

# PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, March 27, 2020 | 6 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 66



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## Small fire breaks out at Siemens Gamesa

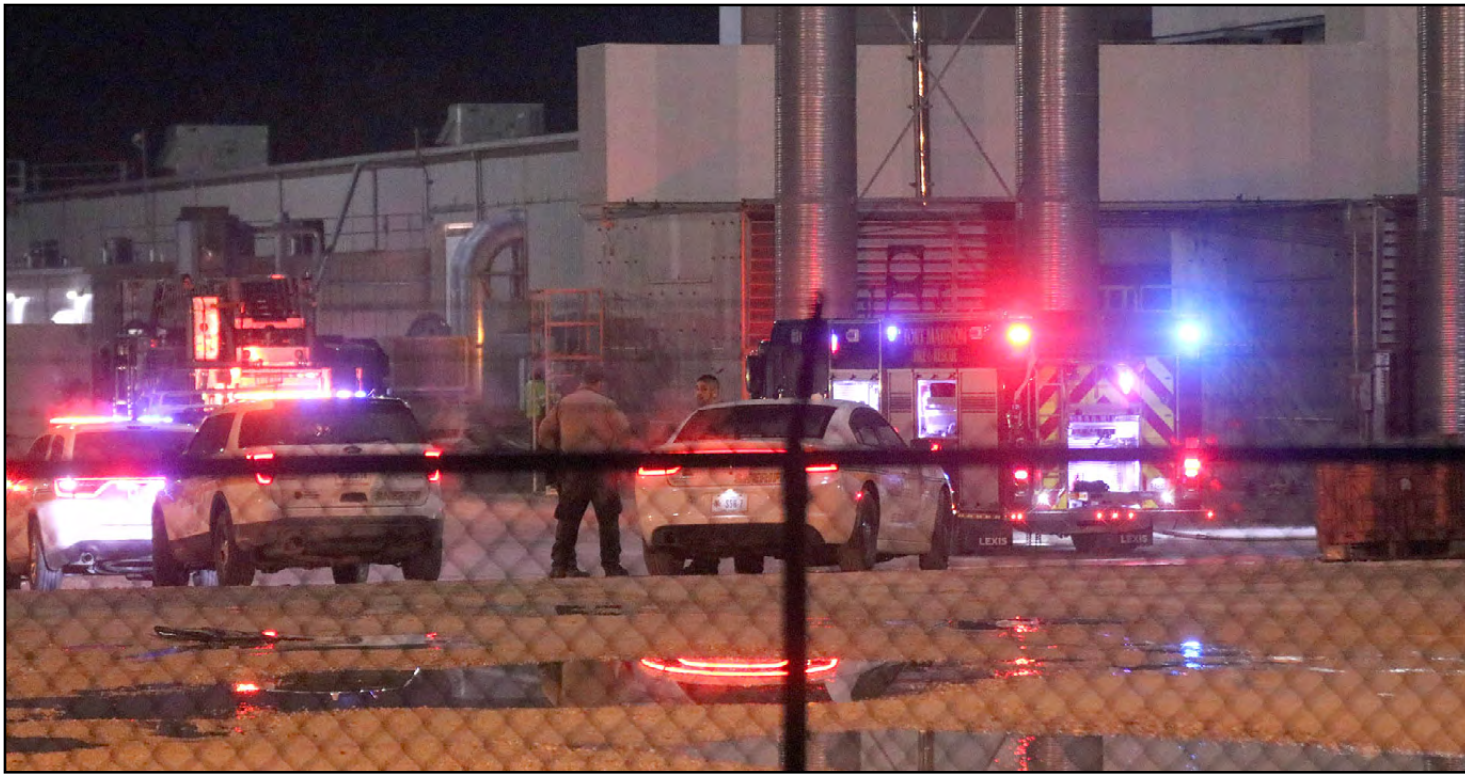


Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Fort Madison firefighters and Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a small fire at the Siemens Gamesa Plant late Wednesday evening.

