The Northwood Anchor

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Briefs

Grocery delivery available for at-risk people

A group of volunteers has organized to help get groceries to people in the community that are seniors and others that are at risk for severe symptoms of COVID-19.

These volunteers are working with Fallgatter's Market to provide grocery delivery seven days a week.

Those that would like to schedule a grocery delivery, or who have questions may call Fallgatters at 324-1651.

Share your stories, talents and pictures with the Anchor

With so many stuck at home for the time being, and without the usual activity to feature in our pages each week, the Northwood Anchor is looking for some help by giving those in the community a chance to share their experiences, and their talents.

We're looking for people to send us their stories on how they're spending their time self-isolated or otherwise stuck at home. We're looking for notes and pictures of home activities. We're inviting people to share DIY and craft experiences and the results. Those taking this time to practice artistic talents, young and old, please share the results.

In this time when public safety means people shouldn't connect in many of the ways they're used to, we are seeking your help to keep our community connected by sharing this unusual experience with each other.

If you have a story or a picture to share,

Anchor, see Page 3





Northwood parks closed

Last week, Northwood's parks were shut down to help prevent groups of 10 or more gathering, per the guidelines of the State of Iowa.

Community schools and businesses adapt to quarantine measures

By Erin McCord
erin@nwdanchor.com

Life in Northwood has changed dramatically over the past week. The spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 has led to the self-isolation of much of the population, closed the schools and for the few businesses that remain open, changed the way they do business.

A major change was the announcement last Sunday, March 15, that Northwood-Kensett schools would be closing for four weeks, leaving teachers scrambling to create online lessons and parents who were still working outside the home scrambling for childcare.

According to a release from superintendent Michael Crozier, the lessons that teachers will be sending home for students will vary. Some will receive their lessons online, some will receive paper packets. None of the lessons will count toward a final grade; students are encouraged to keep up with lessons so that they may be ready for their next grade level. Students will not have to make up missed days at the end of the year.

Also closed as of March 22 are area salons and barbershops, per order of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds in an effort to curb the spread of the virus.

Restaurants were also ordered to suspend dine-in services. In Northwood, Bean and Bistro, Tequila's, Subway and Sue's Cornerpost are all remaining open and offering pickup of meals.

Adapt, see Page 2



CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT



GENEVA PATTERSON

Celebrating notable women, of history and of home

By JoAnn Lower

March is Women's History Month, a time we celebrate the vital role of women in American history.

These are the stories of two inspirational Iowa women: Carrie Chapman Catt, an important leader in the women's suffrage movement, and Geneva Patterson, a most loved Northwood native and model of humanity.

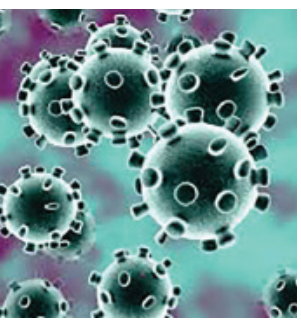
Carrie Chapman Catt: This is an election year, but most of us don't give any thought to the American woman's right to vote. We simply take it for granted.

On July 2 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Iowans ratifying the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing women the right to vote.

The Amendment has only 39 words but is one of our most important laws. Simply stated it says, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on the account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Strong women known as "suffragettes" lobbied for voting rights for 70 years before the amendment was made a law.

History, see Page 3



The Week's WEATHER
by National Weather Service Observer
John Podgorniak

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues. March 18	43	35	.1
Wed. March 19	43	33	
Thurs. March 20	33	21	1.38
Fri. March 21	37	24	
Sat. March 22	40	32	
Sun. March 23	45	36	
Mon. March 24	24	38	

Worth County budget calls for 3.61 percent tax increase

At their regular meeting on Monday, March 30, the Worth County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to discuss their proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2020, and ends on June 30, 2021. The hearing will be held electronically, along with the rest of the meeting. See the County's website for an agenda and how to listen to or view the meeting.

The local government's budget includes decreases in levy rates and an increase in the total to be collected in property taxes in the coming fiscal year. The County's

Budget, see Page 2

Schools and food pantries stepping in to keep Worth County residents fed

By Erin McCord
erin@nwdanchor.com

With schools and businesses closed, Northwood-Kensett and local food pantries are stepping in to help Worth County residents keep themselves and their families fed.

Northwood-Kensett schools will be providing free breakfast and lunch for all children in the district from age 1 to high school seniors. Meals will be delivered on weekdays to the following locations and times: the loading dock at the back of the secondary building in Northwood from 9 to 9:30 a.m.; the west bus stop in Kensett, from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.; the east bus stop in Kensett from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.; and along the regular routes for all rural bus passengers at their regular morning school pick up time.

Those who are eligible may sign up for

Fed, see Page 2

N-K provides update on classes, online options

By Michael Crozier, Northwood-Kensett superintendent

I just wanted to provide an update of what's transpired since Governor Reynolds made the recommendation Sunday evening that school districts in Iowa suspend classes for four weeks.

On Monday, the legislation waived the days and hours requirement, which means that these days missed will not have to be made up.

Locally, we've made the decision to provide "Distance Learning" while our buildings are closed, which will begin district-wide on Monday (March 23), and you can read more about that below.

My hope is that we will all be together again on April 13; however, we are also planning beyond that just in case. As you know, this is a very fluid situation.

Updates, see Page 2

National Ag Week — See Page 2B and 3B

Budget
Cont. from Page 1

projected fund balance will decrease by the fiscal year's end.

Budgets for Iowa counties rely on two different sets of tax levies to compute how much they plan to ask in property taxes. Those levies are applied to urban and rural areas separately. In the proposed budget, both rates will decrease slightly.

The urban tax rate in the proposed budget is $5.69 per $1,000 of taxable valuation. The rate for the current fiscal year was $5.77418 . That is a decrease of $0.08418.

The rural tax rate in the proposed budget is $8.465 per $1,000 of taxable valuation. The rate for the current fiscal year was $8.54918. That is also a decrease of $0.08418.

Tax levies are combined with tax valuations to determine the amount the County collects in property taxes every year.

Taxes to be levied on rural areas only, in the proposed budget, would total $1,405,661. The current fiscal year's budget called for $1,348,786 in rural only levies. That is an increase of $56,875 or 4.22 percent.

Taxes levied on property countywide in the proposed budget would total $3,580,932. The budget for the current fiscal year included countywide taxes of $3,464,252. That is an increase of $116,680 or 3.37 percent.

The total of taxes to be levied on property in the county in the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year will be $4,986,593. Re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year called for total property taxes to be $4,813,038. That is an increase of $173,555 or 3.61 percent.

In the proposed budget, revenues for the coming fiscal year would total $15,297,607. The re-estimated budget figures for the current fiscal year show total revenues of $15,120,782. That is an increase of $176,825, or 1.17 percent.

Expenditures in the proposed budget total $18,577,874. Re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year's budget show total expenditures of $16,283,870. That is an increase of $2,294,004, or 14.09 percent.

The biggest change in the budget from the current fiscal year to the proposed budget comes in the category of capital projects. The re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year shows $1,380,000 for capital projects. The proposed budget calls for $2,955,000. The difference can largely be attributed to the planned development of lots at the Highway 105/ Interstate 35 interchange which is set to begin this summer, ending in the next fiscal year.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2020, includes spending of $3,280,267 in excess of total revenues. The proposed budget includes a beginning fund balance of $9,786,049. The County's ending fund balance, at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2021, would then be $6,505,782. That would be a fund balance decrease of 33.52 percent.

The Worth County Board of Supervisors scheduled a public hearing to discuss their proposed budget at their regular meeting on Monday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at the Worth County Courthouse. However, recently meetings are being held electronically. Visit the Worth County website for information at www.worthcounty.org.

Updates
Cont. from Page 1

Classes/School-Related Activities

At this point, we are planning for classes to resume on April 13. Any school-related program, activity, sporting practices/events are canceled, postponed, or suspended during this four week period. I'm using all three of those words because those details need to be worked through.

Concurrent Enrollment Classes

Guidance from the state regarding concurrent enrollment courses taught on-site (Mr. Ehlke's Entrepreneurship class, for example) is unclear at this time. Online CCE classes from NIACC continue uninterrupted for now.

Food Program

As you already know, the district has set up a "grab and go" lunch and snack for students that began today. The State allowed the Summer Food Program, which is a free program, to go into effect during this period of time when the school district is shut down due to COVID-19.

Distance Learning Overview

With our strong emphasis in technology and outstanding staff, we will begin this journey, as we feel this is best for our students (and parents). You'll be getting emails from teachers with the activities/assignments included. Some families with multiple students will be hit pretty hard with a larger number of emails. We understand this can be a burden, however, it's the best way for each teacher to communicate with you and your child(ren).

Although we cannot require student participation in distance learning and the work they do cannot become part of their grade during a time of school closure, it is in every student's best interest to continue learning, so they are ready for the next level or next grade.

Students who are Pre-K, kindergarten through third grade will receive paper packets. These do not need to be returned. The overall goal is to provide students with some structure and to stay on track. The focus will be reviewing essential skills already covered and introduce new skills as we move along.

For grades 4-12, we will primarily use an online communication model with videos, resources, projects, and assignments being shared electronically with students. In some grade levels and subject areas, paper copies may also be utilized, but these will generally be "one-way documents," meaning we will send them home to your student, but we do not intend to get them back...

Thank you for your patience! We will continue to communicate and please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Fed
Cont. from Page 1

meals by calling the high school at 324-2142 ext. 100, or the elementary building at 324-1127 ext 200, or emailing Clara at chelgeland@nkvikings.com or Tina at tjohnson@nkvikings.com.

The N-K elementary food bank of Iowa's School Pantry is also available to anyone with children in preschool through sixth grade. The school will email out a list of available foods and parents may respond with their needs. Pickup will be on Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. Staff will bring orders out to patrons. Anyone with questions may contact awilliams@nkvikings.com.

