

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, July 10, 2020 | 9 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 136



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## HTC to mask up at restart

**STRONGLY ENCOURAGED:**  
Administrators believe masks will ensure safety for students, staff

BY KATIE SCOVILLE  
Pen City Current

LEE COUNTY – Going back to school is supposed to be simple. You gather your pens, pencils, and notebooks, dig your backpack out of storage, and prepare for the easy school year ahead. In the wake of COVID-19, however, school has become anything but simple.

The desks are now 6 ft. apart, students are strongly encouraged to wear masks, and frequently washing your hands has become more important than ever- this is the new normal.

We've seen the changes made at the college level, but how would a smaller school such as Holy Trinity respond to the virus?

Michael Sheerin, principal at Holy Trinity Elementary and Chief Administration Officer, said the priority has to be to keep students and staff safe and healthy.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Holy Trinity Catholic students and staff will be strongly encouraged to wear masks when school reboots in August.

Masks will be strongly encouraged. However, Sheerin said everyone should be wearing masks while at school to ensure on-site learning can continue.

"First, I want to stress the importance of wearing masks. Our entire staff, from custodians to teachers, has to wear masks. Without them, our school won't be able to run. We can't continue school if our teachers are sick."

Holy Trinity is dedicated to complying with every guideline given

from the State, he said,

Masks will be strongly recommended and provided by both schools. Masks and increased distance in classrooms will be crucial to keep both schools running safely. Also, the custodial staff will be cleaning more frequently, students will have access to hand sanitizing stations, and temperature checks will be administered daily.

Holy Trinity has formulated three

See MASKS, page 5

### FUNDRAISER

## SIRRC grant puts group's Places to Play at \$86,000

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – A spring 2019 initiative is just \$14,000 short of its \$100,000 goal for funds to improve playground equipment at Pollmiller Park.

The Three Rivers Conservation Foundation received two local grants this spring for the project. The first grant was a \$25,000 grant from the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission (SIRRC), and the second was \$5,000 from the Lee County Charitable Fund.

"We appreciate the support for this park improvement project. Pollmiller Park is the busiest county park that attracts families from across the area. I know that many of our park goers are very excited about this project," said Kayla Schleidt, foundation member and Campground Host at Pollmiller Park.

The foundation has set a fundraising goal of \$100,000 for the playground, and the Lee County Conservation Board has agreed to match all donations up to \$50,000 to help the foundation reach its goal. So far, the group has raised \$43,000 for the project. With the LCCB match, they are up to \$86,000.

In 2019, the group launched a new initiative called the "Places to Play" Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to help LCCB replace playgrounds at various parks within the county. Tom Pollpeter, Foundation President, says "The Foundation has always focused on families and children. We saw the playground project as a great way to encourage more families to get out and enjoy our wonderful county parks."

In addition to these grants, the foundation has also received support

See DONATIONS, page 3

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

## Panel starts to gather cost data on operating ambulance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A panel born out of a contract to subsidize the Lee County EMS Ambulance Inc. operations met for the first time Thursday to look at plans to take over the service in a year.

The committee, approved by the Lee County Board of Supervisors, was formed as part of a contract inked last month between the county and the ambulance service to provide \$900,000 of county funds to offset operating shortfalls.

The committee is chaired by Jim Steffen, an EMS coordinator and



FRAISE

training director for Southeastern Community College and a 30-year paramedic. Dr. Dr. Philip Caropreso, a Keokuk physician serves as vice chair.

The board includes other members of Keokuk, Fort Madison and Lee County first responder services including both city fire chiefs, representatives from the county, both Keokuk and Fort Madison hospitals, and LeeComm.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise sits on the board and said the focus of the group is to make sure the ambulance service is staying afloat and

make a plan to move forward with services after this fiscal year.

Fort Madison Fire Chief Joey Herren said the group has 12 months to get a plan in place for continuation of services at the end of this fiscal year June 30, 2021.

