



Pen City Current

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019 | 9 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 253

Comp. board offers 3% bump to elected officials

Supervisors hint they won't take a pay raise this year

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The state-mandated Lee County Compensation Board has recommended that Lee County elected officials and their deputies receive a 3% across the board raise for the next budget year.

Former Lee County Assessor Theresa Murray made the motion after five members of the seven-member board heard from the county's elected officials. The recommendation was approved 4-1 with former State Sen. Gene Fraise casting the lone dissent.

Fraise said a 1% recommendation was more in line

with what he was hearing from county residents, specifically farmers.

Iowa Code 331.905 establishes the board as a seven-member board comprised of two Board of Supervisors appointees and one each representing the county's attorney, auditor, recorder, treasurer and sheriff's office. Wednesday's board had five members present.

Each of the county's elected officials said they were happy with their salaries, but said their deputies are tied to their salary rate and they wanted to get those employees a pay increase.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors has the final say in any rate increases, but it cannot by law go over the recommendation from the compensation board. It can, however, reduce the recommendations, including the 3%



FOLLUO

bump to supervisor's pay.

Supervisor Chairman Gary Folluo said he wasn't going to seek a raise as a supervisor. He said when the board went from three supervisors to five, committee assignments became more manageable. Folluo said the benefits of being a county employee also made serving more attractive.

Murray said the county's health plan is like adding \$10/hour to county employee salaries.

Supervisor Ron Fedler said he was happy making what he was as a supervisor, but said the board is in the bottom five counties in Iowa as far as pay, and to attract quality candidates in the future, the pay may have to be increased at some point.

Board member Kathy Gabel initially offered a 3%

See SALARIES, page 9

West Point takes Wine Walk Friday

Glasses on sale for \$10 through Thursday; \$15 on Friday

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

WEST POINT – Get your glasses out and get ready for a pour.

If you don't have a glass get to the square in West Point before Friday night as the third annual West Point Wine & Beer Walk will take place on Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in and around the square.

Committee member Mary Poole said at least 16 businesses have partnered with local brewers and wine makers and will be open along and near the square. There will be truck-drawn trolley to businesses not on the square so people can ride back and forth.

Hinterland Dairies and The Farm at Adelais will

be on hand at Sonny's Supermarket handing out snacks and treats.

Something new this year will be a Christmas Tree display on the first floor of the American Legion.

Businesses have sponsored trees along the walkway at the American Legion, but visitors on Friday can vote on their favorite tree with proceeds going to the winners charity of choice.

"So we're gonna have boxes out next to each tree. It's a dollar per vote and people can vote by putting their dollar in box," Poole said. "The tree with the most money will win all the money and that business will be able to donate that money to a charity of their choice."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

West Point Wine & Beer Walk committee member Mary Poole walks among the trees that are part of the Festival of Trees on the first floor of the American Legion. The Festival of Trees is a new edition to the 3rd annual walk.

Poole said the Festival of Trees will be open for viewing until the new Year, but voting will just be held on Friday night.

Glasses for the walk can be purchased at City Hall, 4th Street Pub, Corner

Tap, Katie's Cuts, and Sonny's for \$10 before Friday. The price goes up to \$15 on Friday.

The evening will start with Christmas caroling at the Presbyterian Church. The event is

sponsored by the West Point Community Club. The annual lighting of the Tree will take place in the town square at 4:45 p.m.

Temperatures for Friday are in the low 30s with scattered clouds.

Chamber has Iowa Hawkeye tickets

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Area Chamber of Commerce has once again partnered with the University of Iowa Athletics to secure premium seating for the community to enjoy an Iowa Men's Basketball game.

This year, we will cheer on the Iowa Hawkeyes as they take on the Kenesaw State Owls on Sunday, December 29th at 3:00 pm. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, December 4th at 9:00 am at the Fort Madison Partners office, located at 614 9th Street.

