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**KALONA
WELLMAN
RIVERSIDE
LONE TREE**

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The News

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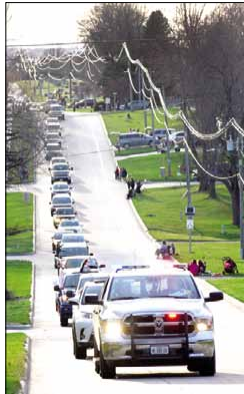
KALONA, WASHINGTON COUNTY, IOWA 52247 • THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

\$1.25



Students stand along Fourth Street in Kalona waving to the Mid-Prairie staff parade on Monday night.

JAMES JENNINGS/THE NEWS



Above left, the Mid-Prairie staff parade moves east along J Avenue. Above right, preschool teacher Lori Miller is happy to see her students.



JIM JOHNSON/THE NEWS

Schools may close for longer

BY JAMES JENNINGS
AND JIM JOHNSON
The News

Hopes for area students to return to school in mid-April are quickly fading.

Area school superintendents are waiting for a definitive decision by Gov. Kim Reynolds, but they see school closures continuing through April.

During a Monday press conference, Reynolds said she is waiting for more formal guidelines from the federal government before reaching a decision, most likely by the end of the week.

On Sunday, President Trump extended federal restrictions on public gatherings of more than 10 people until the end of the month.

The current plan is to keep schools closed until April 10, returning to school on April 13. Mid-Prairie students are scheduled to return on April 14.

"I used to think we were 50-50 on returning to school on April 13," said Ken Crawford, who is superintendent of the Highland and Lone Tree districts. "After the president extended public gatherings to April 30, I believe Iowa will follow suit with extending the April 13 date."

He added that it could go longer than that. More states are canceling for the year.

"My hope is to get the month of May in for school," he said.

Mid-Prairie Superintendent Mark Schneider said that he anticipates Reynolds to extend the closure period for the state's schools.

"I'd be very surprised if it's not extended to at least May 1," Schneider said. "The big question is whether we will have to make up those days."

When Reynolds announced the initial closure, she said that schools would not have to make up missed days.

Schneider wondered what the ramifications would be if the closure were not extended.

Mid-Prairie staff parade through Kalona

BY JAMES JENNINGS
The News

KALONA

It was a festive atmosphere in the parking lot of Kalona City Park Monday evening, with an almost tailgate party-like vibe.

On the picture-perfect spring night, teachers and

staff brought their vehicles to the park to line up for a parade through Kalona and Richmond.

"I think it's an awesome display of unity and showing the kids that we're MP strong," Mid-Prairie West Elementary Principal Bill Pook said.

The parade was organized to let students know that their

teachers are still thinking about them while school is shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

After leaving the park, about 100 vehicles wound their way through Kalona and Richmond.

Many of the vehicles had signs telling students that they are missed. Banners and signs

were waved from moonroofs, instruments were played in the back of a pickup truck and a school bus adorned with a mask pulled up the rear of the parade.

"I think it's absolutely awesome," said Traci Waterhouse,

SEE PARADE | PAGE 9A

Skaden retires after 25 years at library

BY JAMES JENNINGS
The News

KALONA

Tuesday marked the end of an era at the Kalona Public Library.

March 31 was the last day on the job for longtime Director Anne Skaden.

"Anne's leadership at the Kalona Public Library has been a valuable asset to our community," library board President Frank Slabaugh said. "Under her leadership, the library has moved into a new building, grown its services in a digital age and worked to strategically meet the needs of our community."

"We have been so fortunate to have her consistent and knowledgeable leadership over the last 25 years."

Skaden, who holds a master's degree in library science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said that libraries have always been an important part of her life, even from a young age.

"From the time I was small and my parents showed by example the importance of a library, through all the years of my education," she said. "That was the reason I choose to get my master's in library science. It was a good fit for me."

Skaden began her tenure at

the Kalona Public Library in August 1994.

She had worked at other libraries in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa before coming to Kalona.

"To be able to work in a library for over 25 years, work through all the changes and growth, has been an absolute joy," she said. "Every day is different. I have never been bored working in a library."

Over the years, the biggest change Skaden has seen is the transition to more technology at the library.

"The most noticeable

SEE SKADEN | PAGE 9A



JIM JOHNSON/THE NEWS

Anne Skaden waves to well-wishers as they drive by the Kalona Public Library on Tuesday, her last day as director.

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Father Bill Roush (left) and Deacon Derick Cranston prepare to celebrate Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The pews are decorated with photos of parishioners.

SUBMITTED

KEEPING THE FAITH IN TOUGH TIMES

Area churches turning to online video for Sunday church services

BY JIM JOHNSON
The News
RIVERSIDE

The video looks like any Sunday morning church service at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Riverside.

A cantor leads the congregation in prayer. Father Bill Roush and Deacon Derick Cranston stand behind the altar, offering prayers.

But it is not the same. The pews are empty, filled only by photos of parishioners con-

fining to their homes by social distancing.

"Seeing those pictures makes it more realistic," Roush said.

Churches throughout the area are turning to online video for their church services to comply with social distancing restrictions limiting public gatherings to 10 people or less.

Roush leads three Catholic parishes - in Riverside, Richmond and Wellman. Usually he celebrates three Masses on

Saturdays and Sundays. Now he does one that is videotaped and available on YouTube each week.

The services are popular. About 400 people watched the Mass last weekend.

The pastor also does a daily holy hour from 3-4 p.m., which is averaging 200-plus people watching on Facebook Live. The service varies from day to day with adoration, recitation of the rosary, stations of the cross, silent prayer, reflection and music.

Pastors and their congregations are learning how to keep religion in their lives at a time when traditional services are forbidden.

"No funerals, no weddings, no baptisms," Roush said. "No gatherings of greater than 10 people."

He is conducting small communal services for the dead, with funerals planned for later

“

I am a hugger and handshaker. This has been hard for me. It is a true Lenten penance."

Father Bill Roush
Catholic church pastor in Riverside, Richmond and Wellman

after the coronavirus threat passes.

"We take care of immediate needs, and we'll schedule family gatherings later," Roush said.

He no longer visits hospitals but performs the sacrament of anointing the sick over the phone.

And Roush is reaching out to his congregations, calling 15 to 20 people a day "just to let them know I'm thinking of them, praying for them."

He misses seeing people and interacting with them.

"I am a hugger and handshaker," he said. "This has been hard for me. It is a true Lenten penance."

Roush has turned to his deacon, Derick Cranston, for support during these past weeks.

"Deacon Derick has been a tremendous support through all of this," he said.

Roush has no doubt people will persevere.

"I just pray everybody works together and recognize that through God all things are possible."

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Burgers \$35—includes buns & condiments
Grilled Chicken, \$20; Meatloaf, \$20
Call to order or for more info about our food & beer, or visit our website. Be well!

Keep in Touch on COVID-19

During the initial weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak, The News will post a daily update on TheNews-IA.com to keep readers informed of the latest happenings in this fast-moving, fluid situation.

And we want to hear from you.

- How are you coping with the changes that are occurring?
- What are your secrets for combating cabin fever?
- If you have children home from school, how are you keeping them occupied?

The News will publish the best ideas online and in the paper.



Send all information to News Editor
James Jennings at News@TheNews-IA.com.
Stay safe and wash your hands.

Wellman Family Practice
217 8th Ave., Ste 3
Wellman
319-646-2800
Thank you to all our patients for continuing to place your care in our hands.
All of you have been in our thoughts during this time.
We continue to be committed to your personalized care and are taking ALL precautions to make sure you are safe when visiting us.
• "Virtual" Appointments - if you are not able to physically come in to the clinic, PLEASE CALL THE CLINIC. The clinic is set up to do "virtual" appointments if it is deemed necessary.
• We are limiting exposures by spreading patient's appointment times out in order for only one patient to be in the clinic at a time.
• We have also locked our entrance door so we are NOT accepting walk-ins at this time.
• We are pre-screening any patients wanting an appointment, prior to them entering the clinic, to make sure it is safe to see them.
• We are being extremely vigilant in disinfecting all areas of the clinic on a more-than-regular basis.
• We are requesting our staff to do periodic checks on each other throughout the day to make sure they are not displaying any symptoms and staying safe.

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Entrees & Pasta: Parmesan Chicken Pasta, \$35
Chicken Alfredo Pasta, \$40
Burgers \$35—includes buns & condiments
Grilled Chicken, \$20; Meatloaf, \$20
Call to order or for more info about our food & beer, or visit our website. Be well!

Funeral homes adapt to follow CDC guidelines

KALONA

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced individuals and business to make adjustments to how they do things, and funeral homes are no exception.

Funeral homes are following guidelines set by the government and health officials limiting services to no more than 10 people.

"That includes the minister and staff, so that's just eight people" said Charlie Yoder of Yoder-Powell Funeral Home in Kalona. "It's a really trying time."

Yoder said that people have been understanding of the limitations.

As a result, funeral homes have had to get creative.

Yoder said some families have been using Zoom, a video-conferencing program, or YouTube to share services online.

Others have been using drive-through funerals, where mourners drive by family members to pay their respects.

Many families are opting for a small, private burial service, then planning a celebration of life at a later date.

FOR THE RECORD

Mid-Prairie basketball

Greg Boyd played on the Mid-Prairie state basketball team 50 years ago. Randy Porter was a team manager. In the March 26 Looking Back column, their roles were incorrectly listed.

SCHOOL LUNCH DISTRIBUTION



JIM JOHNSON/THE NEWS

Sarah Kauffman hands bags with lunches to a parent in downtown Kalona on March 25. Larry Hershberger logs the information while others wait in line for lunches. Kauffman and Hershberger are bus drivers for the Mid-Prairie district and were helping distribute the lunches. Mid-Prairie, Highland and Lone Tree are distributing lunches to children several times per week. The lunches are available to anyone under 18 years old. They do not have to be a student. For more information, contact the respective school district.

Highland, Lone Tree OK emergency powers for school superintendent

The Highland and Lone Tree school boards passed resolutions giving Superintendent Ken Crawford broad authority to take actions, if necessary without board approval, to implement state or federal guidelines for dealing with COVID-19.

The Highland board approved the resolution on Monday, March 23, and the Lone Tree board approved a near-identical resolution on Wednesday, March 25.

Crawford is the shared superintendent for the two districts.

The resolution requires the superintendent to "consult with and report to the board as feasible and appropriate."

Crawford now has the au-

thority to close any school facility and to decide when to reopen them.

Other authority provided to the superintendent in the resolution:

- Deciding which staff members are essential and must report to work.

- Placing classified employees - associates, custodians, food service workers and secretaries - on paid administrative leave for up to four weeks. This guarantees they will be paid through the current school shutdown that ends April 10.

Teachers and other certified staff will remain employed during the school closure and until the number of days identified in their contract have been fulfilled.

Crawford said that the boards will meet after the initial four weeks to determine how to proceed with regards to reopening the schools and continuing to pay staff.

"After those four weeks, we have a decision to make," he told the Highland board March 23.

He told the Lone Tree board that the payments approved in the resolution are in the budget.

"These are the payments we were going to make any way," Crawford said.

When school resumes, Crawford told the Lone Tree board he wants to have teachers return a couple of days early to clean and disinfect classrooms.