Fraise said in reality, the board has about five months because if the county is going to take over the service on July 1, 2021, it has to be included in the county budget, and that is put together by year's end for approval in the spring.

The group will be meeting bi-weekly and will review Lee

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### WEATHER

FRI 10 Jul.....Sunny, Clear, 81.6° F / 69.0° F  
SAT 11 Jul.....Light Rain, 80.3° F / 66.8° F  
SUN 12 Jul.....Light Rain, Cooler, 73.4° F / 63.5° F

OpenWeatherMap

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 07/08.....7 33 41 45 51, Star Ball: 1, All Star Bonus: 2  
PICK 3 07/08 MIDDAY.....2 9 0  
PICK 3 07/08 EVENING.....6 2 1  
PICK 4 07/08 MIDDAY.....6 8 1 5  
PICK 4 07/08 EVENING.....9 5 2 9  
POWERBALL 07/08.....3 10 34 36 62, Powerball: 5, Power Play: 10

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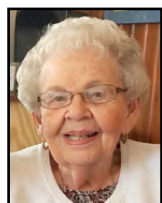


# Obituaries

## OBITUARIES

### DARLENE M. UMTHUN

Darlene Mary Umthun, 96 years, of Fort Madison and formerly of Pilot Grove, Iowa, died Wednesday July 8, 2020 at the Montrose Health Center, Montrose, Iowa. She was born January 13, 1924 at West Point, a daughter of Edward and Irene (Strothman) Boeding. On December 31, 1943 she married Walter J. Umthun at St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church, West Point. He preceded her in death.



UMTHUN

She was a homemaker. She worked for a short time at the Sheaffer Pen Company and later cleaning at J.J. Nichting Company for nine years. She was a member of Holy Family Parish, Catholic Ladies Auxilia-

ry, Fort Madison Senior Citizens, Passport Club, Heritage Club, and the Daughters of Isabella at St. James Church, St. Paul. She and her husband Walter enjoyed traveling together. She also enjoyed embroidering quilts, baking, and her flower gardens.

She is survived by four sons: John (Terri) Umthun and Michael (Terry) Umthun, all of Montrose, and Robert (Sue) Umthun and Steve Umthun, all of Fort Madison; three daughters: Linda (Jerry) Duerfeldt, of Falls City, Nebraska; Peggy (Dennis) DeRosear, of Hamilton, Illinois; and Dr. Julie (Bill) Holtz, of Kearney, Missouri; one brother: Richard "Dick" (Vera) Boeding, of West Point; 21 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, and numerous nieces, neph-

ews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers Lambert, Paul, Charlie, Melvin, Archie, Bill, Harry, and infant brother Robert, and one sister, Rosemary Glasgow.

Cremation services from Barr Memorial Chapel has been her request. A private family Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Family Parish, Sacred Heart Church will be held followed by burial at the St. James Cemetery, St. Paul, Iowa. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish and for St. James Cemetery. Contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Umthun family and an online guest book can be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com).

## OBITUARIES

### MARY M. KOKJOHN

Mary Maxine Kokjohn, age 96, passed away on July 7, 2020 at Fort Madison Community Hospital in Fort Madison, IA.



KOKJOHN

She was born April 8, 1924 in Nauvoo, IL; the daughter of Aloysius and Anna (Haas) Faulkner. She grew up on a farm outside Nauvoo with eight brothers and sisters. She graduated from Ss. Peter and Paul High School. Maxine married Dr. Alfred J. Kokjohn on June 7, 1947 at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Nauvoo, IL. Alfie preceded her in death on August 13, 2003. He said she was the most intelligent person he had ever met.