A number of businesses in the community have stepped up to help us pro-

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Obituaries/From the Front

Tickets on sale until Dec. 9

FM DAY - Continued from Page 1

vide a t-shirt with every ticket purchase. "We are excited to have the community sitting in the stands of Carver Hawkeye Arena all sporting a Fort Madison Day t-shirt!" exclaims Savanna Collier, Chamber Coordinator. Tickets will be available for \$10 for children and \$15 for adults. The Chamber is also partnering with Burlington Trailways to offer a bus ride to Iowa City for the game. Bus tickets will cost \$5 per person.

Tickets and t-shirts will be available before Christmas and will make the perfect gift for that Hawkeye fan in your family! To ensure prompt delivery, the opportunity to purchase tickets runs through Thursday, December 11th at 3 pm. Tickets ordered after December 11th are not guaranteed a t-shirt with their ticket purchase. The Fort Madison Partners office is located at 614 9th Street and is open M-F 8:30 am - 4 pm. On Monday, December 9th, the office will stay open until 6:00 pm to accommodate those who work late. To make other arrangements, please call 319-372-5471.

Other perks are being negotiated at this time with the Athletic Department at the University of Iowa.

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OBITUARIES

HILLIS EDWARD KERR

Hillis Edward Kerr, 87, passed away at 12:16 p.m., Friday, November 29, 2019, at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, Iowa.



KERR

Born August 16, 1932, in Ashton, Missouri, he was the son of Forest L. and Beatrice S. (Morrison) Kerr. He married Jerry Joan Davidson June 10, 1951, in Primrose, Iowa.

A resident of Farmington, Iowa, for most of his life, after his Lord, his highest priority in life was his family. He is survived by one daughter: Sandra (David) Boley of Hillsboro, Iowa; two sons: Don (Stephanie) of Noblesville, Indiana and Jeffery (Sandra) of Rolla, Missouri; nine grandchildren; twenty great-grandchildren and two sisters: Ila Mae Threet and Patty Woods. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joan Kerr, his parents, Forest and Bea Kerr, and two brothers, Hollis Kerr and Stuart Kerr.

Over the years, Hillis worked in a variety of occupations including Shaeffer Pen Company, Fort Madison, Iowa, and Ostrich Electric, Tucson, Arizona learning trades and skills that he would use so successfully

throughout the 20 years he owned and operated Kerr's Phillips 66 station. After selling the business, he continued to take care of people as a driver for Ferrellgas, finally retiring in 1994. He was a respected figure in the Farmington community and a member of the United Methodist Church as well as Masonic Keosauqua Lodge No. 10. He was also a well-recognized performer and master of ceremonies at the long-running Farmington Jaycee Jamboree.

Family received friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the United Methodist Church in Farmington.

A Funeral Service was held Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the United Methodist Church in Farmington with Pastor Nancy St. Clair and David Drummond officiating.

Following the service, his body has been entrusted to Schmitz Funeral Home for cremation.

A private interment service will be held in Primrose Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the United Methodist Church in lieu of flowers. Schmitz Funeral Home of Farmington is assisting the family with arrangements. On-line condolences to the family may be left at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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For the Record

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

12/02/19 – 8:14 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue G.
 12/02/19 – 11:59 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 300 block of 9th Street.
 12/02/19 – 1:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue F.
 12/02/19 – 3:30 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3900 block of Bluff Road.
 12/02/19 – 5:39 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1800 block of Avenue E.
 12/02/19 – 6:09 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 600 block of Avenue G.
 12/02/19 – 11:16 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Amanda Kaye Ladd, 30, of Fort Madison, in the 1500 block of Ridgewood Drive,