All Kalona households get newspaper this week

As it did last week, the city of Kalona paid to have this edition mailed to all Kalona households.

"We appreciate the city and Ryan Schlaubaugh recognizing the importance of keeping all residents informed of what is happening in the city," News Publisher Jim Johnson said.

The News staff has worked to pack this edition with news readers need to know about COVID-19 as well as other news in the cities we cover.

Those pages and others in the newspaper have ads providing information on changes that businesses have enacted due to closures and other re-

strictions on their operations.

And there is more online. Go to TheNews-IA.com for daily updates on COVID-19 and how to deal with it.

Thank you to the city of Kalona and to our advertisers and subscribers for your support during these trying times. We are all in this together.

Alliant Energy suspends disconnects, waives late fees

Alliant Energy is temporarily suspending disconnects for all of Iowa and Wisconsin customers during the public health emergency related to the coronavirus outbreak.

In addition, the company plans to waive late fees in Iowa to help customers who are suffering financial hardships.

This temporary suspension will alleviate customer concerns about continued access to their utility service and allows them to concentrate on the health of their families and businesses. This complements the recent directive extending the winter moratorium for residential customers.

While the ongoing COVID-19 situation may create financial stress and difficulty for some customers, Alliant Energy is encouraging them to set up payment plans based on their ability to pay.

This can be done online at the company's new My Account site, which allows for fee-free credit card payments.

The site, alliantenergy.com/myaccount, and the com-

pany's mobile app are available 24/7 and provide customers fast, reliable access to up-to-date account information as well as the opportunity to report outages.

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County health department reports first two deaths

BY MARY ZIELINSKI
Correspondent

WASHINGTON

Washington County Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski Monday announced the first two deaths associated with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the county.

Both residents, a man (61-80 years old) and a woman (81-100 years old), had underlying health conditions.

"We wish to extend our sympathy to these individuals' families," Pettit-Majewski said. "Washington County Public Health and all of our key partners throughout the county and state continue to work to limit the spread and impact of this virus in our communities."

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Washington County Public Health joined with the Iowa Department of Health (IDPH) and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to combat rumors with solid information.

"We are aware of misinformation about COVID-19, both locally, across Iowa and nationally," said Pettit-Majewski. "It's important for Washington County residents to rely on trusted sources of information like the CDC, IDPH and our public health agency."

As of Tuesday, IDPH reported 24 cases in Washington County and 497 cases statewide.

IDPH updates its COVID-19 website every Monday, Wednesday and Friday with current data on Iowans being monitored or tested for the virus and what test results show. The

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It's important for Washington County residents to rely on trusted sources of information like the CDC, IDPH and our public health agency."

Danielle Pettit-Majewski
Washington County
Public Health Administrator

website is also updated immediately with new information as necessary.

During the meeting, there was a detailed discussion regarding dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, including concerns about the department's home health aides who provide services directly to residents in their homes, especially those who are at high risk.

There also were concerns about "over-taxing" public health resources and personnel.

Another concern is about the mental health of residents and health professionals, especially with a looming possibility of a state "shelter in place" directive.

It was noted that the department is prepared to take calls 24/7 for information about the virus, as well as regular updating about precautions, number of cases and prevention steps on the department's website.

County facilities are closed to the public, but information can be provided by telephone.

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For any questions, contact Lori at 319-646-2473

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Temporarily, The News office hours are:

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Wednesdays: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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Here is how to reach us:

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EDITORIAL

Thanks for people with foresight on COVID-19

Things could have been much worse in Kalona and Wellman if not for the foresight of Mid-Prairie Superintendent Mark Schneider.

Schneider pushed the school board to cancel the school's fine arts trip to New York City scheduled for three weeks in March.

The superintendent pushed the decision at the March 9 school board meeting, and his recommendation was approved on a 4-1 vote. Schneider agonized over the decision. Students take this trip once every four years. Seniors had been looking forward to this – and raising money to go – since they were freshmen.

"Take any weather decision I've had to make, and this is a thousand times worse and a thousand times more complex," Schneider said.

Turns out it was a brilliant decision.

The Mid-Prairie students would have been in the city right as the coronavirus was spreading rampantly but before many people were testing positive. When Schneider made his decision there were 25 COVID-19 cases in New York City. Two weeks later there were 20,000.

Chances are some students would have returned with infections. Those infections would have multiplied with each person the infected students came in contact with.

Kalona and Wellman could have become one of the nation's hotspots.

Gov. Kim Reynolds, too, deserves credit for implementing strict social distancing requirements in Iowa before the disease took hold in the state. Those measures included closing schools from March 16 until April 10.

There is no doubt that the school closures will be extended at least through the end of April if not longer.

Reynolds ordered many businesses to close or operate with limited contact with the public.

When you look at infections in Iowa compared with other states, the infection rate has been slower. That slower rate has provided cities and counties time to put in place procedures and systems for dealing with the disease.

Kalona City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh is another person who jumped into action and took steps to make sure his city was providing support for residents and businesses.

The city is paying for all households in the city to get the newspaper for two weeks. This gives residents information on what the city is doing and how they can stay safe while still supporting local businesses.

Olivia Kahler at the Kalona Public Library launched a program for children where residents put teddy bears and other stuffed animals in their windows, and children wander the neighborhoods on "bear hunts" to spot them.

It's not just children who are peering in windows, looking for the bears. We have seen adults slowly driving down city streets looking for stuffed animals.

In a time when so many people are stressed dealing with isolation, those fluffy animals bring joy into our lives. Thanks to everybody who has made Kalona a happier place by simply putting a stuffed animal in their window.

Finally, we are reminded of something our moms used to say: "You can't fix stupid."

This example comes from Kentucky. One of the recent COVID-19 cases there was a 20-something who tested positive after attending a "coronavirus party." Talk about tempting fate. The governor was apoplectic with rage.

"This is the part where I, the person that tells everybody to be calm, have to remain calm myself because anyone who goes to something like this may think that they are indestructible, but it's someone else's loved one that they are going to hurt," Gov. Andy Beshear said.

Please stay safe and remember that we are all in this together.



COVID-19 vs. you; are you ready?

When your body encounters the coronavirus, how will it respond? Will it struggle against the invasion, or will it kick the virus out with a strong immune response?

In sport and in health, we need to think about both our defense and our offense.

A lot of ink has been used telling Americans how to play defense against the coronavirus, including social distancing, staying at home, limiting travel, washing hands, keeping your hands out of your face and many more measures designed to decrease your risk at coming in contact with the virus.

These are all excellent advice, and I support them fully. Excellent advice is coming from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Iowa and Washington County Departments of Public Health. Please follow their advice.

Those defensive measures are only half of the game though. In order to be truly successful against coronavirus, we must assume that we are going to encounter it and take measures to be at our strongest and healthiest when that time comes.

Here are five areas of life we can all improve today to boost our immune system and be ready to have the upper hand against coronavirus and all other invaders.

• **Sleep:** There is no more important habit for building and maintaining a strong immune system. Aim for being in bed for eight to nine hours for



Dr. Chris Grier
Stay Healthy

adults, and nine to 10 hours for children with a consistent bedtime. To improve the quality of sleep, shut off all digital stimulation at least 60 minutes prior to bedtime.

• **Move:** Moving your body every day is an essential component of health and having a robust immune system. Aim for walking outside for at least 15 minutes each day and move your body at least 10 minutes every hour of the day. Keeping your spine mobile and healthy is important and chiropractic care is shown to support immune system health. Kalona has three chiropractic offices: Bright Futures Chiropractic, Washington Chiropractic and Errthum Chiropractic.

• **Eat:** What we eat moves us either toward health or away from it. What to specifically avoid: sugar, vegetable oils and flour all interfere with immune system function. Eating three cups of vegetables daily, including many different colors will provide your immune system with most of the nutrients it needs to be ready for battle. Healthy fat in the form of fish (sardines, mackerel, anchovies, herring, wild caught salmon), coconut oil, olive oil and avocados boosts cellular health. Drinking water supports all body functions.

Supplementing with Vitamin D, Vitamin C and fish oil is a proven strategy to decrease the chance of viral infection, according to Grassrootshealth.net.

• **Breathe:** Fresh air and full lung function is crucial right now. Be aware of your breathing habits, particularly when you use technology devices like computers or smartphones. Exercise helps use more of your lungs and taking several one-minute breathe breaks during the day is helpful.

• **Focus:** This pandemic has created a lot of fear and a sense of lack of control, with news and social media reports of concerns from around the globe. An alternative response is to have a focus of managed concern, which is more grounded and healthier, according to HeartMath.com. Head there to learn and use a technique for reducing and overcoming fear by using directed focus and breathing techniques.

The human body is truly amazing. We have fought off scores of novel viruses and bacteria for generations. Your innate immune system is specifically designed to identify invaders and mount a response to kill and kick them out, and it relies on your overall health to be at its best.

So, when you do encounter coronavirus, I urge you to have used the strategies above to be fully prepared to win the fight.

Dr. Chris Grier is a Kalona chiropractor. He is a member of the Washington County Board of Public Health.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trust God is the answer when world is in bad shape

Editor:

I am so glad for all the things that were suggested in The News.

It seems like this is a good time for families to go for a walk together outside and get fresh air and also do special things together at home.

Children are going through a hard time also, so we need to help them by listening to them. My niece's 4-year-old granddaughter in Phoenix, who is adopted, poured her little heart out to her dad and mom about how everything is shut down everywhere, even her favorite restaurant, McDonald's. Her dad said they can go through the drive-through, but she said she can't play inside on the playground.

She went on and on, sometimes crying. She was so sweet, but it was a sad thing for her, and she put so much emotion in her voice and actions.

That is what we need to do, pour out our hearts to our heavenly Father. Ask him to help you know what to do. I can see how people would be fearful with no job and money to buy the things they need.

What is the answer?

Trust God seems like the right answer, and it is. The reason we need to trust God is because he is our only hope at such a hard time in our lives. A good chapter in the Bible helps us to have hope. Read Psalm 91.

When this virus started, it made me think of the fact that we were all born with a virus called sin. There is a sure cure for that; it is the blood of Jesus that he shed for our sin. We

need to believe that it is and ask Jesus to forgive our sins and save us.

Let us remember Jesus' words about the two great commandments. Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself.

This is a really good time to show our neighbors and businesses how much we appreciate them.

We can all ask our neighbors and whoever and ask them what we can do for them, like bringing them food, etcetera.

Let's wake up and stay awake because I believe the Lord is coming back soon, the way this world is in bad shape in many ways, morally especially.

Ruth Marner
Kalona

The News

We want to hear from you!

The News encourages its readers to submit photos, news items and letters to the editor for possible publication in our newspaper.

We reserve the right to edit.

News items: Please include all pertinent data - names, city of residence, dates, etc., and a description of the event. Photos may be picked up at The News office unless you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return.

Letters to the editor: Your name and city or community will be published with your letter to the editor. For verification purposes, please include your address and phone number. Letters to the editor will be accepted via email subject to verification.

