s website.

Emergency Manager Brian Wright updated the Board on flooding issues stating Muscatine County is currently incurring minor flooding and the water is going down.

Edward Askew, 2952 155<sup>th</sup> Street, stated he provided the Board and Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber with a copy of the Scott County personnel policy addressing what any county non-elected employee can or cannot post online. Askew suggested the Board review the policy and decide what they want to do. Askew asked who is responsible for the firing of non-elected or non-department head County staff. Administrative Services Director Nancy Schreiber stated the department head makes the determination about firing any staff that reports to them. Askew expressed concern about economic consequences to Muscatine County of Johnson County, Scott County and the US Marshall Service in Washington DC being aware of the current situation with online posts by a jail employee.

Henry Marquard, 108 Eagle Watch Road, commended the Board on its handling of the vacancy of the County Attorney. In the matter of what an employee can say on social media, Marquard urged the Board to adopt a policy regarding employee’s comments on social media. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 A.M.

**Leslie A. Soule, County Auditor**  
**Jeff Sorensen, Chairperson**  
**Board of Supervisors**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF INTENTION TO AMEND PRIOR TO ISSUE REVENUE BONDS (WILTON RETIREMENT COMMUNITY PROJECT) SERIES 2013

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of City of Wilton, Iowa, (hereinafter “Issuer”) will meet on the 26th day of May, 2020, in the Council Room, at the City Hall, 104 East 4th Street, Wilton, IA 52778 at 7:00 p.m., and hold a public hearing on the proposal to amend the prior issue of the Issuer’s revenue bonds issued in the amount of \$4,200,000 (Wilton Retirement Community Project), Series 2013, (hereinafter “Bonds”) pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 419 of the Code of Iowa and Sections 103 and 141-150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, originally issued for the purpose of constructing and furnishing a 34 bed skilled nursing facility in an approximately 20,000 square foot addition located at 309 Oveson Drive, Wilton, Iowa (hereinafter Project”). The facilities are owned and operated by Simpson Memorial Home, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Iowa (hereinafter “Borrower”). A Loan Agreement was entered into between the Issuer and Borrower wherein the Issuer loaned to Borrower the proceeds from the sale of the Bonds in return for loan payments from Borrower sufficient to pay the principal of, interest and premium, if any, on such Bonds as the same shall become due and payable. The Loan Agreement and related documents will be amended to reflect the amendment to the Bonds.

Such Bonds, and the interest thereon, are payable solely out of the revenues derived from the Loan Agreement and the Bonds do not constitute an indebtedness of the Issuer within the meaning of any state constitutional provision or statutory limitation and do not constitute nor give rise to a pecuniary liability of the Issuer or become a charge against its general credit or taxing powers.

The Borrower and the purchaser of the Bonds have agreed to establish the interest rate for the remaining term of the Bond and it is necessary to proceed as if the Bonds were being reissued at this time in the amount of the outstanding principal at the time of amendment of the Bonds.

All local residents who appear at the public hearing or any adjournment thereof, shall be given an opportunity to express their views for or against the above stated proposal and, at the meeting or any adjournment thereof, the City Council of the City of Wilton, Iowa shall adopt a resolution determining whether or not to proceed with the amendment

of the Bonds. Written comments may also be submitted by the above hearing date to the Issuer at City Hall, 104 East 4th Street, Wilton, IA 52778.

By Order of the City Council this 27th day of April, 2020.  
**KATHRYN KOELE**  
**Deputy City Clerk**

Department of Management			
Form S-A Publication			
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING			
Durant School District			
AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET			
FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020			
Date of Public Hearing:	May 11, 2020		
Time of Public Hearing:	5:30 PM		
Location of Public Hearing:	Durant School Board Room, 408 7th St, Durant, IA		
The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing at the above-noted time and place for the purpose of amending the current school budget by changing estimates of expenditures in the following areas by the following amounts:			
Area	From	To	Reasons
Instruction			
Total Support Services	2,831,300	3,090,000	tech hardware/software, custodial equipment
Noninstructional Programs	335,332	345,332	property/liability insurance and personnel
			lighting, boiler improv's, wiring/access points, school notification system, bleachers, flooring, bus barn upgrades, parking lot & track improvements
Total Other Expenditures	1,080,589	1,536,900	
This change in estimates of expenditures will be financed from increased receipts and balances not budgeted or considered in the current budget. There will be no increase in taxes to be paid in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed amendment. A detailed statement of additional receipts other than taxes, balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed expenditures, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing.			

