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WEDNESDAY
April 8, 2020
12 pages
148th Year • No. 15



eclipse NEWS-REVIEW

\$1

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BRIEFLY.

A-P lunch program

Aplington-Parkersburg's schools are serving free meals to kids 1-18 Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to noon at the high school building in Parkersburg and the Aplington school building. One lunch per child, per day, no paperwork or ID required.

Hydrant flushing

The City of Parkersburg will be flushing hydrants throughout the day on Friday, April 17.

Hope Reformed online worship

Hope Reformed Church in Parkersburg is offering online worship services at hopeinparkersburg.org. On-site worship services are canceled through the month of April.

COVID-19 Closures & Updates

Eclipse office

The Eclipse News-Review office is closed to the public until further notice. Staff will continue to work in the building. Weekly publication has not been interrupted at this time and you can contact us at 319-346-1461 with questions, story ideas, announcements, etc.

Butler County Hall of Fame

The Butler County Hall Of Fame selection committee meeting has been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Electors will be notified when the meeting is rescheduled.

Butler Plus Golf Outing

The Butler Plus golf outing in Clarksville has been tentatively postponed until May 11.

More updates on page 5



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Schools to close through April 30

BY JAKE RYDER
Eclipse News-Review

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds ordered schools in Iowa to remain closed through April 30 in a press conference on Thursday in Des Moines.

Schools were scheduled to reopen on April 13 after Reynolds' first recommendation in March for schools to close for four weeks.

For the extended period starting April 13, individual school districts are tasked with making the decision of how to administer learning; unlike the previous four-week closure period, these 14 school days will need to be made up in-person unless required distance learning guidelines are met.

A message on Aplington-Parkersburg's district website read: "Our focus is to con-

tinue to support the students and our families with online distance learning and educational enrichment opportunities. ... Please watch for further details related to educational expectations and engaging learning opportunities."

Dike-New Hartford's administration published a letter to Facebook, noting that date changes for prom and graduation, along with other social activities, would likely change with the conditions of getting back to school after the April 30 date.

"We will have our most current educational delivery system ready to implement the week of April 13," the letter continued. "D-NH, through our existing work with staff, may be ready earlier than that."

On March 17, Gov. Reynolds signed legislation passed in an emergency session of the Iowa

legislature that in part allowed for the instructional time requirement to be waived for the days missed during the four-week period of school closings in Iowa. Iowa law requires schools complete either 180 days or 1,080 hours of instruction each school year.

In conjunction with Gov. Reynolds' announcement, Iowa's high school Unified Activities group announced that events will be prohibited through April 30. The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union and Iowa High School Athletic Association are still working to offer spring and summer sports opportunities and the Iowa High School Music Association and Iowa High School Speech Association will provide member schools with guidance for teachers and participants during the prohibited period.

A passion for service

*Luhring
recognized with
Young Retailer
of the Year
nomination*

BY BETHANY CARSON
Eclipse News-Review

Local businessman John Luhning, owner of Parkersburg Hardware and Garden Center, was recently nominated by independent hardware supplier Orgill for the North American Retail Hardware Association's 2020 Young Retailer of the Year Award in the under \$2 million in sales category, and finished in the top 30.

The Young Retailer of the Year Award Program identifies and promotes the next generation of aspiring independent home improvement retailers and recognizes individual achievement in the industry by retailers 35 years of age or younger throughout the U.S., its territories and Canada.



John Luhning works to serve the community at Parkersburg Hardware and Garden Center. (Bethany Carson photo)

Parkersburg Hardware opened fully stocked in January 2018, filling a gap left in the community when the old hardware store closed in 2017.

"We decided to open the hardware store because we knew how important a hardware store is to the community," said Luhning.

Customer service is key at Parkersburg Hardware, as Luhning and his five part-time employees strive to ensure every customer receives knowledgeable support and leaves

satisfied.

When customers come in, Luhning helps them figure out what they need. If they are looking for a gallon of paint, he checks if they need painter's tape or plastic, so they leave the store with everything needed. His focus is on developing relationships with the community and making sure projects are successfully completed from start to finish.

LUHRING PAGE 2



Gary Hillmer and Jamie Blanchard, along with their dog, Franco, are photographed in front of their rural Wellsburg home by Doni Lang, who has started taking "porch-traits" of families in the area. (Contributed photo by Lang Accent Photography)

"PORCH"RAITS

*Photographer
captures area
residents from a
distance*

BY SETH MCDUFFEE
Eclipse News-Review

Doni Lang isn't letting social distancing guidelines get in the way of a passion project.

In addition to working full time as the bookkeeper at an HVAC company in Grundy Center, she is the co-director of events for the city, shares ownership of a home inspection business with her husband, and somehow finds the energy to run Lang Accent Photography, a studio based in Grundy Center.

What began as an idea to photograph 100 subjects grew into something much bigger.

"PORCH"RAITS PAGE 2

Clarksville pastor's condition improving

BY BETHANY CARSON
Eclipse News-Review

According to recent updates from family members, Clarksville pastor and former mayor Val Swinton's condition seems to be improving.

On March 26, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Butler County, and Swinton's family asked the community to join in prayer for his recovery from the coronavirus, as he fought for his life in critical condition in ICU, on a ventilator in a medically induced coma.

The outlook last week was grim, as doctors gave Swinton

only a slim chance of pulling through on March 29. But by April 5, his condition had made notable strides, and he no longer had a fever.

"He has been opening his eyes often today, a lot more than yesterday. He's still not following commands, but the nurses do think that he can hear what's going on around him. It will be a long road until my dad is himself again. Slowly, but surely, it seems like he is fighting his way back to us," son Sam Swinton said in an update posted publicly on Facebook.

SWINTON PAGE 7

As of Monday, April 6, there is only one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Butler County. The Iowa Department of Public Health continues to encourage residents to leave the house for essential errands only, practice social distancing, enjoy outdoor activities responsibly, work from home if you can and isolate if you are sick. Call 2-1-1 with questions about COVID-19.



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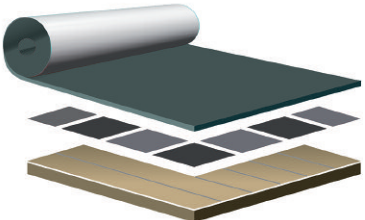
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LUHRING from page 1

“We provide a service that lasts, that someone will stand behind,” Luhring said.

While the hardware store has under 3000 square feet of total shopping space, it carries a wide selection of items from painting supplies, welding, electrical, concrete and plumbing supplies, to potting soil and garden supplies, gun cleaning supplies, Milwaukee and DeWalt tools, Traeger and Weber grills and much more.

“We’ve maximized every aisle and every inch of this place, so customers have over 13,000 SKUs (items) to choose from,” Luhring said. “It came down to selecting and providing customers with items that are of quality, and a wide selection to see their projects through to completion.”

Offering competitive prices is a priority. Before the store opened, Luhring did market analysis on the prices big box stores offer to ensure the hardware store would be competitive.

And when you shop at Parkersburg Hardware, you’re investing in the community, as the store not only provides local employment, but also gives back to community organizations.

“I realized when I opened the store, that I’m not only responsible for my family and myself, but also for the employees who work for me as well to provide a business environment that is open, welcoming, and profitable to support them,” Luhring said.

Luhring is involved with the local chamber of commerce, donating his time and resources to community events. He hosts a customer appreciation open

house every year with a free meal for the community. Every year, he brings children from the school to his store for a tour to learn more about the hardware and greenhouse business, and he actively supports the school system by sponsoring art and athletics through the booster club. He also helps support the local 4-H and FFA and volunteers for Teens for Christ and the local kids’ soccer league.

Luhring’s brother-in-law, Tim Barcz, notified the Eclipse News-Review of the nomination, as he said Luhring would “likely never make you aware of this on his own.”

From 2018 to 2019, Luhring increased sales by 45 percent, and for 2020, he is on track to increased sales again by another 50 percent, as he pursues business with contractors and businesses. He also added a tool rental service, bringing a new service to the community.

Going forward, Luhring is looking to grow the store’s square footage with a 3,000-square foot addition and the addition of new product lines to better serve customers.

“We are in the initial phase of looking at expanding out back here and growing the store’s selection to provide for the local community,” Luhring said.

Luhring’s motivation in life is in serving God and his family.

“The hardware store is an opportunity to essentially do both,” Luhring said. “There’s an opportunity each day to interact with people of all different ages and all different backgrounds and truly provide a service that leaves them with a smile.”

According to the Orgill nomination statement, the tornado

that tore through Parkersburg in 2008 marked a turning point for John Luhring, who had just graduated from high school at the time. As he watched the community come together to help rebuild the town, he realized how important it was to not just live in a community but also to be involved in helping it become a better place.

“I realized that being in business is not just about what you do, it’s about how you do it, and how you support the community around you,” Luhring said.

That’s a principle that has stayed with him throughout life.

As a proud Parkersburg resident, Luhring feels a sense of responsibility to do the best he possibly can to serve not only the community, but the surrounding area as well.

“Being able to interact with members, not only of the community, but also of surrounding communities on a day in and day out basis is one of the biggest blessings that I have,” he said.

Offering quality service runs in the family, as Luhring grew up helping his father in the family monuments business, which sells and installs headstones and memorials, and adjoins the hardware store.

Parents Larry and Marti Luhring remarked they are proud to see John Luhring nominated for the award, as he works hard to serve customers in a professional and caring way.

Parkersburg Hardware is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

“PORCH”RAITS from page 1

Lang heard that a few photographers on the East coast had been participating in something called the “Front Porch Project”, and was inspired.

The project highlights the lives of Americans living under social distancing and self-isolation due to the coronavirus. The subjects stand on their front porches or stoops, and the photographers, like Lang, snap the pictures from a safe distance. Everything is done free of charge, and is more of a service for morale.

Lang posted about it on her business’ Facebook page, and received lots of interest immediately.

“We didn’t expect the response,” Lang said, “...it just sort of snowballed from there.”

Requests from Grundy, Butler and Black Hawk counties quickly filled her appointment calendar.

“Monday night, we fit in 16 families,” she said, “... I set up a ladder in the street to take the pictures. We were (at each home) for maybe five minutes, and then it was off to the next house.”

Lang said she visited families in Grundy Center and the Waterloo – Cedar Falls area this week, and had already booked appointments in Aplington, Parkersburg, Wellsburg, and Reinbeck over the weekend. It’s a very full schedule, but Lang thinks it’s worth it.

“Everyone’s feeling a little on edge being cooped up,” she said, “so they can get dressed up, a have a little bit of fun.”

But for Lang, it’s more than just fun. She said there was an anonymous quote that really spoke as to the reason behind the entire project: “If you have the power to make someone happy, do it. The world needs more of that.”

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Merlin Peter

ANKENY - Merlin R. Peter, age 86, of Ankeny passed away March 27, 2020 at Unity Point – Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home in Urbandale is in charge of arrangements.

Merlin was born October 3, 1933 in Sheffield to Fay and Emma Peter. He graduated from Sheffield High School, Eagle Grove Junior College and Drake University with a degree in Science and Physical Education. During the summers Merlin continued his education with graduate hours in Science at William and Jewell College, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, Drake University and North Dakota University.

Merlin loved all sports and played baseball and basketball in high school and college. Although he enjoyed playing baseball, his passion was basketball and he set state records in scoring and free throw shooting in high school and at Eagle Grove Jr. College. He continued playing basketball at Drake and after graduation he played with an AAU basketball team from Marshalltown and on a Wellsburg softball team for several years. He played on a softball team from Mason City that went to the State Softball tournament in Des Moines two years in a row. With his long legs he could run the bases like a deer.

He was married to Darlene Brouwer in 1955 to which three children were born.

Merlin taught science and coached at Wellsburg for five years, then taught science in the Mason City Schools for thirty-three years. He served as President of the Mason City Education Association, Vice President of the Mason City Jr. High Association and was the Eighth grade team leader at John Adams. In the summers he was employed by the Mason



1933-2020

Services:
Held at a later date

City Parks Dept., managed the Municipal Swimming Pool and managed the East Park skating rink during the winter. He loved being around young people and often proclaimed there was never a day that he didn't want to teach.

He enjoyed hunting, traveling, watching the Hawkeyes and watching his grandchildren play sports. His favorite trip was three weeks in Alaska, and he also liked the water and beauty of Hawaii and taking trips to all the mainland states.

As a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church he served on the Education Board, volunteered to feed the homeless, was a substitute teacher in Sunday school and served as communion steward, usher and greeter on Sunday mornings.

Merlin is survived by his wife Darlene of Ankeny, daughter Kim (Michael) Murphy of Ames, son Greg of Lee's Summit, MO, five grandchildren, five great grandchildren, brothers Dean of Sheffield, Larry Callao, MO and several nieces and nephews.

Merlin was welcomed into heaven by his beloved son, Russ and his parents Fay and Emma Peter.

A Memorial Celebration will be held at a later date.

Evelyn Schrage

Evelyn Mae Schrage, of Parkersburg, Iowa, was born the daughter of Willis and Tena (Hovenga) Truax on March 18, 1933, in Parkersburg. Evelyn received her education in the Parkersburg School District.

On September 15, 1950, Evelyn was united in marriage with Floyd Schrage at the First Congregational Church in Parkersburg. After their marriage, the couple lived near Allison where they farmed. The couple later moved to Parkersburg.

Evelyn was a member of the First Congregational Church in Parkersburg. She loved working with flowers in their garden and coffee times with whoever stopped by to visit her and Floyd. Through the years, Evelyn enjoyed taking photos of the family. Some of her favorite times were spent with Floyd at their lake home in Minnesota.

Evelyn died Saturday, April 4, 2020, at Parker Place in Parkersburg, of natural causes. She is preceded death by her husband of 69 years, Floyd Schrage on March 27, 2020; her parents, Willis and Tena Truax, a brother, LeRoy (Pete) Truax; a brother-in-law, Ronald DeBoer; and two nephews, Rickey Mennen and Rodney Mennen.

Evelyn is survived by one brother, Donovan (Sarah) Truax of Parkersburg; three sisters, Maxine DeBoer of Parkersburg, Linda (Brent) Kannegieter of Parkersburg, Glenda (Russell) Miller of Allison, Iowa; three



1933-2020

Services:
Private graveside service

Burial:
Oak Hill Cemetery

sisters-in-law, Linda Truax of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Muriel Dix of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Shirley Sutherland of California; and many nieces and nephews.

Due to state and federal guidance on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the family will not be having a public memorial at this time. A private graveside service will be held at Oak Hill Cemetery in Parkersburg.

Memorials may be directed to First Congregational Church in Parkersburg. Redman-Schwartz Funeral Home in Parkersburg was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be left at www.redman-schwartz.com

NEI3A offers extended food assistance to older individuals

Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging provides services and supports for older individuals and caregivers to help them remain in their homes and independent as they age. During the COVID-19 crisis, the emphasis has been placed on remaining at home and reducing the possibility of being exposed to this disease through social interactions or going to public places.

To help older individuals and caregivers remain at home and get the nutrition they need to stay healthy, NEI3A is offering extended home-delivered meal options during this time. People age 60 and over, caregivers, or spouses of any age, are eligi-

ble to receive meals with one meal per day for seven days or enough for two meals per day for seven days. The meals are nutritionally balanced and can easily be prepared.

If you would like to start receiving meals, please call our LifeLong Links line at 1-866-468-7887.

New Hartford street project discussed by supervisors

Concerns raised on hog confinement

BY BETHANY CARSON
Eclipse News-Review

At the Butler County Board of Supervisors meeting held via conference call on Tuesday, March 31, the New Hartford T55/Main Street project was discussed, and a public hearing was held on a new hog confinement.