Manna of Worth County and the WCCOP food pantry at the Community Center are following similar order ahead/drive up protocols.

Manna will be open normal hours. Clients are asked to drive up to the building and a volunteer will come to vehicles for check-in information, after which they will return with food according to family size. Manna is temporarily allowing clients to visit up to four times in a month. The Worth County Community Pantry will be available on Mondays 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. Families are asked to order their food, which will then be pulled by volunteers and brought out to vehicles or to the front doors of the center. There is a list of food available through the pantry posted at the center and on social media. The volunteer on duty will sign families in until further notice.

Families may order food by Facebook message to Northwood Community Center, call 641-324-9976, email nwdcommunitycenter@gmail.com or text 641-390-0096. In person orders may also be places, but patrons will be asked to wait outside for their order.

Adapt
Cont. from Page 1

The Dollar General store has announced that the first hour of the day, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., will be reserved for senior citizens.

Fallgatter's Market Place is offering grocery delivery to anyone who is at-risk or is self-quarantining due to the virus. Volunteers are facilitating this seven day a week service.

Other closings in town include the Northwood Public Library, which has suspended fines and extended due dates. E-books are available through a link at bridges.overdrive.com or by downloading the Libby app. Patrons can use the barcode number from their library card to access e-book services.

First Lutheran Church has cancelled all activities until further notice. Online services are being posted on Facebook.

Northwood Dental will be closed through April for routine appointments, but will be available for emergencies.

For other community updates, check the Anchor Facebook page. Those with updates to share are encouraged to contact the Anchor at 324-1051, anchor1@nwdanchor.com or via Facebook message.

Supervisors make declaration, prepare for e-meetings

Last week, as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, County officials prepared to use emergency resources while looking at ways to hold meetings while allowing officials to participate and the public to observe.

On Friday, the Worth County supervisors did both. During a special meeting held Friday morning, the supervisors passed a declaration, stating that the County has become overwhelmed with the "preparation, mitigation efforts and economic stress."

Based on that situation the supervisors declared a state of emergency, allowing the County to spend emergency funds, invoke mutual aid agreements and apply for State assistance.

Besides officially opening up those emergency channels, the meeting was also used to test ways to hold meetings when county officials can't be present, and when the public won't be allowed in person.

Iowa's Open Meetings Law is designed to make sure that the state's governing bodies do business in the public eye. However, there are provisions, such as the current one, where they can hold meetings electronically, as long as members of the public are allowed to view or listen.

Over the course of the morning's meeting and a test amongst department heads later in the day, the County has found options that began with this past Monday's meeting, where members of the public were given phone numbers to call to listen to the meeting.

County officials are awaiting additional equipment to allow the public to view the meetings as well.

Agendas for supervisors' meetings will include viewing or listening instructions until the courthouse reopens.

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History
Cont. from Page 1

Beginning in the 1800s, women lectured, marched, lobbied, picketed and practiced civil disobedience to makes their voices heard. In the decades it took them to accomplish their purpose, many of the earliest pioneers did not live to see the victorious outcome in 1920.

Many Americans had a negative response to the suffrage movement; they felt that an amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote would cause a radical turn for the worse in our culture. Opponents to women's suffrage believed a woman's role was to support the family and take care of matters at home. They thought the suffragette activists were behaving oddly in public, and that their psychological state was warped. In general, they believed women lacked the mental capability to participate in important political events such as elections.

One of the more notable suffragettes and peace activists was Carrie Chapman Catt. She was the only female in the 1880 graduating class at Iowa State University. After spending time as a law clerk, teacher and superintendent of schools in Mason City, Catt got involved in the fight to allow women to vote.

In 1900 she was elected president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. After 33 years of hard work, she eventually turned public opinion in favor of women's suffrage.

President Woodrow Wilson converted to the cause in 1918, after which Congress passed the 19th Amendment.

To honor Carrie Chapman Catt's memory and her life's struggle to give women the right to vote, the 19th Amendment Society of Charles City has beautifully restored Carrie's girlhood home.

Carrie's dream of giving women the right to vote began in the brick farmhouse her father built in 1866. Today her home, "the place where history whispers to you," is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The struggle for the vote was an effort to bring men to feel less superior and women to feel less inferior" – Carrie Chapman Catt, 1924.

Geneva Patterson was born on August 3, 1918. The fourth child of John and Elfreda Brazel, she grew up on an 80-acre farm seven miles east of Northwood along with seven brothers and sisters. Of the eight Brazel children, only Geneva and her 103-year-old sister Bea of Mason City remain.

"Woodrow Wilson was president when I was born," said Geneva. "Mom had a big picture of him hanging in the living room.

"My son Larry and his wife Barbara now live in the house I grew up in. Mom's woodburning cook stove is still there."

A one-room country schoolteacher, Geneva taught in three different country schools, the first Deer Creek #6.

"Teaching was a joy, and I was proud of every child I taught. We had wiener roasts to celebrate the end of school and Christmas programs with a lunch afterwards. Country schools were just like family. I hope I touched the children's lives in a way that helped them be the best person they could be."

Geneva was a gardener, canning and freezing enough food each summer to last her family all winter. She also loved flowers, especially morning glories and hollyhocks.

"I like to look out the window at my flowers and share them with people who come along."

For more than 30 years Geneva worked at Fallgatters.

"I did everything there. I worked in the meat department, stocked shelves, cleaned and I was a checker. Every customer became a special friend."

Shortly after the Pattersons celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, Robert passed away at age 63.

The couple had five sons – Clair, Howard, Richard, Larry and Harvey. Clair passed away some years ago of colon cancer and Howard of a heart attack while shoveling snow. Geneva and Robert have many grandchildren and many great, great-grandchildren.

As Grand Marshal of last year's Fourth of July parade, Geneva rode in a convertible with Harvey and her great-great-grandkids.

At 101 years old, Geneva's health is good. Because of arthritis, she uses a cane to walk around. She appreciates Meals on Wheels and enjoys a good book.

"The inspirational women in my life are my mother and my country schoolteachers. They are the women who helped me become the person I am today.

"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for as many people as you can, for as long as ever you can." – Geneva Patterson, 2020.

Anchor
Cont. from Page 1

please contact us on the Northwood Anchor Facebook page or by emailing kris@nwdanchor.com.

We plan to share the results with friends and neighbors on Facebook and in the pages of the Anchor soon.

Thank you!

School board discusses lunch, education, employeement policy in wake of COVID-19

At a special meeting held last Thursday, the Northwood-Kensett Board of Education met, while practicing social distancing guidelines, to officially approve actions taken earlier in the week and take action in regards to district employees paid hourly.

The board worked to officially establish school policy and actions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. That included giving superintendent Mike Crozier the authority to make many decisions for district policy and facility to accommodate COVID-19 until schools reopen.

It was noted that the resolution only applies to the four weeks out of school that was recommended by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds on March 15. That would end on April 13. At that time, if schools are to remain closed, the school board will take additional action.

One of the most important things for the district was to make sure that all N-K students have access to meals while they can't have them at school cafeterias.

That's where the resources of the Summer Meals Program come in. The program normally provides districts with ways to offer meals during the summer to help students that may not have access to regular meals outside of a school environment.

Iowa schools have been given the go-ahead to implement the program now to feed students while schools are closed.

At N-K, parents can call the district's buildings to sign up for meals, including breakfast and lunch. Those meals can be picked up at bus stops and at the secondary building for those that call in, or delivered on bus routes.

Secondary principal Keith Fritz shared that 130 signed up for the first day of the service last Friday. It was also noted that the program is ongoing and parents just need to contact the school to sign up. See more information on the program at the school's website, www.nkvikings.com, and elsewhere in this week's Anchor.

The board also learned about distance learning plans.

Teachers met last week, digitally connecting from their homes and classrooms, to discuss their plans and options to continue educating N-K students.

The plan is to offer lessons a week at a time and for teachers to regularly check in with all students taking part. Fritz also said that there are roughly 12 students that don't have access to the internet or to a computer, who will be sent printed versions of lessons at their request.

It was noted that, by state law, if the school is closed, then the district can't require any student to take part in the distance learning plans, nor can they be graded on their work.

As far as graduation is concerned, all seniors will be graduating, regardless of time missed, unless they were behind before the forced school break began.

The remaining question came to a decision of policy for hourly workers.

First, superintendent Mike Crozier outlined the roles that will be in place for employees that will be considered essential, mainly those that will assist as the district offers meals to its students, either for pick up at designated locations, or to be dropped off on district bus routes. That includes the nutritional staff that prepare the food and the drivers that will be delivering it. Other essential staff that are classified as hourly are those that work in the offices at the elementary and secondary buildings.

However, there are roughly 15 other hourly employees, whose work primarily consists of assisting with students in the classroom. While district administration will look at other ways those employees can work in the district while buildings are closed to students, they may not find tasks for them to do.

That left the school board with a difficult decision Thursday night.

Should the district continue paying all hourly employees as they would normally be paid, regardless of whether or not they will have work to do for the district? Or should the district essentially lay off those without something to do for the school?

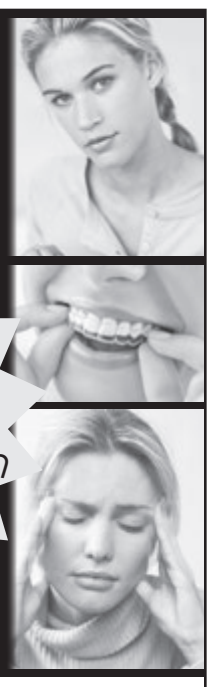
School board members noted that the issue was not one of money. If school was in session the hourly employees would be paid the same, so the district's budget would not increase by continuing to pay all hourly employees.