### STAFF EVACUATED: Safety officials clear one building as firefighters go to work

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters were called to the Siemens Gamesa facility on Highway 61 south late Wednesday for a small fire that had broken out in one of the paint finish facilities at around 10:30 p.m. Fire Chief Joey Herren said it appeared static electricity had caught some of the filtration systems on fire, but the

firefighters quickly had the issue under control. Siemens safety officials cleared the building of employees while firefighters brought the situation under control. Herren said firefighters were on the scene for the incident about an hour, but one the aerial ladder truck encountered some mechanical issues on scene and had to left at the site for a Thursday morning repair. No one was injured during the incident.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Local police, sheriff calls drop as virus spreads

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With a good chunk of Fort Madison and other Lee County residents keeping to themselves as much as possible while the coronavirus blazes a path across the country, local law enforcement agencies are getting a bit of a breather...knock on wood.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said his department has seen a dramatic reduction in calls, which is allowing deputies to increase patrols and protection.



WEBER

He said he thinks that's due to several factors, but mostly because the pandemic is at the forefront of most decisions.

"Most people's minds are on this pandemic going through our country and people are wising up," Weber said.

"There's more important things to worry about than the petty differences that we commonly see."

Weber said on county roads he's seen traffic reductions by as much as 80%, with the majority of traffic coming as usual

through commutes. But he said as soon as people feel more comfortable as the virus eventually wanes, things will get back to normal.

He said the overnight patrols on some nights aren't even getting calls for service, so they are able to patrol more.

"The protection level is higher right now, because they don't have to respond to some of the calls they normally do," Weber said.

"Everybody's just doing what the governor and president have asked and that's to use your head and be smart."

Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff



ROHLOFF

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

## DM County sees first confirmed positive Wednesday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES COUNTY – A positive COVID-19 was confirmed in Des Moines County on Wednesday morning, the first in the county since the outbreak began.

The positive confirmation was not included in Gov. Kim Reynolds' office daily press release because, according to Christa Poggemiller, director at the Des Moines County Public Health Department, it missed the daily cutoff.

However, the positive as of 11:05 a.m Thursday, was still not listed on the Iowa Department of Public Health's website, where county-by-county listings are indicated to be updated throughout the day. It was however, posted on the site shortly afternoon on Thursday, 24 hours after it was released locally.

Despite a running update clock on the site, Poggemiller said it's her understanding that the site is only updated once a day.

"I know we were informed that we missed the governor's cutoff for

her press release and the website," she said. "But they informed us that we could go ahead and release the information, so we did because we want to be transparent through this process."

According the release received on Thursday from the Des Moines County Public Health Dept. the resident who was confirmed positive is in self-isolation at home. No additional information on the person was divulged including the age or

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### WEATHER

FRI 27 Mar.....Moderate Rain, 57.3° F/ 50.8° F  
SAT 28 Mar.....Moderate Rain, 73.8° F/ 49.3° F  
SUN 29 Mar.....Overcast, 50.4° F/ 42.8° F

### IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 03/25.....6 33 36 41 48, Star Ball: 10, All Star Bonus: 3  
PICK 3 03/25 MIDDAY.....3 3 5  
PICK 3 03/25 EVENING.....9 3 4  
PICK 4 03/25 MIDDAY.....3 3 6 7  
PICK 4 03/25 EVENING.....7 7 4 7  
POWERBALL 03/25.....5 9 27 39 42, Powerball: 16, Power Play: 2

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# Obituaries/From the Front

## OBITUARIES

### BARBARA A. CUSTER

Barbara A. Custer, 81, of Hamilton, IL died Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at Montebello Healthcare Center in Hamilton, IL.



CUSTER

She was born on January 7, 1939 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Perry and Bernice Kelly Kunkel.

On January 16, 1956, Barbara was united in marriage to Delbert Custer in Quincy, IL.