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Ronald Slehta -
Publisher Emeritus

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Online edition - \$30

Forecasts for North Washington County



OBITUARIES

Loran Yoder
1953 - 2020

Loran Yoder, 66, of Lone Tree, passed away on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the Bird House Hospice Home in Iowa City. Due to the current State of Iowa restrictions on social gatherings, private graveside services will be held at Lone Tree Cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at a later date and open to the public. The family requests no flowers at this time. A memorial fund has been established at the funeral home in memory of Loran. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.sandfuneralservice.com.

Loran Henry Yoder was born on April 4, 1953, in Iowa City, the son of Henry and Kathryn (Miller) Yoder. He graduated from Lone Tree High School in 1971. Loran was united in marriage to Diane Marshak on Nov. 24, 1973, in Iowa City. He farmed in the Lone Tree area all his life. Loran was a member of the Lone Tree Presbyterian Church, and a past member of the Lone Tree school board. He was awarded the FFA Iowa Farmer degree in high school.

Loran was a collector of antique cars and Allis-Chalmers tractors. Loran loved to share the gospel, taking several mission trips to Mexico and was a



lay preacher for several area churches. He enjoyed sports and was a youth coach for several teams.

Loran never knew a stranger and loved to tell stories. He loved farm life, family vacations, his pond, being surrounded by family and spending time with his grandchildren, especially taking them fishing.

Loran will be deeply missed by his wife: Diane of Lone Tree; children: Ryan (Cindy) Yoder of Lone Tree, Darren (Sara) Yoder of Cedar Falls, and Laura (Arrion) Ford of Lone Tree; grandchildren: Caleb, Wyatt, McKenzie, Kate, Landon, Keegan, Alyson, Travis, and Levi; siblings: Eileen (Ray) Gooch of Grand Junction, Colo., Mary (Dennis) Grimm of Kalona, Corrine (Dennis) Walker of Riverside and Kent (Rhonda) Yoder of Lone Tree; and sister-in-law: LeahAnne Yoder of Topeka, Ind.

Loran was preceded in death by his parents and a brother: Merle.

Rhonda Renee Hahn
1960 - 2020

Rhonda Renee Hahn, 60, of Keota, died Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City.

Rhonda was born Jan. 5, 1960, in Washington, to Ronald and Dianne (Schlatter) Bowser. She attended West Chester Elementary, graduated from Mid-Prairie High School in 1978 and received her CMA from Kirkwood Community College. On April 25, 1981, she married Stephen Hahn at St. James Catholic Church in Washington. Rhonda worked at a plasma center in Iowa City, the Keota Clinic and Washington County Hospital as a CMA.

She was a member of Holy Trinity Parish, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Association of Certified Medical Assistants and was instrumental in starting the West Chester and Keota QRS programs. A people person, Rhonda enjoyed being with family, visiting with friends, her grandchildren and in later years was an avid Face-



book user. Survivors include her husband: Steve Hahn; son: Chris (Andrea) Hahn; two grandchildren: Ellyana Kay and Cayvon James Hahn; father: Ronald Bowser of West Chester, and two sisters: Cindy (John) Sneedgar of Keota and Teri (Gary) Carl.

She was preceded in death by her mother; and brother: Tony Bowser.

Because of the current coronavirus concerns, she will be cremated and private family services will be held at this time. A public memorial Mass and reception will be held at a later date.

A general memorial fund has been established. Powell Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Keota is caring for Rhonda and her family. www.powellfuneralhomes.com.

Sharon Snoe Christen
1945 - 2020

Sharon Snoe Christen was born Feb. 23, 1945, in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the daughter of Helen Pitcher. She grew up in Council Bluffs where Sharon and her mother lived with her great-grandparents until her mother married August Munch. When Sharon was 9 years old, August gave her the best Christmas present ever, adoption papers, she was now a Munch.

When Sharon was 19, she met Paul Christen who was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, south of Omaha. After dating for two years, they were united in marriage on June 26, 1966, in Council Bluffs. They lived in Tulsa, Okla., the Sheuville area, and have lived in Kalona since 2006.

Sharon was a homemaker and devoted wife and mother. She was a very active member of High Point City Church.

Sharon passed away on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at her home in Kalona, surrounded by her loving family. She was 75 years old.

Sharon is survived by her husband: Paul; two sons: Scott Christen of Tipton and Luke



(Alicia) Christen of Lisbon; a granddaughter: Tessa Beale; two sisters: Kathy Womble of Clarinda and Kristie (Jon) Evanson of Adair; three brothers-in-law: David Christen of Wadena, Glen (Joann) Christen of Marshalltown, and Louis Christen of Elgin; adopted family: Cory and Sandra Popejoy and their children Eliana, Elijah and David.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents; a son: Duane Christen; a sister: Susie; two sisters-in-law: Dorothy Christen and Cheryl Christen; a brother-in-law: Ron Womble; and Samuel Paul Popejoy.

A memorial service will be held at High Point City Church at a later date. A memorial fund has been established for Iowa City Hospice and Iowa City Drop Inn.

The Yoder-Powell Funeral Home in Kalona is caring for Sharon and her family.

Gardening and games keep family busy

Today was such a beautiful sunny day with the temperature around 60 degrees. Everyone is home due to the coronavirus precautions. It seems so different to not set an alarm. Of course, we sleep later since no one is leaving home.

The boys took advantage of the nice day and hauled a lot of manure out to the fields. My husband Joe tilled up both gardens. The soil looks so nice and black. We also did a lot of raking outside such as flower beds beside the buildings, etc.

We would like to make one of our gardens into raised garden beds to plant vegetables. We thought this would be a way our children with handicaps could help with the gardening. They could sit in the mobility scooter and plant, pick, or weed the vegetables. With Joe and I also getting older it would be nice to not bend down to weed and harvest the vegetables.

We would like to use something affordable, but we are not sure what to use. I know some use wood but are bothered with lots of ants and bugs in the plants. We would like to use vinyl boards, but our budget couldn't afford to do that. It would last a lifetime though. Joe measured that we would need 16-foot rows and would make them 4-feet wide and 1 1/2-feet deep. To fill our one garden we would need eight of these. Maybe we will figure something out before planting season. It would work out so well if we could somehow make it work. I am wondering



if any of you readers have suggestions about what to use. Joe says he doesn't want to have to mow under them and wants something neat in appearance. We will see, but we would appreciate any suggestions from you.

I hope to go searching for dandelion greens tomorrow. My sisters Susan and Verena found enough already to make a meal of them. Yum! Looking forward to that!

One night our family sat around the table after we ate supper looking in "Country" and "Country Extra" magazines searching for the needles they hide in there. It was a challenge to see who would find it first.

The girls also had tricks for us to do with picking a chair up somehow with our head touching the wall bent halfway down. We seem to find enough to entertain us while everyone is home. Some things seem silly but as a family we need to live, laugh, and love!

Most of all, let us read from our Bibles for encouragement and pray that God will be with us during this time of trial. It's something most people have never seen. Our hearts and prayers go to those affected

by the virus. God is in control even though the road ahead looks overwhelming. I try not to think about our income not coming in like so many others also are experiencing. I am thankful for the meat in our freezers and all the vegetables we canned last year from our garden. The fruits of our labor are worth all the hard work put in the gardens. Not everyone has a garden so it's not as easy. Our biggest challenge is getting enough supply of toilet tissue to have on hand. Every time we make a trip into town, which is sometimes longer than a week apart, the shelves are empty already.

Let us be considerate of others. Stay healthy and safe everyone. This too shall pass.

Potato Chondwer

4 cups potatoes, peeled and diced
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 cup grated carrot
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 tablespoon parsley
4 chicken bouillon cubes
6 cups scalded milk
1/2 cup flour
4 tablespoons butter or margarine
Optional: shredded cheese

In a large kettle, combine potatoes, onion, carrots, salt, pepper, parsley, and bouillon. Add enough water to just cover the vegetables and cook until tender. Do not drain. In a separate pan, scald milk until tiny bubbles form around edge of pan. With a wire whisk, mix butter and flour with 1-1/2 cup scalded milk. Add remaining milk to vegetables, then stir in thickened milk mixture until blended. Simmer a few minutes on low heat. Yield: 8-10 servings.

BIRTHS



Benton Alan Creveling

Mark and Jaclyn Creveling of Washington, D.C., announce with great joy the arrival of their son, Benton Alan Creveling, on March 14, 2020. Bennie weighed 6 pounds, 8.6 ounces and measured 19 3/4" in length. His proud grandparents are Jim and Bridget Johnson of Kalona and Brent and Jill Creveling of Johnston, Iowa. His great-grandmother is Norma Creveling of Mount Ayr, Iowa.

Andrew Wayne Swantz

Myron and Alissa Swantz of Kalona, are the parents of a son, Andrew Wayne, born Feb. 25, 2020. He weighed 8 lb. 12 oz. and was 21.5" long. Grandparents are Norma and Sandy Swantz of Kalona and Colleen Martin of Delavan, Ill.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
Every Monday Week of Publication
DISPLAY ADS: 10 A.M.
CLASSIFIEDS: 4 P.M.

Mennonite museum
opening day
delayed to May 1

Due to health concerns related to COVID-19, the Mennonite Museum at the Kalona Historical Village is delaying its 2020 opening until May 1.

The spring meeting to hear the Vander Werf immigration story of moving from the Netherlands to Manson, Iowa, in World War II has been postponed until this fall.

A specific date will be announced later this year.

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115 YEARS AGO
APRIL 7, 1905

Wellman

The motion for temporary alimony in the case of Etta Hamilton versus W. T. Hamilton, of Wellman, was ruled upon by the court. Temporary alimony was sustained. It is ordered by the court that the defendant pay to the clerk of this court \$100 to apply on plaintiff's support. It is also ordered that the plaintiff may occupy the homestead without molestation from the defendant.

100 YEARS AGO
APRIL 1, 1920

Kalona

The city election called out a fairly good vote. More interest than usual was taken and 163 ballots were cast. Three councilmen were elected from the Republican ticket and two from the Democratic ticket. Mayor, Wm. Wette; councilmen, J. F. Durst, Roy Snyder, D. T. Beck, A. C. Sleichter, A. N. Grady; treasurer, Gail Fry; and park commissioners, Col. G. W. Beck, L. Shillig, and L. W. Durst.

The Go-Gas Company have secured a location for their Kalona station. They have bought the south 50 feet of the J. W. Cupplott, north of the Ford Motor Company. Mr. Cupp reserves his house and will move it, either farther north on the same lot, or to a friends of Mrs. Lawrence Doll at her home at Lone Tree. From the report received here, her death was very sudden and unexpected, but we have no further particulars. Her remains were brought to Kalona and her funeral was held at Richmond.

Riverside

The machinery for the button factory was shipped in the latter part of last week and the 10 machines have been set up on the second floor of the Rummelhart implement store building. Work will begin in about three weeks, according to the manager.

Jack Snyder and Fred Burgeois of Kalona were business visitors in Riverside Tuesday.

75 YEARS AGO
APRIL 5, 1945

Kalona

The air medal and one oak leaf cluster have been sent to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kos, parents of Staff Sgt. Kenneth Kos, of the Air Corps, now a prisoner of

war. Sgt. Kos, 23, was engineer and gunner on a B-24.

Cpt. Richard Kelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Kelley, has arrived in Italy. He is assigned as a B-24 tail gunner.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Chapek received a letter from their son, Pfc. Robert Chapek, stating that he is in a hospital in New Guinea. He was wounded on Leyte, but he said that in time he would be good as ever.