The main issue was the fairness of paying all hourly employees when some would be doing some form of their regular duties and others would not, meaning the district would be paying those employees while they weren't actively working.

It was noted that the employees being discussed would be the hardest hit by the current situation, financially.

The school board also learned that a majority of Iowa districts that have taken action on hourly employees have chosen to pay them during four week break, whether or not they had work to do.

Noting the unusual times, the difficulty in finding hourly employees to fill the roles when school is in session and the dedication of their staff, the school board chose to add N-K to the list of districts that will pay all hourly employees through April 13, whether or not a job can be found for them to do.

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Resumes may be sent to Kimberly Wilson, 215 W. 4th St. Suite 6, Spencer, IA 51301 by Wednesday April 15, 2020.
Clay, Palo Alto, and Kossuth Counties, as members of Northwest Iowa Care Connections, are equal opportunity employers of record for these positions.
For more information about the position, please contact Regional CEO, Kim Wilson at 712-262-9438.Northwest Iowa Care Connections is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Clay/Palo Alto/Kossuth County will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities and encourages both prospective and current employees to discuss potential accommodations with the employer.

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Northwood Anchor Northwood

Fritz graduates from Upper Iowa University

Upper Iowa University has announced that Evan Fritz, of Lake Mills, graduated with a Master of Public Administration degree in Nonprofit Organizational Management Emphasis in December 2019.

Governor relaxes state restrictions and regulations

Last week, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued an additional Public Health Emergency Declaration effective immediately, providing additional regulatory relief to Iowans impacted by the public health disaster.

The declaration relaxes a number of restrictions and regulations and provides relief from other statutes and state regulations:

· Temporarily suspends collection of property taxes and penalties and interest

· Temporarily suspends some evictions under the Iowa Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act or the Manufactured Home Communities or Mobile Home Parks Residential Landlord and Tenant Act in certain circumstances

· Extends expiration deadline for a permit to carry and a permit to acquire a firearm and additional measures

· Permits the sale of carry-out, delivery, drive-thru of alcohol for unopened bottles of alcohol for bars and restaurants and suspends some fees

· Permits public meetings or hearings by electronic means to improve the functions of government while maintaining social distancing practices

· Suspends certain regulations to ease the transportation of agricultural supplies and commodities, food, medical supplies, cleaning products, and other household goods on all highways in Iowa

The proclamation also allows related state agencies to implement the state's public health emergency plan.



Kyle Mussman and Red Cross worker Deb



Dean Mueller and Red Cross worker Deb



Mary Songstad and Red Cross worker Chris

Donors step up at Lions blood drive

By JoAnn Lower

Due to spreading fears of the coronavirus, 2,700 blood drives have been canceled nationwide since March 17, resulting in 86,000 fewer donations.

The Northwood Lions Club, however, in association with the American Red Cross, went ahead with their scheduled blood drive on March 19, focusing only on the health and the welfare of others.

People from Northwood and the surrounding communities of Albert Lea and Lake Mills walked through the doors of Northwood's VFW that day, resulting in 34 pints of life-saving blood.

"This is the best blood drive we've had in two years," said organizer Bob Perry. "I want to thank everyone for their donations. What a wonderful example of kindness in a crisis."



Elaine Meyer and Bob Perry checking people in



Donors gathered for refreshments after their donations.

Assistance available for employees and employers affected by COVID-19

Governor Reynolds has announced assistance for workers and employers impacted by layoffs related to COVID-19. The guidance includes information for employees filing for unemployment insurance claims, as well as information on programs available for employers.

"Iowa has incredible employers accommodating the needs of Iowans during the disruption caused by COVID-19," said Reynolds. "The state of Iowa is doing everything we can to ease the process and shorten the time it will take for Iowans to receive unemployment benefits. All of our state agencies continue to work as one team to lessen the impact COVID-19 will have on our economy and our people."

"Iowa Workforce Development is taking steps to reduce the impact of these claims on employers who have had to temporarily lay off staff due to closures or slowdowns," said IWD Director Beth Townsend. "IWD encourages all employers to utilize paid leave and telework options for employees before utilizing temporary layoffs. Iowa Workforce Development will continue to monitor the situation, working with our stakeholders and updates will be released on our webpage."

Unemployment insurance claims:

Those that are laid off due to COVID-19 or have to stay home to self-isolate, care for family members or due to illness related to COVID-19, can receive unemployment benefits, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Work search requirements will be waived. Those requirements essentially include working for wages from an employer who claims someone as an employee in six of the last 18 months and have earned at least $2,500 in the same time period. More specific explanation of benefit eligibility can be found online at www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/2019-unemployment-insurance-claimant-handbook

Claimants can expect to receive payment within 7-10 days after the date the claim is filed.

Claims that are filed and identified as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19, will not be charged to employers. Fact-finding interviews for these claims will be waived and not be held although employers will be notified of claims received.

IWD will process unemployment insurance payments to ensure payment will continue to be paid in a timely manner.

"The Iowa Workforce Development team is dedicated to providing assistance to employees and employers affected by COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or our team for assistance at 1-866-239-0843," said Director Townsend.

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship waives deadline for pesticide applicators to renew certification

In-person testing required to renew a pesticide applicator certification must be completed by December 31, 2020.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced recently that the deadline for pesticide applicators to renew their certifications has been waived by a proclamation signed by Governor Kim Reynolds on March 22.

Iowans who were certified through December 31, 2019, can retain their status and now have until December 31, 2020, to submit the testing or training required to renew a pesticide applicator certification.

"I want to thank Gov. Reynolds for working with the Department to find a solution that allows our farmers and agribusinesses to continue operating while upholding the pesticide testing and certification standards in our state," said Naig. "Agriculture is a critical part of our state's infrastructure. We will continue supporting the agriculture community to prevent supply chain interruptions during this unprecedented situation."

This waiver comes after the Department canceled its in-person testing sessions through March 31, based on social distancing recommendations from the CDC. Applicators still need to meet pesticide certification standards by December 31, 2020. They are encouraged to apply for recertification upon completion of the testing or training requirements.

More details are available at iowaagriculture.gov/covid-19.

CORONAVIRUS HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CDC



clean your hands

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov.

The Northwood Anchor

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Cook Bookin'



We may live without poetry, music and art; We may live without conscience and live without heart; We may live without friends; we may live without books; But a civilized man cannot live without cooks.

Bulwer Lytton, Edward Robert

by Sandy Olson

To contact Sandy Olson for comments or suggestions, please email her at: midwestfoodie@gmail.com

March in Iowa is cold! March in Hawaii is not so cold! If a trip to the islands is not in the cards this year, how about cooking some tropical food and having an in-home feast. "Hawaii Kai Cookbook" (1970, Hearthside Press, Inc. NYC) was written by Roana and Gene Schindler. It contains unusual recipes favored in Hawaii but easily replicated in any home kitchen. The recipes were published 49 years ago; I've adapted them for today's kitchen.

Hawaiian Hamburgers

2 pounds lean ground beef
1/2 cup soy sauce
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 teaspoon fresh ginger, peeled, minced
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 can bean sprouts, rinsed and drained
3 scallions, chopped fine
1 can (5 oz.) water chestnuts, drained, rinsed and chopped

Combine the meat with 1/4 cup of the soy sauce, the sugar, salt, a dash of black pepper, ginger and garlic. Mix gently with clean hands until well blended. Divide into six parts, then divide each part in half to make 12 little balls. Shape each ball into a large thin patty. Chop the bean sprouts and combine with the water chestnuts and scallions. Spread 2-3 tablespoons of this mixture over 6 of the beef patties and cover with the remaining 6 patties, making a "sandwich". Pinch the sides together. Brush with the remaining soy sauce and broil 3-4 minutes on each side. You can use the oven broiler or your outdoor grill set for high direct cooking. Baste with more soy sauce if desired. Serve on a plate…not in a bun…with side dishes. SANDY'S NOTE: I think replacing the bean sprouts with crushed pineapple (well drained and patted dry) would add a pleasing sweetness to these burgers.

Baked Coconut Chicken

8 medium boneless,skinless chicken breasts
2 large eggs
1 small can frozen orange juice, thawed
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 slices fresh ginger, minced (optional)
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 package shredded coconut
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 cup corn flake crumbs
1 teaspoon lemon juice
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons cornstarch mixed with
4 tablespoons water to make a paste

Rinse and dry the chicken breasts. Combine the orange juice concentrate, 1/2 teaspoon salt and ginger in a large bowl. Marinate the chicken breasts overnight in the refrigerator. The next day, drain the chicken breasts but reserve the marinade in the refrigerator. On a sheet of waxed paper, mix the corn flake crumbs with the coconut. In a shallow bowl beat the eggs with half the reserved orange juice mixture, the soy sauce and garlic powder. Dip each chicken piece first in the egg mixture and then in the coconut and crumb mixture. Press the breading mixture onto the chicken with your fingers. Place in a large, greased baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 60-90 minutes or until the chicken tests at 175 degrees internal temperature. If the coating begins to get too brown, cover the chicken with foil. Remove from the oven and keep hot. To the pan juices, add the rest of the reserved orange juice mixture, the chicken broth, lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste. Scrape up any browned bits from the bottom of the baking dish. Add the cornstarch paste slowly, stirring until the sauce has thickened. Place the chicken on a large platter and serve with the sauce in a separate dish.

Beef with Peanut Sauce

1 large yellow onion, chopped
3 tablespoons cooking oil
2 pounds beef sirloin
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1/2 teaspoon brown bean sauce*
1 teaspoon sugar
4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
12 large cherry tomatoes, peeled**
Salt and pepper to taste

Cut the beef into 1-inch cubes, discarding any fat. Heat the oil in a large heavy skillet and sauté the onions until they are soft but not brown. Add the beef cubes and brown on all sides. Stir in the soy sauce, sugar, brown bean sauce and broth. Mix well, cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Add the peanut butter, salt and pepper. Stir and cook for 30 minutes more or until the beef is tender. Add the tomatoes and cook for 5 more minutes. Serve over hot rice. Serves 6.