He survives.

She is also survived by one son, Danny Custer and his wife Kristi of Hamilton, IL one grandson, Drake Custer and his wife Ashley of Keokuk, two great-grandsons, Drayton and Dominic and one sister, Dixie Washburn of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Darin Custer, one grandson, Dane Custer and one niece Rita Horton.

Barbara enjoyed being a homemaker and spent her life making a wonderful home for her husband and children. She was a wonderful cook and her baked goods were always a special treat. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandson and great-grandsons.

A private family graveside service will be held. Due to the current COVID-19 situation and the restriction for gatherings there will be no public service or visitation.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

### BERNARD WINGERTER

Bernard Wingenter, 67, of Keokuk, IA, died Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

He was born on February 26, 1953 in Muscatine, IA the son of Harold Richard and Vivian Smith Wingenter. On February 17, 1973 Bernie was united in marriage to Anita Arington in Wilton, IA.

Bernard Wingenter, B.W., Big B, Dad, Top Pop, Grandpa, Poppa (and other various nicknames that should not be printed) apparently did not have just a headache.

Throughout his life, Bernie was known as a family-champion baked bean culinary artist and connoisseur. He also gave family members a run for their money at Uno and thoroughly enjoyed crushing their spirits by being the first to open and get into a fresh jar of peanut butter.

Bernie was notorious for his mad guitar skills and will now be able to jam with some of the greats that went before him. As a long-time furnace installer, one of Bernie's favorite things to do was to go for drives, point to a house, and say, "Guess who installed the furnace in that house?"

Bernie is survived by his high school sweetheart, Anita, three daughters, Amy Stano (Roger), Amanda Hayes (Jame), Angela Kinkeade (Jason), his grandchildren, Madison and Emma Stano, Logan, Andrew, and Macy Hayes, and Kaitlyn and Lilah Kinkeade, one brother and four sisters.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Vivian Wingenter and two sisters. Due to the current COVID-19 situation there will be a small, private family ceremony. In lieu of flowers, rolls of toilet paper will be accepted.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk is assisting the family with arrangements.

On-line condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorialhome.com](http://www.vigenmemorialhome.com).

## Chief says calls of suspicious activity on the rise

**CALLS** - Continued from Page 1

said activity levels are down, but that's not uncommon for late winter and early spring. "This type of year it typically does dip down, but when we started shutting down businesses and people got concerned about the pandemic, we saw our average calls dip even further," Rohloff said.

"We're averaging about 38 calls per day, but the week after St. Patrick's Day, when we closed all the restaurants and bars, in the following days we dropped to about 27 calls per day."

He said that doesn't always translate to arrests and citations but more basic activity.

Rohloff said the department has actually seen an uptick in suspicious activity reports. He said that may be because students are out of school or because more people are home looking out windows.

"That stat jumped from about 3 per day to almost 21 per day so that is something that shows things aren't the same as they used to be. People are noticing things now and making a call to us, which is helpful to us."

Rohloff said he too has seen a traffic reduction of about 50%, but said one of the concerns was the new detour around the construction site on Avenue H. He said he planned on increasing patrols on the detour, but it has actually run fairly smooth and doesn't require extra patrols.

Rohloff said he has the same concerns about his department as other employers about keeping staff healthy and functional, but is staying cautiously optimistic.

"I've never experienced anything like this in the past. We've had a number of concerns...ebola, SARS, swine flu and those things, but this is the first time I've seen a declaration to shut down most normal operations in the state," he said.

"We're learning with the other people. I'm very pleased and amazed how the community has come together. Voluntarily, they've cooperated even the first day when we were moving around the bars, they were doing what they needed to do on their own."