Men leaving to take their pre-induction physical are: Paul Chapek, Henry M. Miller, Monroe D. Yoder, Harvey H. Miller, Jesse O. Miller, John D. Schrock, Monroe Bender, Leroy Ropp, Eli Nissley, Keith E. Yoder, Cecil E. Miller, Lloyd I. Bender, Moses A. Beachy, David A. Miller, Omer W. Ropp, Truman M. Weaver and Omar J. Stutzman.

Karen Kepler spent the past two weeks with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Reif, at West Chester.

Sunday dinner guests in the Gail Swartzendruber home included Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Swartzendruber, Frank Swartzendruber and Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Swartzendruber.

Dinner guests at Rollin Gingerich's Sunday included Mr. and Mrs. Emory Yoder and Marlene, Mrs. Wayne Yoder and Jimmy and Mary Ann Miller.

Mary Ellen Swartzendruber was a Sunday dinner guest in the Dave Marner home. Mabel Miller was an afternoon caller. Wellman

Mrs. Wallace Swartzendruber and son, Bobby, are leaving this weekend for their home at Ypsilanti, Mich., after spending three weeks at the Herman Swartzendruber home.

Mrs. R. F. Glanz was hostess at a three-course dinner honoring Mrs. Walt Livezey, who was celebrating her birthday. A large two-tier cake trimmed in yellow rosebuds and green leaves was placed on the mirror in the center of the table as the centerpiece.

Mrs. Nevada Rampelberg was hostess to the members of the Mother's Club. Members present were Mrs. Martha Adams, Emma Barta, Joyce Bush, Tressa Johnson, Dorothea Kraft, Ada Munson, Mildred Wide, Edna Gingerich and Mrs. A. H. Freil.

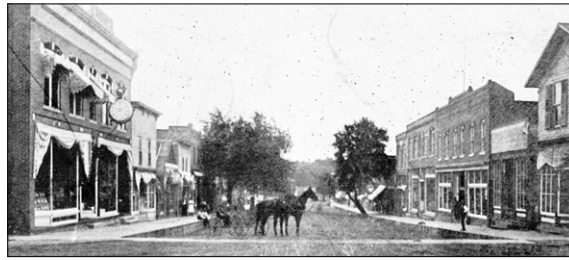
50 YEARS AGO
APRIL 2, 1970

Kalona

Kalonal Industries, Inc., has started production of mobile homes in its new manufacturing plant in Kalona.

On Easter Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Hochstetler and family had a dinner in their home to celebrate Mrs. Elizabeth Spenner's 95th birthday. Those sharing the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. William Spenner, Mr. and Mrs.

LOOKING BACK - WELLMAN



Pictured above is Main Street, Wellman, looking south.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

John Spenner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spenner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Spenner and family, Mrs. Delia Young, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hasty and Dean Hasty.

Easter weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe D. Yoder and Cherie were Mr. and Mrs. William Bauer of Minn., Boni Yoder of Cedar Falls, Jim Yoder of Ames, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller and daughters of Coralville.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wagamon, Mrs. Nick Bohr, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Reber were Easter dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wagamon and family.

Mrs. Henry Mullet entertained members of her Sunday school class. Included were Kristy Swartzendruber, Carol Brennenman, Crystal Swartzendruber, Gary Swartzendruber and Betty Bender.

Mr. and Mrs. George Allen Jr., and Scott, Gertrude Chupp, Sandra Wagamon and John Colbert drove to Kansas where they visited with Mrs. Allen's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Miller and family were dinner guests of Mrs. Marie Horner and Charlene on Easter Day. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hartzler entertained relatives at dinner on Easter and those sharing the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Petersen, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Petersen and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Yoder and family, Mr. and Mrs. Don Miller and son, Jim, Julie Hartzler and Peggy McNeal.

Wellman

Three charter buses will leave Mid-Prairie High School Tuesday, carrying the marching band to Washington, D. C. where they will participate in this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade.

The March meeting of the Lime Creek Livewires was held at the home of Sammy and Dennis Berg.

Lone Tree

Elsie Smid, a very familiar

person behind the counter in the Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank, worked her last day Tuesday. Elsie has decided to retire after 49 years of continuous employment with the bank. She began working February 1921. At that time the bank was located in what is now the Lincoln Mutual Insurance office building.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Riggan and family were dinner guests in the Henry Riggan home on Easter Sunday. Afternoon callers were Mr. and Mrs. Dick Knebel and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Riggan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Riggan and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Johnson, Jimmy and Jamie.

Riverside

The annual Easter egg hunt was held on Saturday. Due to the inclement weather, it was moved to the fire station. There were approximately 200 children present. Assisting in coloring the eggs were Wilma Rummelhart, Leo and Darlene Burich, Lewis Weber, Bernard Schmidt, Larry Muller, Larry Wieland, Cletus Waldschmidt, Paul Rummelhart, Don Davisson, Elmer Schneider, Dale Rath, Ed Shebek, Bob Schneider, Lester Schnobelen, Bill Schneider, Paul Schnobelen, and Ralph Klein.

25 YEARS AGO
APRIL 6, 1995

Kalona

Kalona Volunteer Fire Department's annual pancake breakfast drew a record 1,443 people.

The annual Cub Scout Cake Auction grossed \$877. The fourth-annual sale saw 22 cakes entered. At one point, auctioneer Jay Montgomery saw a bid hit \$100. Shortly afterwards, the cake hit the floor. But it was all in fun, to be recorded as an entry in "America's Funniest Home Videos." Neither the cake nor the bids were real. Winners were: Brandon

Escher for the cake the Scout made; most original and most profitable, Adam Michaelis; best Scout theme, Aaron Davis; funniest Tony Kiefer; most colorful, Johnathon Shelton; best looking Ryan Olsen; best holiday theme, Eric Christianson; Hy-Vee award for purchased cake, Jared Rod.

Wellman

Asbury United Methodist Church men perform drama of the Last Supper. The characters are Robert Goodrich, Jesus; Greg Hassman, Andrew; Kenny Riggan, James; Kenny Bailey, John; Don Randol, Thomas; Gilbert Christianson, James the Less; Richard Enfield, Matthew; Jim Goodrich, Thaddeus; Larry Whetstich, Nathaniel; Ed Whetstich, Philip; Iska Hendricks, Judas Iscariot; Jerry Nelson, Simon the Zealot; and Scott Day, Peter. The production is under the direction of Mallory Hinz.

Riverside

An arsonist set fire to Riverside Pallet Company March 30 that consumed most of the business' building.

Brian Jason Kelly, 18, of Washington was charged with two counts of burglary, second degree and two counts of arson, second degree. Travis Lee Lorence, 19, of Washington was one count of burglary, second degree and one count of arson, second degree. Kelly was an employee of the company where he had worked for approximately two weeks. Kelly had hired Lorence to torch the business and the alleged arsonist apparently forced open a rear door and threw gasoline into the building. In the process, he was scorched by the flames.

Washington County Sheriff Yale Jarvis said that apparently Kelly did not want to work and that by burning the business he could collect unemployment. Firefighters from Riverside, Kalona, Ainsworth, Lone Tree and Hills responded to the 5:20 a.m. call.

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Ainsworth Ainsworth Community Church: Ainsworth, Worship Sunday 10:30 a.m., Kids Club Wed. 6:30 p.m. Hills St. Joseph Catholic Church: Hills, Administrator: Father Mike Spiekemeier, Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324. Mass schedule: Sunday 10 a.m. Iowa City Crosspoint Baptist Church: Pastor Mike Biss. Meeting at the Carlson Hotel 2525 N. Dodge Street, Iowa City Sunday Morning 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Supper and Bible Study (offsite). Kalona Cornerstone Community Church: 229 South 14th St.; Floyd Yahn, 319-430-9574; cornerstoneia@earthlink.com; Sunday, 10 a.m. Nursery & kids' classes available. East Union Memorial Church: 5615 Galbrae Ave. SW, 656-2590; Joe Beachy, Pastor; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. Fairview Conservative Memorial Church: 2605 540th St. SW; Pastors: Conrad Hertzler, 319-512-6186; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. Full Gospel Revival Center: 1103 E. Ave. 656-2298; Pastor: Jeremy Gagli; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; Wednesday Mid-Week Service: 7 p.m.; 10:45 a.m. Gospel Light Fellowship: 401 E. Ave (Hwy 22) Pastor: Dwight Schock, 319-638-4545; Pastor: Scott Swartzendruber; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Haven Conservative Memorial Church: 5203 Congress Rd. SW, 1 mile west of Hwy 1; Ministry: Nelson Beachy, 683-2371; James Swartzendruber, 683-2372; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Kalona Memorial Church: 6th Street & Ave., 656-2736; kalonamemorialchurch.com; Pastors: Scott Swartzendruber; Pastor: Josh Lundberg; Sunday Worship:	9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Kalona United Methodist Church: 4th St. & C. Ave. 656-2642; www.kalonaumc.org; Pastor: Gene Kubis; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Fellowship following. Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Lower Deer Creek Memorial Church: 1408 540th St. SW, 656-2076; http://lmc.org; Email: kelli@lmc.net; Pastor: Don Patterson; Associate Pastor: Steve Nelson; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Sharon Bethel Memorial Church: 5 miles north on Highway 1, 1 mile east, 683-2672; Pastors: Delmar Burge; Owen Stutzman; Gabriel Beachy; Lamar Rapp; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sharon Center United Methodist Church: rural Johnson County at corner of James Ave & 520th St. 683-2584; http://sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com; Pastor: Anita Johnson; Casual Worship: Sunday 6:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Traditional Service: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sunrise Conservative Memorial Church: 501 14th St. SW, 656-2688; Pastors: Floyd Heilmann and Mary Bender; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. Shiloh: 209 1st St. 656-3156; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.; Small group meetings in homes throughout the week. Kiross Kiross Christian Church: Sunday worship: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Lone Tree St. Mary's: 216 W. Jayne St. Administrator: Father Mike Spiekemeier, Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324 Sunday Mass: 4 p.m. United Presbyterian Church of Lone Tree: 110 W Elm St. 632-4900; www.lonepresbyterianchurch.com; Pastor: Rex	Jim Bonewald; Sunday: Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 10:15 Nichols Nichols Christian Church: 607 Grant Ave. 723-4346; Sunday Services: Worship 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Nichols United Methodist Church: 315 Main, 723-4595; Pastors: Mary & Don Timmerman; Sunday Services: 9 a.m. Family Worship Service with Children's Message St. Mary's: Short St. & Grand Ave. Administrator: Father Mike Spiekemeier, Carol Kaalberg, 319-330-5324 Sunday Mass: 8 a.m. North English Champion Hills Catholic Church: 3132 71st Ave., rural North English. 319-664-3629. Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m. Oxford Windham Community Church: 1424 Black Diamond Rd. SW, 2 miles north of Frytown; Pastor: Randy Harker, 319-430-1912; Sunday Worship 10 a.m. windhamchurch.com Richmond Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church: 648-2331, clusterparishes.org; Fr. Bill Roach; Mass: Sunday 8 a.m. The Church in Riverside: 41 E. 1st St. 698-2185; thechurchinriverside@hotmail.com; Pastor: Leonard, Evangelist; Service Times: Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. River City Church: Meet at Highland Elementary School, 230 Schnobelen St. www.rivercitych.org; Pastor: Rodney Gehman; Sunday at 9:30 a.m. St. Mary's Catholic Church: 51 St. Mary's St. 648-2331, clusterparishes.org; Fr. Bill Roach; Mass: Sunday, 10 a.m.; Thursday 11 a.m. at Pleasantview Home. Trinity United Methodist Church in Riverside: 11 E 2nd St. 648-2952; Pastor: Edward Peterson; Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. (Phe-	school - 6th grade). South English English River Church of the Brethren: 29252 137th St. (Hwy 22 between South English & Kimco) 687-5253; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Wellman Amish Circuit: Champion Hill, Oct. to April; Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m. For information, call Fred Wagner, 319-936-7778. Asbury United Methodist Church: 601 8th Ave. 646-2417; Pastor: Melissa Warren; Sunday Worship: 9:15 a.m.; Sunday School: Matin 8:15 a.m., Children: 10:15 First Baptist Church: 600 4th St. 646-2254; Pastor: Rev. Mark Larson; Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. Communion is held the first Sunday of each month. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Missouri Synod) 5th St. & 4th Ave. 646-2702; Pastor: Rev. Zachary Voss; Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. New Life Community Church: meets at Parkside Activities Center, office located at 214 8th Ave. 674-9051; Office hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Mon-Fri. www.newlifewellman.org Salom Memorial Fellowship: 1306 Keokuk Washington Rd. 7 miles west of Wellman; Ministry: Gerald Kreider 319-667-2728; Wilbur Beachy 319-656-3733; Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. St. Joseph Catholic Church: 11th St. & Maplewood, 648-2331, clusterparishes.org; Fr. Bill Roach; Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. Upper Deer Creek Memorial Church: 6 1/2 miles west of Cheese Factory, 656-3843; Pastor: Elmer Miller; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.	Wellman Memorial Church: 1215 8th Ave. 646-2532; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday. West Union Memorial Church: 3253 305th St. Parnell, 646-6004; Pastor: David Houshakev; Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. - Memorial Women: First Wed. of every month 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Men's Luncheon: second Thurs. noon of each month at Rager Shaver's. Zion Christian Fellowship: 1308 Madison Ave. Pastor: Elvin Martin; Worship: 9:30 a.m. West Chester West Chester United Methodist Church: 403 Franklin Street, 698-4665; Pastor: Melissa Warren; Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Washington Immanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA): 1226 E Washington St. 653-3900; Pastor: Maureen Howatt; Sunday Worship & Communion Service: 9 a.m. Faith Formation classes for all ages are held from 8:15-8:55 a.m. Wednesday Evening Worship & Communion 6 p.m. (all year round) website: luthwa.org Current info on church phone recording: 319-653-3950 Prairie Flower Baptist Church: 1909 Larch Ave. at the corner of 190th St., rural Washington; Pastor: David Cotner; Sunday Worship: 10:15 a.m. Sunday School: 9 a.m. Prairie Time: 9:45 a.m. Wednesday: Various activities posted on our web site, prairieflowerbaptistchurch.org St. James Parish: 602 West 2nd St., 653-4504, 319-458-0412 cell; Father Bernie Wier; 8:30 a.m.; Sun 9 a.m.; Spanish 11:30 a.m. stjameswashington.org United Methodist Church: 206 W 2nd St. 653-5446; Pastor: Kwang Song; Traditional worship 8 & 10 a.m. Sunday school 10 a.m. Nursery available for 8 and 10 a.m. services. Washingtonumc.com Washington Reformed Presbyterian, Washington; Sabbath School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
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JIM JOHNSON/THE NEWS