* You can find brown bean sauce in a jar in Asian markets. It will keep for a long time in the refrigerator after opening. ** dip the tomatoes into boiling water for a few seconds and the skin will peel right off.

There are many exotic recipes in this book along with instructions for hosting an elaborate luau complete with island-style drinks. You're on your own to find those little umbrellas! And…that's all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society

Whelan – Haberman marry Saturday, March 14, 2020

Elizabeth Corinne Whelan and Tanner Joseph Haberman were married on Saturday, March 14, 2020, with a private ceremony in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Liz is the daughter of Daniel and Brenda Whelan of Albert Lea and Laurel Syvertson of Alden, Minnesota. She is the granddaughter of Rebecca and Charles Nelson of Alden, Minnesota.

Liz is a graduate of Albert Lea High School and is employed at United Employees Credit Union in Albert Lea as a loan departments Member Services Representative.

Tanner is the son of Brian and Becky Haberman of Northwood. He is the grandson of Joseph and Sandy Becker of Albert Lea, Minn., and the-late Meinard Haberman and Janice Haberman of Blooming Prairie, Minn.



ELIZABETH AND TANNER HABERMAN

Tanner is a graduate of Northwood-Kensett High School and is employed at Crossroad Trailers in Albert Lea as a Diesel and Refrigeration Technician.

The couple are planning a celebration in 2021.

Welcome Kynslee Lynn

Tanner and Liz Haberman of Albert Lea, Minnesota, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Kynslee Lynn Haberman, born on Monday, March 16, 2020, at 10:57 p.m. at MercyOne in Mason City.

Kynslee weighed five pounds, seven ounces and was 18 inches long.

She is welcomed to this world by a brother Bentley, seven, and sister Kyliee, five.

Her grandparents are Brian and Becky Haberman of Northwood and Dan and Brenda Whelan of Albert Lea and Laurel Syvertson of Alden, Minnesota.



KYNSLEE LYNN HABERMAN

NSB closes lobbies, offers alternate banking options

Since last Wednesday, March 18, NSB Bank locations in Northwood and Mason City have closed lobbies to help ensure the health and safety of staff and customers.

While lobbies will not be open to the public, staff will be on hand. The bank's drive-up service will also remain open.

Other banking options include online banking at www.nsb-bank.com, mobile banking on their mobile app.

Those with questions may call NSB Bank in Northwood at 641-324-1023.

Staff at NSB Bank will be to conduct regular business, answer questions over the phone and assist with bill pay, online and mobile banking.

Loan, investment services and safe deposit box entry are by appointment only.

NSB Bank is asking that anyone that has traveled outside the country to contact them to make arrangements.

North Iowa Community Action Organization energy assistance program

Due to COVID-19, NICAO is taking steps to ensure continued service to households while maintaining the health and safety of staff and customers.

Therefore, the following changes have been made to the operation of the LIHEAP program effective immediately and until further notice:

1) The winter moratorium has been extended to May 1, 2020, by the Iowa Utility Board.

2) The regular LIHEAP season has been extended to May 31, 2020.

3) The in-person requirement for first time applicants and households with the last name beginning with H-N, has been waived. Applications are accepted by mail, email, online or by telephone.

Those interested or with other questions may contact the Outreach office for Worth County at 641-228-2893 for the application process.

Dalluges welcome a son, Weston

Jackie and Jake Dalluge of Grafton welcomed a son, Weston Lee Dalluge, on Sunday, March 15, 2020. He weighed seven pounds and three ounces. He joins two-year-old Peyton.

Grandparents are Brad and Tanya Dalluge of Grafton, and Jim and Shannon Paulus of New Haven, Iowa.

Great-grandparents are Larry and Carol Dalluge of Grafton and Sandy Bushbaum of Mason City, Iowa.

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Trip members take in the Gettysburg Cyclorama, a 377 foot long, 42 foot high oil-on-canvas painting displayed in a circular room. Depicting the final battle of Gettysburg, the massive artwork was first viewed by the public in 1883. The Cyclorama was brought to life by a light and sound show that put viewers in the midst of the battle.

Worth County 4-H trip takes in D.C. sights

By Erin McCord
erin@nwdanchor.com

We returned from Washington, D.C., just over a week ago, although the world has changed so much since then, it seems like much longer.

I climbed aboard a bus in the Northwood-Kensett High School parking lot on Saturday morning, March 7, with 50 plus others- 4-H members, parents and chaperones- to embark on a 23 hour bus ride to the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. From there, we had five action packed days in the Washington, D.C., area arranged by Worth County Extension Educator Dennis Johnson and his wife, Janelle.

The bus ride did not leave us feeling particularly fresh when we arrived at our first destination, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, but our cramped limbs realigned as we walked around the site, taking in the notable battlefields "Devil's Den" and "Little Round Top" with our Gettysburg tour guide.

Many of us also climbed the 76-foot high Longstreet Tower, which left us winded and jelly-legged, but afforded us an amazing 360 degree view of the battlefields, restored farms and the retirment home of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

That evening the group retired to the Conference Center for pizza, a video and the first of what would be many conversations centering around growing coronavirus concerns.

Those concerns didn't stop the group from heading into D.C. for a tour of Ford's Theater, a peek into the Hard Rock Cafe and souvenir shopping before boarding the bus for lunch and then a beautiful afternoon at Mount Vernon, the home of the first U.S. President, George Washington.

Following dinner at the Ronald Reagan food court, we got a nighttime view of the White House and toured the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Wall and the Lincoln and Korean War memorials.

Those somber sights lent a fresh appreciation for the outcomes of decisions made on Capitol Hill, where we spent the following day.



Justine Nelson of Glenville and Hayden Pestorius of Northwood lay the Worth County 4-H wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Three contingents of 4-H'ers divided up to visit the offices of Senators Joni Ernst, Chuck Grassley and Amy Klobuchar, where staffers answered questions and offered insight into the senators' daily doings.

That busy day also included a tour of the Supreme Court building, watching the Senate in action from the gallery and a group photo with Ernst and Grassley on the steps of the Capitol. This day was wrapped up at the Kennedy Center, where we were treated to the comedy "Shear Madness."

On Wednesday morning we visited the Smithsonian Zoo and the group was perked up by watching the resident pandas eat their bamboo breakfast. From there, we bussed to the National Mall, where we again split into groups to visit the various Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument and the Holocaust Museum. From there, we bussed to the National Cathedral, where we had anticipated taking in a choral performance. The performance was canceled, and a non-denominational service was held in its place. We were the last group to visit before the Cathedral locked it's doors to visitors.

That was not the end of our day, however. After supper, we visited the Jefferson Memorial, were given an informative tour of the Roosevelt Memorial by a National Park Ranger and then walked to the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial.

Our last full day in D.C. started out at the Iwo Jima Memorial, moving on to Arlington National Cemetery, where four 4-H members, Hayden Pestorius, Justine Nelson, Sydney Schilling and Dalton Logeman, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After lunch, we arrived for a tour at the Kennedy Center, including the newest addition to the Center, the REACH art center.

Finally, our last stop on the trip was a dinner theater performance of the musical, "Kinky Boots." We packed up and departed the following morning for the trek back to Iowa.

It was a wonderful trip. Personally, I enjoyed getting to know many Northwood folks who I had previously only known by name.

The various tour guides that Johnson lined up added a lot of value to the trip, as well. They were knowledgeable and passionate about the sites; our bus driver for the main portion of the week, Paul, was very familiar with D.C. and often let us know when we were passing points of interest.

If anyone has the opportunity to go on this biennial trip, I would certainly recommend it. Johnson's efforts to put together a trip that includes so many memorable sites would be hard to duplicate.

Much was made of the security at the various sites, and we did stand in some very long lines and have our bags and pockets gone through many times, but I found it to be a minor inconvenience for the extraordinary things we got to see.

Look for more photos this week on the Anchor Facebook page and the website at www.nwdanchor.com.



Iowa Senators Chuck Grassley, bottom left, and Joni Ernst, bottom right, took time out of their busy days on Capitol Hill to visit with the Worth County 4-H'ers. They voiced their support of the 4-H program, and answered a few questions.



Justin Mills and Dalton Logeman were all smiles after visiting the chambers of the Supreme Court building



Worth County ladies line the staircase at the Washington, D.C., Union Station. The group stopped at the architectural wonder for supper before going to the Kennedy Center for "Shear Madness."