## DM County sets up local EOC

BURLINGTON - The Des Moines County Public Health Department and the Des Moines County Emergency Management Agency with participation of Great River Health Systems Liaison have opened a "virtual" emergency operations center (EOC) to serve as the centralized command and control for the area's response

to COVID-19. The EOC will receive and distribute COVID-19 related information. They will also assist area emergency responders and health care agencies with supply acquisitions related to the virus.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases  
Des Moines County- 1  
Surrounding Counties (Lee, Louisa, Henry)-1

Iowa- 179

The community is strongly encouraged to continue with the following strategies used to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow/upper arm.
- Stay at home when ill.



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Left to right: Chris, Erin, Judy, Jill, Brian, Shelby, and Desiree



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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## For the Record/Iowa News

### For the Record

#### Fort Madison Police Report

03/25/20 – 10:50 a.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the Fort Madison area.  
 03/25/20 – 2:29 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3300 block of Avenue L.  
 03/25/20 – 5:23 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1500 block of Avenue E.  
 03/25/20 – 6:40 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 3400 block of Avenue N.  
 03/25/20 – 8:49 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of 13th Street.  
 03/25/20 – 9:43 p.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police arrested Bradley Robert Bohnenkamp, 33, of

Fort Madison, in the 1100 block of Avenue E on a warrant service. He was taken to the Lee County jail and held.  
 03/26/20 – 7:42 a.m.  
 – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1200 block of 33rd Street.

#### Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/25/20 – No activity reported.  
*Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

#### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue

03/23/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls and a false alarm  
 03/24/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to  
 03/25/20 – Fort Madison Firefighters responded to one medical and a small industrial fire.

# Miller busts up state puppy ring

DES MOINES — Iowans who operated an alleged puppy laundering ring have agreed to dissolve their “pet rescue” nonprofits, permanently cease deceptive operations, pay the state \$60,000, and submit to other restrictions as part of a settlement with Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller.

Miller had sued two nonprofit rescue groups, a commercial broker and their officers in March 2019, alleging that they had worked together to illegally transfer hundreds of designer puppies through sham Iowa non-profit “rescues” to out-of-state pet shops. The lawsuit accused the defendants of misleading consumers about the true source of the puppies. Miller also alleged the defendants abused their Iowa non-profit status to circumvent state and local laws banning the sale of “puppy mill” dogs.

The attorney general’s investigation found that the two nonprofits — Hobo K9 Rescue of Britt and Rescue Pets

Iowa Corp. of Ottumwa — transferred at least 3,600 dogs to entities in California, Illinois, Florida, Missouri and New Jersey from September 2016 to September 2019. They included Pomeranians, Shar-Peis, Alaskan Malamutes, Poodle-Yorkies and other high-priced purebred and designer breeds.

The defendants denied the allegations but agreed to the consent judgment.

Miller’s lawsuit shined a spotlight on “puppy laundering,” the practice of using sham non-profit “rescue” groups to obscure the source of puppies. In some cases, puppy laundering can hide the identities of breeders who may have animal welfare violations or other problems they wish to keep hidden from consumers seeking a puppy. With increasing consumer and government scrutiny into puppy mills, Miller is concerned that others will engage in “puppy laundering” to continue lucrative pet sales.

## State has 179 confirmed COVID-19 cases

**POSITIVE** - Continued from Page 1

whether any traveling had taken place prior to the confirmation.

“While this is Des Moines County’s first case, it may not be the last, and that’s why we encourage all residents to continue to make prevention a priority,” Poggemiller said.

She said those actions include; washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow, and staying home when ill.

The release also said sick Iowans should stay home and self-isolate until there is no fever for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducers and other symptoms have improved including the subsiding of coughing and shortness of breath, and at least seven days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Anyone who thinks they need medical care is strongly encouraged to call first. Options could be available to talk to a medical provider from home using technologies available.

According to the IDPH updated site 179 confirmed cases have been reported in the state.

100 are women and 79 are men. The highest age grouping is middle aged adults from 41-60 who have just over 60 confirmed cases. The state hygienic lab has processed 2,757 tests with 2,578 coming back negative.