on a charge of driving while suspended. She was released upon citation.
 12/02/19 – 12:10 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Kimberly Jo Huss, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for driving while barred. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/03/19 – 12:50 a.m. – Fort Madison Police cited Jacob Paul Kottenstette, 28, of Fort Madison, in the 1200 block of Avenue D, on a charge of driving while suspended. He was released upon citation.
 12/03/18 – 12:45 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 2500 block of Avenue L.
 12/03/19 – 2:59 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 19th Street/Avenue J 1100 block of Avenue F.
 12/03/19 – 6:16 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Cody Sheridan Collins, 29, listed as homeless, in the 1200 block of Avenue G,

on two counts of violation of a no contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/03/19 – 8:23 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Dalton Lee Boudewyn, 18, of Keokuk, in the 3200 block of Avenue I, on warrants for interference with official acts, driving under suspension, operation without a registration, and failure to provide insurance. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/04/19 – 3:04 a.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Justin Russell Raszler, 32, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of Avenue G on a warrant for failure to appear and a charge of driving while barred. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/28/19 – 6:28 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 2100 block of 290th Avenue. According to the report, deputies found the vehicle owned by William Eugene Stewart,

41, of Donnellson, unoccupied in a ditch with heavy damage to the passenger side. Upon checking the area deputies found a B-17 Rifle laying in the ditch and a Ruger .380 inside the vehicle. Both weapons were seized for safe keeping. The vehicle was towed pending an investigation.
 11/29/19 – 9:28 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1600 block of Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Kory D. Piles, of Groveland, Ill. struck a refrigerator in the roadway. No injuries were reported and the vehicle was able to be driven away.
 11/30/19 – 12:43 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident in the 1700 block of West Point Road. According to the report a vehicle driven by Bryce Michael Meyer, 23, was headed southbound when the vehicle left the roadway, entered a ditch, went through a fence, a livestock building and another fence before coming to rest.

No driver was on scene when deputies arrived. A third party contacted the property owner to give information on the driver and plans for the damage.
 11/30/19 – 1:27 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident near milemarker 26 on Hwy. 61. According to the report, a vehicle driven by Joshua M. Cenzer, 25, of Glasford, Ill., struck a log in the middle of the road causing damage to the undercarriage. No citations or injuries were reported.
 12/02/19 – 1:05 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kimberly Jo Huss, 43, of Fort Madison, in the 2300 block of Avenue J, on a warrant for violation of probation. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/03/19 – 2:56 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Devin Eugene Donald Johnson, 18, of Burlington, at the sheriff's office on warrants for assaulting a law enforcement officer, assault with injury and interference with officials acts. He was taken to the

Lee County Jail and held 12/03/19 – 3:30 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dakota Oakley Haynes, 25, of Hillsboro, no location given, on a warrant for 2nd-degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/03/19 – 3:32 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Steven Eriq Freeman, 49, of Keokuk, at the sheriff's office on a charge of trespassing. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 12/03/19 – 3:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Rachael Ann McCarty, 48, of Hillsboro, in the 1000 block of Hwy. 16, on a warrant for 2nd-degree theft. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

12/02/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one medical call and one assist.
 12/02/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to one assist and two medical calls.



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Lady Hounds win at home

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison jumped out to 16-4 first quarter lead and didn't allow Davis County a point until seven minutes into the game enroute to a 45-35 win at home Tuesday night.

Sara Bernhart led the Lady Hounds with 15 points including, followed by Camille Kruse with 11. Kruse was held to just two point in the second half, but converted a couple 3-pointers in the first half.

Davis County would stop the bleeding in the second quarter outscoring the Hounds 8-4 cutting the lead to six at 18-12 going into the locker room.

The Mustangs would again outscore Fort Madison in the 3rd period behind

two long balls from sophomore Macy Hill, but a wild fourth quarter would belong to Fort Madison.

Both teams combined for 31 points in the quarter. Fort Madison went on a 12-6 run to open the period and held a 37-30 lead with four minutes left in the game.

The game got into a fouling situation in the final two minutes and Fort Madison was able to convert the freebies and stretch the lead to 45-35 at the buzzer.