She was a long time member of Sacred Heart Church, where she volunteered for 20 years. She was

a tenacious woman of high morals who greatly valued tradition, church and family. She was a devout Catholic and a model American. Maxine lived a full life, mentally sharp and physically active until the end. Living in the same dwelling in Fort Madison since 1956, she took responsibility for the majority of the maintenance; mowing the lawn, gardening, shoveling snow and various handyman projects. She was a skilled seamstress, a birdwatcher, a card shark, an avid reader, a crossword puzzle master and an excellent cook and hostess. Maxine was spirited, self-sufficient and resourceful; she was as straightforward with her words as she was generous with her love, time and energy.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and deep circle of friends. She (along with Alfie) was an avid sports fan- holding Iowa Hawkeye football season tickets for 30 years. She orchestrated an annual family March Madness event. She loved watching the Chicago Cubs, the Chicago Bears, Hawkeye Basketball and attended the

games, meets and matches of her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by four sons: Steve (wife Carolyn) Kokjohn of Farmington, IA; Craig (wife Andrea) Kokjohn of Naperville, IL; Brad (wife Robin) Kokjohn of Farmington, IA and Kevin (wife Susan) Kokjohn of Denton, TX; two sisters Anne Eibon of San Antonio, TX and Rosemary Groene of Kansas City, MO; seven granddaughters and two grandsons; seven great-granddaughters and seven great-grandsons. She was also preceded in death by her parents, four sisters and two brothers.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A private family burial will be in Soldier's Circle, Oakland Cemetery in Fort Madison at a date yet to be determined. She was loved by many and her life was well lived. She will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Sacred Heart Church and online condolences may be left at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: [www.kinglynk.com](http://www.kinglynk.com).

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**Welcome (back)**

We are honored to be joined by Dr. Courtney on June 1, after more than three decades of private practice.

Dr. Courtney will be seeing patients at our Fort Madison Family Dentistry West office. Call 319-372-4882 for your appointment.

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## Local News/From the Front

# ‘Mama Knows’ to host ofrenda

FORT MADISON – This Sunday the Mama Knows crew will be building an ofrenda in the pocket park in the 800 block of Avenue G in Fort Madison.

“We are holding this event in solidarity with the LULAC Iowa’s call to honor the life of Vanessa Guillen and highlight the issue of domestic and sexual violence against women,” wrote Domenique Garcia in a release Thursday afternoon.

Ofrenda is Spanish for offering and the group is inviting the community to join in building the live art installation.

The ofrenda consists of the four elements earth, water, fire, and wind and the group asks that offerings be environmentally conscious. They are accepting candles of all sizes, flowers (paper or real), nature items, poems, art, and any photos honoring women who have been affected by domestic and sexual violence.

In true Covid-19 fashion, there will be a table set up for community offerings to be placed that will be incorporated into the display and offering will be accepted Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“At sundown we will light our candles, observe a moment of silence, and document with photos what our community created,” Garcia wrote.

Our community ofrenda will be set up through Monday evening for neighbors to honor and visit. There will be information on action items and resources available onsite.

The group encourages social distancing and a face covering to help the continued effort to keep families and neighbors healthy.

The event is not affiliated with local LULAC council 304.

# State hits 100,000 COVID test

DES MOINES - Today, Test Iowa has hit 100,000 tests conducted since the first test site opened on April 25th, and it is currently the number one source of testing in the state of Iowa. Watch Governor Reynolds’ video message that marks this important milestone here.

“In the face of a global pandemic, we had to be bold, ambitious, and move quickly to launch a comprehensive initiative to combat the spread of COVID19 in Iowa and protect the lives and livelihoods of Iowans,” said Gov. Reynolds. “Test Iowa has not only provided our state with critical testing capacity, but realtime, in-depth data and analysis to inform our response to

the pandemic.”

Through Test Iowa, the state is currently testing more than 3,000 people a day, across 20 Test Iowa drive up and clinic sites. Approximately 21% of all COVID19 tests in Iowa have been through Test Iowa and the program is open to every Iowan who wants to be tested. This statewide effort involves the Iowa Department of Public Health, State Hygienic Lab, Iowa National Guard, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Department of Human Services, Department of Transportation, and local public health officials, emergency managers and health care providers across the state.

