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Despite shutdown, Farm Service Agency offices to reopen

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced all Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide will soon reopen to provide additional administrative services to farmers and ranchers during the lapse in federal funding.

Certain FSA offices have provided limited services for existing loans and tax documents since January 17, and will continue to do so through January 23. Beginning January 24, all FSA offices will open and offer a longer list of transactions they will accommodate.

Additionally, Perdue announced that the deadline to apply for the Market Facilitation Program, which aids farmers harmed by unjustified retaliatory tariffs, has been

extended to February 14. The original deadline had been January 15. Other program deadlines may be modified and will be announced as they are addressed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has temporarily recalled all of the more than 9,700 FSA employees to keep offices open from 8 am to 4:30 pm weekdays beginning January 24. President Trump has already signed legislation that guarantees employees will receive all back pay missed during the lapse in funding.

For the first two full weeks under this operating plan (January 28 through February 1 and February 4 through February 8), FSA offices will be open Mondays through

See FSA on other side

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with
SUPT. SUZI HESSER

The Cornjerker Connection

with
SUPT. SUZI HESSER

Greetings! At Hoopeston Area, we have been working together to learn about childhood mental health and trauma. Our goal is to be “trauma-informed,” meaning that we are educated in how to best support our students. We are educators and not specialists in this area. However, we do feel a responsibility to use what experts tell us are effective ways to best reach and teach our students. Although this topic can be complex, we can think simply of trauma as an overwhelming or especially stressful experience. This could mean events such as living with divorce, lacking adequate food, witnessing violence, experiencing abuse, or living with a family member who is mentally ill. It is not really the exact event but the response we have to that event that might be described as trauma. Everyone responds differently to trauma. Something that may cause me a great deal of stress may be an easier experience for you.

At Hoopeston Area, we have learned that approximately one half of the students in our district have experienced trauma because that is the national average. We have learned that trauma affects long-term health, even influencing how long a person lives. We have learned that trauma stresses the brain. That makes it harder for students to learn, have positive relationships, and behave. But most importantly, we have learned that strong, positive adult relationships are what research says can best help a student experiencing the effects of trauma.

With that in mind, we are working to recruit community members who are interested in being a mentor to a student in our school district. Mentors meet once a week at school with a student who would benefit from a positive adult relationship. If your child has experienced trauma or is having a difficult time, we invite you to contact your school office to discuss our mentoring program as well as other supports we have in place. If you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor, thank you! We invite you to contact Amy Linares at (217) 283-6664.

It's a great day to be a Cornjerker!

Suzi

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From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:32 a.m. Tuesday at East Penn and South Market. Police said James A. Prather, 51, of Hoopeston, driving a 2017 John Deere end loader, struck a 2018 Chevrolet Impala, driven by Emily A. Gernand, 35, of Potomac. **Police met at city hall** with both parties involved in

FSA continued from other side

Fridays. In subsequent weeks, offices will be open three days a week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, if needed, to provide the additional administrative services. Agricultural producers who have business with the agency can contact their [FSA service center](#) to make an appointment.

FSA can provide these administrative services, which are critical for farmers and ranchers, because failure to perform these services would harm funded programs. FSA staff will work on the following transactions:

- Market Facilitation Program.
- Marketing Assistance Loans.
- Release of collateral warehouse receipts.
- Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans, and Emergency Loans.
- Service existing Conservation Reserve Program contracts.
- Sugar Price Support Loans.
- Dairy Margin Protection Program.
- Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage.
- Livestock Forage Disaster.
- Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program.
- Livestock Indemnity Program.
- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.
- Tree Assistance Program.
- Remaining Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program payments for applications already processed.

Transactions that will **not** be available include, but are not limited to:

- New Conservation Reserve Program contracts.
- New Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans.
- Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.
- New or in-process Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program applications.
- Emergency Conservation Program.

an accident at 3:21 p.m. Tuesday at West Penn and Fourth Ave. Kari N. Bernard, 33, of Hoopeston, in a 2012 Jeep, failed to yield and hit a 2006 Mercury driven by Robert L. Simpson, 71, of Hoopeston, police said. No tickets or injuries were reported.

- Emergency Forest Rehabilitation Program.
- Biomass Crop Assistance Program.
- Grassroots Source Water Protection Program.

With the Office of Management and Budget, USDA reviewed all of its funding accounts that are not impacted by the lapse in appropriation. The list was further refined to include programs where suspension of the activity associated with these accounts would significantly damage or prevent the execution of the terms of the underling statutory provision.

As a result of this review, USDA was able to except more employees. Those accounts that are not impacted by the lapse in appropriation include mandatory, multi-year and no year discretionary funding including FY 2018 Farm Bill activities.

Updates to available services and offices will be made during the lapse in federal funding on the [FSA shutdown webpage](#).

Programs managed by FSA that were re-authorized by the 2018 farm bill will be available at a later date yet to be determined.

New Books at the Library

Board Books
 I am Max, by Astrid Holm
 Cement Mixer's ABC, by Sherri Duskey Rinker

Picture Books
 Splatter, by Diane Alber
 Pig the Fibber, by Aaron Blabey
 The Snowy Nap, by Jan Brett
 Imagine!, by Rau'i Coloi'n
 Pete the Cat Checks Out the Library, by James Dean

Weather

Mostly cloudy, slight chance of snow today. High 24. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low -4. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of snow. High 11, low 5.

Briefly

The Gathering

The Gathering, Rossville's monthly get-together for senior citizens will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at Rossville Fire Station. The event is sponsored by Rossville Community Organization. Everyone is welcome!

Birthday Club registration

Hoopeston Jaycees continue the giving tradition by hosting the 2019 Birthday Club, which serves Hoopeston Area families with children aged, 0-10 by providing parents and guardians the opportunity to select new toys for a child's birthday. Past participants must register again. More info and registration is available online at www.hoopestonjaycees.org.

**Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-
 Hoopeston Happenings
 Tonya Hill
 DACC Foundation
 on scholarships & how to apply
 on WHPO!**

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Grill cook needed ASAP at Lola's Bar & Grill in Potomac. Experience necessary. Hours vary. Please call 217-497-6938 for details.

Full Time Dispatcher candidate applications being taken Website: www.hoopestonpolice.org, select Employment on the sidebar. Description of job and application maybe located on this website. No phone calls.

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2 Bedroom house, one story, washer & dryer room, refinished hardwood floors. \$500 month + deposit 217-283-7439

3 BR 1 BA Duplex. Garage. Good location. \$475.00 Mo.+ Sec. Dep. No pets. Upstairs unit. References. Call Jerry Urich - 217-304-3477 for an application.

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