Street project
According to engineer John Riherd, Butler County has received a request from the City of New Hartford over the past several years for maintenance on T55/Main Street, a farm-to-market road where the city and county have joint jurisdiction. The section of road is in poor condition. Typically, on farm-to-market routes in cities, the county contributes 70 percent of the cost for the center 24 ft. of the road. Cities generally foot the bill for 30 percent of the center 24 ft. and 100 percent of the parking areas.

After evaluating the street, the county engineer's office has determined that repairing only the center 24 feet of driving surface without having the parking area repaired would not be a good way to spend money. "If we left the parking area, I feel there would be damage to the driving surface, as cracks would migrate back, and it would fall apart," Riherd said. The city has indicated the cost of such a project is more than they anticipated. They proposed paying the county back over 10 years, instead of the typical three to five-year payback.

Riherd mentioned that the road is going to show some age after five years, and will likely need additional maintenance. There might be hard feelings if new council members are elected, and they find themselves finishing out 10 years of payments on a road that needs maintenance again.

Considering the county's interest in protecting the center 24 feet from damage, Riherd recommended an exception in the standard policy for the county to cover the cost of paving 70 percent of the entire width of the street, rather than just the center 24 ft. The cost should then be more manageable for the city to pay back in five years, as they would have five annual payments of around \$7,000.

The proposal will be sent to the city, and will be on the agenda for finalization at a supervisors meeting in the future if an agreement is reached. Hog confinement
A public hearing was held on the Construction Permit Application for a new swine facility for Crayon, LLC in Ripley Township. According to Planning and Zoning Commissioner Misty Kroeze, the confinement will be set off of 220th St. by 250 ft. and will have less than 1000 animal units.

Since this is a smaller facility, it doesn't trigger master matrix review. Public hearings are held and property owners notified, but as long as the confinement meets setbacks, the supervisors don't have much input on whether or not the confinement can be built. The DNR issues the permit.

One neighbor, whose home is located 2200 feet from the proposed site, expressed concern that with the growing number of hog buildings (there are already three surrounding his home), there will never be a season where the smell of hogs isn't in the prevailing winds.

Another neighbor mentioned that the hog building will be even closer to his farm, and he asked about manure application in the field.

Kroeze said this neighbor is 1371 feet from the proposed building sight, just over the minimum 1250 feet setback. She said the manure management plan does include spreading in the field across the road from him, as long as it's incorporated within 24 hours, and it's not applied when the ground is frozen.

The supervisors will contact the owner of the proposed building to ask him to take measures to be a good neighbor by planting arborvitaes and adding elec-

trostatic fencing to help with the smell.

It was also mentioned that the neighbors can check the Secretary of State's website to search business entities to find the name of the owner of Crayon, LLC and discuss their concerns with him privately.

Other business
The supervisors approved the application for a Class C Liquor License with outdoor service and Sunday sales for CARD, Inc., Clarksville.

A utility permit for Butler County REC for underground service at 22327 290th St. was approved.

COVID-19 policy updates were reviewed and approved.



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10 Years Ago April 14, 2010

USDA Rural Development awards \$199,000 grant to Parkersburg Economic Development to start revolving loan fund. Congressman Bruce Braley and Bill Menner, USDA Development State Director were in Parkersburg on Friday in congratulations for the significant accomplishment.

Greg Cuvelier, owner of Greg's Taxidermy in Aplington wins Best All-Around Iowa Taxidermist Award at the 26th Annual Iowa Taxidermist Association Competition and Show.

The Falcons girls soccer team took on the Hudson Pirates and won 3-2 bringing them at a 2-0 for the beginning of the season.

20 Years Ago April 12, 2000

The Kelsey Businesses Committee Fundraiser BBQ was held in Kelsey last Wednesday to raise money for their centennial celebration. Several hundred people enjoyed hamburgers, brats and hot dogs served with chips, baked beans and dessert.

The Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging transported over 100 senior citizens to Des Moines on February 23 to visit with various representatives for "Cookie Day". Each legislator received a bag of cookies as a gift while the residents visited with them and spoke of senior concerns.

A-P boys golf team wins opener with a 4-stroke victory over the Denver Cyclones at the Willow Run Country Club.

30 Years Ago April 11, 1990

Citizens of Parkersburg agreed to move forward with the establishment of a Department of Economic Development. The department will be established by the city and controlled by a board consisting of a representative from the City Council, Parkersburg Community Schools, the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations.

Parkersburg Medical Center begins offering mammogram testing. All examinations are interpreted by Radiological Associates of Waterloo at Allen Memorial Hospital.

Kindergarteners at New Hartford Elementary were requested to give the Easter Bunny precise directions to their homes to deliver their Easter Baskets, to adorable results. One excerpt:

"First you go in town. My color of my house is white. You turn right to get to my house. I have a black Lab. Follow the path of rock and go up to the door. Your friend, Blaine."

40 Years Ago April 9, 1980

Bud Kannegieter, of Aplington, retires from the Parkersburg Post Office after 25 years of dedicated service. His coworkers held a retirement party for him and all pitched in and got him a fishing pole.

Parkersburg Community Schools receive a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy totaling \$4,000. This grant has been committed as part of an effort to provide technical assistance in evaluating energy improvements need on facilities.

Penelope Humphrey of Parkersburg is named as a candidate for the Miss National College Competition in Rapid City, SD.

50 Years Ago April 15, 1970

Mrs. Wm. Ingle, Butler County Chairman announced that the Butler County residents contributed \$1,551.00 to the 1970 East Seal campaign to help support camping, recreational and rehabilitation services for those with physical disabilities.

Parkersburg native Dale H. Hassman, appointed Regional Director for Management Computer Network Inc (MCN) in New Hampton. He will be responsible for developing a network of 80 local, franchised MCN offices in eastern Iowa and Illinois.

Rupert Caballero took honors for catching the largest record brown trout of the year. It weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz.

An ad for the Minneapolis Holiday Motor Hotel indicates it has 105 air-conditioned suites, excellent food, a cocktail lounge, a king-sized swimming pool, and a coffee shop open from 6 a.m. to midnight—all for a max of \$18.50 per night.

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Obituaries - Mondays at noon

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
503 Coates Street, Parkersburg, IA 50665
319-346-1461

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Kothe Memorial Library

"Life is difficult-and one thing that helps us get through is reading."-Susan Elia MacNeal
#BooksConnectUs

Reminder Clothes Closet is CLOSED. Please do NOT leave donations at front door for everyone's safety.

Kothe Memorial Library CURBSIDE pick-ups were 13 on Mon., nine on Tues., nine on Wed., Thurs. seven and Fri. eight. Thank you Jody Nielsen for making sure everyone continues to get their materials!

Please return items into the drop box. Materials are checked in and disinfected before recirculation.

Gamer Families or parents who would like a have another fun way to pass the time at home please check out NirvanaOnline! TJ has been to many Early Out programs and it would be great to show TJ some support!

-Purchase or have purchased a Minecraft account from Mojang at www.minecraft.net, the price of an account is \$26.95.

-Go to <https://www.patreon.com/NetworkNirvana> and SUBSCRIBE recommended level is \$5

-Players will connect to NirvanaNet by typing "NirvanaOnline.beastmc.com" into their direct connect bar within Minecraft. Questions? Call TJ Nissen 319-939-9970

Please continue to check our website and Facebook page for updates as we continue to evaluate the situation with regards to COVID-19. Website: <https://www.parkersburgia.com/community-residential/public-library/> Email: library@parkersburg.lib.ia.us

Free Wifi is available in the front street parking area of the library.

Access the library with Your



Bunnies 'n Books oh my!! Look for your Easter selections on kothe.bibliionix.com/catalog/

IDPH gives guidance for WIC recipients

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is deploying a comprehensive approach to address food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC, will continue for all current, and new or returning WIC participants. IDPH submitted and received approval of several federal waivers to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to ensure continued and expanded access to WIC foods.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

WIC is available to support you. WIC benefits will continue as normal. Call your clinic with questions.

April's WIC benefits will be available for use on Wednesday, April 1.

Purchasing WIC Items in the Store

When shopping for WIC items, please consider the following shopping tips during this time:

When shopping, please be patient. Stores want to pro-

vide what you need, but they have been extremely busy and are working hard to stock the shelves as quickly as possible.

When shopping, planning ahead and arriving at the store earlier in the day may help you find the products needed.

When shopping, use the CDC guidelines for social distancing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>. At this time WIC food purchases can only be redeemed inside of WIC approved stores.

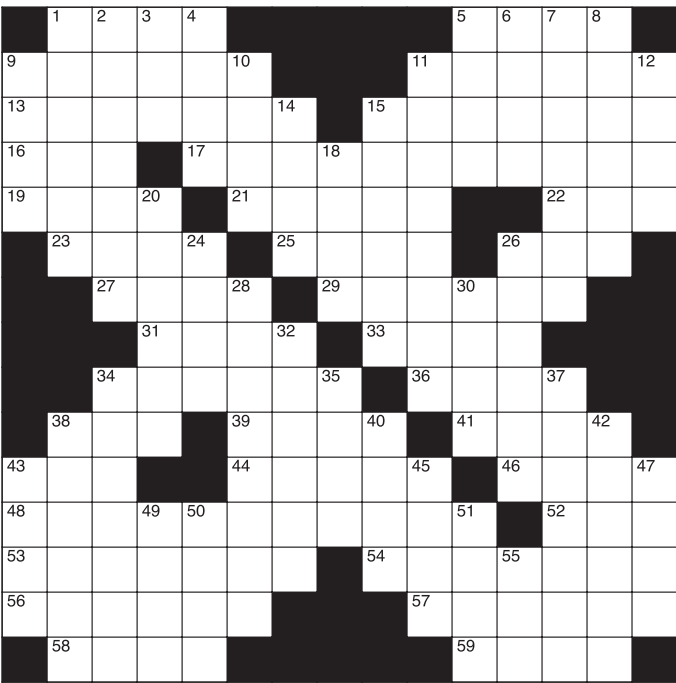
Call ahead and be sure your store's hours haven't changed.

WIC foods will be available throughout the entire month of April. The rumors that WIC foods will run out is not true.

Purchase what you would normally purchase. There is no reason to stockpile food. Both your benefits and the food products in stores will be available throughout the month.

If you are having issues finding specific WIC foods, call your WIC clinic or the state WIC office at 1-515-281-6650 for assistance.

This week's CROSSWORD & SUDOKU



CLUES ACROSS

- Canadian law enforcers
- Actor Idris
- Cut or bruise
- Vegetables
- Aircraft delivery
- To make obsolete
- Things similar to those already noted
- Columbus is a famous one
- Age group
- Denotes nature of sound
- Klutz
- Uninteresting
- Computer manufacturer
- 2,000 lbs.
- Genus of seabirds
- Emerges
- Baseball stat
- Witnesses
- Observed
- Satisfy
- Former OSS
- Small Eurasian deer
- Wife of Sparta's king
- Ballplayer accessory
- Temporary cessation of

breathing

- Where construction workers ply their trade
- Arguments that justify a religious doctrine
- Thick cloud of tiny water droplets
- Widens
- Detection
- Period of inactivity
- Tomato and vodka are two
- Greek war god
- Urinal

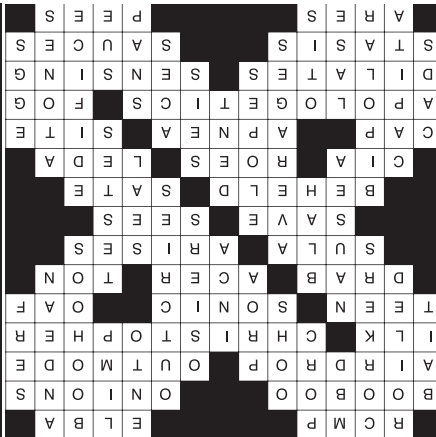
CLUES DOWN

- Churned
- Seal bottles
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Meat from a pig (French)
- Within
- Walk in a slow pace
- Cries
- About Andes
- Fishermen use it
- Expresses delight
- Shouts

12. Feudal agricultural laborer

- Sailboat
- Small Eurasian willows
- S. American native people
- Extreme disgust
- Nonsense (slang)
- Produce male reproductive cells
- Computes
- Pop singer
- Weds secretly
- Having two poles
- Yankee hero Bucky
- Building
- Per __, each
- Six (Spanish)
- Makes amends
- Soundreels
- Baseball's best pitchers
- Some are scrambled
- Emit coherent radiation
- Singer Redding
- Break
- Institute legal proceedings against

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



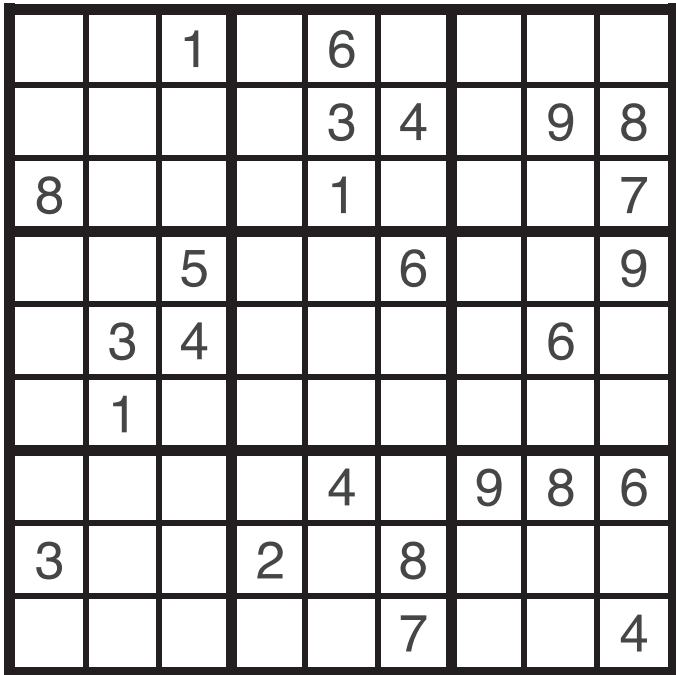
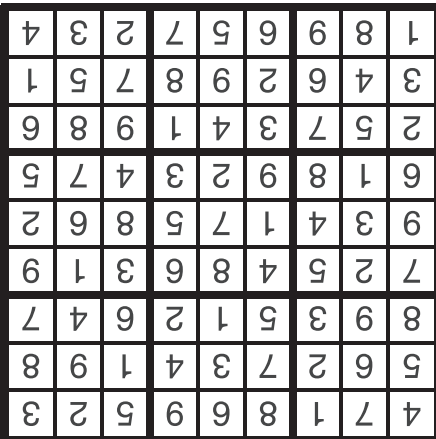
Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SUDOKU ANSWERS



Level: Intermediate

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319-346-1284 206 6th St., Parkersburg, IA

www.campbellmellema.com

The APLINGTON News

Certification options for pesticide applicators

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig has announced that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is offering regulatory relief to help first-time pesticide applicators get certified during the 2020 growing season. This comes after the Department and its testing partners canceled several large, in-person testing sessions based on the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines provided by the CDC.

“These are extraordinary times and yet we, in agriculture, have a responsibility to continue the essential functions that provide the feed and fuel to keep us running,” said Secretary Naig. “Thank you, Gov. Reynolds, for working with the Department to provide regulatory relief to our farmers and agribusinesses. Now the Department has the flexibility to offer additional options to pesticide applicators, which is especially important as farmers head into the planting and growing seasons.”

On April 2, Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation that temporarily suspends the regulatory provisions in Iowa Codes § 206.5(3), 206.5(4) and 206.6(1) for the duration of the Proclamation and any future extensions.