“Reaching today’s milestone could not have happened without unprecedented collaboration between state and local government as well as local health care providers,” Gov. Reynolds continued. “Test Iowa’s success puts us in a strong position to continue slowing the spread of COVID19, allowing us to reopen safely and responsibly.”

Individuals who wish to get tested at any site must first complete the online assessment at [testiowa.com](http://testiowa.com). They will then be directed to schedule an appointment. Locations and hours of operation for all test sites can be found at [testiowa.com](http://testiowa.com) or [coronavirus.iowa.gov](http://coronavirus.iowa.gov).

## Conservation board still matching donations

**DONATIONS** - Continued from Page 1

for this project from Ann Menke—CPA, Larry Kelch—Edward Jones, Scott’s Company, Scott Kincaid, Ed & Tammi Kircher, Connection Bank, Catfish Bend Casinos, Iowa Fertilizer Plant, Lee County Bank, Steve Derman, Dennis Osipowicz, Helen Ackerson, Kathy Nelson, Tom Pollpeter, Soroptomist International, Stage 2, Glenn and Mary Van Pelt, Kim Hundt, Philip Caropreso, Kenneth and Angela Rothlauf, Janet Dinkel, Bruce Huddleson, Susan Flockhart, Ben Schlader, Emily Benjamin, and Nathan Unsworth.

For more information on this project or about the Three Rivers Conservation Foundation, please call the Lee County Conservation Office at 319-463-7673.

Those interested in donating to the project can direct their donations to Three Rivers Conservation Foundation 2652 Hwy 61 Montrose, IA 52639. Donations can also be left at the Pollmiller Beach or Pollmiller Campground Kiosk. People can also make donations online at [places-to-play.causevox.com](http://places-to-play.causevox.com).



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# Central Lee wraps regular season with shutout

*Hawks finish 10-1 and will get first round bye going into district play*

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON – Central Lee wrapped up the regular season with a 10-0 six-inning win over Keokuk Wednesday night.

A four-run first was all the Hawks needed to end the regular season on a winning note. The first six hitters reached base led by a Jadon Hawk double to right field scoring two.

With no outs, Evan Pohren would hit a fly ball that would be mishandled by the Chief's center fielder allowing Hawk to come around and score for a 3-0 lead. Adam Boeck was called out on a close play at second trying to tag up. Alex Sandoval would then sacrifice Taylor Eschman on a fly out to center before Keokuk got out of the inning.

TJ Stutes was holding the Chiefs scoreless but allowed runners in each inning, and gave up back-to-back walks in the second before getting a fly out to retire the side. He had the bases loaded in the top of the third with two out, but a line drive out on 3-1 count to left ended the inning strand-

ing all three. Boeck would come on in the top of the fourth to close it out for the Hawks.

Central would add two more runs in the bottom of the fourth. With one out, Stutes walked and Stueker followed with a single to left moving Stutes to third. Hawk would then reach on an infield single scoring Stutes and moving Stueker up to second.

Simmons would make it three in a row with an RBI single to left scoring Stueker. Boeck and Pohren would follow with pop up outs to end the inning with Central in command 6-0.

With the Hawks putting up a run in the seventh on a Boeck RBI single, and Boeck keeping things clean for Central Lee on the mound, the Hawks put the game away in the bottom of the sixth getting three runs invoking the 10-run rule.

Central Lee loaded the bases with one out when Boeck singled in Hawk for a 8-0 lead. Pohren would reach on an error and Alex Sandoval would draw a walk. Kody Sapp the slapped 3-0 count into right field scoring Boeck and Pohren and moving Sandoval to third.

Gus Overstreet would then single to center but Sandoval was held at third, leaving the bases loaded with one out. Stutes would strike out looking before Stueker drew a walk to score the 10th run and end the game.