Senior Anna Kester had five points for the Lady Hounds, while Brandy Walker had nine and Nadia Boeding had four.

The Bloodhounds (2-1) travel to Mt. Pleasant on Friday night in a junior varsity/varsity matchup.

Fort Madison boys lose opener at Ottumwa

BY PCC STAFF

OTTUMWA – Ottumwa's 6'4" Trae Schwartz scorched the Bloodhounds for 31 points Tuesday night in a 75-37 win in both teams' season opener.

Schwartz scored 23 of his 31 in the 3rd period as the Bulldogs opened up a 30-point advantage 58-28 going into the final quarter.

It looked as if Fort Madison was going to make a game of it in the early going holding a 9-7 lead five minutes after the tip.

But Ottumwa would heat up from there, scoring eight points in the next 60 seconds, while holding the Hounds

scoreless. Ottumwa would lead 18-11 after the first period.

Fort Madison would keep the game within striking distance through the first half trailing by 12 going into the locker room 31-19.

Ottumwa would open the second half on a 12-4 run and never look back outscoring Fort Madison 30-10 in the period with Schwartz scoring 21 of the 30.

Fort Madison sophomore Dayton Davis converted just one field goal on the night, but hit 12 of 16 at the free throw line to lead the Hounds with 14 points. No other Hound would get into double figures.

FMHS looking for families of 2019 HOF inductees

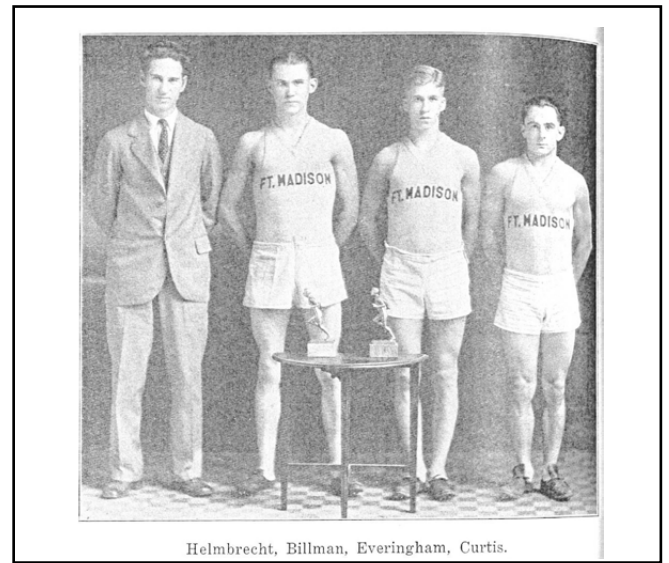
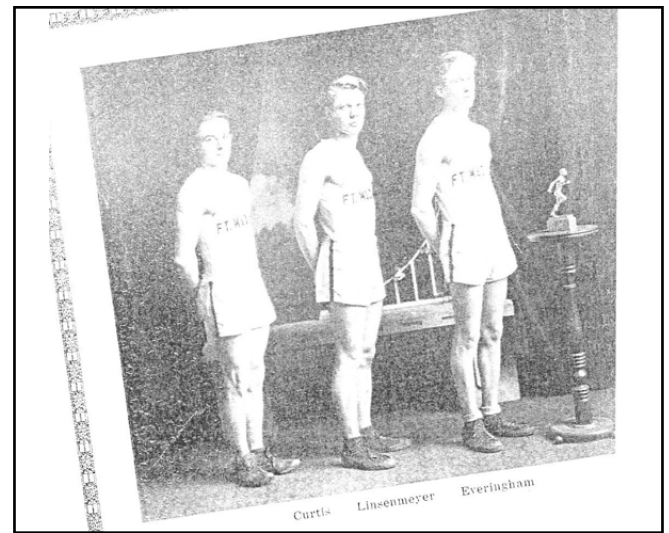
BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Activities Director Jeremy Swink is looking for some help from the public in identifying family of some 2019 Hall of Fame inductees.