First-time commercial pesticide applicators who obtain a private applicator certification can be employed and operate under the instructions and control of a certified commercial applicator.

Individuals can take the private applicator certification test online during this public health emergency.

First-time commercial, public or private applicators can apply pesticides under the direct supervision of a certified applicator without an applicator certification.

Commercial cleaning services can apply disinfecting or sanitizing pesticides indoors where humans live, work, or congregate without a commercial pesticide applicator license.

A Proclamation signed on March 22 provided regulatory relief to pesticide applicators who were certified through Dec. 31, 2019. These individuals can retain their applicator status and now have until Dec. 31, 2020, to submit the testing or training required to renew their certifications.

Commercial applicators can obtain private applicator certifications

Because of these unprecedented circumstances, individuals seeking to obtain a new commercial pesticide applicator certification may instead obtain a private applicator certification and still be employed as

commercial applicators. These individuals must operate under the instructions and control of a certified commercial applicator. The supervising applicator is not required to be physically present. This waiver only applies to agricultural-land applications. It does not include aerial, lawn, turf or pest control applications.

As part of the ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Department will temporarily allow individuals to take the private applicator test online for the duration of the State Public Health Emergency. Individuals can sign-up to take the private pesticide applicator test online. After passing the exam, individuals can submit their test results, application and fee to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Applicators must complete the commercial applicator testing requirements after the Proclamation expires.

Timeframe extended for uncertified applicators to work under the direct supervision of certified applicators

Under the current law, an uncertified applicator can work under the direct supervision of a certified applicator for 21-days. Direct supervision means the application of a pesticide is made by a competent person acting under the instructions of a certified applicator who is physically present and in sight or hearing distance. The waiver extends this apprenticeship/training program through the duration of the Proclamation and any further extensions. When the Proclamation expires, first-time applicators must meet the testing requirements to obtain their certifications.

Uncertified commercial cleaning businesses can apply disinfectant and sanitizer indoors

This waiver only applies to indoor cleaning and disinfection pesticides applied by commercial cleaning services. It does not include agricultural, aerial, lawn, turf or pest control applications. The suspension of this provision only applies for the duration of this Proclamation and any future extension.

Additional Information

The COVID-19 pandemic has created delays in processing and mailing pesticide applicator cards and certifications. Applicators can view the status of their certifications on the Department’s public search portal.

For more information, contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship’s Pesticide Bureau at pesticides@iowaagriculture.gov or 515-281-8591.



APLINGTON LIBRARY

Aplington library curbside service availability may change daily. Call or visit Aplington on Facebook, @aplingtonpubliclibrary, for updated information.

Curb Side Service Procedures: Please email mail@aplington.lib.ia.us OR call 319-347-2432 to reserve materials. Please give us time to gather these items and the library will contact you when the materials are ready for pick up. When returning items please call or email so we know when to expect you. We have a hard time hearing knocks on the door. We do ask if you are not feeling well, to not partake in this service.

Facebook: Be sure to check us out on Facebook @aplingtonpubliclibrary. We have added a lot of posts with regards to digital resources, materials for

check-out and other information related to COVID-19.

Weekly/Bi-Weekly Programs: At this time all programming is canceled until further notice.

The Library will not be providing curb side service on Thursday, April 9th after 5pm (but will from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm) and all day on Friday, April 10th and Saturday April 11th.

Aplington Legion Memorial Curb-Side Library Hours:

Monday: 10 – 5:00
Tuesday: 10 – 5:00
Wednesday: 10 – 5:00
Thursday: 10 – 5:00
Friday: 10 – 5:00
Phone: 347-2432
Web: www.aplington.lib.ia.us

LIBRARY IS CLOSED TO FOOT TRAFFIC
Curb Side Service is available for pick-up & drop-off of Library Materials.
Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm

Call 319-347-2432 and a librarian can assist you or email: mail@aplington.lib.ia.us



Please only par-take in this if healthy.

If you are returning materials we ask that you place them in a plastic bag if possible or we can provide one.

At this time curb side service will only be offered Monday – Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. We will be accepting the return of library materials via curb side; however the drop box will be remained closed to ensure every ones safety. We ask that you place your items in a plastic bag, if you don’t have one we can give you one. Please don’t worry about fines as those have all been removed until the library is open for foot traffic. Call or email any questions you may have.

REAP deadline extended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the application deadline for its Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to April 15.

REAP provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to complete a variety of clean energy projects.

“If you have been considering installing renewable energy systems or making energy efficiency improvements at your farm or rural small business, now is the time to apply for federal funding to offset the cost of the investment,” Molly Malone, policy assistant for the Center for Rural Affairs said.

According to the USDA, farmers and rural small businesses can apply for grants of \$20,000 or less and loan/grant (combinations) of \$20,000. Funds can be used for solar panels, insulation, and even more efficient doors and windows.

Small businesses must be located in a community with less than 50,000 people, it is considered rural. Ag producers must

have at least 50 percent of their gross income from the ag operation.

A combination of factors led to the extension of the deadline, one being fewer applications this year.

“Last year was hard on rural communities and farmers,” Malone said. “So, fewer are making capital investments which may account for part of the reduction in applicants.”

The application requires a budget. In most cases, applicants will need to consult with a contractor or provider to complete the budget, so it is best to begin the process as soon as possible. Excluding attachments, the application for projects with a total cost of less than \$80,000 are about three pages long.

For more information on the REAP program, visit rd.usda.gov or contact your state office. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, interested applicants should call, not visit, their state office with questions.



TAYLOR’S TIPS

How Can Occupational Therapy Benefit You?

Occupational therapy will help individuals of all ages participate in the activities they need and want to do through the therapeutic application of everyday tasks. Every day we all do meaningful activities that are very simple to complete, until we have trouble or an inability to do them on our own from an injury or illness. That is when Occupational Therapy can assist you to regain those functions you perform every day. Call Taylor Therapy to see what we can do for you to assist you to regain strength and help you improve your daily functions!!!

If you have these Diagnoses – OT can help you.

- Osteoarthritis/Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Tendonitis of the elbow, wrist or hand
- Hand, Wrist, or Elbow Fractures
- Repetitive Work Injuries
- Stroke/CVA or TIA
- Brain Injury
- Neurological Disorder
- Dementia
- Generalized Weakness

Occupational Therapy can help alleviate symptoms that you might be experiencing.

Let Taylor Therapy help you regain function, so you can live life to the fullest, regardless of your health condition. Call any one of our Taylor Therapy Clinics located in Parkersburg, Waverly, Nashua, Denver and Sumner.

Absentee ballot request forms to be mailed

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate announces his office plans to mail an absentee ballot request form to every active registered voter in the state ahead of the June 2 primary. The forms will be sent in mid-late April and will include prepaid postage for return mailing to county auditors.

Secretary Pate is encouraging Iowans to vote by mail in the June 2 primary to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19. There are approximately two million active registered voters in the state. Last week, the Secretary of State expanded the mail-in voting period for the June primary to 40 days. Iowans can request absentee ballots now through May 22. County auditors begin mailing ballots on April 23.

“The safety of voters while casting their ballots is our top priority,” Secretary Pate said. “The June 2 primary election will go on as scheduled because it’s important for Iowans to make their voices heard by voting. The safest way to vote will be by

mail.”

Eligible Iowans who have not registered to vote or updated their registration should do so now to ensure the absentee ballot request form goes to the correct address. For the first time, Iowans who are 17 years old and will be 18 by November 3 can vote in the June primary. You can register to vote online or download a printable voter registration form at sos.iowa.gov/register tovot.

Polling sites will be open for the June 2 primary election, but many will be combined with other precincts. Voters should check with their county auditor before going to the polls. Curbside voting is an option for Iowans with disabilities, those who might have trouble entering a polling place, and Iowans who are in the Center for Disease Control’s at-risk population for COVID-19.

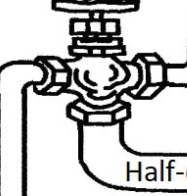
Iowans can download a printable absentee ballot request form at https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf.

UnityPoint Clinic Family Medicine location in your community:

Dr. William Durbin, MD 502 Third Street,
Becky Chittenden, RA. Parkersburg, IA 50665
Dr. Jeremy Cordes, DO, PharmD (319) 346-2331



UnityPoint Clinic



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PANCAKE COMPRESSOR - BACKPACK PUMP SPRAYER
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8FT LADDER - HAND TRUCK - POST HOLE DIGGER
719 9th St. Aplington 319-347-2453

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COVID-19 Closures & Updates

Parkersburg City-Wide Garage Sales

• The Parkersburg City-Wide Garage Sales have been postponed to a date to be determined. The Eclipse staff will strive to give readers at least three weeks notice of the new date and will conduct business as usual once the new date is determined.

Parkersburg library

• The Parkersburg library is closed until further notice.

Aplington library

• Aplington library curbside service availability may change daily. Call or visit Aplington on Facebook, @aplingtonpubliclibrary, for updated information.

New Hartford Lions Club

• New Hartford Lions Club has canceled all activities until further notice.

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Motor Home Repair	Colling Systems

Call **319-347-9009** for all your vehicle repair needs



It's all about your precious cargo...
S&S Auto Repair, Inc.
13536 Hwy. 57
Austinville, IA 50608
319-347-6237
Scott J. Schipper, owner

An Uplifting Moment

REV. DAVE CLAASSEN



Faith in a pandemic

As we deal with the pandemic of the coronavirus, we can learn much from something the great church reformer Martin Luther wrote over 400 years ago. I first saw this quote in a post on the Rock Point Church (of Schertz, Texas) Facebook page. Their post stated...

"When Martin Luther was dealing with The Black Death (Bubonic Plague, 14th-16th centuries), he wrote these wise words that can help inform the way we approach things happening in our world right now..."

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me, and I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

And so Luther stayed in his hometown of Wittenberg, Germany, along with his pregnant wife. He cared for and ministered to those dying of The Black Death until the plague had passed from his area.

Quote From: Luther's Works Volume 43 pg 132 the letter "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" written to Rev. Dr. John Hess.

I wanted to pass along this Facebook post because Martin Luther's words are insightful and helpful all these years later! So are the words of the Psalmist with which we close.

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday." Psalm 91:1-2 & 5-6



Even among all of the hardship and trying times right now, we can still celebrate what God did for us through His Son hanging on the cross and then rising again to defeat even death itself. He has given us the victory! There is nothing we can do to earn it and no wages high enough to buy it. It is a gift - Grace - and now all that we have to do is accept it. Have you? Is the reward of forgiveness and eternity in peace with God yours? If so, then celebrate with me. If not, then I encourage you to make it so today.

Sometimes a song can say something better than just words, so I want you to read the lyrics of a song by Sandi Patti named "Was It A Morning Like This."

Was it a morning like this, when the Son still hid from Jerusalem, And Mary rose from her bed, To tend the Lord she thought was dead

Was it a morning like this, When Mary walked down from Jerusalem, And two angels stood at the tomb, Bearers of news she would hear soon

Did the grass sing? Did the earth rejoice to feel You again? Over and over like a trumpet underground, Did the earth seem to pound "He is risen"

Over and over in a never-ending round, "He is risen, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"

Was it a morning like this, When Peter and John ran from Jerusalem And as they raced towards the tomb, Beneath their feet was there a tune?

Did the grass sing? Did the earth rejoice to feel You again? Over and over like a trumpet underground, Did the earth seem to pound "He is risen"

Over and over in a never-ending round, "He is risen, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"

Easter is about so much more than hidden eggs or chocolate bunnies. It is a celebration of what our King has offered us! I sing with Sandi, "Hallelujah!" Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Doing Business Without Advertising is Like Having a Party and Forgetting the Invitation List
You Are a Party of One!
Call Dave at 346-1461



Redman Schwartz

FUNERAL HOME

Confused about all the options available for today's funeral services? Let the professional staff at Redman-Schwartz Funeral Homes answer all your questions.

Times are changing and so are we! Offering everything from cremation to full traditional services, we are here to serve your needs.

Give Allen or Tom a call today to set up an appointment to go over all your options and pre-plan a funeral that suits your needs.

www.Redman-Schwartz.com



Allen Redman

Parkersburg
(319) 346-1534
Aplington
(319) 347-6275
Clarksville
(319) 278-4245



Tom Pliner



Local Church Services

Please check with your church for updates, online services, postponements and cancellations.

PARKERSBURG

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 3RD AVE
319-346-2028

Pastor Kent Wallace

Handicap Accessible

bethehparkersburg@gmail.com

Facebook: Bethel Parkersburg

All Church gatherings cancelled thru April 6, 2020.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Joe Broesamle

501 4th Street
319-346-1208

cbbpburg@gmail.com

www.calvaryparkersburg.com

Like us on Facebook

- 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
- 10:15 a.m. - Morning Worship

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Matthew Brooks

608 Sixth St., Parkersburg
319-346-1451

faithparkersburg.wixsite.com/faithparkersburg

Sundays

- 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

401 3rd Street

Teaching & Missions Pastor: Brian Koelsch

Web site:

firstcongregationalparkersburg.com

Email: fccpburg@gmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK &

TWITTER @congochurch

Wednesday, April 8

- 10:00 a.m. - Parker Place Service

- 4:30 p.m. - Bible Quiz Practice

- 5:30 p.m. - FCC Childrens Ministry (Preschool-5th Grade Youth Program)

- 8:00 p.m. - GLOW High School Youth Program

Sunday, April 12

- 8:00 a.m. - Worship

- 9:20 a.m. - Sunday School

- 10:30 a.m. - Worship

- 6:00 p.m. - REACH Middle School Youth Program

Monday, April 13

- 6:00 a.m. - Men's Prayer Group

Tuesday, April 14

- 9:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible Study

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Rev. David Kucera, Pastor

holyfamilycatholicparish.com

Saturday

- 5:30 p.m. - St. Patrick, Parkersburg

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. - St. Gabriel,

Reinbeck

Tuesday

- 5:15 p.m. - St. Patrick, Parkersburg

Wednesday

- 8:00 a.m. - St. Gabriel, Reinbeck

Thursday

- 8:00 a.m. - St. Gabriel, Reinbeck

Friday

- 7:30 a.m. - St. Patrick, Parkersburg

HOPE REFORMED CHURCH

Pastor Nate Huisman

611 4th St.

319-346-1575

HopeInParkersburg.org

office@hopeinparkersburg.org

Office Hours:

Monday: 12:30-3:15 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

or by appointment

Sundays

- 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

- Fellowship to follow

Wednesdays

- 6:30-7:30 p.m. - JAM Youth Program

PARKERSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Pastor Rus Boersma

807 Grant St., Parkersburg

(Handicapped Accessible)

Live streaming of Sunday

services at: www.parkers-

burg-crc.org

Sunday:

- 9:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
- 10:50 a.m. - Sunday School

Wednesday:

- 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. - Life Plus

PARKERSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Chan Kim

(Handicap Accessible)

319-346-1076

Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

- 11:30 - Fellowship

Wednesday

- 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the church

Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. - Shine Deisciples Bible Study at the church

PEACE LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP

Peace Lutheran Fellowship

S.A.W.C. of the ELCA

www.peacelutheranfellowship.com

Meeting At Parkersburg Civic Center

Thursday

- 9:30 a.m. - Cafe Chat at 3 C's.