Hawk was 2 for 4 on the day with a double, 3RBI

and two runs scored, Simmons went 2 for 3, with an RBI and Stueker was 1 for 2, with an RBI and two runs scored. Boeck went 1 for 2, with an RBI and run, Kody Sapp was 1 for 3 with 2 RBI and Overstreet went 1 for 2.

Boeck went three innings without a run on one hit, striking out five. Stutes' line was 3 IP, 3 hits, 1K, 3 BB, and no runs.

For Keokuk, Miller Giesler went 2 for 3, Josh Wills was 1 for 3, and Jordan Sisk went 1 for 3. Wills pitched five innings giving up two runs on six hits and six walks while fanning two. Giesler didn't record an out, giving up four runs, three unearned on one hit and four walks for the Chiefs. Cam Roberts pitched 2/3 of an inning giving up four runs, none earned, on three hits and two walks, while striking out one.

Keokuk stands at 0-14 on the year, while the Hawks wrap things up with a 9-1 regular season mark, 4-1 in the Southeast Iowa Superconference South Division, with district play starting Saturday. The Hawks have a first round bye and will start the post season Tuesday against either West Burlington or Van Buren at 7 p.m. in Donnellson.

Keokuk has a game Thursday at Davis County and Friday at Van Buren, both 7 p.m. starts before district play begins July 17th at Davenport's Modern Woodmen Park with a 7 p.m. game against Davenport Assumption.

## Do Your Part!

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## Area gets 24,000 lbs of pork

KEOKUK - This summer, The Keokuk Area Community Foundation was proud to partner with Hope Haven, TriOak and The Food Bank of Iowa to distribute 24,000 pounds of pork to nonprofit organizations in Southeast Iowa.

TriOak, a grain and livestock company with long ties to southeast Iowa, recently worked with "Pass the Pork" initiative to donate almost 24,000 pounds of pork to the food insecure, especially in southeast Iowa.

Randy Pflum, Chief Executive Officer for TriOak approved and coordinated the delivery of 160 pigs weighing 300 lbs. each, to the program.

The following nonprofit organizations received pork through this program:

Talbot House; New Testament Christian Church; God's Way Christian Church; Montrose Riverfront, Inc.; North Lee Food Pantry; Community Action of Southeast Iowa; Hope Haven; Domestic Violence Intervention Program

"This amazing gift will feed many throughout our area," said Bob Bartles, Executive Director of Hope Haven.

## Sports/From the Front

# Hounds run out of time in Wednesday loss

*Reichelt racks up 10 RBIs in three game this week*

NEW LONDON – Fort Madison put up four runs in the last two innings but couldn't rally enough to overcome a 7-0 fifth inning deficit in Wednesday's 7-4 loss to New London.

Senior Brandon Reichelt stayed hot going 2 for 4 with 2 doubles an RBI, his 10th this week, and a run scored. Tate Johnson was 2 for 3 with a double, an RBI and run scored. Landes Williams and Kane Williams had the other hits for Fort Madison.

Williams gave up a triple on his second pitch of the night to Josh Catala, and then issued a walk on five pitches to Kooper Schulte. Holvin Catala would sacrifice Josh Catala on a fly ball to right. Carter Allen would reach on an error at short moving Schulte to second. Tucker Gibbar then singled to center moving all the runners up.

Shae Summerfield then stroked a three-run double off Williams' 2-0 offering into right for a 4-0 lead. New London would add another

before Williams would get out of the inning on a fly out to right as the Tigers worked through the order.

Fort Madison would go 1-2-3 in the top of the 2nd. An error on an infield grounder would allow another Tiger run in with two outs in the second. Holvin Catala gave way to Josh Catala in the fourth holding the Hounds scoreless.

New London would pick up its last run in the bottom of the third when Jaxon Allen would score on a wild pitch after reaching on a lead-off single and moving over on a passed ball and a Seth Bailey single.