Swink said two of the inductees this year will include the state champion Cross Country teams from 1926 and 1927. But he's having trouble locating any family or relations to be a part of the induction ceremonies.

The teams above, according to Fort Madison High School yearbooks from those periods include: Elmer Curtis, Bill Everingham, Harold Billman and Linsenmeyer (no first name cited).

Anyone with information on these athletes or these teams is encouraged to contact Swink at Fort Madison High School at 319-372-1862 or by email at jeremy.swink@fmcpsd.org.



Three FMMS wrestlers go 3-0 Monday

FORT MADISON- On Monday FMMS wrestlers competed against Fairfield, Keokuk, and Washington.

The Hounds won 22 matches and lost 22 on the night. Landon Rudd, Teague Smith, and Issac Thatcher went 3-0 with 3 falls. Bo Hedrich went 2-0 with 2 falls and Connor Dennis went 2-0 with a pin.

Logan Pennock and Henry Wiseman went 2-1 with one fall. Landon Crank went 2-1. Maddalee Powers went 1-1 with one fall. Joe

Hartman went 1-1. Gavin Callahan and Tate Green went 1-2 with one fall each. Calvin Johnson and Gavyn Siemens went 1-2.

Others whom competed were Jayden Bowen, Sadie Brandon, Hannah Carson, and Aaron Warner.

Thatcher recorded the fastest fall of the night in nine seconds of his first match.

The Hounds return to the mat on Tuesday, 2019 in Burlington at the Clark Field House with wrestling starting at 4:30 p.m.

Fa..la..la..ling

Here are some winter weather tips to prevent falls:

- ◆ Wear shoes with good traction.
- ◆ Dress warm, if you are warm, your muscles will stay relaxed.
- ◆ Be careful getting out of your car – watch for icy patches and black ice.
- ◆ Take extra time and pay attention.
- ◆ Keep your driveway and walkways clear.
- ◆ Ask for help if needed!

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Local News/Sports



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Hospice staff named Guardian Angels

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The following is an anonymous nomination for Fort Madison Community Hospital’s Guardian Angel program. The recipients are from left to right Gwen Moss, Becky Orr, Lori Helling, Debbie Green and Tracey Fuller, FMCH Home Health & Hospice of the hospital’s Home Health & Hospice program. Also picture is Vicki Kokjohn, Vice President of Patient Care Services.

“We would like to offer our deepest thanks to Gwen, Becky, Lori, Debbie and Tracey who made the last days of our father/father-in-law so comfortable. We feel better knowing that those last few days were full of the best possible care. You truly care for your patients and it shows. We appreciate all that you did for us!”

It takes a special person to do what you all do!

HTC 8th grade girls stay undefeated

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The Holy Trinity Catholic girls 8th grade basketball team remains unbeaten at 7-0 with a 37-16 win over WACO on Monday night.

Mary Kate Bendlage had 13 pts to lead the Crusaders. Natalie Randolph had eight and Jenna Hellman had six. Taegan Denning and Teagan Snaadt had three, while Anna Bendlage and Isabella Callison each chipped in with two points.

The 7th grade girls moved to 6-1 with a 39-4 win over WACO. Callison had 16 points for the girls, while Snaadt added 10, Bendlage had eight and Ellie Lake scored five.

The girls host West Burlington Thursday night beginning at 4:30 p.m.

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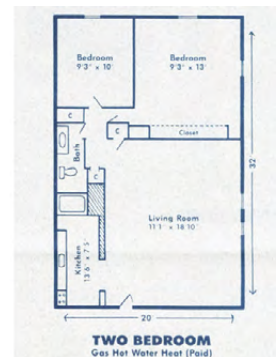
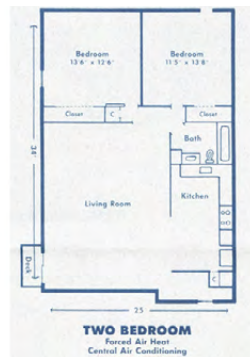


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Pen City current



Scene Around Town/Ag News

Fraise offered 1% raise to 2020-21

SALARIES - Continued from Page 1

across the board increase with a 1 to 2% increase for Supervisors.