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[sandersautomotiveia.com](http://sandersautomotiveia.com)

If your business would like to join us as we come together  
Contact Carissa at 563-299-2857 or [anads@netwtc.net](mailto:anads@netwtc.net)

#CommunityStrong  
TOGETHER, WE ARE THE DIFFERENCE!



# CLASSIFIED ADS ... 563-732-2029



## Employment

LOOK to The Wilton-Durant Advocate News, when searching for new job opportunities. Check out local and area job openings every week, then tell them you saw the position in the Advocate News.

## Apartment Rentals

**Durant:** 2 bedroom upstairs apt. for rent, \$575 plus deposit, utilities, no smoking, no pets. Call: (563) 529-2172 12-TFN-AN

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

## Apartment Rentals



**Wilton:** Spacious 2 bedroom condo for rent, some newly decorated. Northcrest Apartments in Wilton offers over 1,000 square ft. Kitchen appliances, AC, cable connections, on-site laundry, off-street parking and much more! Call Maynard: 563-506-5775 48-TFN-AN

## House Rentals

**Durant School District:** Farm house with a long lane and large yard. New windows, efficiency furnace and central air. No pets, no smoking. Very private and clean. \$800/mo Call: 563-210-2181. 14-TFN-AN

## House Rentals



**Durant:** 3 bdrm house. Excellent condition. 2 car garage. Great neighborhood. \$950/month. No pets. No smoking. Call: 563-210-2181. 6-TFN-AN

## Wheel Deals

**2016 Honda Fit:** White, 4-door, fairly new tires, remote start, good shape. 52,000 miles, \$9,000. Call: 319-480-3448. 17-NSP

**2000 Cadillac Seville SLS:** 141, 332 miles, white diamond - tan interior, no rust. \$3,000 firm. North Star V-8 Engine. New alternator and battery. Tires are only 1 year old. Call: 563-355-2228 Cell: 563-321-0141 11-NSP

## Wheel Deals



**Classic 1985-C4-Corvette:** Silver/gray, 88,000 miles, new top, L98 engine 350 V8 230 HP, rebuilt automotive transmission, Bosch Tuned Port fuel injection, extra set of tires, rims and car cover. \$5,799 OBO. Call: 563-650-0232 11-NSP

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

**2016 Triumph Tiger:** 800cc Adventure Touring Motorcycle. Dealer serviced and always garage kept with just over 4,000 miles. Never dropped or ridden off road. Three rider modes, ride by wire throttle, cruise control. Asking \$6,900.00 OBO. Call: 563-506-4419 39-AN

## Wheel Deals

**2001 Ford 350 SWD:** 228k miles on original engine, 3500lb Tiger Crane mounted on back of utility box, electric over hydraulic controls, scales under 10,000lbs. Lots of room for tools, etc. \$9,250 OBO. Call Nichols: 319-723-4440 or email ecinc05@hotmail.com 38-WL

**28" Van Trailer for Semi Tractor:** converted into a job trailer. Work bench and cabinets inside, wired for 220v ac electrical, has middle leg for parking. Roof has been treated for leaks. Would make a great playhouse. \$3,450 OBO. Call: 319-723-4440 or email ecinc05@hotmail.com 38-WL

**1996 Honda Shadow VT1100C:** low miles and cover. Black with 19,637 miles. Only \$1,900! Call: 563-340-7736 30-NSP

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Contact **Carissa at 563-732-2029**  
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# Iowa COVID-19 related guidelines to unemployment benefits

DES MOINES – Iowans who have been placed on a temporary layoff related to COVID-19 but refuse to return to work when recalled by their employer will lose unemployment benefits, except for certain circumstances including:

- \* If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms;
- \* If you have recovered but it caused medical complications rendering you unable to perform essential job duties;
- \* If a member of your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- \* If you are providing care for a member

of your household who was diagnosed with COVID-19;

- \* If you do not have childcare due to COVID-19 reasons; or
- \* If you do not have transportation to your place of work because of COVID-19.