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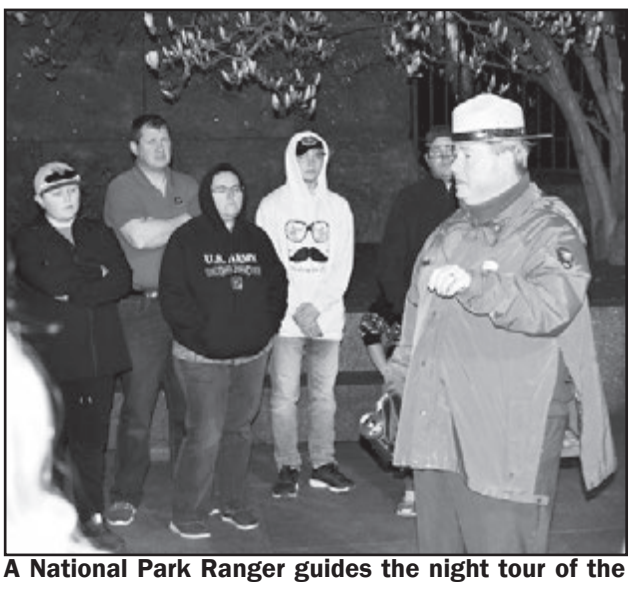
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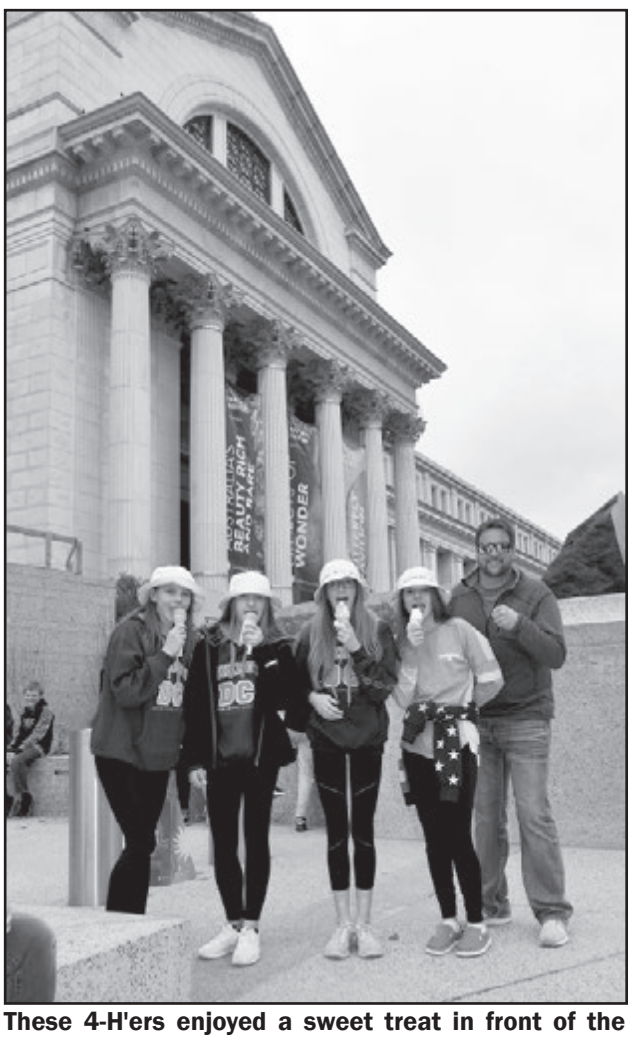
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A National Park Ranger guides the night tour of the FDR Memorial.



These 4-H'ers enjoyed a sweet treat in front of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.



Three separate groups toured the Kenneday Center. This is the Kennedy Center Opera House, one of six theaters at the Kennedy Center. It is most recognizable as the setting of the Kennedy Center Honors.



A group photo from the Hard Rock Cafe, where the group did some shopping and sightseeing while waiting to get into Ford's Theater.



Some of the group at Ford's Theater near the infamous box where President Lincoln was shot.



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MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center opens drive through testing site

At noon on Wednesday, March 18, MercyOne North Iowa opened a COVID-19 testing site located at the North Iowa Event Center.

"Due to a limited number of test kits available, we are only testing people who meet specific criteria from the Iowa Department of Public Health. Phone screens are required prior to coming to the mobile testing site," stated Dr. Teresa Mock, Senior Vice President MercyOne Medical Group North Iowa. "We are implementing a mobile testing location to keep possible positive cases away from other sick people. If anyone having mild symptoms, please self-isolate and recover at home regardless if it's for a cold, flu or COVID-19. Data shows 80% of cases are considered mild."

The drive through clinic is only available to those who have been screened and referred. Hours are from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. The hours and days of operation may be adjusted to reflect need.

Public officials want everyone to know coming into the Emergency Department strains healthcare resources needed to treat the remaining 20% of vulnerable population impacted by COVID-19. Going to the Emergency Department puts everyone at risk to spread and contract illness. Stay home when not feeling well. This is key to flattening the curve of medical demand.

Anyone that has symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, should call the COVID-19 call center at 641-494-3543, 641-494-3546 or 641-494-3547. Nurses will instruct people on the best next steps for care and whether a person will qualify for testing, based on symptoms.

COVID-19 testing will not be performed in the MercyOne North Iowa Emergency Department. Unless a person is emergently ill, they should stay at home and call the COVID-19 call center to evaluate the need for testing.

On weekends or after 4:30 p.m. people may call the MercyOne Family Healthline at 641-428-7777.



Restaurants

Local restaurants were amongst the first to be impacted by restrictions on businesses put in place by the State of Iowa last week to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Northwood's eating establishments quickly adjusted to the closed dining areas, offering alternative options to serve their customers while the rules for social distancing remain in place in Iowa.



Another type of spring cleaning

Many are taking care of their property while stuck at home recently. That includes this rural property owner who disposed of the remains of collapsed basrn last week.



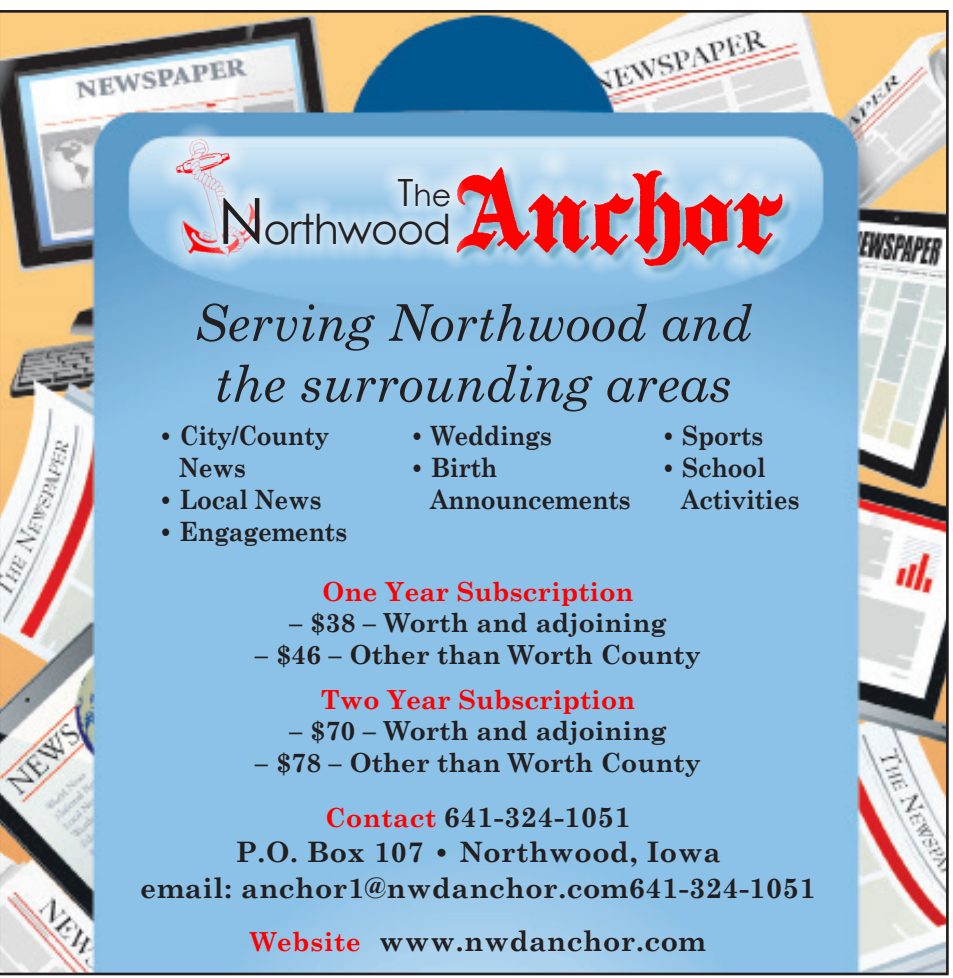
The sun peaks through

While the arrival of spring hasn't brought the sunshine that many eagerly await, the sun did make its best effort to appear a few times last week, shining through clouds, as pictured above.

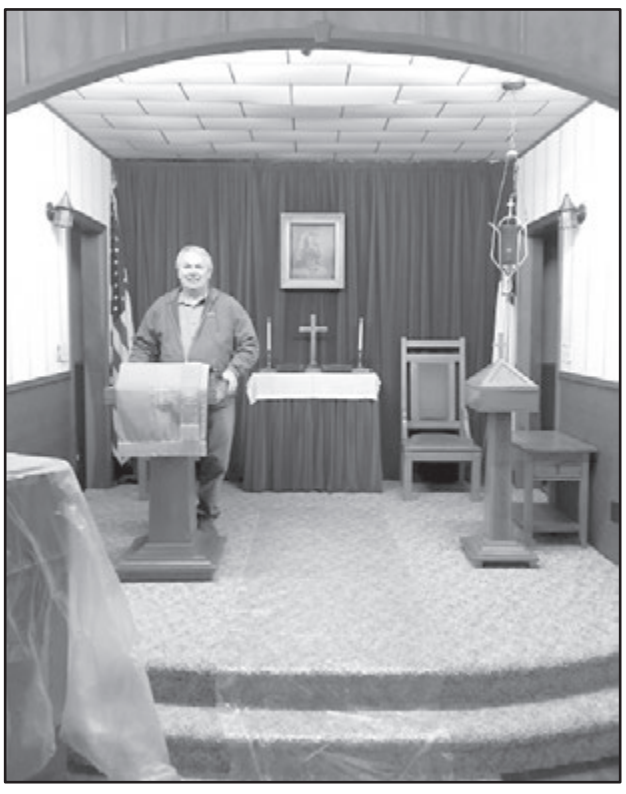


Worth County 4-H Intermediate record book award winners

The Worth County 4-H Intermediate Record Book Award winners were recognized with a trip to Iowa State University in Ames. The 4-H'ers participated in a walking tour of the ISU Campus, enjoyed a meal at the "Hickory Park" Restaurant and watched the ISU women's basketball team play West Virginia in Hilton Coliseum. The 4-H Award was for 4-H members completing their 4-H record book up through eighth grade. Participants included (front row, from left) Kimberly Klooster, Julia Quisley, Jadyn Beland, Kendra Kinne, (second row) Crystal Klooster, Sydnee Lindeman, Reece Nelson, Justine Nelson, Addison Tabbert, (back row) Brayden Lindeman, Irene Nelson, Brad Nelson, Kris Tabbert and Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist.