Public Welcome

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. - Worship

APLINGTON

THE STUDENT CONNECTION

729 11th St. Aplington, IA

(the old Amvet Hall)

Youth Director Adam Dohrn

319-404-1582

adamnicholas@hotmail.com

Wednesdays

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Early Herd (for any 6th grade student)

- 6:30-8:15 p.m. - Herd (for any 7-8th grade student)

Sundays

- 6:00-8:30 p.m. - One-Eighty (for any High School student)

APLINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Elton LaBree

1003 Nash St.

Aplington, IA 50604

www.aplingtonbaptistchurch.org

facebook.com/

AplingtonBaptistChurch

319-347-2311 - Church

"Imperfect People Sharing the Perfect Savior"

Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. - Worship Service
- 10:15 a.m. - Fellowship

- 10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

- Small Group Bible Studies (call office for information)

Wednesday

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Early Herd (StuCoCenter)

- 6:20 p.m. - AWANA
- 6:30-8:15 p.m. - Herd (StuCo Center)

APLINGTON EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN

Pastor Gregory DeJarnette

Sunday, April 12

- 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
- 10:45 a.m. - Youth Sunday School

- 11:00 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

- 6:00 p.m. - 180

BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH

Pastor Scott Summers

www.bethelreformedchurch.org

Sunday, April 12

- 9:00 a.m. - Worship Service
- 10:05 a.m. - Bethel Kids

- 10:05 a.m. - Fellowship Time

- 10:05 a.m. - Prayer Room

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Brett Vander Berg

905 Caldwell St.

Aplington, IA 50604

(319) 347-2444

fricaplington@gmail.com

Sunday, April 12

- 9:30 a.m. - Morning Worship
- 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

HITESVILLE GOSPEL HALL

17527 260th Street, Aplington

A Non-Denominational Church

Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

and Ministry of Word

- 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
- 6:30 p.m. - Gospel Service

Wednesday

- 7:30 p.m. - Prayer meeting and Bible Study

NEW HARTFORD

NEW HARTFORD UNITED METHODIST

Pastor Chan Kim

(Handicap Accessible)

319-983-2322

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. - Worship
- Sunday school is 9:15 during worship service.

- 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship

Thursday

- Bible Study at 9 a.m. at the Church Library

STOUT

REFORMED CHURCH OF STOUT

410 2nd St. - Stout

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. - Worship

AUSTINVILLE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Rev. Norm Underland

Wednesday

- 6:30 a.m. - Men's Prayer Meeting

- 4:00 p.m. - Early Herd
- 6:20 p.m. - AWANA

- 6:30 p.m. - 7th & 8th Grade Herd

Thursday

- 2nd & 4th - 7:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. - Worship service
- 10:45 a.m. - Coffee & Fellowship Time

- 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

- 6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
- 7:00 p.m. - 180 meets at Stu-Co Center

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Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. - Worship

Wednesday

- 6:45 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study gathering

WASHINGTON REFORMED CHURCH

28182 Birch Ave, Ackley

Phone # 641-847-2817

www.wrcackley.org

Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

MercyOne expands virtual visit capabilities

MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center has expanded its Virtual Visit capabilities in light of the COVID-19 crisis. A Virtual Visit allows a patient to meet with their local MercyOne North Iowa primary care or specialist provider through a secure, HIPAA compliant video chat without leaving the

Wilder Park set to open May 1

At this point plans are to open Wilder Park in Allison for camping and all other activities on May 1.

If the federal or state government issues other rules to comply with social distancing guidelines in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, you will be notified via various forms of media.

SWINTON from page 1

News of Swinton's hospitalization hit the Clarksville community at its heart, and prayers and well-wishes for his recovery have poured in from throughout Butler County, the state and nation.

"Not only is he a former mayor, he's a dear friend of ours, loved and respected by so many. The news of him contracting the virus was devastating," said Clarksville City Clerk Lori Peterson. "We continue to keep him and his family in

our thoughts and prayers. It's incredible how the community has rallied around him and continues to do so. I can't imagine the world without him."

Swinton's family thanked the community for their continued support.

"With all the prayers, positive energy, and good vibes sent my father's way, it would appear he has turned the corner and is on the road to recovery!" Sam Swinton said.



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NEWS-REVIEW

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Hornbeck, et al. v. Orscheln Farm and Home, LLC, et al.,
Case Number 18-00941-cv-W-BP (W.D. Mo.).

READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT.

A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit that alleges the following "303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Products"—CITGO-manufactured MileMaster 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid; CITGO-manufactured H-K 303 Tractor Transmission Hydraulic Fluid; Orscheln Premium 303 Tractor Hydraulic & Transmission Fluid; and/or CITGO-manufactured SuperTech 303 Tractor Hydraulic Oil—did not meet the equipment manufacturer specifications stated on the label. The Defendants deny they did anything wrong and state further that the labels were truthful and adequate. The Court has not decided who is right. Instead, the parties agreed to a proposed settlement to avoid the expense and risks of continuing the lawsuit.

You are Settlement Class Member if you have purchased, not for resale, one of the following products sold in the United States during the stated Class Period:

Product	Size	Start Class Period	End Class Period
MileMaster 303	3/2 gal.	Jan. 23, 2017	Present
MileMaster 303	5 gal.	May 25, 2013	Present
MileMaster 303	55 gal.	May 25, 2013	Present
H-K 303	3/2 gal.	May 25, 2013	April 30, 2016
H-K 303	5 gal.	May 25, 2013	March 21, 2019
Orscheln 303	5 gal.	Sept. 3, 2014	Aug. 16, 2017
SuperTech 303	5 gal.	Feb. 17, 2016	Feb. 10, 2018

The settlement establishes a \$18,825,000.00 "Class Settlement Fund" that will be paid to Settlement Class Members as: (1) cash awards of up to 100% of the purchase price paid for the 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Products and (2) reimbursement for the costs of any repairs, parts, and specific equipment damage that a Settlement Class Member claims resulted from, in whole or in part, the use of the 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid Products during the Class Period. You may need to submit a Claim Form to receive your award, which can be obtained at www.303settlement.com or by calling 866-742-4955. The deadline to submit a Claim Form is August 31, 2020. Class Counsel will seek an incentive payment of \$5,000.00 for each of the Class Representatives. Class Counsel will ask that the Court award up to \$5,900,000.00 in attorneys' fees and expenses. This amount will not be paid from the Class Settlement Fund.

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Settlement, you must exclude yourself from it by August 31, 2020. If you do not exclude yourself, you will not be able to sue Defendants for any claim relating to the lawsuit. If you remain a Settlement Class Member, you may object to the settlement by August 31, 2020. The Court will hold a hearing on October 13, 2020 to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request for attorneys' fees and expenses. This date may be moved, canceled, or otherwise modified; see www.303settlement.com for more information. This notice only summarizes the proposed settlement. For additional information, including the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement, please see www.303settlement.com or call 866-742-4955.

A Federal Court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

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Dale L. Hansmann Emily J.C. Pittenger
Attorneys at Law

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rlindeman@DiamondOilCo.com

Lawler & Swanson P.L.C.
Attorney at Law

Amy K. Swanson
Thomas A. Lawler (retired)
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Certified Public Accountant

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Butler County Courthouse News

Deaths
Florene Christensen, 91, Clarksville, died on March 21.
Randall Ubben, 65, Apling-

ton, died on March 17.
Norman Brown, 84, Dumont, died on March 15.
Floyd Schrage, 92, Parkers-

burg, died on March 27.

Property Transfer
Warranty Deed: Dennis Win-

kowitsch to Donald Ahlhelm: NW NW 7-91-17; 2020-0691.

Warranty Deed: Dumont Farms LC and Member/Manager Arnold Delbridge to Jeff Miller: S1/2 NE 5-91-18; 2020-0695.

Quit Claim Deed: Rick and Andrea DeGroot to Rick DeGroot: Parcel E NW NW 24-90-16, EXC Parcel A NW 21-91-16, EXC NE 1-91-17, SE 5-90-17, S1/2 NW 12-91-17, EXC SE 36-92-17; 2020-0696

Warranty Deed: Dumont Farms LC and Member/Manager Arnold Delbridge to Matthew and Samantha Allen: SE 5-91-18; 2020-0697.

Warranty Deed: City of Allison to John Marks and John Marks Trust: BEG NW COR Allison Marks Sunrise Lot: 1; 2020-0710.

Joint Ten Deed: Kurt Bolton to Kevin and Kelly Bolton: New Hartford Original Town Lot: 8 Block: 4; 2020-0712.

Joint Ten Deed: Todd and Karen Ryan to Nicklaus and Amber Cordes: NW NE 5-90-16; 2020-0718.

Warranty Deed: Laurence V. Hartema and Carelyn Hartema Family Trust and Trustee Jack Boelman to Jena Jones and Nicholas Boelman: UND ½ INT: N1/2 SE 27-90-18; 2020-0723.

Warranty Deed: Trustee Teresa Feldman and Klahsen Family Trust to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust, Troy Feldman Revocable Trust and Co-trustees Teresa and Troy Feldman: UND ½ INT 75 percent INT to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust: EXC Parcel A NW 2-90-18; UND ½ INT 75 percent INT to Troy Feldman Revocable Trust: NE 9-90-18; UND ½ INT 75 percent INT to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust: EXC Parcel A NW 2-90-18; UND ½ INT 75 percent INT to Troy Feldman Revocable Trust: NE 9-90-18; UND ½ INT 75 percent INT to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust: EXC Parcel A NW 2-90-18; 2020-0728.

Warranty Deed: Trustee Teresa Feldman and Klahsen Family Trust to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust, Troy Feldman Revocable Trust and Co-trustees Teresa and Troy Feldman: UND ½ INT 25 percent INT to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust:

NE 9-90-18; UND ½ INT 25 percent INT to Teresa Feldman Revocable Trust: EXC Parcel A NW 2-90-18; UND ½ INT 25 percent INT to Troy Feldman Revocable Trust: NE 9-90-18; UND ½ INT 25 percent INT to Troy Feldman Revocable Trust: EXC Parcel A NW 2-90-18; 2020-0729.

Court Off Deed: Gary Pashby Estate and Administrator Karla Pashby-Fuller to Frank Boyer: BEG SE COR SE 31-91-15; 2020-0734.

Warranty Deed: Richard, Joyce, Dennis and Carol Harms to DeGroot Farming Company LLLP: EXC COMM SE COR SE 29-91-15; 2020-0741.

Donald Noble Estate and Executor Jeffrey Noble to Jonathan and Paula Schwabe: E40FT Aplington Lot: 1 Block: 17 NE NW 29-90-17; 2020-0742.

Warranty Deed: Michael and Martha Hall to Panther Builders, LLC: Parkersburg Tuve/Klinkenborg Add Lot:9' 2020-0752.

Warranty Deed: Alvin and Joyce Harrenstein to LE Alvin Harrenstein, LE Joyce Harrenstein and Kristi Elley: Parkersburg Stouts ADD Lot: 8; Parkersburg Stouts ADD Lot: 9; Strip of Land 12 Ft. Wide W of Lots 8 and 9 Parkersburg Stouts Add; 2020-0760.

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PUBLIC NOTICE Probate

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
PROBATE NO. ESPR017059

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR BUTLER COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THERESA J. EVERTS, DECEASED
To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Theresa J. Everts, Deceased, who died on or about January 29, 2020:
You are hereby notified that on April 1, 2020, the last will and testament of Theresa J. Everts, deceased, bearing date of May 7, 2013, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Glen E. Everts was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.
Dated April 1, 2020.

Date of second publication April 15, 2020.
Glen E. Everts
Executor of the Estate
13882 240th St.
Dumont, IA 50625
Gregory M. Lievens, ICIS#: AT0004767
Attorney for the Executor
Shepard, Gibson & Lievens
614 - 11th St.
P.O. Box 206
Aplington, IA 50604-0206

Published in the Eclipse News-Review on Wednesday, April 8 and Wednesday, April 15, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE City of New Hartford

https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/851290957

To access this meeting by telephone dial: (786) 535-3211
Access Code: 851-290-957

Please check the posted agenda in advance of the April 15, 2020 meeting for any updates to the manner in which the public may access the meeting.

All persons wishing to observe or participate in the meeting and/or public hearing may do so by accessing the meeting as directed above, and may also submit comments to the City prior to the meeting. At the above meeting, the Council shall receive oral or written objections, from any resident or property owner of said City, to the proposal to enter into the Agreement with the Developer. After all objections have been received and considered, the Council will at this meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action on the proposal or will abandon the proposal to authorize said Agreement.

The Agreement proposes that the City will use available funds in the City's LMI Fund to make payments of LMI Grants to

Developer, up to a cumulative maximum amount of the Developer's Total Qualified Costs in constructing LMI Housing Units within the City (as those terms are defined in the Agreement), under the terms and following satisfaction of the conditions set forth in the Agreement, and consistent with the provisions and intent of Iowa Code Section 403.22 with respect to housing assistance for low or moderate income families.

Please contact the City Clerk's office at 319-983-2548, or cityclerknh@mchsi.com if you have questions about the electronic format of the meeting, electronic accessibility issues, or to request a copy of the Agreement.

This notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of New Hartford in the State of Iowa, as provided by Section 364.6, Code of Iowa.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2020.
Shawna Hagen
City Clerk, City of New Hartford in the State of Iowa

MINUTES City of Parkersburg

**CITY OF PARKERSBURG
MARCH 24, 2020
PARKERSBURG, IOWA**

The City Council of the City of Parkersburg, Iowa met in special session on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. at Parkersburg City Hall. Council members present: Bruns, Goodrich, Johnson, Schuck, and Timmer.

Mayor Perry Bernard called the meeting to order and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion by Goodrich, seconded by Johnson to open the public hearing for the purpose of approving Resolution #1026 adopting the fiscal year 2021 budget and certification of city taxes.

Upon vote, all ayes. No oral or written comments were received for or against the proposed budget. Chris Luhning reviewed the certification information including the amount of growth in property value as it relates to the residential rollback and the reduction in the total property levy from 13.49488/\$1,000 valuation in FY2020 to 13.33309 in FY2021. There was also discussion about the debt service levy and Councilman Bruns requested that we contact our Financial Advisor to see what municipal bond rates are doing currently. After discussion, there was a motion by Timmer, seconded by Goodrich to close the public hearing. Upon vote, all ayes.

There was a motion by Schuck, seconded by Johnson to adopt Resolution #1026 approving the fiscal year 2021 budget. Upon vote, all ayes.

There was a motion by Timmer, seconded by Bruns to adjourn the meeting. Upon vote, all ayes.

Mayor Perry Bernard
Attest: Christopher M. Luhning
City Administrator/Clerk

Published in the Eclipse News-Review on Wednesday, April 8, 2020

MINUTES Board of Supervisors

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON MARCH 29, 2020.

With no public access to the courthouse due to COVID-19, this meeting was held telephonically with the public able to participate. This complies with Iowa Code section 21.8 that outlines the guidelines to hold an electronic meeting when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is "impossible or impractical".

Meeting called to order telephonically at 2:00 pm. by Chairman Tom Heidenwirth with members Greg Barnett and Rusty Eddy present. Also present telephonically were Auditor Lizbeth Williams, Engineer John Riherd, County Attorney Greg Lievens, Director of Public Health Jennifer Becker, Emergency Management Coordinator Chris Showalter, Sheriff Jason Johnson, Treasurer Vicki Schoneman, Assessor Michele Shultz, Conservation Director Mike Miner, Director of Veterans Affairs Tom Heckman, Network Administrator Sara Trepp, First Deputy Auditor Mary Brouwer, HR/Finance Deputy Auditor Mindy Pecha, Recorder Janice Jacobs, Roxann Geelhoed, Greene, Iowa, Deb McWhirter, Allison, Iowa and Bethany Carson, Mid-America Publishing.

