

Supervisors agree to sell parcel in Council Bluffs

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Pottawattamie County Supervisors voted 4-0 Tuesday morning to begin the process of selling a .16-acre parcel of county-owned land near Dodge Riverside Drive and the former Frito Lay plant for interstate expansion.

Supervisors set a public hearing on the proposed sale for Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. in the Supervisors meeting room inside the Pottawattamie County Courthouse, 227 S. Sixth St.

If the sale is approved by the board following the public hearing, the Iowa Department of Transportation will pay the county \$14,000 — \$2 per square foot — for the property.

Wes Mayberry with the Iowa Department of Transportation said the property was needed for the realignment of Dodge Riverside Drive as part of the interstate reconstruction project in Council Bluffs.



Courtesy Pottawattamie County Assessor

This .16-acre parcel of land is owned by Pottawattamie County and is slated to be sold to the Iowa Department of Transportation for \$14,000 as part of the interstate reconstruction project.

USDA proposes change that would push 3M Americans off food stamps

LAURA REILEY
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed new rules Tuesday to limit access to food stamps for households with savings and other assets, a measure that officials said would cut benefits to about 3 million people.

In a telephone call with reporters, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Acting Deputy Under Secretary Brandon Lipps said the proposed new rules for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) were aimed at ending automatic eligibility for those who were already receiving federal and state assistance.

“This proposal will save money and preserve the integrity of the program,” Perdue said. “SNAP should be a temporary safety net.”

About 40 million low-income people received SNAP benefits in 2018. Forty-three states routinely grant eligibility to low-income people already receiving other government benefits, without undergoing income or asset tests.

Lipps said the proposal would result in an annual budgetary savings of \$2.5 billion and restrict less needy individuals from qualifying for benefits.

USDA officials told the call the proposal was aimed at closing a loophole that was famously exploited by a wealthy Minnesota man, Rob Undersander, who says he received food stamps for 19 months despite owning significant assets such as property and bank accounts.

“Now people will have to qualify like everyone else,” Perdue said.

Lipps also said the proposal aimed to make sure that beneficiaries are treated equally across all states, and that recipients’ geographic location should not dictate their benefit level.

The USDA officials had no specifics on the financial cutoff for their proposal.

Current rules give states latitude to raise SNAP income eligibility limits so low-income families with housing and child

STAMPS/See Page 2A



HYDRANT HYDRATION

Photo by Joe Shearer

Gabe Luethje of Tuscon, Ariz., records as he carries his daughter, Tula, 9, as they walk through a fountain on Berwick Circle during one of the Council Bluffs Fire Department’s hydrant parties on Thursday. Each hydrant party runs from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday through Aug. 13. Council Bluffs Water Works provides the water for the parties, Centris brings frozen treats for kids to enjoy and the Council Bluffs Public Library hands out free books during the Thursday events. The full schedule can be found at councilbluffs-ia.gov. The next hydrant party will be held at Third Avenue and South 20th Street on July 25. The Luethjes were in town visiting family.

See Page 8A and visit NonpareilOnline.com for more photos from the hydrant party.

Mills County homeowners must complete buyout release form

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Mills County Emergency Management officials have announced that flood-affected Mills County homeowners interested in a buyout through the HMGP Project are required to complete a “Statement of Voluntary Transaction.”

These forms are available at the Mills County Auditor’s office for rural residents and at the Glenwood City Office for Pacific Junction residents. The forms must be completed in the office and co-signed by the governmental authority.

Completion of this paperwork is the next step in the application process for residents to be eligible for property buyouts. Once these are completed, the application can move forward to the next phase.

Local couple sees bobcat walk down sidewalk

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Two Council Bluffs residents woke up to the surprise of a bobcat walking down the sidewalk Sunday morning.

Becky Mayne lives on Sunny Ridge Drive. She said she has seen foxes, deer, turkeys and other wild animals from the woods in their backyard before, but this was the first time she and her husband, Mike, had seen a bobcat.

Mayne was going to get the paper when she saw the wild feline.

“I gasped and my husband thought I was having a heart attack,” Mayne said.

She pointed out the bobcat to her husband, and he insisted

they take some photos.

One photo was taken by Mayne upstairs, then she ran downstairs to take more.

“(The bobcat) heard me running down the stairs and he was alerted to the noise,” she said. “I snapped two more pictures of him and he ran.”

The bobcat ran back into the woods after being startled by the noise.

Jim Coffey, a forest wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said this is typical of wildlife as animals in Iowa tend to be afraid of people. Bobcats are also more common to see early in the morning or late at night as they use low light as cover for hunting.

BOBCAT/See Page 2A



Courtesy of Becky Mayne

A bobcat was seen walking on the sidewalk at Sunny Ridge Drive in Council Bluffs by Becky and Mike Mayne Sunday morning.



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