Employees in any of these positions are strongly encouraged to work with their employer in the best way to handle the situation to return to work.

Refusing to return to work when recalled for any other reason, or in an attempt to continue to draw unemployment benefits

will be considered a “voluntary quit” which would disqualify a claimant from receiving benefits, including the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefit of \$600/weekly. An employee who is recalled on a part-time basis may continue to be eligible for benefits depending on the amount of wages they earn. They should continue filing their weekly claims and report the gross wages they earned each week. Additionally, the self-employed should continue to report their weekly gross income as part of their continuing claims as they return to work.

“The additional unemployment benefits that are provided under the CARES Act are meant to be temporary in nature and bridge the gap between the outbreak and a return to normal,” said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. “For Iowans whose employment may be permanently affected by the outbreak, we have many training op-

portunities under Future Ready Iowa to help them obtain training and begin a new career in a high-demand, high-paying job.”

Businesses should report employees who refuse to return to work without good reason or who quit their jobs as soon as possible to IWD at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/job-offer-decline-form-employers>

While an employee may have temporarily earned more in benefits than they earn in wages, the CARES Act outlines serious consequences for fraud, including fines, confinement and ineligibility for future unemployment benefits until all fraudulent claims and fines have been repaid should an individual continue to claim benefits they are not otherwise eligible for because of a change in their employment situation.

For more information, please visit [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov).

## Farmers Market COVID-19 rules

**FARMERS MARKETS**  
continued from page 4

the public to congregate or eat food on the premises.

D. Vendor Spacing: Farmers markets shall space all vendor booths or assigned parking areas so that there is six feet or more of empty space from the edge one vendor’s assigned areas to the neighboring vendor.

E. Social distancing, hygiene, and public health measures: Farmers markets shall also implement reasonable measures under the circumstances of each market to ensure social distancing of vendors and customers, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of

COVID-19 at farmers markets consistent with guidance issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Any other farmers market, festival, or community gathering of 10 or more people that does not comply with these requirements is prohibited. Customers of farmers markets are strongly encouraged to engage in social distancing, wear a mask or other protective face-covering if unable to maintain a distance of six feet from others, practice good hygiene practices, and attend the market alone without other family members.

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# Wilton recycling only cardboard during COVID-19 pandemic

## ■ Residents still urged to place recyclables in blue bins as usual

By Ashley Darnold  
of the Advocate News

The city of Wilton changed its recycling process within the last four weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents may have seen a huge difference in pick up and sorting, reflecting a safer work environment for city workers and residents alike.

Residents normally recycle plastic, paper, cardboard and tin products weekly. While weekly pick-up is still occurring, sorting of these items has come to a bit of a halt.

The COVID-19 virus can live on and be contracted through the touch of plastic, tin, cardboard, etc. To protect city workers, only visible cardboard is being sorted and recycled due to the fact that it holds the lowest risk of transfer during these times.

“Recycling as a whole has really come to a standstill in the U.S. market. With China no longer taking recyclables from the U.S., the market has dropped out. It’s not cost effective to collect and hand-sort the materials at this time and risk the employees contracting the virus,” stated Wilton City Administrator Chris Ball.

Ball encourages residents to continue putting out all recyclable items as usual, as they will still be picked up weekly. Instead of sorting through the recycling items, the city workers are disposing of them with the trash

as of now — with the exception of visible cardboard.

“We don’t want people to lose the positive momentum with the recycling program. If we have them stop completely; we would lose the quality that our community has achieved,” Ball stated.