Heidenwirth opened the meeting stating his concern for employees and their families now that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Butler County, and feels that it could spread quickly. Heidenwirth suggested that the County should provide only essential services such as Sheriff, Public Health and Emergency Management and that the other department head/elected officials devise a plan to operate their individual offices with minimal employees in the courthouse. Eddy stated he was concerned for the employees and that we should take drastic measures to protect them and help stop the spread of the virus. Eddy is in favor of the plan Buchanan County used. Department heads/elected officials agreed that all county services are essential and are deemed so by Governor Reynolds. Department heads/elected officials described their individual plans, and will activate having minimal employee contact and utilize the option of working from home, if possible. Following further discussion, it was moved by Eddy, second by Heidenwirth to leave it to Department Heads/Elected Officials to establish what is necessary to man their offices. All ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Heidenwirth, second by Eddy to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 P.M. to Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried.

The above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes and proceedings of an adjourned emergency meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Iowa on March 29, 2020.

Attest: Butler County Auditor
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Published in the Eclipse News-Review on Wednesday, April 8, 2020

MINUTES Board of Supervisors

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON MARCH 24, 2020.

With no public access to the courthouse due to COVID-19, this meeting was held telephonically with the public able to participate. This complies with Iowa Code section 21.8 that outlines the guidelines to hold an electronic meeting when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is "impossible or impractical".

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Tom Heidenwirth with members Greg Barnett and Rusty Eddy present. Also present were Engineer John Riherd, First Deputy Auditor Mary Brouwer, Treasurer Vicki Schoneman, Assessor Michele Shultz Sheriff Jason Johnson, Recorder Janice Jacobs, Public Health Director Jennifer Becker, Emergency Management Coordinator Chris Showalter, Director of Veteran Affairs Tom Heckman, Network Administrator Sara Trepp, County Attorney Greg Lievens and Bethany Carson, Mid-America Publishing. Present telephonically were Auditor Lizbeth Williams, Warren Wiegman, Bristow, Iowa, Jolynn Young, Galen Mulder, Dave Schneiderman, John Luhning, Larry Luvring, Brice Zachariou, Gerald Peters, Deb Johnson, Chad Campbell, Steve Sessler, Dwight Folken and Julie Folken, Parkersburg, Iowa Bob Greenley, Shell Rock, Iowa and John Zimmerman, Greene, Iowa.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

Moved by Eddy, second by Barnett to approve a Class A Liquor License Renewal for American League Tack-Barnett Post #268, Greene, Iowa. All ayes. Motion carried

Board set March 31, 2020 at 9:05 A.M as the date and time for a public hearing on Hummel new Confinement Feeding Operation in Section 2-91-17 in Ripley Township.

Board set April 7, 2020 at 9:05 A.M. as the date and time for a public hearing on proposed FY2020 County Budget Amendment.

Moved by Eddy, second by Barnett to accept the recommendation of Engineer Riherd and approve a Utility Permit for Franklin County REC to reconstruct service line near 22860 Franklin Avenue. All ayes. Motion carried.

The deadline for Budget Certification has been extended to April 30, 2020 due to COVID-19, and with public interest in mind, it was moved by Eddy, second by Barnett to table approval of said budget to accept further public comment at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on April 21, 2020. All ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Barnett, second by Heidenwirth to approve the FY2020 Iowa DOT Butler County Secondary Roads Budget Amendment #2. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board held a review of an employee time-off policy for COVID-19 pandemic. County Attorney Lievens explained the main points of the policy. Following discussion, it was moved by Eddy, second by Heidenwirth to approve said policy. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public comments consisted of the following budget questions and concerns: Warren Wiegman, Bristow, Iowa wants to know how Administrative costs went up 19%? What are they? Reported to be Administrative costs, General County Management, Treasury Management and Information Technology costs. Jolynn Young

wants the rates to stay the same. Dave Schneiderman stated that he serves on the school board and is aware of cuts in school budgets. He reported how they cut their budgets and asked how they were supposed to increase enrollment. John Luhning would like an evening meeting for people that work during the day and wants the Board to work to lower the levy rate more. Gerald Peters said that speaking for farmers he thought they stand to lose the most. Supervisor Barnett explained the rollback, taxable value and other factors that are involved. Deb Johnson says that information should be put out to educate the public and that the working public can't attend a 9 a.m. meeting. Steve Sessler agrees with Deb Johnson and wanted publication dates. Publication dates were reported to be February 4th and 5th. He wants budget clarity and agrees that he should have paid more attention and that other people should too. Supervisor Barnett stated that he thinks Trinity Hall will bring employment, additional revenue and hopefully increased enrollment in our school systems.

Board approved claims as submitted. Board acknowledged receipt of Manure Management Plan Annual Updates for F087 and Asche East Finisher Farm.

Moved by Barnett, second by Heidenwirth to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 A.M. to Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried.

The above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes and proceedings of a regular adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Iowa on March 24, 2020.

Attest: Butler County Auditor
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Published in the Eclipse News-Review on Wednesday, April 15, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE City of New Hartford

Access Code: 851-290-957

Please check the posted agenda in advance of the April 15, 2020 meeting for any updates to the manner in which the public may access the meeting.

All persons wishing to observe or participate in the meeting and/or public hearing may do so by accessing the meeting as directed above, and may also submit comments to the City prior to the meeting. At the above meeting, the Council shall receive oral or written objections, from any resident or property owner of said City, to the proposal to enter into the Agreement with the Developer. After all objections have been received and considered, the Council will at this meeting or at any adjournment thereof, take additional action on the proposal or will abandon the proposal to authorize said Agreement.

The Agreement would obligate the Developer to construct certain Minimum Improvements and Infrastructure Improvements (as defined in the Agreement) on certain real property located within the New Hartford 2019 Residential Urban Renewal Area as defined and legally described in the Agreement, consisting of the construction of approximately 17 single-family Housing Units, together with all related site improvements, and streets,

sewer, water, storm water, and other infrastructure, under the terms and following satisfaction of the conditions set forth in the Agreement.

The Agreement further proposes that the City will make up to fifteen (15) consecutive annual payments of Economic Development Grants to Developer consisting of 100% of the Tax Increments derived from the Minimum Improvements remaining after the LMI set aside requirement has been satisfied, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 403.19, under the terms and following satisfaction of the conditions set forth in the Agreement, up to a maximum of the lesser of \$1,655,550 or the cost of the Infrastructure Improvements.

Please contact the City Clerk's office at 319-983-2548, or cityclerknh@mchsi.com if you have questions about the electronic format of the meeting, electronic accessibility issues, or to request a copy of the Agreement.

This notice is given by order of the City Council of the City of New Hartford in the State of Iowa, as provided by Section 364.6, Code of Iowa.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2020.
Shawna Hagen
City Clerk, City of New Hartford in the State of Iowa

MINUTES City of New Hartford

**NEW HARTFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2020**

Due to public health concerns related to COVID-19, as authorized by emergency proclamation of the Governor of the State of Iowa, the meeting was held electronically, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8. ROLL CALL: Mayor Anderson, Dennis Canfield, Steve Latwesen, Larry Bass, Cindy Brewer, Tim Woods

OTHERS PRESENT: Brad Swarts, Steve Burrell, Jane Close

On April 1st, 2020 the Council of the City of New Hartford met at 5:30 pm for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed RESOLUTION #717AF2020 DETERMINING AN AREA OF THE CITY TO BE AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA, AND THAT THE REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION, REDEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF, OF SUCH AREA IS NECESSARY IN THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY; DESIGNATION SUCH AREA AS APPROPRIATE FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS; AND ADOPTING AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE NEW HARATFORD 2019 RESIDENTIAL URBAN RENEWAL PLAN as published. A quorum was electronically present. Notice of time and place of hearing had been published March 18th, 2020 in the Eclipse-News-Review and the affidavit of publication was available.

The clerk presented the consultation meeting notes: "The consultation meeting held March 11, 2020 at 1:30p between the City of New Hartford and all the affected taxing entities (DNH School and Butler County) concerning the proposed Amendment No. 1 to the New Hartford 2019 Residential Urban Renewal Plan for the City of New Hartford was attended by the City Mayor John Anderson and City Clerk Shawna Hagen. No others attended the meeting. No discussions were made therefore no recommendations received.

Mayor then asks clerk whether any written or oral objections have been filed with respect to the proposed amendment with the answer being none received.

Mayor asks for a motion to open the public hearing at 5:35p bringing a motion by Woods 2nd by Bass

and motion carries as roll call was all ayes.

After giving opportunity for all desiring to be heard motion was made by Bass 2nd by Canfield to close public hearing at 5:39p and motion carries as roll call was all ayes.

Mayor asks council for consideration of the Resolution #717AF2020 2019 Residential Urban Renewal Plan Amendment No. 1 and the roll call was as follows: Ayes: Latwesen, Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Motion Carries. Mayor declares the resolution is duly adopted.

Mayor then asks for consideration of the minutes and bills.
REVENUES: General \$19,979.85; Road Use \$2615.61; Water Utilities \$7489.82; Sewer Utilities \$7126.81; Total all funds \$37212.09 LOST FEB \$2672.46 EXPENDITURES: General \$29,235.83; Road Use \$5002.44; Water Utilities \$9066.49; Sewer Utilities \$5831.80; Total all funds \$49136.56

March Claims Report
Vendor, Reference.....Amount
Ahlers & Cooney Pc, Housing Development.....\$3,302.32
Airgas City Shop.....\$26.80
Allison Propane, Cemetery.....\$70.09
Automatic Systems Co, Water Maint.....\$181.41

Baker & Taylor, Lib Books.....\$360.43
Butler Co Sheriff's Office, Police Protection.....\$3,750.00
Butler Co Solid Waste Comm, Disposal Fees.....\$1,806.00
Casey's Business Mastercard, Fuel.....\$208.74
CenturyLink, Phone.....\$387.70
City Sanitary Service, Garbage.....\$1,824.00
EFTPS, Fed/Fica Tax.....\$2,210.08
Fehr Graham Engineering, Housing Development.....\$656.25
Gis Benefits, Benefits.....\$83.46
Gworks, Tax Forms.....\$89.62
Hawkeye Community College, Training.....\$150.00
Hawkins Inc, Chlorine.....\$364.49
Helmut's Country Store, Nhlrc.....\$2,866.25
IPERS, IPERS.....\$1,417.80
Itron, Meter Software.....\$1,031.82
John Deere Financial, Lawnmower Maint.....\$757.09
Johnson Controls, Fire Extinguisher Inspection.....\$160.00
Konken Electric Inc, Lagoon-Header Maint.....\$185.00
Magnolia, Lib Books.....\$20.00
Mediacom, Internet.....\$389.85
Menards-Cedar Falls, House Acct.....\$842.92
Mid American Publishing, Publications.....\$195.74
Mid Iowa Concrete, Grave Opening/Closings.....\$550.00
MidAmerican Energy, Electric.....\$2,525.91
Miller Window Service, City Hall Maint.....\$10.00
Napa Auto Parts, Vehicle Maintenance.....\$34.19
New Hartford Amb Dept, Run Allowance.....\$637.50
New Hartford Fire Dept, Run Allowance.....\$1,250.00
Office Auditor Of State, Periodic Exam Fee 2020.....\$1,200.00
Office Depot, Office Supplies.....\$116.20
Parkersburg Hardware, House Acct.....\$65.94
Polk's Lock Service Inc, City Hall Maint.....\$15.00
Sam's Club, House Acct.....\$45.00
Sandy Fire Supply Llc, Nhfd...\$6,668.18
Shane Ragsdale, Snow Removal.....\$615.00
Stokes Welding, Lawnmower Maint.....\$58.00
Test American, Testing.....\$940.80
Towncloud, Subscription.....\$200.00
Treas State Of Ia - Wet, March Wet.....\$1,070.00
Treas. State Of Iowa, March Sales Tax.....\$30.00
Treas. State Of Iowa, State Taxes.....\$902.00
United States Post Office, Postage.....\$149.50
US Cellular, Cell Phone.....\$287.72
Visa, Fuel Amb.....\$152.01
Payroll, Wages.....\$8,115.95

Discussions of bill received from Keltek in the amount of \$6095.58 for the Amb Dept was discussed as well as including MidAmerican and Towncloud bills for consideration.

After discussions of bills the minutes and bills were approved as presented by Brewer 2nd by Canfield. The roll call was all Ayes. Motion Carries.

Close. Economic Development, updates the council on what they have been researching and/or working on for the community: How New Hartford could receive a grant for housing; Covid-19 information sent to small businesses; upcoming Farmer's Market; Welcome bags being sent to new community members.

Burrell and Swarts explained the NHFD

decision in regards to mutual aid agreement with Cedar Falls and recommends after presenting the pros and cons to the situation that the agreement be terminated.

Motion made by Bass 2nd by Woods to terminate the mutual aid agreement with City of Cedar Falls upon the present-ed facts. It was also determined to elect Burrell as the spoke person to represent the city in this matter and the roll call was as follows: Aye Latwesen, Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Motion Carried.

Discussions of the annual NHFD fundraiser is being planned for July 11th.

Clerk explains that the new computer system is in place at City Hall but with the new conversions came glitches one caused the March utility bill's processing being delayed.

Motion made by Latwesen 2nd by Brewer to wave the March delinquent charges because of the billing glitch and with all being Ayes. Motion Carried.

Latwesen introduced the RESOLUTION #718AF2020 FIXING DATE APRIL 15TH AT 5P FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH EVERGREEN HEIGHTS, LLC AND PROVIDING FOR A PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THEREOF 2nd by Woods and the roll call was as follows: Ayes: Latwesen, Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Whereupon the Mayor declared the Resolution duly adopted.

Latwesen then introduced RESOLUTION #719AF2020 FIXING DATE APRIL 15TH AT 5P FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A LMI FUND GRANT AGREEMENT WITH EVERGREEN HEIGHTS, LLC, AND PROVIDING FOR A PUBLICATION OF NOTICE THEREOF 2nd by Brewer and the roll call was as follows: Aye: Latwesen, Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Whereupon the Mayor declared the Resolution duly adopted.

Council updates brought discussions of sidewalk on Packwaukee St near Library; Drainage by Pavelec's property; Fobian's fence request; citywide housing projects delayed because of Covid-19.

Motion made by Latwesen 2nd by Woods to close city parks & playgrounds to the public to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Aye 5. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Brewer 2nd by Latwesen to go into a closed session 21.5j and the roll call was as follows: Latwesen yes; Bass yes; Brewer yes; Woods yes; Canfield yes.

Motion made by Latwesen 2nd by Bass to go into open session and the roll call was as follows: Ayes: Latwesen Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Latwesen to research city property south of 602 Mills 2nd by Bass and the roll call was as follows: Aye: Latwesen, Bass, Woods, Canfield Abstain: Brewer

Motion by Brewer to turn the Bean property project over to the Economic Development Group for further research 2nd by Woods and the roll call was as follows: Ayes: Latwesen, Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Motion Carried.

Motion made by Canfield 2nd by Brewer to research Others request and determine the appropriate actions to move forward with the recommendations made by the cities attorney and the roll call was as follows: Aye: Latwesen, Bass, Brewer, Woods, Canfield. Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn at 6:57p made by Bass 2nd by Woods. Aye 5. Motion Carried.

Attest: Shawna Hagen, City Clerk
Signed: Mayor John M. Anderson

Published in the Eclipse News-Review on Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Published in the Eclipse News-Review on Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Butler County Sheriff's Log

Monday, March 30:

- Officers executed two traffic stops, assisted with two medical calls, assisted one motorist, received a report for 24 controlled burns and received 19 general calls.
- 7:08 a.m.: Report of a dog complaint in the 100 block of Linde Ave.
- 1:04 p.m.: Report of a phone scam in the 14800 block of 300th St.
- 2:55 p.m.: Report of a burglary in the 22100 block of Cedar Ave.