Williams got the Tigers three-up, three-down in the fourth and fifth innings and the Hounds came alive in the sixth.

Reichelt started things with a one-out double to right. Vasin Thurman grounded back to the pitcher holding things up, but then an infield error at first allowed Reiburn Turnbull to reach and score Reichelt with two outs.

Turnbull would move to second on the same error and then Tate Johnson would lace an 0-1 pitch into left field scoring Turnbull for a 7-2 game. Kane Williams shot a ball into center field scoring Johnson before a strike-out ended the frame.

Williams gave up a two-out walk in the bottom of the sixth but got a line out to center to end the inning.

Schulte took the mound for New London and struck out Garrett Hannum, but gave up a single to Landes Williams, who was then forced out at second on a fielder's choice off Jason Thurman's hit to third. Reichelt would hit his second double of the night to center scoring Thurman for a 7-4 game, but a ground out to short would end things.

Landes Williams went 5 2/3 innings giving up seven runs, four earned on seven hits and four walks in the loss. Jason Thurman came in for the final out.

# Parents agree with HTC approach to fall school restart

**MASKS** - Continued from Page 1

possible methods for learning: returning to school face to face, a hybrid plan that entails both in-person instruction and online learning, and, in the worst-case scenario, completely remote classes.

"As of right now, there really is no protocol; it's going to be based on local and state health guidelines to determine what our plan will be," Sheerin said.

In addition, classrooms at both the high school and elementary school will be altered so desks will maintain the recommended six-foot distance. At the elementary, class sizes of about 15 should be expected.

Regarding lunch and recess, both will be divided into 4 different periods in order to maintain social distancing.

At the high school, social distancing will be much easier.

"We have pretty sizeable classrooms," Sheerin said, "It (social distancing) shouldn't be an issue."

As stated in the hybrid plan, there may be "A" and "B" groups that alternate between in-person instruction and online instruction.

"With health conditions allowing, we want to utilize the method that maximizes the most face to face time," Sheerin said.

Holy Trinity recently released the full plans for the coming year; two parents interviewed were positive about the changes.

Angie Box and Dr. Mark Pothitakis feel confident sending their children back to school.

"I am very excited for the kids to get back to the classroom. They really benefit from interacting with their peers and teachers," Box said.

Pothitakis shared a similar opinion.


"I'm all for going back to school. With kids wearing masks and following the guidelines, they can still benefit from in-person learning while adhering to the state guidelines and keeping each other safe," he said.

With a significant number of unknowns surrounding the upcoming school year, plans are bound to change.

"We're making ourselves extremely malleable and recognizing that plans can and may change through the course of the year," added Sheerin.

"We don't want to stress any parents and we're trying to make the process as easy as possible. The entire plan will develop as COVID-19 does and we're doing our best to send our kids back to school."

The anticipated start date of Holy Trinity is the 24th of August.



**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
IMMUNIZATION CLINIC  
GUIDELINES**

July TB Clinics will be held Mondays 3-4pm with readings on Wednesdays from 3-4pm  
**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Immunization Clinics will be held July 9 & July 23, 1-4:30pm  
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*Appointments must be made by the Wednesday prior to the clinic date.*

*All clinics will take place at the Lee County Health Department offices until further notice.*

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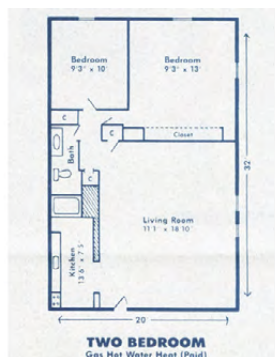
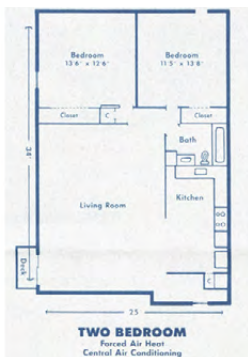
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## Agriculture News

# USDA makes changes to CFAP assistance program

WASHINGTON, July 9, 2020 – Today, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced an initial list of additional commodities that have been added to the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made other adjustments to the program based on comments received from agricultural producers and organizations and review of market data. Producers will be able to submit applications that include these commodities on Monday, July 13, 2020. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting through Aug. 28, 2020, applications for CFAP, which helps offset price declines and additional marketing costs because of the coronavirus pandemic. USDA expects additional eligible commodities to be announced in the coming weeks.