Altering the altar

Trinity United Methodist Church in Bolan received some improvements during the week of March 9. Brian Kenison of Kenison Construction (in the picture at the left) spent time upgrading the altar at the church. Kenison's great-grandfater was one of the founders of the church. In the picture on the right, Pastor Cory Allard stands in the renovated space. Others that worked on the project included Colby Trenhaile, Mark Taylor, Jared Gasteiger and his son. While the congregation may not be back at the church for a few weeks, when they do return, they will have a new altar at the ready. Trinity is tentatively planning to hold Good Friday Service with communion at 6:30 pm, on Friday, April 10; and Easter Sunday Service followed by coffee fellowship on Sunday, April 12, at 9:10 am. All are welcome to join in worship and check out the new space.

Podgorniak announces Iowa House bid



JANE PODGORNIAK

Northwood businesswomen Jane Podgorniak has announced her candidacy on the Democratic ticket for election as Iowa House Representative for District 51, which encompassing Worth, Mitchell, Howard, and part of Winneshiek counties. The primary is set for June 2.

Podgorniak published the Northwood Anchor weekly community newspaper for more than two decades, the Manly Junction Signal for 12 years, and continues to publish the Nora Springs Rockford Register, which was acquired in 2006. Podgorniak was honored with the Master Editor-Publisher Award from the Iowa Newspaper Association in 2011.

Podgorniak sold the Northwood Anchor and Manly Junction Signal in 2018 to her longtime employee Kris Kenison.

Possessing a passion for politics in the realm of human rights, she was elected to the post of Worth County Democratic Chairman, furthering the work of advancing Democratic principles by promoting political campaigns.

Podgorniak is a descendant of Northwood founders; the fourth generation of her family to make Northwood, and Iowa, her home. Her parents were interested in public affairs throughout her life.

Jane's campaign will focus on the issue of restoring balance in Iowa politics. Currently the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives are all run by Republicans.

Iowa to extend filing/payment deadline for income tax and other tax types

The Iowa Department of Revenue has extended the filing and payment deadline for several state tax types, including income tax.

The changes, prompted by COVID19, are designed to provide flexibility to hard-working Iowans whose lives have been disrupted. The changes are a result of an order signed earlier today by Director of Revenue Kraig Paulsen.

The order extends filing and payment deadlines for income, franchise and moneys and credits taxes with a due date on or after March 19, 2020, and before July 31, 2020, to a new deadline of July 31, 2020.

Specifically, the order includes:

IA 1040 Individual Income Tax Return and all supporting forms and schedules

IA 1040C Composite Return and all supporting forms and schedules

IA 1041 Fiduciary Return and all supporting forms and schedules

IA 1120 Corporation Income Tax Return and all supporting forms and schedules

IA 1120F Franchise Tax Return for Financial Institutions and all supporting forms and schedules

IA 1065 Iowa Partnership Return and all supporting forms and schedules

IA 1120SS Corporation Return and all supporting forms and schedules

Credit Union Moneys and Credits Tax Confidential Report

What does the deadline extension apply to?

The tax returns listed above and any tax due associated with those returns if the due date is on or after March 19 but before July 31 of this year. The extension does not apply to estimated tax payments.

Who does the deadline extension apply to?

Iowa residents or other taxpayers doing business in Iowa who are required to file the Iowa returns listed above.

How are penalties and interest handled?

No late-filing or underpayment penalties shall be due for qualifying taxpayers who comply with the extended filing and payment deadlines in this order. Interest on unpaid taxes covered by this order shall be due beginning on August 1, 2020.

State income tax refunds currently are being processed at about the 30-day mark. Taxpayers can check the status of their refunds at the Department's website where's my refund page.

Taxpayers and tax professionals who need assistance can contact the Department by email at idr@iowa.gov or call the taxpayer services phone line at 515-281-3114 or 1-800-367-3388.

WORTH COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS
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Tues. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Wed. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Thurs. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
641-324-0480
Please call to confirm that your Veterans Service Officer is available.
An effort will be made to accommodate your schedule.
All Worth County Veterans are invited to attend
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Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Worth County Veterans Affairs has cancelled ROLL CALL IV
We will look forward to ROLL CALL V next year!

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Northwood Anchor **Church**
Check with your local church about online services, updates and changes.

Stay connected with The Northwood Anchor
www.nwdanchor.com

Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
Peace Lutheran Church
All services and activities have been suspended until further notice.
The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26
Rev. Barbara M. Wills, Pastor (NALC) North American Lutheran Church
NOTE: If you have any questions call contact person Sam Duncomb: 641-390-1158

You Can't Change the Past, But You Can Change the Future

It can be difficult to get over the past. The sins of our youth are rarely forgotten, and sometimes we just can't forgive ourselves for something we did years ago. We have the same problem with others; it may be almost impossible to forgive someone who hurt us, even after many years. But that lack of forgiveness costs us dearly, both in terms of the negative emotions associated with it and in terms of moving on with our lives. Consider how the apostle Paul must have felt about his time spent persecuting Christians. He was present at the stoning of St. Stephen, where the perpetrators laid their coats at his feet (Acts 7:58). The author of Acts then declares "And Saul approved of their killing him." (Acts 8:1) Saul changed his name to Paul after his conversion, and it is clear from his letters that he had tremendous remorse for his youthful zeal in persecuting Christians. Not only did he have trouble forgiving himself, but some of his fellow Christians did as well. Paul's story has a deeper moral than just forgiving ourselves for the past. Clearly no one can change the past, but we can change the future. Consider what Paul did to spread the gospel after his conversion. He travelled widely and suffered greatly while preaching the word of God. His letters are a testimony to the fact that by looking forward rather than backward, we can make the world a better place. –Christopher Simon

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." – Philippians 3:12 NIV

The Sponsors of this feature do so with the hope that more people will attend the church of their choice on a weekly basis

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Northwood Theatre

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Congregate Meals
March 26-April 1
324-1244
Thursday: Chicken & Mushrooms, Mashed Potatoes, Creamed Peas, Banana Half
Friday: Tuna & Vegetable Pasta, Lettuce, Mixed Fruit, Ice Box Cookies
Monday: Baked Pork Chop, Baked Potato, Broccoli Spears, Strawberries
Tuesday: Taco Salad, Mexican Rice, Apricots
Wednesday: NA

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Kathy's Kuts
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Call
641-390-1129
for appointments
Kathy Christianson, Stylist

Northwood Anchor **Opinion**

When bad news is crucial, good news is vital

By Kris Kenison

As I sit at my desk (my dining room table for isolation-sake) I decided that it would be good to focus on what isn't in the press releases, the updates and the overabundance of information and misinformation that can be found everywhere about the coronavirus and COVID-19. The news is often disheartening, but the information is crucial for those in need and important to keep everyone safe. But it's the inessential good news that may be just as important at times like this.

What doesn't often get shared in briefings and public announcements is that when you don't look at the doom outside the door, you can find that families are spending time together, in ways they never would have otherwise. The same is true of people that are doing things for each other and for their neighbors.

It might be a bit cheesy to say, but you can find examples of people doing things the "North Iowa" way. Families are bonding, whether stuck in their homes or by meeting electronically with each other across the country. Neighbors are helping neighbors by stepping up to provide for each other and by staying in contact.

People are finding ways to be good to each other, because in scary times, being helpful lightens the mood and is good for the spirit.

That's why I encourage everyone, in whatever way you can, to stay informed and updated on the ways to stay safe, but also look for the ways to be helpful and be neighborly and show the North Iowa spirit.

And, as a personal plea, send us examples when you do good or when you know of someone doing good. I know this goes against another North Iowa trait of stubborn humility, but consider sharing the good news its own act of kindness.

Send us examples of how you're spending time and ignoring the bad news for an hour or two. We want to let people know that the virus is changing our world, but not our spirit. We want to see kids having fun. We want to see people exploring talents. We want to see our community being the good place it always has been. And we want to share all of this with Anchor readers. Any pictures or stories can be shared by emailing kris@nwdanchor.com or contactings us on Facebook.

In the meantime, stay informed, but take breaks from the information. Focus on the good news that brings a smile (especially when you find it in the Northwood Anchor.)



Ponderings from the Batt Cave

By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

It's important that I put my shoes in the closet with the left shoe to the left of the right shoe.

Superstitious?

No, it hurts my knees if I do it the other way.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor, named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me, such as: We got a mess of weather. As Ricky Ricardo (played by Desi Arnaz) on "I Love Lucy," said, "Ay-yi-yi-yi-yi!" The remains of a melting snowman tipped over. I hoped it was the last snowfall of the season.