Tuesday, March 31

- Officers assisted with one medical call, received a report for 42 controlled burns and received 18 general calls.
- 1:02 a.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock on 190th and Yale Ave.
- 1:32 p.m.: Deputies received a report of fraud in the 17700 block of West Brook St.
- 1:43 p.m.: Report of a grass/field fire in the 3000 block of Lodge Ave.

- 3:39 p.m.: Report of a grass/field fire on 160th St./Willow Ave.
- 4:25 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock on 120th St./Highway 14.
- 10:09 p.m.: Report of dog/deer/livestock on 160th St. and Highway 188.

Wednesday, April 1:

- Officers assisted with one medical call, received a report for seven controlled burns and received 13 general calls.
- 1:45 a.m.: Deputies received a call of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 28600 block of Franklin Ave.
- 7:45 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 600 block of 1st St.
- 8:49 a.m.: Deputies received a report of vandalism/criminal mischief in the 31100 block of Highway 3.
- 5:07 p.m.: Deputies responded to a domestic/family call in the 600 block of Beaver St.
- 6:26 p.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 400 block

of 6th St.

- 8:28 p.m.: Deputies requested for a welfare check in the 12400 block of Highway 3. Unable to locate.

Thursday, April 2:

- Officers executed one traffic stop, assisted with one medical call, assisted two motorists, received a report for 11 controlled burns, and received 13 general calls.
- 7:56 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock on 310th St./Sinclair Ave.
- 11:23 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 15600 block of Highway 57.
- 11:35 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 300 block of Water St.
- 2:07 p.m.: Deputies received a report of property damage at 280th St and Temple Ave.
- 3:46 p.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 700 block of 10th St.
- 8:44 p.m.: Deputies requested for a welfare check in the 400 block of Packwaukee St.

Friday, April 3:

- Officers assisted with two medical calls, received a report for two controlled burns and received seven general calls.
- 1:14 a.m.: Deputies received a call about a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 200 block of S. 4th St. Unable to locate.
- 7:30 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock at Butler Ave. and Highway 3.
- 10:31 a.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 200 block of E. Grove St.
- 5:10 p.m.: Deputies received a report of property damage at Highway 3 and Union Ave.
- 6:13 p.m.: Deputies requested a welfare check in the 20300 block of 310th St.
- 7:46 p.m.: Report of a dog/deer/livestock in the 1100 block of Ascher St.
- 11:37 p.m.: Deputies requested to complete a business door check in the 500 block of Main St.

Saturday, April 4:

- Officers executed two traffic stops, assisted with one medical call, received a report for 23 controlled burns, and received 10 general calls.
- 12:23 p.m.: Report of dog/deer livestock in the 500 block of N. Public Rd.
- 3:25 p.m.: April Simkins, 41, Aplington, arrested for OWI, 1st, released.
- 3:34 p.m.: Received a call about dog/deer/livestock in the 300 block of N. Main St. Unable to locate.
- 6:01 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 10700 block of Terrace Ave.
- 6:10 p.m.: Report of property damage in the 400 block of N. Main Street.
- 7:45 p.m.: Deputies received a request for a welfare check in the 600 block of 6th St.
- 7:52 p.m.: Report of dog/deer livestock at 220th St and Spring Ave.

Sunday, April 5:

- Officers executed one traffic

stop, assisted with one medical call, assisted one motorist, received a report for 37 controlled burns and received nine general calls.

- 12:14 a.m.: Deputies received a request for a business door check in the 900 block of Parriott St.
- 4:22 a.m.: Deputies received a request for a business door check in the 100 block of E. Traer St.
- 7:04 a.m.: Nikolas Lane Bucknell, 21, Plainfield, arrested for OWI, 1st.
- 7:05 p.m.: Report of a grass/field fire in the 25900 block of 120th St.
- 9:03 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 200 block of N. Main St.
- 10:56 p.m.: Report of a suspicious vehicle/person/activity in the 200 block of E. Oakland St.
- 11:36 p.m.: Deputies responded to a car accident/property damage at Grand Ave. and Highway 3. A warning was issued.

Pesticide applicators have more time to complete recertification

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has waived the deadline for pesticide applicators to meet recertification requirements, following a proclamation by Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds March 22.

The waiver allows Iowa pesticide applicators who were certified as of Dec. 31, 2019, to retain their status through Dec. 31, 2020, and temporarily allows commercial certified pesticide applicators to continue to operate under a current company license without having to immediately submit proof of training or testing.

Applicators still need to meet pesticide certification standards by Dec. 31, 2020. In-person examinations required to renew a pesticide applicator certification must be completed by Dec. 31, 2020. All pesticide applicator certifications remain on a three-year certification.

If a commercial applicator re-certifies by attending a Commercial Continuing Instruction Course (C-CIC), this schedule remains unchanged, according to Kristine Schaefer, program manager for the Pesticide Safety Education Program at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

The ISU Extension and Outreach Spring C-CIC programs were completed as scheduled. Fall C-CIC programs will restart again in October. More information is available on the ISU Pesticide Safety Education Program website.

Applicators will still need to

attend a C-CIC in 2020 if they plan to recertify by training.

Private pesticide applicators with certifications that were current up to Dec. 31, 2019, will be able to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides for the 2020 growing season. Private pesticide applicators whose certification expired Dec. 31, 2019, and planned to recertify by testing now have until Dec. 31, 2020, to meet that requirement.

Private pesticide applicators who plan to recertify by attending Private Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC) programs and were unable to participate in a 2019-2020 P-CIC will now have until Sept. 30, 2020, to attend the 2019-2020 CIC program, according to Schaefer.

More information regarding 2019-2020 P-CIC programs will be communicated as it becomes available. The 2020-2021 P-CIC program will continue as scheduled and run from Dec. 1, 2020, to Apr. 15, 2021.

Iowa pesticide applicators do not need to wait until the end

of the year to apply for recertification and are encouraged to submit a request once they have completed testing or training requirements.

This waiver does not apply to individuals who are not certified. To become certified, a potential pesticide applicator will

still need to pass the appropriate exam(s). ISU Extension and Outreach will work with IDALS to help provide testing sites once testing activities resume.

Pesticide company/business license requirements remain unchanged.

Tips for cover crop management

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig shares spring management tips for farmers who planted fall cover crops. Successfully managing cover crops will differ based on the fall planting date, spring growth conditions and the goals established by the farmer. By considering these steps, farmers can maximize cover crop benefits while protecting cash crop yields.

“Cover crop acres in the state of Iowa have seen a 256 percent growth from 2012 to 2017, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture,” said Secretary Naig. “In addition to enhancing soil health and improving water quality, cover crops have benefits for weed control and forage for livestock. It is important to follow best practices in order to maximize the return on investment.”

Six Tips for Cover Crop Success:

- 1. Evaluate for winter kill**
Scout the cover crop fields and check the crown of the plant for green plant tissue. If the leaves are brown and there is no visible green material near the soil surface, the plant may have winter-killed. Oilseed radish and oats typically winter kill and do not need to be terminated. Winter cereal rye, winter wheat and winter triticale often need to be terminated in the spring.
- 2. Consider termination options**
The Conservation Systems Best Management Practices Manual provides termination guidelines with the intent of minimal impact to cash crops that follow cover crops. Herbicides or roll killing can be an option for termination. Tillage can also be used but is not recommended because planter challenges may occur. Tillage also disrupts the cover crop residue and makes it less effective in preventing soil erosion and suppressing weeds. If tillage termination is required, more than one pass may be needed to effectively terminate the cover crops. If herbicides are used to terminate the crop,

it is best to spray when the crop is actively growing, during the middle of the day and when overnight temperatures are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

- 3. Allow for growth**
To see maximum benefits in the field, allow cover crops to grow as long as possible. Plan to terminate cover crops near soybean planting dates. If planting corn for the first time after an over-wintering cover crop, terminate 10-14 days before the estimated corn planting date.
- 4. Adjust planter setups**
A field planted after a winter cereal cover crop will be in a different condition than a tilled or no-till field with no cover crop. Evaluate the planter setup and make sure that the seed slot/trench is properly closed at planting and seeds are at the proper depth. An open seed slot can be especially damaging to corn seed.
- 5. Understand crop insurance requirements.**
Crop insurance plans will mandate when cover crops must be terminated. Some policies require that cover crops are terminated five days before planting your cash crops. These timelines will vary based on insurance policies, planting zone and whether tillage is used. Contact an insurance agent to discuss the details of a policy.
- 6. Plan ahead for future planting**
Cover crop management plans may need to be adjusted based on the type of cover crop planted and how it was terminated. For example, some residual herbicides have carryover restrictions for certain species of cover crops. Talk to an agronomist or cover crop seed representative about specific management systems and how to integrate cover crops.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship offers annual funding to assist farmers with implementing cover crops into their operation. To learn more or participate in the cost-share opportunities, visit your local Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

This information was put together with help from the Iowa cover crop working group, which includes representatives from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa State University, Iowa Learning Farms, and USDA Agricultural Research Service. More information about incorporating cover crops into your farming operation can be found on CleanWaterIowa.org, IowaLearningFarms.org or PracticalFarmers.org.

ATTENTION GRUNDY COUNTY RURAL LANDOWNERS

Sign Up Now For Dust Control Service

The Grundy County Engineer's Office has made arrangements with a private contractor, **Binns & Stevens** of Oskaloosa, Iowa, to apply two applications of calcium chloride this summer on the rock surfaced road in front of each Grundy County farm whose owner or tenant enrolls now for the service. Binns & Stevens solely will be responsible for this service. Neither Grundy County nor the Grundy County Board of Supervisors assumes any responsibility for this service.

The service will consist of treating 400 feet of your road with two applications of liquidow calcium chloride, once in May and again in July or August depending upon road conditions. The cost of this service is \$422.68 (tax included) for two (2) applications. Additional footage may be purchased in 100' increments for \$105.00 per 100' (tax included).

If you wish to enroll for this service please contact Binns & Stevens at 641/672-2566. A "Dust Control Permit" must be signed and approved by Grundy County prior to receiving any dust control. The permits are available from the Grundy County Engineer's Office at 22580 M Avenue, Grundy Center. There is no fee for the permit.

Should grading or blading of any dust control treated roadway become necessary, by the opinion of the County, due to unsafe roadway surface or weather related conditions, such grading or blading will

be done by the County without notice and no refund of application costs or retreatment of surface will be made.

The signup deadline for this service is Friday, April 17, 2020. A late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed on permits received after April 17, 2020.

Make/Send Check Payable to:
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PO Box 1005,
OSKALOOSA IA 52577

Notice to Applicators of Used Motor Oil
EPA has ruled that used motor oil is no longer permitted on county roads as a dust suppressant. Anyone who applies used motor oil on county roads is in violation of state and federal environmental regulations.

***PLEASE NOTE FOR 2020*:**

Please stop by the Grundy County Engineer's Office at any time to pick up flags which will be located outside our office near the front door in a white PVC tube for your convenience. Please mark the start and end location of where you would like the application of dust control. If no flags are posted, Binns & Stevens will automatically center the application along your property.



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COVID-19 frauds and scams

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), Des Moines, are reporting that scams related to COVID-19 are quickly increasing as this public health emergency continues. Scammers are targeting older adults and those with serious, long-term health conditions who appear to have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Fraudsters are attempting to bill Medicare for fake or sham tests and “treatments” related to the coronavirus, and are targeting individuals to illegally obtain money or Medicare numbers.

Current frauds and scams include:

1. Social Security Benefits Suspension Scam

The Social Security Office of the Inspector General has received reports that Social Security beneficiaries have received letters through the mail, stating their payments will be suspended or discontinued unless they call a phone number referenced in the letter. Scammers may then mislead beneficiaries into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet cur-

cy, or by mailing cash, to maintain regular benefit payments during this period of COVID-19 Social Security office closures.

Social Security will not suspend or decrease Social Security benefit payments or Supplemental Security Income payments due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Any communication stating the Social Security Administration will reduce payments or benefits is a scam, whether it is received by letter, text, email or phone call.

Social Security will never:

- threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- require payment by retail gift card, cash wire transfer, internet currency or prepaid debit card.
- demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- send a letter or report containing personally identifiable information via mail.

2. Iowa Total Care Meal Scam

Some Medicare beneficiaries are receiving calls from a person stating they are with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The callers report that because of the person’s medication history, they are eligible for COVID-19 testing and they want to come to their home to drop off the test kit. CMS is not calling people to offer to come to their house to provide a test kit.

Iowans can report suspicious fraud and scams to the Senior Medicare Patrol at smp@iid.iowa.gov or by calling (800) 351-4664. The Senior Medicare Patrol is a service of the state of Iowa Insurance Division.

SHIIP has learned that some Iowa Total Care members are receiving a text message asking them to click on a link to sign up for meals. The message says: “Iowa Total Care is going to be providing two meals per household member who is insured by Iowa Total Care.” This is a scam. Clients should ignore this text. There are no free meals.

3. CMS Providing Test Kits Scare

Some Medicare beneficiaries are receiving calls from a person stating they are with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The callers report that because of the person’s medication history, they are eligible for COVID-19 testing and they want to come to their home to drop off the test kit. CMS is not calling people to offer to come to their house to provide a test kit.

Iowans can report suspicious fraud and scams to the Senior Medicare Patrol at smp@iid.iowa.gov or by calling (800) 351-4664. The Senior Medicare Patrol is a service of the state of Iowa Insurance Division.

Local healthcare providers urge residents to stay home

To all of our patients:

We are your doctors, your physician assistants and nurse practitioners, your healthcare providers. We are here for you in times of health and times of crisis. We are local medical professionals who provide care to patients in Bremer and Butler Counties and support this important message.

You are safer at home.

We strongly believe that the only way to slow the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community is if each citizen accepts responsibility for the health of their neighbor. This is the most serious threat to the health of our community we will hopefully see in our lifetime. This virus does not discriminate. It is an error to think only the elderly are at risk. Currently, there are young patients who are critically ill elsewhere in Iowa. If we allow the virus to spread unchecked, we will quickly overwhelm our medical facilities, and we will not be able to provide you with the care you deserve.

The term “shelter in place”

can be divisive, and politically complicated. But our message is simple.

You are safer at home.

We urge you to follow these practical measures:

Plan ahead to minimize shopping trips, in order to avoid exposure to other people. Do not treat shopping as a social outing. Order online for delivery if you able. Arrange for pick-up so you do not have to go into the store when available.

Do not invite friends into enclosed areas to socialize.

Maintain frequent contact with loved ones by phone, internet, or video, but not in person. They need you, and you need them.

Enjoy our beautiful outdoor surroundings in the area, but do so without groups and maintain distance from others.

Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands for 20 seconds after contact with public surfaces. Cover your cough. Do not leave the house if you are ill.

If you are sick, please call your hospital or doctor before leaving the house so that ap-

propriate precautions may be taken. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chest tightness, sore throat, tiredness, loss of sense of smell.

Do not travel outside of the area if possible.

Please go about your everyday actions as if you yourself actually have COVID-19, and are trying not to spread it to your neighbor. Please show your respect to those front-line workers: Nurses, EMS, Law Enforcement and others who are putting their life on the line during this crisis by staying home. Please know, you are safer at home.

Our community will return to prosperity. Your doctors and healthcare providers are here for you and are available by phone, in person or by telehealth, but we need your help. Together, we will rise above this crisis.

With care and respect,
Your Healthcare Providers for Bremer and Butler Counties: Waverly Health Center, Unity Point, Mercy One.

Call before you dig

Excavators and utility locators have additional precautions to be aware of this spring as the COVID-19 public health emergency continues to affect staffing and scheduling of underground utility locates required by Iowa’s One Call law.