Signs displaying motorists' speeds were installed in Riverside in November last year.

Riverside approves upgrade to speed signs for data

BY JIM JOHNSON
The News
RIVERSIDE

The signs that flash drivers' speeds as they drive on Highway 22 in Riverside are getting an upgrade.

The City Council voted March 16 to upgrade the signs to allow the recording and collection of speed data.

Several council members thought that feature was already included on the signs that were installed last year.

Councilperson Edgar McGuire said the data could be used to identify what times people are speeding and requesting sheriff's deputies to patrol at those times.

"If we put that information to use, it would be worth having," Councilperson Jeanine Redlinger said.

The modules for collecting the data are \$815. The signs are located just before the start of the residential area on the east

side of town and on the west side of downtown.

The purchase was approved on a 4-1 vote, with council member Tom Sexton saying he thought the data collection feature was included when the signs were originally approved last year.

He asked for the Washington County sheriff to deploy its device for inconspicuously measuring speed at various places in town.

City Administrator Christine Yancey said the data — both from the city's signs and from the sheriff's speed boxes — would be used to bolster the city's case to the state Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit through Riverside.

But Mayor Allen Schneider sounded a caution.

"I don't think we want to be so strict on enforcement that people are routing around and not coming to Riverside businesses," he said.

2020 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

Mid-Prairie

Aug. 28 vs. Sigourney-Keota
Sept. 4 vs. Regina Iowa City
Sept. 11 at Mediapolis
Sept. 18 at Mount Vernon
Sept. 25 vs. Central Lee
Oct. 2 vs. Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont
Oct. 9 at Williamsburg
Oct. 16 at Davis County
Oct. 23 vs. Notre Dame West Burlington

Highland

Aug. 28 vs. Van Buren County
Sept. 4 vs. Wilton
Sept. 11 at Belle Plaine
Sept. 18 at Wapello
Oct. 2 vs. Columbus Junction
Oct. 9 vs. North Cedar
Oct. 16 at Lisbon
Oct. 23 at Regina, Iowa City

Lone Tree

Aug. 28 vs. Winfield-Mount Union
Sept. 4 vs. Tri-County
Sept. 11 at English Valleys
Sept. 18 vs. Twin Cedars
Sept. 25 at WACO
Oct. 2 vs. New London
Oct. 9 vs. GMG Garwin
Oct. 16 at Moravia
Oct. 23 at Montezuma

LONE TREE SCHOOL BRIEFS

Lone Tree OKs school calendar

The Lone Tree school board approved the calendar for the next school year at its March 11 meeting.

School starts on Monday, Aug. 24, and ends Tuesday, May 26, 2021. The last day of school is the week before Memorial Day.

A new feature of the calendar is having the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off.

School will be out for two weeks at Christmas time. The Friday and Monday before and after Easter will be days off.

Presidents Day in February is a holiday but will be used as a snow make-up day if needed. March 19 is another day off that will be used as a snow make-up day if necessary.

The calendar was hammered out by a committee of teachers and administrators with board member Joel Yedlik and board President Christina Magruder participating.

Lone Tree, Highland sharing to continue

After discussing options, representatives of the Lone Tree and Highland school

boards agreed to continue sharing agreements that include the district superintendent, transportation director and human resources director.

While announcing the decision to continue the sharing arrangement, Lone Tree board President Christina Magruder said the districts may discuss sharing band, soccer and junior high wrestling positions — and any others that make sense operationally and financially.

"Their numbers are low as well," she said. "We'll see what we can do to provide opportunities for the kids."

Supervisors OK budget amendment, set salaries

BY MARY ZIELINSKI
Correspondent
WASHINGTON

Washington County supervisors Tuesday approved a budget amendment and set elected officials' salaries.

Following separate public hearings on a county budget amendment and the actual fiscal 2020-21 budget, the board approved resolutions for the

amendment that saw \$1.8 million in additional revenues and \$1.845 million in additional expenditures for the actual \$32.1 million 2020-21 budget.

In another financial matter, the board formally approved the fiscal 2020-21 compensation for elected officials, a move agreed upon earlier this year.

Specifically, they are auditor, \$77,314; county attorney,

\$122,354; recorder, \$73,538; sheriff, \$100,629; supervisors, \$38,606; supervisors chairman, \$1,500 stipend; and treasurer, \$74,601.

They also approved a lease with the Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association for the tower owned by the Wellman company for use by the county in its radio transmission and receiving system.

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Supervisors OK change orders for communications center

BY MARY ZIELINSKI
Correspondent
WASHINGTON

At their March 24 meeting, Washington County supervisors approved five change orders totaling \$14,325.84 for the new communications center on Lexington Boulevard.

Changes included items and work for the new radio alarm system, as well as electrical work in the building itself.

The project is expected to be completed well before the Dec. 31 state deadline.

The board also approved the Federal-Aid Agreement for reimbursement funds from Iowa's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project that involved Phase 2 of the Ke-wau-nau Nature Trail Paving and Enhancement work that joined the trail to the Kirkwood College Regional Center on Lexington Boulevard.

The agreement provides for up to 80% reimbursement of the cost.

In other business, the board: Received a report, via teleconference, from Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA Waste Management, noting that so far, things at the county's recycling and solid waste center are "OK."

However, there are concerns for workers handling waste materials, a number of vendors are not accepting re-

cycling items, and a concern about landfills accepting solid waste.

Approved a Class C Native Wine license for Revassur Winery of Ainsworth to include living quarters, outdoor service and Sunday sales.

Discussed what options there are to meeting federal guidelines and mandates in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, but still meeting residents' needs for service.

It was stressed that residents can call the county facilities for information, especially Emergency Management service and the county Public Health. Both departments are coordinating services.

However, Public Health Director Danielle Pettit-Majewski stressed that no information can be given about infected individuals, that to do so would violate federal HIPPS regulations.

State extends primary absentee voting period

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate extended the absentee voting period to 40 days for Iowans who choose to vote by mail in the June 2 primary election.

As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pate encourages Iowans to cast ballots by mail. The change allows voters more time to mail ballots and county auditors a longer window for processing ballots.

Absentee balloting reduces the risk of community spread of the COVID-19 virus, noted Pate.

Polling places for those who prefer casting ballots in-person on Election Day will still be available. However, some polling locations are likely to be combined.

Voters should check with the county auditor's office regarding their absentee voting location on Election Day.

Curb-side voting, as always,

is an option for citizens with disabilities and those who might have difficulty entering a polling place.

This option will also be available in the June primary to voters who are in the high-risk population for the coronavirus.

The absentee voting period for mailed ballots for the June 2 primary starts April 23 and ends May 22. However, voters may submit an absentee ballot request immediately.

In Washington County, voters must complete and mail an absentee ballot request to the Washington County Auditor, P.O. Box 889, Washington IA 52353.

Absentee ballot request forms can be downloaded from the Iowa Secretary of State's website, the Washington County website or by contacting the auditor's office.

SKADEN/Continued from Page 1A

(change) would be moving from a card catalog in drawers to getting the catalog online," she said. "It took months to get all of the information into a format that could be on a computer."

She has also seen a change in the library's role in the community.

"The next biggest change is the role of libraries emphasis on more programs and more of a community center," she said.

Skaden said she is proud to have had a hand in one of the library's significant milestones - getting the new library building built in 2005.

"It took about 10 years to work through all the steps that were involved in getting a new library," she said. "Everything seemed to come together at the right time - every person that helped contributed their unique talents and the final re-

sult is a library the community can be proud of."

She said the way everyone came together for that project is a reflection of the quality people at the library and throughout the community.