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## Classifieds/Public Notices

# PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

### PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
LEE COUNTY BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.

Present: Ron Fedler, Gary Folluo, Rick Larkin, Rich Harlow and Matt Pflug.

All votes are unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Pflug, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

At 9:01 a.m. Fedler opened a Public Hearing for approval of the proposed property tax levy for Fiscal Year 2021. No comments were received prior to the hearing and no comments were received during the hearing. At 9:02 a.m., a motion was made by Folluo, and seconded by Pflug, to close the Public Hearing. Roll call: Folluo-aye, Pflug-aye, Larkin-aye, Harlow-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Folluo, to approve Resolution #2020-50. Roll call: Larkin-aye, Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye, Pflug-aye and Fedler-aye.

**Resolution #2020 – 50  
MAXIMUM PROPERTY  
TAX DOLLARS**

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors have considered the proposed FY20/21 county maximum property tax dollars for both General County Services and Rural County Services, and

WHEREAS, a notice concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was published as required and posted on county web site and/or social media accounts if applicable,

WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was held on February 18, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Lee County that the maximum property tax dollars for General County Services and Rural County Services for FY 20/21 shall not exceed

the following:  
• General County Services: \$10,645,921; a decrease of 0.94% from the prior year

• Rural County Services: \$2,042,566; an increase of 2.00% from the prior year

Passed and adopted this 18th day of February, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:  
Ron Fedler –Aye  
Matt Pflug –Aye  
Gary Folluo –Aye  
Rick Larkin –Aye  
Rich Harlow –Aye

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. /s/ Ron Fedler, Chairman; /s/ Matt Pflug, Vice-Chair; /s/ Gary Folluo, Member; /s/ Rich Harlow, Member; and /s/ Rick Larkin, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Tuesday, February 11, 2020 Board minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Pflug, to approve payment of claims. Motion carried.

Public Input: Jefferson Township Trustee James Creen gave the Board an overview of Pioneer Cemeteries and asked that the Board pass a relevant ordinance.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Larkin, to approve plans and set letting date for March

11, 2020 in the Auditor's Office to receive bids for removal of flood debris on 280th Avenue/Bridgeport Road over Skunk River. Motion carried.

Moved by Folluo, seconded by Pflug, to approve an amendment to the Dust Control Policy, changing the date from October 1 to October 15. Motion carried.

Moved by Larkin, seconded by Pflug, to approve the Iowa Region 16 Local Workforce Development Area Chief Elected Officials Liability Agreement. Roll call: Larkin-aye, Pflug-aye, Folluo-aye, Harlow-aye and Fedler-aye. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of January 2020 and a Manure Management Annual Update for Pombert Farms in Pleasant Ridge Township.

Committee Reports: Folluo reported on a County Website Committee meeting and reviewed applications for the Emergency Management Director position. Larkin reported on a Regional Mental Health meeting. Pflug gave the Board an update on Lincoln Ridge. Fedler reported on a RUSS Board meeting.

At 9:35 a.m., a motion was made by Harlow, and seconded by Folluo, to

adjourn. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Correctional Center.

Dated February 18, 2020

Ron Fedler, Chairman  
Denise Fraise, Lee County Auditor

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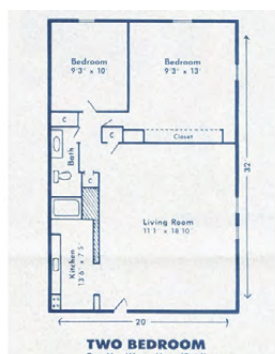
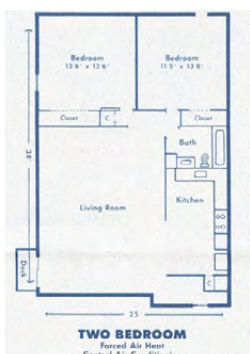
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## Health News/Iowa News

# GRHS adds visitor restrictions

WEST BURLINGTON – Great River Medical Center will add greater visitor restrictions Friday, March 27, in an effort to prevent or contain COVID-19 (coronavirus) transmission in south-east Iowa.