“Doesn’t just about everybody give a 3% raise if you’re doing your job worth a hoot every year?” Kabel said.

Former State Sen. Gene Fraise said from what he’s hearing that 1% would be sufficient.

“If you look at all the surrounding counties we’re right in there,” Fraise said.

Murray said she was concerned that giving the elected officials a 1% raise, would put elected department heads behind what could come out of union employee negotiations.

“If the union’s get 2% during negotiations, you’re giving these elected department heads a 1%,” Murray said. “So if we recommend say 3% and they determine the union people are going to get 2, then they can at least give these people 2.”

She said if they recommend 1%, supervisors wouldn’t be able to give the elected officials anymore than the 1%.

Gabel said if you gave Ross Braden, who makes \$110,000 per year, a 1% raise that would amount to \$52 a paycheck.

“And that’s a nice little bump,” Fraise said.

The recommendations now become part of the Board of Supervisors budgeting process that is set to begin in January.

Mohrfeld, Hellman take firsts at Keokuk relays

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – Holy Trinity Catholic senior Jacob Mohrfeld raced to a 1:53.93 in the 200-yard freestyle event at a Keokuk dual meet with Burlington Tuesday night.

Mohrfeld swims for the Burlington High School shared program that rolled to a 125-35 win at the meet.

The Grayhounds took three of the top four spots in the 200-yard Medley with HTC senior Wyatt Hellman swimming the second leg of the first place BHS team at 1:57.30.

Hellman also took first place in the 50-yard freestyle at 24.63, 1.7 seconds ahead of the field, and first in the 100-yard freestyle at 56.19.

Sophomore Michael Hellman captured 3rd in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:41.36, while the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Wyatt Hellman, Cade Hillyer, Colby Geiger and Mohrfeld took first almost a full minute ahead of the pack at 3:58.05.



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PaperPak donates to Christmas for Kids

Courtesy photo

This year PaperPak LLC employees once again contributed to Christmas for Kids with the company matching the money raised. Pictured are some of the Paperpak employees with the 12 bicycles and helmets that will be donated this year. A special thank you goes out to Nick’s Cycling and Fitness in Burlington for their support and the assembly of the bikes.

USDA MFP deadline is Friday

DES MOINES - USDA today reminded producers in Iowa that the nationwide deadline to sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) is Dec. 6, 2019. MFP payments are aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations.

“Farmers have had a tough year due to unfair trade retaliation and natural disasters, but the Market Facilitation Program offers some much-needed relief,” said Amanda De Jong, State Executive Director in Iowa. “I encourage farmers not to miss the deadline to submit an application.”

Since signup began on July 29, more than 60,000 producers in Iowa have signed up for MFP. Across the country, more than \$10.1 billion has been paid for 2019 MFP crop and livestock commodities to nearly 601,000 applicants.

Last month, USDA began making payments on the second tranche of 2019 MFP payments. Producers of MFP-eligible commodities are now eligible to receive 75 percent of the total potential payment. If conditions warrant, producers may receive the final tranche in January 2020.

Additionally, due to changes to the 2018 MFP program that were required by the 2019 Disaster Bill, producers previously deemed ineligible for MFP in 2018 because they had an average AGI level higher than \$900,000 may now be eligible for 2018 MFP benefits. Those producers must be able to verify 75 percent or more of their average AGI was derived from farming and ranching to qualify. The deadline for this signup is also Dec. 6, 2019.

Producers who have yet to sign up for MFP should contact their local FSA office. Information on eligibility requirements and the application can also be found on www.farmers.gov/MFP.



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