April is annually recognized as National Safe Digging Month, and the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) joins with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the Common Ground Alliance to remind everyone to exercise caution with any digging project by placing a call to 811 or requesting a utility location through IowaOneCall.com. Calling 811 is not just a good idea – it’s the law.

A call to 811 or submitting information online notifies operators with underground utility facilities of the intent to

dig. Utility companies typically respond within two business days (48 hours) by marking the underground utilities with color-coded paint and flags that indicate where utility lines are buried. Under Iowa law, locators can negotiate extensions to the 48 hour requirement. The Attorney General’s office enforces the One Call law and the IUB assists the AG by investigating One Call complaints.

The IUB also encourages industry excavators, contractors, and locators, to be flexible in scheduling. Iowa’s 811 call center remains fully operational to receive locate requests and communicate them to utility companies; however, requested response times may be increased as companies ask to prioritize critical work. Iowa’s law regarding underground facilities, can assist operators and locators

who need to request an adjustment in scheduling or response times due to staff availability. The law requires that any resident or professional excavator planning digging work request a utility locate and mark its facilities before digging, begins to prevent serious injuries, service disruptions, or costly repairs to underground utility lines. The IUB recommends following these steps before starting any digging project:

Always call 811 at least 48 hours before digging anywhere. Plan ahead and be prepared for potential delays due to COVID-19.

Consider relocating any project that is close to utility line markings.

Confirm that a contractor has called 811. Don’t allow digging if utility lines aren’t marked.



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IGHSAU				
Sport	First Practice	First Competition	Postseason Lead-Up	State Competition
Track & Field	May 1	May 4	May 28	June 4-6
Golf	May 1	May 4	May 26, June 1	June 8-9
Tennis-Team	May 1	May 4	May 23, 30, June 1	June 1-2, 13
Tennis-Ind.	May 1	May 4	May 27	June 10-11
Soccer	May 1	May 8	June 4, 5, 9, 11	June 16, 18, 20

IHSAA				
Sport	First Practice	First Competition	Postseason Lead-Up	State Competition
Track & Field	May 1	May 4	May 28	June 4-6
Golf	May 1	May 4	May 29, June 5	June 11-12
Tennis-Team	May 1	May 4	May 23, 30	June 9
Tennis-Ind.	May 1	May 4	May 20	June 5-6
Soccer	May 1	May 8	June 8, 10, 12	June 15, 17, 19

Iowa spring sports schedule modified

BY JAKE RYDER
Eclipse News-Review



The Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union announced updated schedules for spring sports for the 2019-2020 season.

The updated timeframe reflects a recent announcement from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds that closed schools until at least April 30, and are subject to change if the governor extends school closing dates.

Practice would begin May 1 in all four spring sports; track and field, golf, tennis and soccer.

The first competition date for track and field, golf and tennis is May 4, soccer's first competition date is May 8.

State competition would begin with the state track and field meet in Des Moines, June 4-6 and end with the state girls and boys soccer tournament, sched-

uled for June 15-20.


Events, practices, competition and any other sanctioned activity will remain prohibited through April 30, following the Governor's order.

"We are committed to bringing a sense of familiarity to our young people whose school year has been so disrupted by this adjusted spring season," IHSAA executive director Tom Keating said. "It is our hope that students return to school on the current target date and have the opportunity to participate in the activities that mean so much to them."

"Like all Iowans, we are committed to doing our part to help

stop the spread of COVID-19, and we support the steps Governor Reynolds has taken to achieve that goal."

"We want to keep all of our options open moving forward to allow our students an opportunity to participate," said IG-HSAU executive director Jean Berger. "We will do what we can to help plan for their eventual return to school and hold out hope that we can offer the activities that are so familiar to them and their schools."



Grundy County Memorial Hospital

UnityPoint Health

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

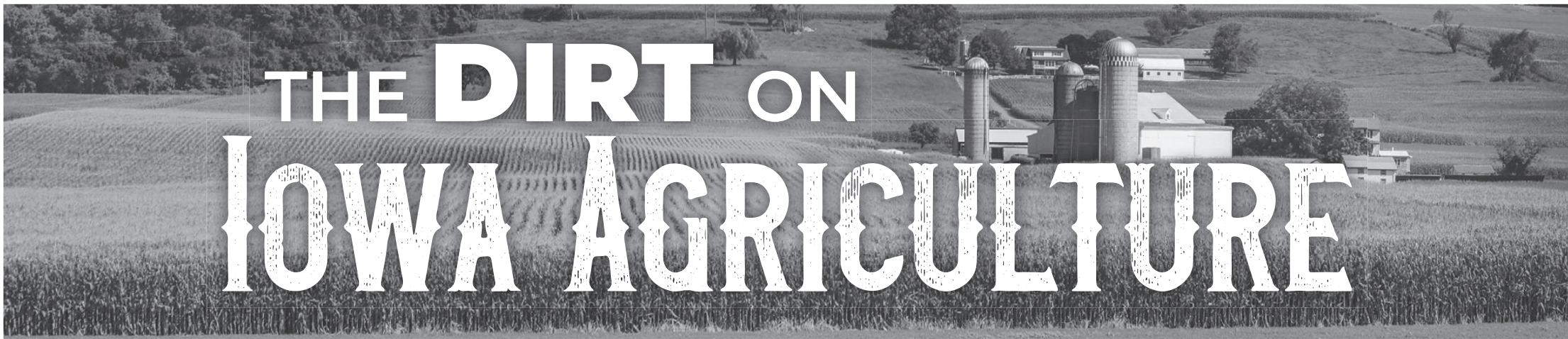
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LOCAL HEALTH CARE:

- **Outpatient services at the hospital have been reduced until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our patients, visitors, and communities.** This does not include health care diagnostics or procedures that are considered essential by your primary care or specialty provider. Inpatient and Emergency care will continue as usual. Please call ahead at 319-824-5081 if you have questions regarding the scheduling of care.
- **The hospital, along with all other UnityPoint Health hospitals, has adopted a NO VISITOR policy.** Patient visitors will be allowed in certain circumstances, such as emergency or hospice care. **All patients and visitors to the hospital and UnityPoint Clinic Primary Care should use Entrance #1 (south entrance), where health screening will take place as you enter. Entrance #2 is now closed.**
- **If you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing and have reason to suspect you have COVID-19 (coronavirus) and do not need emergency medical care, please call your medical provider's office to be properly screened before your arrival.** If you believe you need emergency care, please call ahead to inform the hospital of your symptoms. Calling ahead will help us plan for your visit and protect others from illness.

Thank you for understanding these rapid changes in how we are delivering care. You can help your family, friends, and community reduce and potentially prevent the spread of COVID-19 by following the recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (www.idph.gov).

Details on the hospital's service availability and Visitor Policy may be found at www.grundycountyhospital.org.

Protect Yourself & Others!



Leerhoff Dairy focuses on production amid industry challenges

BY BETHANY CARSON
Mid-America Publishing

“Imagine if on Friday you went to pick up your paycheck, and had to give the boss money,” said Clarksville dairyman Kurt Leerhoff.

That’s what dairy farming was like in 2016 as milk commodity prices dipped below \$13. The past five years have been a struggle, but it looked like dairy farmers might finally catch a break. In December 2019, milk prices made it over the \$20 mark after being depressed for years. But with the COVID-19 crisis, dairy is again taking a hit with milk at \$14.31 on April 2 as school cafeterias and restaurants shutter.

“You get up early in the morning, and go out there, and the same amount of work has to be done, but you know you’re not going to get a paycheck,” Leerhoff said. “In 2016, I had to pay to milk cows.”

The Leerhoff Dairy has received milk quality awards for the past 10-12 years, and in 2019, Kurt Leerhoff was recognized as the Bremer County Dairy Promoters’ Distinguished Dairyman.

What’s kept the Leerhoff dairy viable is increased production. In the fall of 1999, the cows were producing 45 lb. of milk per cow per day, or 14,500 lbs. per cow annually. Last summer, the dairy peaked at 27,600 lbs. annually. The cows now produce an average of 85 lbs. per day in the summer and 90-93 lbs. in the winter.

Increased production in dairies across the board can be attributed to attention to detail and a good team effort. Leerhoff works with an able team that includes a nutritionist, veterinarian and milking equipment repairmen, and he has focused on improving his Holstein herd’s genetics for the past 30 years through artificial insemination. He also pays careful attention to best practices adopted by other dairymen.

As he milks 70 cows each day, his favorite part of the job is the satisfaction of seeing improvements in the dairy cattle themselves and their production.

Milk from the Leerhoff Dairy is sold to the Wapsie Valley Creamery in Independence, which produces 700-lb. blocks of Colby, colored cheddar, white cheddar, marble, Monterrey Jack, Muenster, Harvarti and Queso Quesadilla cheese. These cheeses are shipped to wholesale customers who cut, slice or shed the cheese and package it into smaller private-labeled packages for grocery store shelves.

Daily Dairy Routine
Every morning, Leerhoff gets up at 2:45 a.m., and is out the door in a matter of minutes. In his kitchen, he has a good-sized screen connected to a barn cam showing the maternity pen, which he checks before leaving the house. The maternity pen and the hospital room are his first stops. Next, he cleans out the manure in the barn with his skid loader and gets set up for milking in his Swing 8 milking parlor by around 3:35 a.m.

The Swing 8 parlor has eight milkers. Eight cows come in on each side, and while one side is being milked, the other side is prepped for milking. Then the milkers are swung over to the other side to milk the cows that have been prepped. Kurt and his dad, Eugene Leerhoff, work together, and generally have the milking done by 5 a.m.

After cleanup, Leerhoff feeds the calves, does a herd health check, and monitors heat and production to see if any of the cows need to be bred artificially.

The Leerhoffs feed the cows a mixture of corn silage, haylage and earlage, along with corn gluten pellets, a small amount of wheat straw for roughage, and a protein mixture with 18 or

19 ingredients including roasted soybean meal, vitamins and minerals.

The cows are kept in a freestall barn, so they can sleep and be milked, fed and watered under one roof. Unlike humans who enjoy changes in life, cows prefer an uninterrupted daily routine. During the summer, they enjoy limited pasture.

Morning chores are wrapped up by 6:45 a.m., and Leerhoff returns to the house for breakfast and to assist his wife, Jenny, with helping their two sons, who have special needs, get ready for school. He enjoys the time spent with his children as he drives them to school.

When Leerhoff gets back to the farm, he takes care of weekly and semi-weekly chores such as changing heifers’ bedding, cleaning the lots, breeding heifers in heat, moving cows that need to be dried off, and moving cows to the maternity pen.

During the winter months, Leerhoff spends the rest of his day taking care of paperwork, planning the next crop year, preparing inputs, preparing taxes, moving snow, and taking care of maintenance and repairs on milking equipment, tractors and machinery.

During the spring, summer, and fall, he spends much of his time in the fields. It can be stressful to try to get planting done in the short window between rains, especially when there’s also milking and calving to consider.

“You need to be planting corn, and your neighbor has his tractor running across the fence, but you have a cow in labor, and you have to stay there to make sure it’s delivered OK...” Leerhoff said. “I like the interaction with cattle. I also enjoy getting in the field and watching the corn crop grow. But it can be hard [to do both].”

In ideal growing conditions, the crops often take care of themselves during the summer, but if there’s cold and wet weather, Leerhoff spends a lot of time checking the fields. Weed and pest control are priorities.

Harvest season is hectic, but there’s usually a rainy day or two to catch up on chores, paperwork and maintenance.

“We’re big believers in no piece of machinery goes back in the shed until it’s prepared for the field next season. Once we’re done planting in the spring, the planter is cleaned up and serviced and parts replaced and maintained,... so it’s ready and there are no surprises when we get it out of the shed,” Leerhoff said.

Each day, the afternoon milking begins at 3:45 p.m. In the winter, by the time the milking is done, it’s dark and the temperature has dropped, so Leerhoff heads to the house. With extended daylight hours during the warmer seasons, Leerhoff heads back to the field or catches up on chores.

If a cow is calving, he’ll step into the kitchen for a bite to eat while monitoring progress on the barn cam; he intervenes only if necessary.

Leerhoff heads to bed at around 10 p.m., but if he knows a cow is going to calve during the night, he’ll set his alarm for 1 a.m.

“Several times during the winter I’ll say, ‘you girls couldn’t have done this in the afternoon?’ when I’m out there in the middle of the night and have to intervene when a calf hasn’t made it out alive, or the cow is in trouble,” Leerhoff said. “You’re tired ... but you tell yourself this is an animal that needs help. It’s part of our lives, and part of our income.”

Large dairies have shifts of workers assigned to milking, labor, delivery and feeding.

“Being a small dairy you have to take charge and be there more yourself,” Leerhoff said.

He’s grateful for his wife Jenny’s help in monitoring the ma-



Kurt Leerhoff is pictured milking one of his cows in his Swing 8 milking parlor.

ternity pen throughout the day, and he says she often knows if a cow is in labor before he does.

Formerly a NICU nurse, Jenny Leerhoff devotes much of her time to caring for the couple’s two sons and her elderly parents.

“If there were more people like my wife,” Leerhoff said, “it would be a better world.”

A rich heritage
Farming has been a way of life for Kurt Leerhoff since he was a child.

As the son of Eugene and Marcella Leerhoff, Kurt remembers playing in his sandbox with his truck and tractor under a shade tree as an 8-10-year-old – while checking on the silo every few minutes. When the silo was ready to be turned off, he’d stand on a five-gallon pail to crank the lever to raise the silo unloader while his dad milked.

After taking care of the silo, he’d get back to playing at the sand pile until it was time to get milk ready to feed the calves.

Growing up, he learned the value of hard work as he did chores and field work, walking beans and picking up rocks: nothing’s going to get done if you’re just sitting around.

“The 80s were a challenging time, but my parents were selective and wise in their decisions... cautious and careful,” Leerhoff said.

The family has a rich heritage of farming, and Kurt and Jenny Leerhoff live on the farm where his great grandfather started the dairy in 1937. Generation after generation has continued the tradition.

“I was so blessed—and I appreciate it more as I get older—to be able to farm with my grandparents,” Leerhoff said.

Leerhoff started his career as a dairy farmer milking with his parents for 10 years, then milked for 10 years on his own at their farm. About 10 or 11 years ago, he built a new barn at his farm.

Memories
One of the most difficult times for the dairy – and the only time the cows were not milked – was in 2007 when a bad ice storm hit the area.

The electricity went out at about 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning. At the time, Leerhoff was milking at his parents’ farm, and they brought out the generator to keep things running. But when he went out to do the afternoon milking, the generator gave out.

Everyone was out of electricity, and generators weren’t easy to come by. By the time Leerhoff had located one, it was late at night, snowing and storming, and it was doubtful he could make it to get the generator.

There were no lights. Nothing was running. The whole farm was very quiet. Several family members spent the night at the farm, and as they laid down to sleep, they could hear the cows bellowing in the barn.

“It was hard to sleep that night. But we did get out that morning to the guy’s place, and the guy loaned us a generator, and we were able to get back and get the cows milked. The electricity was out at my parents’ house for almost five days. At my place, it was out for



Jenny and Kurt Leerhoff stand with their cows in the Leerhoff Dairy’s freestall barn. (Submitted photos)

eight...” Leerhoff said. “That ice storm is my worst memory of milking cows.”

But there have been many happy memories as well – the Leerhoff’s pet cow, Elly – was there for many of them.

Elly’s mother was a very good cow, and Leerhoff artificially bred her. On the day his grandfather died, there was a bright spot: the cow was confirmed pregnant.

“[Elly] was the best cow I’ve had in my life, and I met my wife the same time that cow was born,” Leerhoff said.

When he took Jenny out to see the heifers, Elly always ran to the gate.