When the city travels to the Cedar County Transfer Station to dump city garbage, they are being charged a little bit more for drop off due to the addition of recycling items.

The city of Wilton used to recoup some of those expenses by collecting and selling recycled items, but with the market being down, there is no resale value for recycling, according to Ball.

“It does not make sense to spend time and effort, as well as risk, to recycle something that we can’t sell currently. Cardboard has the lowest risk and the only material that we can currently sell. The only recyclable that holds any value is corrugated cardboard (brown boxes), any cardboard with the slick coating doesn’t hold the same value,” Ball stated.

Along with taking these precautions, city workers are also wearing gloves and masks while working. The city of Wilton does not have a deep stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and welcomes any donations. If an individual would like to donate masks or gloves to the city workers, contact Robert VanDusen, Director of Public Works, by calling Wilton City Hall (563-732-2115).

Workers are also practicing good hand washing techniques, as well as social distancing. City workers are disinfecting all shared vehicles after use and utilizing assigned vehicles when available.



City of Wilton employee Ritchie Creamer is shown while on one of the city's garbage collecting routes wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes gloves and a mask. Donations of PPE are being accepted at City Hall. Contributed photo

## Cedar County launches COVID-19 newsletter

On April 24, 2020, Cedar County Emergency Management launched an informational, print-based newsletter to provide residents with county-specific information and social resources for residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The newsletter was compiled with the assistance of several county offices, including Cedar County Public Health, Case Management/General Assistance and other departments who, due to the COVID-19 disaster, have been searching for ways to ensure critical communication with county residents.

The newsletter, available at many area grocery stores, gas stations and post offices, was designed to reach Cedar County residents who might not be able to access the Internet or social media. “This newsletter was a collaborative effort from many of our Cedar County offices as a way to communicate with all residents, and provide important phone numbers and contact information for those who may be struggling as a result of this disaster” noted Jon Bell, Cedar County Supervisor and Chair of the Cedar County Emergency Management Commission.

The newsletter’s content contains contact

information for Cedar County government offices in light of the current Cedar County Courthouse restrictions due to the COVID-19 disaster. Additionally, the newsletter provides information on upcoming events such as absentee voting and operations changes at the Cedar County Transfer Station.

Cedar County Emergency Management is the agency behind the development, publication and distribution of the newsletter. “The newsletter will be published bi-weekly, and is meant to complement the existing [www.cedar-countycovid19.org](http://www.cedar-countycovid19.org) website,” commented Jodi Freet, Director of Cedar County Emergency Management. “We hope that Cedar County residents will find this enhanced method of communication to be a benefit. Our agency is so thankful for the businesses and media outlets that are helping us to spread informational resources during this trying time.”

Freet also added that if a Cedar County resident is unable to find a copy of the newsletter at a local post office, grocery store or gas station, residents can contact her office at 563-886-3355 to request that a copy be emailed or mailed to them.

## Wilton Public Library offers curbside pick-up

The Wilton Public Library is now offering curbside pick-up. Call during regular open hours, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., by calling 732-2583. A librarian will set up a time for book pick-up.

If a specific book is in mind, great! Otherwise, a librarian can choose books that

may fit what the reader is looking for. If given a general idea of what interests the reader, librarians will do their best to choose exciting books for each individual.

No patrons can enter the library per the governor’s current COVID-19 proclamation.

## Bennett Legion scholarship deadline extended

The deadline to apply for the Bennett American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons scholarships has been extended to June 1. All applications are to be completed and returned electronically. To receive an application, call Jo Treadwell at 563-886-6224, Bennett Auxiliary scholarship chair.

The Bennett Legion family is sponsoring a minimum of three \$500 scholarships. The applicants should be a senior from the Bennett School District attending any high school and does not need to be related to a veteran; or may be a high school senior who is a direct descendant of a past or present member of the Bennett Legion or Auxiliary (i.e., child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc.), regardless of high school they attend.