"My good fortune was working with so many high quality people as staff, board members, foundation, friends members and city employees," she said. "As they say, 'It takes a village.'"

Skaden's favorite part of her work, though, has been working with people.

"My favorite part has been the people," she said. "Helping patrons and working with a committed group of people, whether they are on the board, foundation, friends group or staff."

"The people and all my connections to them is what I'll miss the most."

Slabaugh said that Skaden is leaving the library in good hands, with staff members Trevor Sherping and Olivia Kahler taking over as co-directors upon Skaden's retirement.

"While her leadership will be missed at the library, she has assembled a strong staff team at the library which will continue to provide exceptional library service to our community," he said.

As for what's next for Skaden, she hopes to do some traveling.

"Eventually, we plan to travel the national parks and forests of the U.S., and visit our far flung kids, friends and relatives," she said.

On Tuesday afternoon, Skaden was treated to a surprise parade of well-wishers driving by the library to show their appreciation for her years of service to the community.

PARADE/Continued from Page 1A

nurse at Mid-Prairie Middle School and West Elementary. "Our kids are going to get to see us, and we get to see them. It's just good connections."

Leslie Duvall, a preschool associate at West Elementary, said, "I think it's very important to keep in contact with the kids. They are as much our family as we are theirs."

Mid-Prairie East Elementary Principal Robin Foster said everyone is missing their students.

"At this point, we're doing what we can to see some

familiar faces, especially the students that we miss greatly right now," Foster said. "We hope they miss us as much as we miss them. We're used to seeing them for seven or eight hours a day. We miss them terribly."

Lori Miller, who teaches preschool at West Elementary, said, "It's very exciting. I can't wait to see the kids. We get to see staff too."

Mid-Prairie Middle School Principal Marc Pennington said that the parade was good for teachers and students alike.

"Just to get out and see people, see the kids and see the families. It's kind of energizing for everybody," Pennington said. "This could be a long haul, so I think to be able to see everybody on this beautiful night and see their smiling faces; it's a pretty big deal for us. I think it's a win-win-win deal for everyone."

Another parade is planned for 6 p.m., Wednesday in Wellman and West Chester.

Kalona council sets annexation hearings

BY JAMES JENNINGS
The News
KALONA

The city of Kalona is moving forward with the annexation of the former Shiloh church property south of city limits.

The City Council scheduled two public hearings on the voluntary annexation: The first on April 6 and the second on April 13.

"We're still up in the air for the (April 6) meeting whether it will be in-person or on Zoom," City Administrator Ryan Schlabach said.

Zoom is a videoconferencing program that several entities have been using to conduct public meetings during the COVID-19 crisis.

Schlabach said that the council will take no official action at the April 6 meeting.

"It's just to hear public comments," he said. "People can weigh in on the pros and cons of annexation."

The council may take action following the April 13 hearing, however.

The proposed annexation includes the former Shiloh property, parts of Marilyn Farms and property owned by Larry and Evelyn Hersberger.

In all, about 600 acres of land would be brought into the city limits.

Also included in the annexation is 2.16 acres of city-owned land that abuts the city's northern corporate limit.

Schlabach said that the

land is part of a purchase the city made a while back that will be used for flood mitigation purposes.

Last week, the Washington County Board of Supervisors gave its stamp of approval for the annexation, issuing a letter of support.

The former church property will be developed into single- and multi-family residential dwellings and rebranded as the Southtown Area of Kalona.

The city of Kalona is also working with the developer to set aside acreage for recreational use.

Schlabach said that the city would work with the Washington County Conservation Board to manage the recreational land.

could route around it."

Wagner noted that Alliant is not as reliant on customers calling the electric company these days when the power goes out. The smart meters the company has installed throughout the area instantaneously notify Alliant when power goes out.



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PAGE 10A | THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

THE NEWS

LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT



TRACI ZAHRADEK

Fire stations throughout the area opened their doors and turned on their emergency lights on March 25 at 7 p.m. as a sign of strength and hope for all. The Kalona fire station (above) lit up Fifth Avenue with its lights.

Kalona offers Kalona Kash to active kids

The city of Kalona has come up with a way to keep children active – and pay them to do so. Until April 12, the city is sponsoring “Happy, Healthy and Productive.”

“We want everyone to stay positive and active while on break,” City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh said. “To encourage kids to stay motivated, the city of Kalona is offering \$5 in Kalona Kash for children that can complete some simple, fun activities.”

Kalona Kash is offered by the Kalona Area Chamber of Commerce and can be used at selected businesses around the city.

Tasks include:

- Reading at least 100 minutes a week. Check the Kalona Library Facebook page for storytime, craft or story walk.
- Exercise. The Kalona YMCA has created home workout videos that can be viewed online.
- Doing chores around the house.

A new form is available each week go to <https://bit.ly/KalonaWeek1> to download the form.

The program runs until April 12 or until allocated funds run out. The Kalona Kash certificates will be mailed within five to 10 days of the form submission.

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT



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After 45 minutes, a Slurpee from Casey's, a malt from Yotty's, one traffic jam and almost taking out one mailbox, Adlei Marek, 7, and Kassidi Marek, 5, completed their Kalona bear hunt along with Grandma Marek.

ONLINE GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

School boards

• Mid-Prairie school board: Second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. Will be using Zoom for meetings. Information for connecting will be available April 6.

• Highland school board: Second Mondays at 6 p.m. Connect with Zoom, [zoom.us/j/2772534392](https://us/j/2772534392).

• Lone Tree school board: Second Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Connect with Zoom, [zoom.us/j/967798323](https://us/j/967798323).

City councils

• Kalona City Council: First and third Mondays at 7 p.m. The city has set up a conference call line for residents to participate. 319-656-2663, access code, 447334. The city will update its website for any council and committee meetings and how best the public can participate.

• Wellman City Council:

First and third Mondays at 6 p.m. A conference call line will be set up. Call 978-990-5000 and use access code 633755.

• Riverside City Council: First and third Mondays at 6 p.m. All meetings are televised on the city's website, [riversidelowa.gov](https://www.riversidelowa.gov).

• Lone Tree City Council: First Monday at 5:30 p.m. The city has set up a conference call line for residents to participate, 978-990-5000, access code, 156591.

Boards of supervisors

• Washington County Board of Supervisors: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Meetings on Zoom, ID 726 335 628, pass code 800802. Telephone access 312-26-6799.

• Johnson County Board of Supervisors: Thursdays at 9 a.m., except second Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Online at johnsoncountyia.lqm2.com. Telephone access 319-688-8013.



JAMES JENNINGS/THE NEWS

A giant teddy bear was seen atop a horse at Mid-Prairie Superintendent Mark Schneider's home north of Wellman on Thursday afternoon. At right, Mona, Reuben and Oliver Landes show off the bears that are decorating their front yard on K Avenue in Kalona. Mom Amy said they took a drive around the city and spotted more than 100 bears in windows.



JIM JOHNSON/THE NEWS

**West Chester First Responders
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COVID-19 shows critical role of agriculture

The global COVID-19 pandemic has clearly brought into focus the critical role those in food and agriculture play in the economy and our nation's security. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue reiterated that message on National Ag Day earlier this week.

"We know that food is essential all year round, but in the face of a pandemic it's critical that shelves remain stocked and supplies remain plentiful," Perdue said in a call with stakeholders. "That gives people confidence and courage and hope for the future."

Farmers and those up and down the supply chain have been living the U.S. Department of Agriculture's motto: "Do right and feed everybody," Perdue said.

"Folks that work the ground and grow the cattle and those that process it and deliver to retail customers, ... you're the ones that really feed everyone," Perdue said.

When Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) board treasurer Dave Walton saw the COVID-19 situation becoming serious a few weeks ago, he spent some time thinking about strategy.

"The farm is continuing to operate normal as possible," said Walton, a grain and livestock farmer from Wilton.

Through the grain and livestock markets have taken a hit due to the pandemic and other



JIM JOHNSON/THE NEWS

Farmers load a trailer with corn from a field south of Johnson-Washington Road.

factors, Walton said he feels comfortable with his plan.

"We're feeding cattle slower to market later and hopefully get past the worst of this," he said.

The bulk of his 2019 and 2020 crops have been hedged, providing protection from most of the market downturns.

Perdue acknowledged that the food supply chain is coming together in innovative ways to serve its customers.

The Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty, McLane Global and PepsiCo this week

began its distribution of nearly 1 million meals to students in rural areas.

This came as the result of flexibilities announced by the USDA to allow meal service during school closures to minimize potential exposure to the coronavirus. During an unexpected school closure, schools can leverage their participation in one of USDA's summer meal programs to provide meals at no cost to students, according to Perdue.

Late last week, the food and agriculture sector was clas-

sified as one of 16 essential critical infrastructure workers amid COVID-19. This designation allows working in these critical sectors to continue working during periods of community restriction, access management, social distancing or closure orders and directives.

"The designation of the food and ag sector as essential was a statement of the obvious, but it does mean that we won't be impeded from doing business," Walton said.

The business disruptions

44

Folks that work the ground and grow the cattle and those that process it and transport it and deliver to retail customers, ... you're the ones that really feed everyone."

Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture

associated with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Walton family personally. Walton's wife, Paula, is co-owner and operator of a salon in Wilton. In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, salons were shut down.

Walton hopes planting season can run as normal as possible this year. He's heard from equipment and parts dealers regarding business continuity during this time. Sales and service personnel are still available by phone or, if necessary, at the farm—following the recommended social distancing measures.

"We hope this passes soon, and we can all get back to our sense of normal," Walton said.

DNR eases rules during COVID-19 outbreak

BY PERRY BEEMAN
IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH
DES MOINES

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has eased a range of environmental regulations and application deadlines through at least April 30 in response to Gov. Kim Reynolds' emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

DNR will suspend fines for violations of various regulations, allow farmers to house extra hogs in barns if needed, extend deadlines for permit applications for many programs and delay license revocations.

The department reserves the right to take enforcement action "for conduct that endangers Iowa's natural resources or the public's health and welfare," DNR Director Kayla Lyon wrote in a memo made public Friday.

The memo was co-signed by V. Joyce Flinn, director of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

"The department is attempting to provide some regulatory relief and to mitigate the economic effects of business closings and social distancing standards necessary to protect the public's health," Lyon and Flinn wrote.

The temporary approach is "an attempt to balance the need to protect and maintain Iowa's natural resources against the

need to protect people from infection."

The protocol could be amended or extended.

Among other temporary changes:

- Municipal landfills can accept yard wastes if necessary due to limited staffing. Typically, yard wastes are banned in landfills.

- Farmers who double-stock hog confinements will need to revise their manure management plans. Hog producers will have 60 days after county of-

fices reopen to get required signatures on their plan amendments or construction design statements.

- Deadlines for stack testing required by a range of air quality programs will be extended until 45 days after the DNR protocol expires.

- Public water supplies will have until July 1, instead of April 1, to file required annual "public confidence reports." Water plants must continue to meet health-based water quality standards.



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Farmers promote soybeans on trade mission

Ask any brand about the importance of marketing, and they'll promptly reply that understanding the needs and wants of the customer is the first and most essential step to making a sale.

That surely holds true for soybeans.

Despite a recent thawing of trade friction with China, U.S. soybean exports to the world's top buyer continue to languish. Increasing America's share of soybean exports to developing countries, therefore, is mandatory.