“During this time of national crisis, President Trump and USDA have stood with our farmers, ranchers, and all citizens to make sure they are taken care of,” said Secretary Perdue. “When we announced this program earlier this year, we asked for public input and received a good response. After reviewing the comments received and analyzing our USDA Market News data, we are adding new commodities, as well as making updates to the program for existing eligible commodities. This is an example of government working for the people – we asked for input and we updated the program based on the comments we received.”

USDA collected comments and supporting data for consideration of additional commodities through June 22, 2020.

Changes to CFAP include:

Adding the following commodities: alfalfa sprouts, anise, arugula, basil, bean sprouts, beets, blackberries, Brussels sprouts, celeriac (celery root), chives, cilantro, coconuts, collard greens, dandelion greens, greens (others not listed separately), guava, kale greens, lettuce – including Boston,

green leaf, Lolla Rossa, oak leaf green, oak leaf red and red leaf – marjoram, mint, mustard, okra, oregano, parsnips, passion fruit, peas (green), pineapple, pistachios, radicchio, rosemary, sage, savory, sorrel, fresh sugarcane, Swiss chard, thyme and turnip top greens.

Expanding for seven currently eligible commodities – apples, blueberries, garlic, potatoes, raspberries, tangerines and taro – CARES Act funding for sales losses because USDA found these commodities had a 5 percent or greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, these commodities were only eligible for marketing adjustments.

Determining that peaches and rhubarb no longer qualify for payment under the CARES Act sales loss category.

Correcting payment rates for apples, artichokes, asparagus, blueberries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, garlic, kiwifruit, mushrooms, papaya, peaches, potatoes, raspberries, rhubarb, tangerines and taro.

Additional details can be found in the Federal Register in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Final Rule Correction and at [www.farmers.gov/cfap](http://www.farmers.gov/cfap).

Producers have several options for applying to the CFAP program:

Using an online portal, accessible at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap), allows producers with secure USDA login credentials—known as eAuthentication—to certify eligible commodities online, digitally sign applications and submit directly to the local USDA Service Center. New commodities will be available in the system on July 13, 2020.

Completing the application form using our CFAP Application Generator and Payment Calculator found at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). This Excel workbook allows customers to input information specific to their operation to determine estimat-

ed payments and populate the application form, which can be printed, then signed and submitted to their local USDA Service Center. An updated version with the new commodities will be available on the website on July 13, 2020.

Downloading the AD-3114 application form from [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap) and manually completing the form to submit to the local USDA Service Center by mail, electronically or by hand delivery to an office drop box. In some limited cases, the office may be open for in-person business by appointment. Visit [farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status) to check the status of your local office.

USDA Service Centers can also work with producers to complete and securely transmit digitally signed applications through two commercially available tools: Box and One-Span. Producers who are interested in digitally signing their applications should notify their local service centers when calling to discuss the CFAP application process. You can learn more about these solutions at [farmers.gov/mydocs](http://farmers.gov/mydocs).

Getting Help from FSA

New customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer general assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages the team at the FSA county office at their local USDA Service Center.

All other eligibility forms, such as those related to adjusted gross income and payment information, can be downloaded from [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). For existing FSA customers, these documents are likely already on file.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors may also be required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

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**From the Front**

**Panel to look to other area counties for numbers**

**PANEL** - Continued from Page 1

County EMS financials monthly and quarterly per the contract. Fraise said the financials will not be discussed in open session because Lee County EMS Ambulance is a private company.