The applicant should possess the education-

al background to pursue any course of study at an educational institution that maintains a regular faculty and curriculum such as a college, university, nursing school, vocational or technical school, area community or junior college, business school or cosmetology school.

Application forms are still available to apply for the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary scholarships. The Department Auxiliary offers approximately 12 scholarships with the completion of one application form. Applicants must be related to a veteran and attend an institution of higher learning in Iowa. Information and the application form for these scholarships are also available by contacting the Bennett Auxiliary scholarship chair, Jo Treadwell.

## Iowans encouraged to vote absentee

DES MOINES – The absentee voting period for mailed ballots in Iowa’s June 2 primary began April 23. Secretary of State Paul Pate and county auditors across the state are encouraging Iowans to vote from home during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Secretary Pate is sending absentee ballot request forms to every active registered voter in the state. The form should begin arriving in Iowans’ mailboxes next week and will include pre-paid postage for returning it to their county auditor’s office.

“Absentee voting from home is safe and secure, and this is the best way to participate in the June primary election,” Pate said. “We have measures in place to ensure the integrity of the ballot while maintaining social distancing. I encourage all eligible Iowans who want to vote in the primary to use the absentee

method.”

Once voters receive their absentee ballot request form in the mail, they should fill out and mail it promptly. Iowans can also download the request form directly from the Iowa Secretary of State website, [VoterReady.Iowa.gov](http://VoterReady.Iowa.gov). Requests must be received by the county auditor’s office by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 22.

Primary elections are intended for members of the Republican and Democratic parties only. No party voters who choose to request a party’s ballot will have their voter registration officially changed to that political party.

Pate expanded the absentee voting period for mailed ballots in the June primary to 40 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The in-person absentee voting period begins Monday, May 4.

For more information about the June 2 primary, visit [VoterReady.Iowa.gov](http://VoterReady.Iowa.gov).

## IRS enhances Get My Payment application

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced significant enhancements to the “Get My Payment” tool to deliver an improved and smoother experience for Americans eligible to receive Economic Impact Payments.

The enhancements adjusted several items related to the online tool, which debuted on April 15. The additional changes will help millions of additional taxpayers with new or expanded information and access to adding direct deposit information.

“We delivered Get My Payment with new capabilities that did not exist during any similar relief program, including the ability to receive direct deposit information that accelerates payments to millions of people,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “These further enhancements will help even more taxpayers. We urge people who haven’t received a payment date yet to visit Get My Payment again for the latest information.”

### How to use Get My Payment

Available only on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), the online application is safe and secure to use. Taxpayers only need a few pieces of information to quickly obtain the status of their payment and, where needed, provide their bank account information. Having a copy of their most recent tax return can help speed the process.

As a reminder, Get My Payment is a U.S. Government system for authorized use only. The tool is solely for use by individuals or those legally authorized by the individual to access their information. Unauthorized use is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties.

For taxpayers to track the status of their payment, this feature will show taxpayers the scheduled delivery date by direct deposit or

mail and the last four digits of the bank account being used if the IRS has direct deposit information. They will need to enter basic information including:

- \* Social Security number
- \* Date of birth
- \* Mailing address used on their tax return.

Taxpayers needing to add their bank account information to speed receipt of their payment will also need to provide the following additional information:

- \* Their adjusted gross income from their most recent tax return submitted, either 2019 or 2018
- \* The refund or amount owed from their latest filed tax return
- \* Bank account type, account and routing numbers

Get My Payment cannot update bank account information after an Economic Impact Payment has been scheduled for delivery. To help protect against potential fraud, the tool also does not allow people to change bank account information already on file with the IRS.

A Spanish version of Get My Payment is expected in a few weeks.

Watch out for scams related to Economic Impact Payments—The IRS urges taxpayers to be on the lookout for scams related to the Economic Impact Payments. To use the new app or get information, taxpayers should visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). People should watch out for scams using email, phone calls or texts related to the payments. Be careful and cautious: The IRS will not send unsolicited electronic communications asking people to open attachments, visit a website or share personal or financial information. Remember, go directly and solely to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) for official information.