Screening for respiratory symptoms, recent travel and body temperature continues.

Outpatients at the hospital for clinic, Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory appointments, and Emergency Department care may not be accompanied by a visitor except:

Patients under 18 may have one visitor who is a parent or guardian.

Patients having surgery or procedures may have one visitor on the day of surgery or the procedure only.

Patients requiring special assistance may have one visitor or guardian.

Emergency Department:

Visitors may be allowed based on the patient's clinical situation.

Patients at end of life where death is imminent may have two visitors.

Ongoing restrictions

Visiting is allowed only in designated areas. No visiting is allowed in these areas:

Behavioral Health Unit  
Cardiovascular Care Unit  
Intensive Care Unit  
Medical Care Unit  
Medical-Surgical Unit  
Progressive Cardiac Unit  
Rehabilitation Unit

In other areas, patients are limited to the same visitors for the entire time they are hospitalized. They must stay in the patient's room or designated visitor area. Visitors must be at least 18 years old (unless they are the parents of a pediatric patient). They must pass a screening before visiting these areas:

End of life when death

is imminent – Patients may have two visitors.

Obstetrics Unit – Only the mother's designated support person may visit unless the mother has a suspected or positive COVID-19 diagnosis.

Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – One birth parent plus one significant other may visit.

Pediatrics Unit /patients under 18 – One parent or guardian may visit.

Specific circumstances may further restrict visiting.

Families of the patients described below should discuss visiting options with the patient's health care team.

Patients with disruptive behavior whose family member is key to their care may have one visitor.

Patients who have altered mental status or developmental delays who require a caregiver to help provide safety

may have one visitor.

All potential visitors and outpatients are screened before entering the hospital through these locations:

Main entrance – 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily

Emergency Department entrance – 24 hours a day

Eastman Plaza – 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Cancer Care Plaza – 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

All other entrances are closed.

Where to go for more information

For more information, visit [greatriverhealth.org](http://greatriverhealth.org)

Great River Health  
24-hour Call Center, 319-768-1009 or 800-871-3313, toll-free

For COVID-19 questions, call the Iowa Department of Public Health by dialing 211.

## FSA moves to phone only services

DES MOINES – USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices are open in Iowa by phone appointment only until further notice, and FSA staff are available to continue helping agricultural producers with program signups, loan servicing and other important actions.

Additionally, FSA is relaxing the loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need.

FSA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only. While our program delivery staff will continue to come into to the office, they will be working with our agricultural producers by phone and using email and online tools whenever possible.

"FSA programs and loans are critical to Iowa farmers and ranchers, and we want to continue our work with customers while taking precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of coronavirus," FSA State Executive Director Amanda De Jong said. "We recognize that farm loans are critical for annual operating and family living expenses, emergency needs and cash flow through times like this. FSA is working to find and use every option and flexibility to provide producers with credit options and other program benefits."

FSA is delivering programs and services, including: Farm loans; Commodity loans; Farm Storage Facility Loan program; Disaster assistance programs, including signup for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (this includes producers now eligible because of losses due to drought and excess moisture in 2018 and 2019); Safety net programs, including 2020 signup for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs Conservation programs; and Acreage reports.



# 2020 To Do List Save Our Planet

Thank you to all our customers who worked to reduce their environmental footprint last year. We look forward to helping you continue your efforts and to educating our communities on more ways to help this year.

### Here are just a few ways you can help:

- Don't put plastic bags in recycling bins
- Rinse & clean all food jars & cans before recycling
- Flatten empty boxes for better storage & volume reduction
- Place all recyclables loose in bins
- Don't recycle wrapping paper
- Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste



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