“We are in charge of making sure they are staying a float. They will be sending us financials every month,” Fraise said.

Steffen said someone should talk with ambulance service to see what their comfort level is with those discussions.

“If this group looks at the next step, those financials are going to be pretty critical as a prediction of revenue. My suggestion would be to talk to them and see what they’re comfortable with,” Steffen said.

The group talked at length about the value of the property and getting appraisals done, which are in the works. They also discussed budget numbers that have been provided by Lee County EMS, as well as a preliminary budget prepared by Lee County staff.

Steffen said some of the leg work on the potential budgeting and revenue projections could be simplified if the county were able to get numbers out of Jefferson and Washington counties, who recently went through transitions similar to Lee County.

Steffen said Washington is in the process of taking the service public, and Jefferson was taking steps in that direction, but hadn’t signed any contracts yet.

There’s no point in the committee doing a lot of work that’s already been done. Jefferson County just went through this and did a cost differential of a public vs. private service. A lot of those recommendations would apply here,” Steffen said.

He said in reviewing the Lee County EMS budget, maintenance and equipment costs seemed very low

“Their repair line item is a low number. Don’t know where that comes from but it has to be low,” Steffen said.

“There is no way that they are running six ambulances for that much. I have 15 years of experience running maintenance and there is no way they are running repairs at that rate. Triple maybe, quadruple perhaps.”

He also said the budget doesn’t include any capital outlay, but does have some depreciation of equipment.

“There would be a substantial capital expense in this,” he said.

Steffen asked Supervisor Rick Larkin, who is also on the board, if all things were equal in the numbers, would the board of supervisors prefer a public or private service.

Larkin said with all the county went through in the past year with the ambulance service, the board’s direction has been to take it public so there weren’t ongoing contract and revenue issues.

Fort Madison Community Hospital’s Amanda Burgess said it was her hope that the county would take over the service to open up grant opportunities for advanced equipment purchases.

Steffen said Lee County did increase their charges for this year, but they were previously very low compared to state averages.

“1/3 to 1/2 low... something like that.”

The group decided to meet again on July 23 with data from other counties to review as well as a getting a set of bylaws together for committee approval.

Caropreso said he would like to see an outline of steps of action the committee is trying to accomplish in general terms.

Steffen said he was going to reach out to the state Ground Emergency Medical Transport contact at the Iowa Department of Human Services about potentials there for additional reimbursements of Medicaid patient charges.

The additional funding is from federal sources to public operators of ambulance services, but Herren said the service would need two years of run history before any additional funding may be available.


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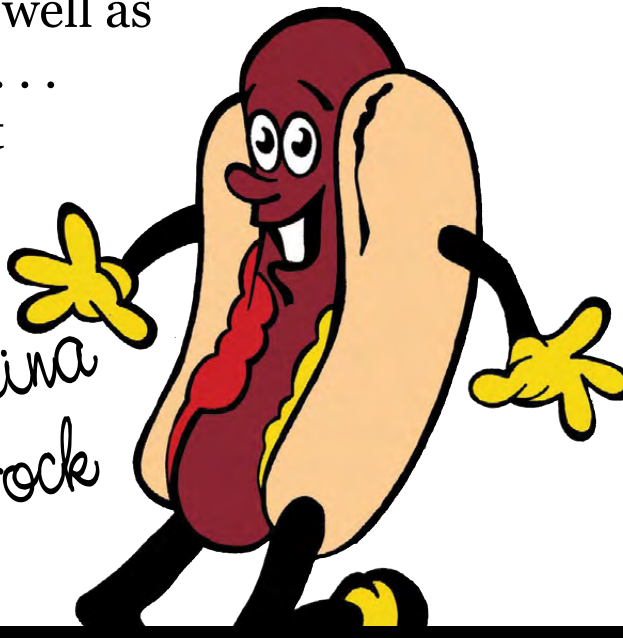
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