I recently joined several soybean farmers – including the president and president-elect of the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) – for a U.S. soy trade mission to Bangladesh and Pakistan. The conversations with key soybean buyers, feed mill operators, association leaders and trade representatives will foster relationships and build brand identity.

The result, we hope, is better pricing opportunities for U.S. soybean farmers in the near-term and a deepening preference for U.S. soy among more buyers long-term.

It takes time and effort to travel to places like Dhaka, Bangladesh; and Karachi, La-



Kirk Leeds
Soybean Association

hore; and Islamabad, Pakistan. But earning trust and developing long-term relationships don't happen with phone calls, emails and text messages. Meeting face-to-face is how you build loyalty.

We may be buying and selling soybeans, but never forget that every transaction begins with knowing and valuing the people involved and connecting with them on a personal level.

Bangladesh and Pakistan, with a combined population of nearly 400 million (75 million more than the United States), are strategic locations to market soybeans. The political and social environments of both developing countries are stabilizing.

The hard-working and friendly people of both countries are slowly ascending the economic ladder. More purchasing power results in greater consumption of protein, including poultry, fish, dairy and

beef.

And soybeans, particularly those grown in the U.S., are an important feed ingredient for chickens, layers, tilapia, butter catfish, shrimp and cattle.

Connecting these dots and identifying emerging markets that have potential for increased soybean consumption has never been more important. Trade disruption with China has hit U.S. farmers hard. The market price of a bushel of soybeans has declined nearly \$2.50 since April 2018.

The soybean farmers I serve are struggling. Assistance from the federal government has restored some of the lost income due to the trade war. But the economic pain remains real and widespread across most sectors of American agriculture. Rural communities sustained largely by crop and livestock production have also been hard hit.

That said, the unresolved trade dispute between the world's two largest economies has pushed U.S. soybeans onto the world market in an unprecedented way. One panamax vessel of soybeans is not enough to change mindsets, but after a few months and

then years of sales, you've established your brand. To make that happen, building strong ties between the grower, buyer and user is a must.

Take Pakistan, for example. The country imports nearly 2.4 million metric tons of soybeans, or around 80-90 million bushels. A conservative estimate pegs that total to increase by 38 million bushels within next three to four years.

With some changes in government policy (eliminating a 14% duty on soybean meal, for example), the Pakistanis we visited with during our trade mission believe soybean imports could double from their current level.

I've participated in more than 40 trade missions during my time as CEO of the ISA. Each one is unique and offers key takeaways that influence how ISA approaches its market development activities.

My visits to Bangladesh and Pakistan make me truly optimistic about the market potential for U.S. soy. Key drivers are the country's growing metropolitan areas, rapid adoption of technology, a focus by feed nutritionists on sourcing quality ingredients and prospects for increased protein consump-

tion.

Also boding well for U.S. farmers is a deep appreciation by the buyers we met with in the personal exchange of ideas and arriving at mutually beneficial outcomes in every business dealing.

While U.S. soy's brand is strong in South Asia, now is not the time to coast. We must grow and deliver a consistent product high in nutritional quality. And we must make time to travel half a world away to shake the hands of our customers, discuss their needs and concerns and enjoy dinner together where we can share pictures and stories of families, hobbies and interests.

While we can't control government actions and inactions, weather, market volatility or the value of the U.S. dollar, we can directly influence relationships with others. Behind every good brand are people who care about people.

ISA is driven to deliver because we understand and relish this fundamental principle of doing business, including with our new friends in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Kirk Leeds serves as chief executive officer of the Iowa Soybean Association.

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How farmers are using drones

Following are examples of how agricultural drones change the ways modern farmers conduct business.

Monitor crops: According to SenseFly, the commercial drone subsidiary of Parrot Group, drones can help farm-

ers effectively monitor their crops. With a drone flying overhead, farmers can spot and quickly identify issues affecting their crops before those issues escalate into something larger.

Soil analysis: Another po-

tential benefit of agricultural drones highlights their role in analyzing soil. Agricultural drones utilize complex mapping functions to gather data about the soil, including areas where it might be stressed. That enables farmers to develop accurate soil samples that can be used to guide decisions in regard to irrigation and fertilization.

Reduce waste: SenseFly notes that data gathered by drones can help farmers determine the vigor of their crops at various stages of growth. Such information can prevent over-fertilization and overwatering, thereby reducing waste and runoff, benefitting the planet as a result.

Planning: Drones can be used to collect data on crop growth and health at various times throughout the growing season. That can help farmers develop accurate predictions regarding harvest quality and crop yield, making it easier for them to plan ahead.

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Create a farm shop safety checklist to avoid future injuries

Potential for injury is found in most farm shops. Take time to recognize them.

Dennis Murphy, professor emeritus at the Penn State University agricultural safety and health program, says hazards often differ according to shop size.

"Many smaller shops don't have the kind of organizing and storage resources found in larger shops," Murphy said. "When there's less room in walking aisles, there's greater risk of tripping over things like electrical cords. It's also common to see more extension cords in smaller shops where electrical outlets are limited."

Many times, small farm shops are housed in aging buildings where electrical wiring may have deteriorated or is no longer adequate for electrical needs.

Wiring may have also been installed by someone lacking some important electrical wiring experience.

In a setting like this, electrical shocks are more likely to occur and potential for an electrical fire is greater.



Regularly completing a safety checklist in the farm shop can help identify safety issues.

"Many small farm shops don't have a fire extinguisher," Murphy said. "That's a critical piece of equipment if a fire occurs."

Air tank hoses often lie on the floor of smaller farm shops. Their presence greatly increases the chances that someone will trip and fall.

Lighting is often insufficient and dim, multiplying the risk of many other hazards.

While some standard hazards pose a lower risk in a newer and larger farm shop, the expanded space allows for activities such as arc welding that can pose additional risks.

When shop doors are closed

and engines are running inside the shop, carbon monoxide fumes pose a serious threat to anyone in the shop.

Equipment noise, especially noise from multiple pieces of machinery, can also cause hearing damage.

Regularly completing a safety checklist in the farm shop

can help identify safety issues related to electricity, lighting, unsafe storage, etc.

Establishing a time for the inspection can help ensure it's completed.

"The most opportune time is generally in winter months," Murphy said. "If it isn't completed then, it could be set up as a task to take care of during a rainy day in spring or before harvest."

"Depending on the condition of the shop, it may require more than one day to look for and correct the safety issues."

Some questions to review during an inspection:

- Are electrical cords undamaged?
- Is an appropriate fire extinguisher present and operable?
- Is a fully supplied first aid kit available?
- Are guards and shields in place on all equipment.
- Are walkways clear of debris?
- Are chemicals stored in a locked cabinet?

COVID-19 gets China market off to rocky start this year

The year is off to a rocky start with the outbreak of the novel coronavirus bringing economies to a standstill. During Chinese New Year – one of China's economic high points – the world's second-largest economy was hit by stagnant production, disrupted supply chains and trade, and weakened demand and consumer confidence.

Like many other industries, the agricultural and food industries were significantly disrupted by reduced demand, logistics interruptions, absent labor, travel restrictions, and imposed- and self-quarantines. Examples of the economic impact include:

Farmers' incomes took a hit, as costs of inputs increased due to a continuous shortage of raw material and import products, along with depressed demand for produce and commodities. The impact could last until next season and may suppress continued demand for farm inputs.

Feed mills, slaughterhouses, processing plants, and distribution centers operated below capacity. Roadblocks impeded feed transportation in many regions. Livestock farms delayed production or suspended replenishment to deal

with the situation. Despite the decreasing impact of African swine fever, spread of the virus put a drag on hog herd rebuilding.

Feed consumption is expected to undergo a sizeable drop during the first quarter of 2020, lowering demand for feed

grains and soymeal.

With 75% of mainland food-service companies having suspended operations for nearly two months, China's consumption of edible oil and meat in the sector were greatly affected. Retail sales of these food products continue to remain

strong as consumers stock up food at home. China's fast-growing e-commerce and food delivery service helped mitigate some of the losses from the food service sector.

Pork demand was affected to a lesser extent, despite sales declines in food service. Pork

has been the primary meat of China's at-home cooking, while beef, lamb and seafood are mostly consumed when dining out. On the supply side, pork production is significantly lower due to the slowdown in restocking. Pork prices set a new record high in February.

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Are backyard chickens right for your lifestyle?

Raising backyard chickens has been a growing phenomenon for several years. Many cities have passed laws legalizing backyard chickens, encouraging many to raise chickens as a rewarding hobby.

One of the biggest benefits to raising backyard chickens is that their eggs are fresher and often tastier than store-bought varieties. Hens can lay one egg per day. Multiply that egg per hen, and breakfast is always available.

Another benefit to chickens is they produce a natural fertilizer that can be used in gardens. "The Old Farmer's Almanac" says chicken manure can be composted, aged and eventually added to the garden.

In about six months, a person will accumulate about one cubic foot of manure per chicken. Egg shells and other compostable material can be added to create an even richer formula.

Chickens also can help control bugs around the yard, offers the experts at Tractor Supply Company.

Before investing in backyard chickens, people should

determine if chickens will fit with their lifestyle. Costs and care are a big consideration.

Each chick will cost anywhere between \$3 to \$5 a bird. Then there's feed to consider. The most expensive item will likely be the coop.

The experts at The Happy Chicken Coop, a resource for raising chickens and starting coops, says handy men and women can build homemade coops, but ready-made ones will cost a few hundred dollars. The coop will need to offer around 4 square feet of space per chicken (or what's recommended for the breed).

Despite being seemingly independent birds, chickens need people to be active caregivers. They require feed and water daily. The chickens will need a caregiver while you vacation. People who are frequently away from home should reconsider chickens.

Chickens also are prone to worms, parasites and lice. They need to have rear feathers trimmed to stay clean and sanitary, and they will require an area where they can "dust" and self-groom. The Centers for



METRO CREATIVE SERVICES
Raising chickens can be a very rewarding hobby.

Disease Control and Prevention advises not to cuddle and kiss chickens like pets because they can carry salmonella.

Not every coop is completely varmint-proof, and some chickens may succumb to predators. Squeamish or sentimental folks may find chickens aren't the right fit.

Chickens require commitment and care that many people can provide. It is essential to do one's homework to ensure that backyard chickens are a sound investment.

USDA launches new pilot conservation program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a new pilot program that enables farmers in the Prairie Pothole region to receive payments for planting perennial cover for conservation use for three to five years.

The new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIP) pilot is available to producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The sign-up for this pilot started March 30 and ends Aug. 21.

"We are excited to provide a short-term Conservation Reserve Program option tailored to the unique soil health needs of producers in the Prairie Pothole region," said FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce. "The number of acres that can be enrolled in the program are limited, and participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested landowners should act now by contacting their FSA county office for an

appointment to apply."

Through SHIP, producers have the option of three, four- or five-year CRP contracts to establish perennial cover on less productive cropland in exchange for payments.

This pilot enables producers to plant perennial crops that, among other benefits, will improve soil health and water quality while having the option to harvest, hay and graze during certain times of the year. Up to 50,000 acres can be enrolled.