“She was treated like the rest of the heifers. We didn’t know how special she was going to be,” Leerhoff said.

There was an apple tree beside the pasture, and throughout the years, whenever Jenny would call her, Elly would come running across the pasture to eat an apple out of her hand.

After Elly calved, she was moved to the barn. Whenever Leerhoff went to the barn to check the herd, Elly would walk up.

“If you didn’t pet her, she’d lay her head on your shoulder. I had never worked with that gentle of a cow. She had a personality where she could sense when you were sad too,” Leerhoff said. “She was a very good milk production cow.”

The Holstein Association classifies cows by a scoring system based on body type and traits. The average score is 80. The first year, Elly scored 87 points.

After that she consistently scored in the 90-92 range: ranked in the highest class as an excellent cow.

“I had always wanted to breed, raise and produce a 90-point cow...” Leerhoff said. “That was the only cow I told my wife would never leave the place.”

As Elly’s health eventually started to decline in old age due to a leaky heart valve, the Leerhoffs did all they could to nurse her to health, but it reached the point one morning this February where she couldn’t stand. Jenny Leerhoff brought out a radio with Christian music to play softly as Elly laid in her pen. A veterinarian put her down, and Elly was buried with an apple as a token of all the happiness she brought during her lifetime.

“My wife is a huge animal lover. If an animal is sick or a cow is down and unable to stand for whatever reason, or we’re caring for her, my wife will kneel beside her and pray...” Kurt Leerhoff said. “I would have to say there was a pretty good increase in milk production after I met my wife. She told me, and

other dairy farmers have said, the more you love the [cows], the more milk they’ll give. ... Animals like cats and dogs respond to love, and cows are no different.”

Reflections
Sometimes Leerhoff is shocked by the assumptions people make about dairying. There are a lot of regulations, and farmers have to try not to step on the toes of animal rights activities who often make it harder for them to do their jobs. Farmers care about their cows. They have to; it’s their livelihood.

“There’s a misconception of what really happens on a farm,” Leerhoff said.

It can be difficult to watch vegans advocate for almond “milk” being more humane and nutritional.

“I’m not going to tell people what to drink or not drink, but almond drink has basically no nutritional value compared with cow’s milk...” Leerhoff said. “God put everything on earth for a reason. Cow’s milk gives calcium and vitamins, needed especially by children.”

While some people may blame the current president for depressed dairy prices, Leerhoff said many people don’t realize that milk prices were depressed even before President Trump took office. The trade wars have hurt, but Leerhoff feels the trade deals with China and USMCA should have been addressed a long time ago.

“Some stuff is so unfair to our industries here in the U.S. that it should have been addressed 20-30 years ago...” Leerhoff said. “When you rip the band aid off it hurts, but it’s going to get better once it’s healed.”

During this difficult time, Leerhoff has focused on profit and loss margins. For example, a feed ingredient may increase production, but are milk prices high enough to make purchasing the ingredient worthwhile?

“And then the biggest thing is really analyzing with not only the dairy cows themselves but with your personal life, what you really need out of life,” Leerhoff said. “For the last five years, if there’s anything you don’t need, you don’t buy it.

And you really start appreciating the small things.”

Leerhoff never takes a vacation. In the past couple decades, the only times he hasn’t been in the barn at milking time were for his wedding, for a friend’s wedding, his sons’ births, and once when he was unexpectedly hospitalized.

“People ask if I take a vacation, and my opinion ... is that a vacation is a sign of weakness...” Leerhoff said. “The way the dairy industry has been the past five years, there is no room for error with daily happenings. ... If something is wrong, I want it to be my mistake.”

The future is uncertain for dairy farmers, and Leerhoff has grown to accept that fact; maybe someday he’ll have to make a change and pursue another avenue, like livestock farming, instead.


“I’ve accepted the end may be closer than I like, but I can look back and know I’ve had a lifetime of this. I’ve done this for 31 years, full time since high school,” Leerhoff said. “I can’t complain knowing I’ve been blessed with all this time.”

There are times when it crosses his mind to wonder why he’s still dairy farming, particularly on frigid winter mornings.

“But I have two little boys in the house, laying in warm beds; that keeps me going,” Leerhoff said.



He’s a firm believer in the old dairy farmers’ saying: “If you take care of your cows, they’ll take care of you.”

“The last five years, the cows have struggled to take care of us, but there’s satisfaction in going out and seeing a superior cow, and delivering a heifer calf out of her successfully. It’s the small things like that that give me the drive to keep going,” Leerhoff said. “The number one thing, and my wife is a big believer in this, is prayer. My wife keeps telling me... ‘No matter what, God will provide for us.’ We’ve gone through a lot of boxes of Kleenexes the last few years. ... We keep saying we’re down to prayers,... and if that doesn’t get you through, that’s it.”





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Johnson Land & Livestock focuses on diversity

BY BETHANY CARSON
Mid-America Publishing

Diversification is key for Aplington farmer Alex Johnson of Johnson Land & Livestock. Johnson farms row crops and custom feeds hogs with his dad and uncle, custom feeds cattle, runs a trucking business, operates a truck wash, and is partnered with Farmers’ Business Network to provide a local hub for farmers purchasing seed and chemicals.

A graduate of A-P high school, Johnson majored in Ag Business at Hawkeye Community College and started farming full time in 2014.

“I never knew any different. Farming and ag has always been there,” Johnson said.

Growing up on the family farm, he and his brother had a lot of fun helping out as kids, and they enjoyed the freedom of riding around the farm on their four-wheelers. Johnson can remember driving a tractor when he was seven years old. Today, he has the joy of taking his 10-month-old daughter riding with him in his tractor. He’s grateful to be part of a family of farmers—and that heritage is something he hopes to pass on to the next generation.

“Setting up success for the next generation, that means a lot,” Johnson said.

During the busy time of year in the spring and fall, his day starts at 5:30 a.m., and it’s 8 or 9 p.m. before he gets home. Throughout the night during the fall, he periodically gets up to check his grain dryer. During the slower times of year, he starts work at 6:30 or 7 p.m. and has a goal of being home by 5 p.m. to spend time with his wife Anna and his daughter Blakely.

Every morning starts with livestock chores.

“That’s my number one priority over all. I make sure those are taken care of. I usually have two hours’ worth of chores in the morning with livestock,” Johnson said.

Alex Johnson, his dad Byron and uncle Leon have three barns and custom feed 2500 hogs in



Johnson Land & Livestock enterprises are diverse, from row crop farming and custom feeding cattle and hogs to operating a truck wash.



Alex and Anna Johnson, pictured with daughter Blakely, are working to set up success for their family’s next generation of farmers. (Submitted photos)

each barn from wean to finish for Thome Family Farm out of Addams, Minnesota. The pigs come in at 14 lbs. and five months later are close to market weight at 280 lbs. Generally, three loads a week are sent to the Tyson Foods, JBS USA and Hormel packing plants.

The hog sites are Johnson’s first stop each morning. He does daily recordings, walks through the confinements to check the pens, gives vaccinations, and makes sure the feeders are full and there is adequate water.

Next, he checks on the cattle he custom feeds for Derek Hummel of Allison.

On a six-week rotation, a load of 200 calves comes in from the Ohio area. Each calf weighs in at about 250 lbs. Johnson keeps the calves for 12 weeks. At that point, they are 500 lbs., and they go to Hummel’s finishing plots, where they are finished out to market weight at around 1,300 lbs. and sold to JBS in Green Bay.

While hogs are kept in a temperature-controlled confinement-style building, the cattle are out in the elements. During the winter, Johnson has to ensure water is thawed, snow is scooped and manure hauled.

“It’s a lot more hands-on,” he

said.

Some time ago, Johnson bought a truck to haul his own hogs and cattle. The need for that service expanded, and today he runs three livestock trailers full time.

“With trucking right now, we’re hauling all our own hogs and cattle to packing plants or feed lots, and then we got contracts ... to help out local growers and local trucking companies. We have three full time truck drivers who run the state of Iowa,” Johnson said.

When needed, Johnson spends time repairing trucks and working to keep the truckers on the road, as well as taking care of maintenance on equipment and farm machinery.

With biosecurity requirements and the expectation of hog companies that trailers be washed before every load, the Johnsons built a wash at their farm, something that saved them quite a bit of money.

Soon, so many other people were asking to use the wash, that Johnson decided to lease the old Monsanto plant east of Aplington. The plant has a good location on Highway 57, and Johnson opened his truck wash to trucks and tractors, offering soap and power washing as well as a lot for parking livestock and grain trailers.

The truck wash is run by a full-time manager, who works alongside two high schoolers who help out after school.

Farmers Business Network was looking for place to provide

a hub for farmers that purchase seed and chemicals through them, so Johnson partnered with the company to provide the warehouse space.

The company focuses on price transparency, offering the same prices regardless of how big or small a farmer’s operation is.

“They buy seed and chemicals wholesale and sell them to farmers at a reasonable price...” Johnson said. “They ship to as close to you as possible. That’s what we’re doing. We’re a place to get a load in, and the farmer comes to pick it up. They don’t have to drive two hours to where the product comes from. They can pick it up locally at any time at their convenience.”

In addition to his businesses, Johnson farms row crops alongside his family, and this year rented some land of his own to raise corn and soybeans. He looks forward to renting more crop ground as the opportunity arises.

“One of the biggest challenges for me as a young farmer is to find row crop ground to rent,” Johnson said. “Where I put my focus is on improving the businesses I have, but ultimately what I want to do is farm – grow corn and soybeans.”

Each day, Johnson stops by the truck wash to make sure everything is running smoothly. He works on loading up shipments for farmers at the warehouse, and during the offseason, he hauls corn and soybeans. He also checks the livestock for a second time each day before

heading home.

“I think the best part would be just doing something different every day,” Johnson said.

The hardest part of the job is managing so many different endeavors.

“There are definitely days where I feel I’m getting nothing done that needs to be done as I run around to fix a bunch of problems,” Johnson said.

In spite of all the busyness, he believes in never losing sight of what’s important in life: God and family.

“I think the number one thing is to set up a good future for my family, and continue as well with what my dad and grandpa and everyone before him has done to take care of the land, and to take pride in what God has given,” Johnson said. “At the same time, we like to support the local [economy], offer jobs, and a service locally. That would be our motivating factor.”

Living in the Aplington-Parkersburg area, he appreciates the small town feel – and the fact that if you have a question about anything, from repairs to what chemicals to spray in a field, there’s always someone you know who can answer your questions. People are happy to help.

The outlook for the future may be challenging with the impact of COVID-19 on the markets and on the national and world economy. Farming has



Anna Johnson holds one of the pigs custom fed by her family at Johnson Land & Livestock.

never been easy, and perhaps it never will be.

“If you didn’t have faith in God, I don’t know how you would get through the day as a farmer,” Johnson said. “There’s nothing more daunting than mother nature, but God has the ultimate role in that. With faith in him you can get things done, knowing it’s tough, but it’s going to get better.”

Johnson encourages young farmers to stick in there, pay attention to where they are at financially, and work smarter. Farming has given him a respect for the land and respect for a good day’s work.


“Hard work and determination pays off in the long run,” he said.



Alex Johnson custom feeds cattle, shown above. The cattle are finished at Derek Hummel’s finishing plots.

Happy are those who find wisdom... Proverbs 1:13

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A cattle farmer's drive for success

BY BETHANY CARSON
Mid-America Publishing

You've cheered for "Fast Eddie" Edward Johnson as he's rounded the curve ahead of the pack at the Butler County Fair Figure 8 Races. But Johnson's drive for success doesn't stop when he steps out of his car; he's one of the many young farmers working day and night to keep Iowa's ag economy on the right track.

Johnson started racing in 2006, but his love for agriculture, as a fourth-generation farmer, has been lifelong. Today, he has a 120-head Commercial Simmental Angus crossbreed cow/calf and feeder cattle operation in rural Allison, farms row crops with his dad, and does custom haying, round-baling, silage chopping and bagging on the side.



Edward Johnson moves a calf at his farm. (Submitted photos)

"Farming is something I love to do – to be my own boss, do my own scheduling, and see the rewards that are the outcome of hard work and labor," Johnson said.

Farming is no easy job; it entails 14-16 hour days during the busy seasons. Throughout the year, there are always cattle chores.

"Well before daylight, I head out to check the cows," Johnson said.

Chores include feeding, bedding, scraping pens, hauling manure and grinding hay.

What comes next each day depends on the season.

In the spring, Johnson heads to the fields to prep them and plant. With livestock chores coming first, he usually isn't able to get to the fields until mid-morning, which means he often has to work later at night.

During the summer, he keeps busy with haying from May to September and custom work, and does nitrogen/anhydrous application on the side.

"Harvest season is my favorite time of year for a couple reasons," Johnson said.

As a 4-H club member, he went on to buy calves from a local producer and show beef cattle and horses as well as commercial exhibits at the county fair and state fair. He fed and sold the cattle to pay for feed and other supplies. And he has many fond memories of the work that went into his projects.

"You'd work all year, take it to the fair, and feel rewarded if you did well," Johnson said. "And you meet people. I met a lot of friends at the fair over the years."

He kept some of the heifers he raised to start building his own herd – and still has the cow he showed as a heifer his junior year of high school 14 years ago.

By the time he graduated from Clarksville High School, Johnson had about 25 head of cattle. He started buying a few more here and there and retaining heifers to further build the herd. And he started renting pasture.

"Every year I got a few more, and next thing I knew I had over 100, a lot of cows to feed," Johnson said.

In addition to raising livestock, crop farming with his dad, and helping family members with field work, Johnson started renting his own row crop land.

He feels honored to carry on a family tradition through farming, and plans to spend the rest of his life on the family farm.

"Probably my best memory is from 2010 when I purchased my grandparents' acreage and moved on to that," Johnson said.

As a farmer, Johnson enjoys being able to manage his own schedule, so he can attend family events. His dad never missed a single one of his football games–and still got all his work done. Regardless of how busy you are, there's always time for the most important things in life.

With taking on increased custom work, Johnson had to miss three races last year, but his racing career hasn't fallen by the wayside by any means. Sometimes it's a pinch to get out of

the fields and to races on time. But Johnson works on his cars at night during the week to get ready.

"I've raced as long as I've been farming. This year I'm only racing part time, but it's hard to quit an addiction..." Johnson said. "I wouldn't change a thing. There are so many memories, and it's been so much fun."

Johnson runs with the Gunderson Racing Circuit, a total point series that runs locally. He also competes at the Butler County Fair every year.

"When you're out there in the car, there's an adrenaline rush. It's hard to explain," Johnson said.

He's met a lot of great friends on the track.

"It's a lot of fun, and a good hobby throughout the summer," Johnson said.

In his spare time, he enjoys snowmobile trips to northern Minnesota or Wisconsin with friends and a cousin. Friends and family help with chores, so he can take a vacation once in a while.

Farming has taught Johnson many life lessons.

"It definitely teaches you you're rewarded for hard work. It also teaches on the financial side, how to be profitable, how to deal with costs, and how to make money..." Johnson said. "There are good times and bad times. With livestock you have death loss. You get attached to animals, and anytime you lose a baby calf, it takes a toll on you. It's like a loss, a defeat in a way. You'll never get down to zero death loss. ... You learn to overcome along the way with weather, storm damage to buildings, crop insurance and the like."

With the trade wars and other extenuating circumstances, the ag economy now isn't great. But there's hope for better things ahead.

"Some people blame our current president, but I feel that China has pushed us around too many years. We need to stand up to them," Johnson said. "In



Fast Eddie Johnson's car is a familiar sight at the Butler County Fair Figure 8 Races and on the Gunderson Racing Circuit.

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