I spoke at a couple of things, did a seminar, and led a bus trip in Kearney, Nebraska, around the time of my birthday. My birthday is on St. Urho's Day. The legend of St. Urho originated in Northern Minnesota in the 1950s. The myth has grown among North Americans of Finnish descent to where St. Urho is known and celebrated across the U.S., Canada and Finland. St. Urho's Day is celebrated on March 16th, the day before St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick is said to have driven the snakes from Ireland. St. Urho was to have chased the grasshoppers from Finland, thus saving the grape crop. He did this by uttering a phrase that roughly translated is, "Grasshopper, grasshopper, go away!" He's celebrated by wearing royal purple and Nile green colors. There is a statue of St. Urho holding a pitchfork with a grasshopper impaled on it in the cities of Menahga and Finland in Minnesota. I wasn't dressed in purple or green, nor armed with a pitchfork when I'd made a jocular crack about the lack of dessert at dinner. On the bus, I'd found a Twinkie in my breakfast bag. It was surprisingly good. At lunch in a smart hotel, friends served me two Twinkies with birthday candles aflame. Then, one-by-one, other friends walked to my table and each gave me a Twinkie or two. They placed some in my shirt pockets and took photos. My wife said she'd never seen me eat a Twinkie. I'd devoured a few when I was a lad. I'll be able to survive the dark, cold nights of sprinter (spring with a lot of winter in it) because I have Twinkies to eat. I'll drive the Twinkies out of my house by eating them. The mythical St. Urho should have eaten the grasshoppers as they're still found in Finland.

I share a birthday with our 4th president, James Madison, who said things like, "Who does not see that the same authority which can establish Christianity, in exclusion of all other religions, may establish with the same ease any particular sect of Christians, in exclusion of all other sects?"

James Madison, St. Urho, Twinkies and I will abide.

Nature notes

Hal Borland wrote, "No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn."

The smell of spring was in the air, compliments of a skunk. Spring was in the flight of migrating birds too. I encountered robins that had migrated back. I could tell because they were skittish and vociferous. The robins wintering here are hushed and reserved in comparison. Killdeer stirred, calling out their name excitedly. There were grackles galore. I once played the part of the mayor of a make-believe city named Grackle Junction, leaving me with a soft spot for grackles.

I saw tiny, black flecks sprinkled in the melting snow around the base of a tree. They were springtails called snow fleas.

Chipmunks chipped. Chipmunks don't enter deep hibernation like ground squirrels. Chipmunks rely on food they've cached in their burrows. It's good to see the little mammals in the spring, but some individuals become active on warm, sunny, winter days.

Wild turkeys gobbled. A red-tailed hawk carried nesting material. This raptor's nest is a tall pile of sticks. I thought of Aeschylus, an Ancient Greek playwright, who has been described as the father of tragedy. He died in Sicily in 456 or 455 BC without having given a thought to Facebook. Valerius Maximus wrote that Aeschylus was killed by a tortoise dropped by an eagle or a lammergeier or bearded vulture (which feed on tortoises after dropping them on hard objects). It's written that the bird had mistaken the bald head of Aeschylus for a rock suitable for shattering the tortoise's shell. Pliny, a Roman scholar and naturalist, wrote that Aeschylus had received a prophecy that he'd be killed by a falling object, so things worked out. This story may be mythical, but I'm happy spring is taking its turn.

Meeting adjourned

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention." - Kahlil Gibran

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Fit to print...

Grassley: Lessons are unfolding from the coronavirus pandemic, a test of our civic duty

By Sen. Chuck Grassley (March 17, 2020)

This week, I scheduled a dozen county meetings in keeping with my annual tour across the state to keep in touch with Iowans. Like many events, my meetings are postponed. The coronavirus outbreak is disrupting society and everyday life.

From canceled sporting events to school closings, travel restrictions and nixed St. Patrick's Day parades, Iowans are coping with a new normal to mitigate the transmission of the novel coronavirus. Although it seems inconceivable a virus would shutter Disneyland, March Madness, the Iowa Legislature and even houses of worship, closures will save lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, four pandemics in the previous century emerged from novel influenza viruses, including the 1918 outbreak that killed 675,000 Americans. For most people, the CDC says this highly contagious coronavirus will cause mild symptoms. However, the risk from serious complications from the disease COVID-19 poses life-threatening harm for the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

As the number of confirmed cases and mortality rates swell across the country, a coordinated response is mission critical. When Gov. Kim Reynolds confirmed Iowans have contracted the disease from community transmission, this delivered a reality check to our state. There's clear and present urgency behind the effort to slow its transmission.

That's why I've encouraged people to heed guidance from our public health professionals. Listen to the experts in epidemiology and infectious diseases when they say to regularly wash hands for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching the face and shaking hands, disinfect surfaces and practice social distancing. Lessons from the 1918 pandemic teach us that control efforts are essential for saving lives when no pharmaceutical treatment is yet available. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its phalanx of federal agencies, from the CDC to the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration have all hands on deck to respond to this 21st-century public health crisis. Every American must get on board.

Congress passed an initial emergency $8.3 billion response package to purchase medical supplies and equipment, accelerate development of therapeutics and vaccines, and send federal aid to state and local health agencies. President Trump on Friday (March 13) declared a national emergency, freeing up to $50 billion and cutting red tape to give hospitals flexibility to serve patients.

This week, Congress is poised to deliver a second package to alleviate hardship on American families who miss work and wages stemming from the public health crisis. (Editor's note: the bill was passed last week.) Specifically, the bipartisan bill would provide free testing for the virus, increase food assistance, extend unemployment insurance and ensure employees have access to employer paid sick and family leave by providing small- and medium-sized businesses a payroll tax credit to fully cover these costs.

As the United States works to protect the public health, the pandemic is infecting the economy, particularly the travel, hospitality and entertainment sectors. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I'm developing additional fiscal measures for consideration to help inoculate small businesses and their workers from the fallout and address volatility in the stock markets amid shocks to global supply chains, effects on businesses of social distancing, and lowered consumer demand. As always, I'm keeping watch over federal agencies and their efforts to mitigate risk for nursing home residents, veterans and inmates.

Don't forget, the 2020 Census is underway. The federal government's response to the coronavirus includes billions of dollars in federal aid that will be distributed based on census data. Census forms were to be mailed to every household by March 20. For the first time, Americans may choose to complete the survey online, by phone or mail. The decennial head count provides vital data for federal spending formulas that Iowa communities count on to pay for public services and public works, such as highways and hospitals, food stamps, Head Start, Medicaid and more.

Lessons from the 2020 pandemic underscore my work at the policymaking tables on behalf of Iowans, including:

• Broadband infrastructure is more important than ever. From telemedicine to telecommuting and online school instruction, rural America can't be left behind. I applaud the Federal Communications Commission and the private sector who are working together to ensure Americans don't lose access to their internet service during the pandemic. In August, I participated in an event hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center and UnityPoint in Des Moines about barriers to health care in our rural communities. Many Iowans travel long distances to reach a hospital or health clinic. Shortages of physicians and specialists in our rural communities further underscore the accessibility gap. Expanding telehealth services would help bridge the divide, improving patient outcomes and saving money. The emergency spending package Congress approved earlier this month paves the way for telehealth services to better serve patients and prevent exposing others to the virus.

The coronavirus pandemic brings even more urgency to my bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act I've co-authored with Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon. When lifesaving vaccines and pharmaceutical treatments are prescribed to patients, they need to be affordable to be effective....

As we navigate these uncertain times, embrace the pioneer spirit. Be governed by grit, sacrifice and fortitude to thrive and protect hearth and home. Iowans are of sturdy stock, civic-minded and good neighbors.

Nearly a century ago, in an address to the 42nd General Assembly, the son of a pioneer family who had served in the Statehouse and represented Iowa's 3rd Congressional District shared a bit of wisdom that rings true today as Iowans are called to act in solidarity for the public good.

The farm boy from Bremer County, Burton E. Sweet, praised the "great inheritance" transmitted from our predecessors who embraced a governing philosophy "for the benefit of one is the benefit of all, and the neglect of one is the neglect of all."

The closures and cancellations may seem extreme or excessive to many Iowans. Consider this a test of social responsibility and civic duty. Let's pass with flying colors, especially for the sake of loved ones, neighbors and co-workers who are at greater risk of serious complications and for those on the front lines who deliver life-saving health care. Although this pandemic may worsen before times get better, I have every confidence America's best days are yet to come.

Northwood Anchor Early Files

100 years ago

March 24, 1920

The Northwood High School basketball team made a good record for themselves against Vail, Manchester and Fort Madison by scores of 17 to 6, 8 to 5 and 10 to 9 respectively. On Friday Oskaloosa eliminated them by a score of 29 to 11.

James Hungerford and Bernice Knowles were married on Friday at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D.D. Knowles of Manly. Rev. Stauffacher performed the ceremony that binds these popular young people in the presence of immediate relatives.

The High School District declamatory contest will be held at Waterloo on March 26. Vern Hanson, winner of the sub — district contest at New Hampton, in the oratorical class, will be one of the contestants, Gordon Eaker, another Northwood boy, temporarily attending school elsewhere, was the winner of the sub-district contest at Hampton.

Miss Ada Talle, student in a telegraph school at Minneapolis, has been visiting during the past week with her mother and family on north Ninth Street, also going to Mason City for a visit with her sister, who attends Hamilton's Business University.

Fifteen lady friends of Mrs. J.B. Thompson, all old settlers of Northwood and vicinity, met at the Thompson home and enjoyed a social time. The event was one of much pleasure to all and many reminiscences were productive of tears and laughter.

75 years ago

March 29, 1945

Mrs. A.C. Duffus suffered a fracture of her left ankle when she stepped from the curb to cross a street while in Mason City.

Temperatures in Northwood during the past week ranged from 33 to 72 degrees and rainfall measured 1.05 inches.

John S. Veenker, owner and operator of the Veenker drug store in Northwood for the past 26 years, was elected president-elect of the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association at a meeting on the advisory board of the association held on Monday in Des Moines.

Elmer Anderson, who has been employed at the local creamery, has purchased the Park Inn from Mr. and Mrs. Warren Feuerhelm and will take possession on Monday of next week. The Deuerhelms came to Northwood in February from Albert Lea, purchasing the business from Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Skjeveland.

Arthur Butler, living southwest of Northwood, was elected president of the Northwood Local of the Farmers Union at a meeting of that group held on Wednesday, March 21, in the Odd Fellows hall in Northwood. Martin Roisen was elected vice president; Pearl O. Hendrickson, secretary-treasurer and Mrs. Ernest Hendrickson, educational director.