The SHIP pilot is the latest option in a full suite of opportunities available to producers through CRP and other conservation programs offered by USDA.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to talk to their FSA county office soon about whether this pilot fits their operation or consider another longer-term option.

For more information, see the fact sheet or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp and contact your local office.

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State waives pesticide applicator deadline

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced today that the deadline for pesticide applicators to renew their certifications has been waived by a proclamation signed by Gov. Kim Reynolds on March 22.

Iowans who were certified through Dec. 31, 2019, can retain their status and now have until Dec. 31, 2020, to submit the testing or training required to renew a pesticide applicator certification.

"I want to thank Gov. Reynolds for working with the department to find a solution that allows our farmers and agribusinesses to continue operating while upholding the pesticide testing and certification standards in our state," said Naig. "Agriculture is a critical part of our state's infrastructure. We will continue supporting the agriculture community to prevent supply chain interruptions during this unprecedented situation."

This waiver comes after the department canceled its in-person testing sessions through March 31, based on social distancing recommendations from the CDC.

Applicators still need to meet pesticide certification standards by Dec. 31, 2020. They are encouraged to apply for recertification upon completion of the testing or training requirements.

More details are available at iowaagriculture.gov/covid-19.

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JOHNSON COUNTY

FROM PAGE 6B

disasters; acquisition of peace officer and emergency communication equipment; and funding programs to assist in providing affordable housing (the "Essential County Purposes").

Whereas, Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.442 also authorize counties to enter into loan agreements and borrow money for the purposes of acquiring vehicles and equipment for various County departments; and

Whereas, the Board of Supervisors (the "Board") of Johnson County, Iowa (the "County"), has proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "Essential County Purposes Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$14,647,600, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of the Essential County Purposes set out above, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "HHS Building Improvements Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$555,000, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of carrying out renovations and making improvements to the Courthouse, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement

(the "County Building Improvements and Equipment Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$470,000, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of improvements and acquisition of equipment for use in County buildings, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "Information Technology Equipment Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$728,500, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of making improvements to and acquiring information technology equipment for County buildings, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "Construction Department Building Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$700,000, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of constructing a northern operations shop, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "County Sheriff Vehicles Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$300,000, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring vehicles for the County Sheriff, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement

posed to enter into a loan agreement (the "County Sheriff Equipment Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$34,200, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring equipment for the County Sheriff, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "Ambulance Vehicle Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$290,000, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring a vehicle for the Ambulance Department, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "SEATS Vehicles and Equipment Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$32,300, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring equipment for the Ambulance Department, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "County Sheriff Vehicles Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$180,400, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring vehicles for the SEATS operation, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement

held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020, and no petition has been filed asking for the question of entering into the SEATS Vehicles and Equipment Loan Agreement to be submitted to the registered voters of the County; and

Whereas, the Board has also proposed to enter into a loan agreement (the "County Sheriff Vehicles Loan Agreement") in a principal amount not to exceed \$227,000, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 331.402, 331.441 and 331.443 of the Code of Iowa, for the purpose of paying the cost, to that extent, of acquiring vehicles for various County departments, and has published notice of the proposed action and has held a hearing thereon on March 9, 2020; and

Whereas, the Essential County Purposes Loan Agreement, the County Building Loan Agreement, the County Building Improvements and Equipment Loan Agreement, the Information Technology Equipment Loan Agreement, the Construction Department Building Loan Agreement, the County Sheriff Vehicles Loan Agreement, the County Sheriff Equipment Loan Agreement, the Ambulance Vehicle Loan Agreement, the SEATS Vehicles and Equipment Loan Agreement, and the County Vehicles Loan Agreement are hereby referred to collectively as the "2020 Loan Agreement"; and

Whereas, it is necessary at this time for the Board to express its intent to authorize the 2020 Loan Agreement and the Board has resolved to express its intent to issue General Obligation County Purpose Bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$18,690,000, (the "Bonds") in the future in evidence of the obligation of the County under the 2020 Loan Agreement; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Johnson County, Iowa, as follows:

Section 1. The Board hereby expresses its intention to enter into the 2020 Loan Agreement and the issue of the Bonds in the future, in a principal amount not to exceed \$18,690,000, and the Board hereby declares that the resolution constitutes the additional ac-

tion required by Section 331.402 of the Code of Iowa.

Section 2. All resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Motion by Porter, second by Heiden, to approve Resolution 03-19-20-04.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-19-20-05
APPROVING 28E AGREEMENT WITH IOWA CITY NORTH LIBERTY AND CORALLVILLE REGARDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH URGENT CARE CENTER

Whereas, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors ("Johnson County") approved construction of a Facility to establish a behavioral health urgent care center, (hereinafter referred to as "GuideLink Center") and a low barrier winter shelter space for persons experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year; and

Whereas, Johnson County and the cities of Iowa City, North Liberty and Corallville seek to enter into an agreement to document the contributions to be made by the cities toward the cost of construction of the Facility and to set forth the scope of the parties' respective roles regarding the ongoing operation and maintenance of the Facility; and

Whereas, the specific details of the Agreement are set forth in the 28E Agreement titled "Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center 28E Agreement" and two attachments to said agreement.

Now therefore, the Board of Supervisors approve and authorize the Chairperson of the Board to sign the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center 28E Agreement considered by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors on March 19, 2020.

Motion by Heiden, second by Green-Douglas, to approve Resolution 03-19-20-05.

Adjourned to Informal Meeting at 10:21 a.m.

/s/ Rod Sullivan, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest: Travis Weipert, Auditor

Recorded by Nancy Tomkowiak

These minutes were sent for formal approval and publication on March 26, 2020.

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THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FORMAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2020

Chairperson Sullivan called the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to order in the Johnson County Administration Building Boardroom at 9:02 a.m.

Present: Lisa Green-Douglas, Pat Heiden, Royceann Porter, Janelle Rettig, and Rod Sullivan.

Sullivan read the following statement aloud: In seeking to adhere to Governor Reynolds' State of Public Health Disaster Emergency Proclamation related to COVID-19 Community Spread Mitigation, members of the public are encouraged to join this meeting in one of two ways. You can use your computer to listen to the live meeting through an internet connection by entering johnsoncountyia.zoom.us/j/3193566000 into your browser, or join telephonically by dialing (319)688-8013 five minutes prior to, or during the meeting to join via conference call.

Public comments related to any matter on the meeting agenda can also be emailed to sups@co.johnsonia.us or relayed via telephone at (319)356-6000 for distribution to Board members before and during this meeting.

County Attorney Janet Lyness said if people show up to the County Administration Building with the purpose of attending this meeting, they will be allowed into the building and there will be someone at the door to let the public in for the meeting or they can call the Board of Supervisors Office at 356-6000 to be let in. Physical attendance

is discouraged out of concern for having too many people gathered in one place but it is available if persons have other option for attending the meeting.

Sullivan said the disaster emergency declaration by Governor Reynolds was made March 9, 2020 and the effective date of this proposed Johnson County Declaration of Public Health Disaster Emergency currently is March 9.

Emergency Management Coordinator Dave Wilson said the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared the public health emergency on January 31, 2020. Iowa has its first case on March 8, which is the date on which Johnson County Emergency Management and Public Health started its reaction and response. President Donald Trump signed the Stafford Act well after the declaration and it was made retroactive.

Wilson said that from a Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement perspective, Johnson County's Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration should show that we started our response on the first day that we reported its first case and that Johnson County response to the virus began.

County Attorney Janet Lyness said she approves amending the last paragraph of the declaration to read "March 8 instead of March 9."

JOHNSON COUNTY DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY

Whereas, the World Health Organization has reported an outbreak of tens of thousands of cases and thousands of deaths associated with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), a communicable respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus now spreading in multiple

countries across the globe; and

Whereas, on January 31, 2020 the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a national public health emergency related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

Whereas, on March 9, 2020 the Governor of the State of Iowa, Kim Reynolds, signed a proclamation of disaster emergency for the entire State of Iowa based on the increasing number of persons in the State of Iowa testing positive for COVID-19; and

Whereas, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States signed an emergency disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974, authorizing emergency response measures in all fifty states in response to COVID-19; and

Whereas, as of March 15, 2020, the Iowa Department of Public Health has confirmed first Johnson County case of COVID-19 with no known exposure, suggesting community circulation of the virus in the county, or what has been referred to as "community spread"; and

The identification of community spread is an important indicator of increasing risk to the health and safety of the population of Johnson County caused by COVID-19; and

Whereas, as of March 17, 2020, the overwhelming number of persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 in State of Iowa have been residents of Johnson County; and

Whereas, the Iowa Code Section 135.140 defines a public health disaster as a disaster which specifically involves imminent threat of an illness that poses a high probability of wide-

spread exposure to an infectious agent that poses a significant risk of future harm to a large number of the affected population; and

Whereas, all available information indicates that COVID-19 currently poses a substantial wide spread risk of infection leading to a significant risk of harm to the population of Johnson County; and

Whereas, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors and the Johnson County Emergency Management Commission recognize the need to access local, state and federal resources to timely and appropriately address the imminent threat of COVID-19 to the population of Johnson County; and

Now Therefore, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors and the Johnson County Emergency Management Commission hereby declare the emergency and spread of COVID-19 in Johnson County a public health disaster case of state of disaster emergency, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.301, and a Civil Emergency as used in Chapter 29C and 4-4 of the Code of Ordinances of Johnson County (2013).

In order to enable the deployment of emergency aid to any needed available resources, invoke mutual aid agreements, receive assistance from other jurisdictions, from other agencies and levels of government, and make application to the State of Iowa for individual assistance programs; and

In order to exercise any other local powers or mutual aid to include IMAC and EMAC agreements as may be needed to protect life and critical infrastructure as a result of this Emergency that is ongoing, in all cases consistent with Iowa Code Chapter 29C; and

Pay App No. 1 for Maxwell Construction in the amount of \$178,150.62, regarding the East Side Sanitary Sewer and Main Improvement Project; and

Motion was made by Spitzer, and seconded by J. Schmidt, to approve the motion, with all voting yes. The motion carried.

Mayor Mark Robe Read Proclamation making April 2, 2020 Junior Achievement Day in Kalona.

Consideration of Sharon Hill Cemetery Deed for Kevin Reese, and a Deed for Janice or James Truesell. Motion was made by Spitzer, and seconded by J. Schmidt, to approve the motion, with all voting yes. The motion carried.

Discussion of Law Enforcement Contract with Washington County for fiscal year 2020-2021. The fiscal year amount is \$139,426.00, that includes the additional deputy in northern Washington County to be paid in quarterly installments. Motion was made by Spitzer, and seconded by J. Schmidt, to approve the motion, with all voting yes.

Consideration of Law Enforcement Contract with Washington County for fiscal year 2020-2021. The fiscal year amount is \$139,426.00, that includes the additional deputy in northern Washington County to be paid in quarterly installments. Motion was made by Spitzer, and seconded by J. Schmidt, to approve the motion, with all voting yes.

Consideration of Law Enforcement Contract with Washington County for fiscal year 2020-2021. The fiscal year amount is \$139,426.00, that includes the additional deputy in northern Washington County to be paid in quarterly installments. Motion was made by Spitzer, and seconded by J. Schmidt, to approve the motion, with all voting yes.

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