Memorial services for Pvt. Maurice G. Holstad were conducted on Sunday afternoon at Northwood Lutheran Church by Rev. O.H. Hove.

50 years ago

March 26, 1970

Dennis Peterson, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Peterson, rural Northwood, escaped injury in a car-truck collision on March 19. The accident occurred three miles south of Northwood in a heavy snowfall. The truck, owned by Woolums Implement, Mason City, apparently went into a slide after passing another vehicle. Peterson attempted to drive to the shoulder before the sliding truck collided with him. The driver of the truck was charged with driving left of center.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wilson, rural Northwood, were notified of the death of their son, PO 1-C Donald W. Wilson, 33, at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam. Wilson was one of 23 sailors killed in the crash of an EC 121 electronic spy plane, which monitored North Vietnamese radio and radar transmission. There were 31 men aboard.

Mrs. Idona Schott and Mrs. Ella Sorenson, Manly, recently returned from a 15-day tour of European countries. They flew to Minneapolis, where others joined them, and to New York, where they were joined by other tour groups. They flew jet non-stop from New York to Frankfurt, Germany, on to Rome, Italy, for two days. They had the privilege of seeing Pope Pius give his blessings.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lawhorn of Northwood announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Linda Lee, to Charles Eric Myhre, son of Mrs. Gilman Mondahl, Mason City and the late Stanley Myhre. Miss Lawhorn is presently attending the University of Northern Iowa. Her fiancé recently returned from Viet Nam and after a 30 day leave will be stationed in Germany.

25 years ago

March 29, 1995

Last month Northwood-area farmers Keith Olson and son Russell were pictured as they were busy getting their machinery and equipment ready for the upcoming spring planting season. The two men checked over the hydraulic couplings and hoses on a tractor and a chisel plow before moving the equipment into the shop for a closer inspection. Wet, warmer-than-normal late March weather seemed likely to push the frost out of the ground by later this week. But recent rainfall and snow flurries could prevent most farmers from hitting the fields until after April 1, which was the starting date for fieldwork a year ago.

Kevin and Tom Johnson, rural Blooming Prairie, attended a week long conference in January at Augusta, Georgia, to learn more about the E-Z-Go Golf Carts they sell. E-Z-Go Textron offered many seminars on electric motors and components, gas engines, preventive maintenance tips, facility tours, etc. They've sold the golf cars since the 1950s. Johnson's Golf Cart Sales, Rt. 3, Blooming Prairie, is the largest dealer in the area. They've been selling golf carts for about three years.

A gathering of five generations of the Ryan family, former Northwood residents, was held recently. They are Ruby Ryan, Deloris (Ryan) Cooper, Darcy Strand, Melanie Strand and baby Rasha Strand.

10 years ago

March 31, 2010

While the ranks of the Worth County Sheriff's office haven't technically expanded in the past year, there are three new members of the force, as an election and two retirements have left openings. One of the retiring members was the department's canine officer, Onyx. Fortunately, with plenty of community support, the Worth County Sheriff Department has obtained a new dogged deputy, pardon the pun, to fill out their ranks. Buck is the new canine's name. He is a Belgian Malinois, originally from France. He came to the Worth County Sheriff Department from the same source as his predecessor, Von Klein Stein Working Dogs, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Northwood-Kensett elementary students in Mrs. Hanson's kindergarten and Mrs. Myhre's first grade classes traveled to Northwood Pines Assisted Living for their latest themed reading day. Thursday's theme was "Read to a Friend." Students from each class read to and with friends from Northwood Pines, as well as Maple Court Independent Living Apartments.

Jacob McGrane was pictured as he exploded out of the starting blocks at the UNI-Dome. The 4x2 relay team of McGrane, Tanner Haberman, Anthony Hauge and Paul Schindler finished with a time of 1:38.48. Anthony Hauge cleard the bar in the high jump at the UNI-dome. N-K was there to compete in the 2010 Dickinson Relay.

Northwood Anchor Obituaries

Floris Yezek



FLORIS YEZEK

Floris L. (Calkins) Yezek, 89, of Manly passed away on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at the Lutheran Retirement Nursing Home in Northwood, Iowa.

A funeral service will be held at a future date at Bethel United Methodist Church with Rev. Cory Allard officiating. She will be buried in Manly Cemetery with her husband, Vern.

Floris L. Calkins was born on July 13, 1930, to Ray Lewis and Mabel Joan (Martinie) Calkins in Manly, Iowa. She graduated from the Manly High School and enjoyed attending her annual class and alumni reunions. She married the love of her life, Vern "Buster" Yezek on July 27, 1948, and to this union two children were born, David and Kathy. She resided in the town of Manly all her life until she moved to the Northwood Pines Assisted Living in 2016. She was a lifelong member of the Bethel United Methodist Church in Manly, where she was baptized and confirmed.

Floris started working at the Manly State Bank in 1964 and after 31 years took retirement. She served many years as a board member and financial manager of the Manly Retirement Apartments. She was an officer in the Mason City Bowling Association for several years and inducted into the Mason City Bowling Association Hall of Fame. She was a loyal member of the Entre Nous Circle of the Bethel United Methodist Church. After retiring, she became a volunteer at Mercy Medical Center and had much pleasure in helping others.

After her retirement Floris learned how to play Bridge and enjoyed playing in three different card clubs. During her lifetime, she enjoyed bowling, golfing, playing cards and spending time with her family. One of her greatest joys was watching her grandchildren grow up and attend their school and sporting events, as well as 4-H activities.

She is survived by her son, David (Janet) Yezek, of Glenwood, Iowa, and daughter, Kathy (Dennis) Meyer, of Northwood; grandchildren, Brent (Stacey) Yezek, of Austin, Texas, Amy Young, of Glenwood, Iowa, Sara (Nick Woodward) Yezek, of Gretna, Neb., Ryan (Kari) Meyer, of St. Ansgar, Iowa, Travis Meyer, of Kensett, Iowa, and Kristen (Casey) Meyer, of Urbandale, Iowa; 10 great-grandchildren, Kyler, Kason and Kelyn Meyer, Collyn and Addison Meyer, Max, Maisy, Sawyer and Georgia Shelton, and Seger Yezek; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Bernadette and Vernon Smith of Hemet, Calif.; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Floris is preceded in death by her husband, Vern "Buster"; her parents, Ray and Mabel Calkins; a brother, Dr. Richard Calkins and wife, Lorraine; a sister, Marlene Lembcke; father and mother-in-law, Emil and Clara Yezek; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Grace (Keith) Trebil, Mary Jane (Russ) Barclay and Kenneth (Arvilla) Yezek; and a great-granddaughter, Kadyn Halverson.

Lowell Walk



LOWELL WALK

Lowell Lavern Walk, 96, of Grafton, died on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, while residing at Good Shepherd Health Center in Mason City.

Cremation has taken place. Due to CDC restrictions regarding the coronavirus, services at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton will be held at a later date. Inurnment in the Grafton Cemetery will be at that time. There will be a lunch and time to visit among family and friends after the service.

Lowell was born on May 14, 1923, 1 1/2 miles west of Grafton, the younger son of Christ and Lora (Bruesewitz) Walk. He was baptized and confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton. He graduated from Grafton High School in 1942 and was drafted into military service on February 14, 1943.

He was a World War II veteran who served in the Army-Air Force in the India-Burma, Central Burma and China campaigns, receiving the Victory Medal Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three bronze stars, four Overseas Service Bars, one Service Stripe and Good Conduct Medal.

He was united in marriage to Virginia Mae Ueker on January 23, 1949, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton. They enjoyed 69 1/2 years together. They had one daughter, Nancy, who was lucky to be blessed with such a wonderful mother and father.

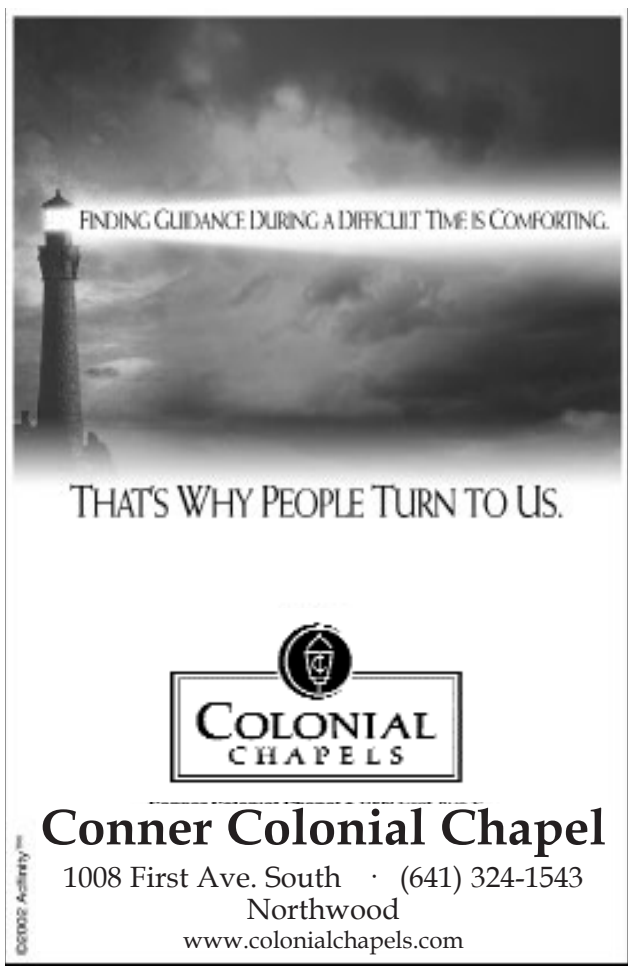
After the war, Lowell owned and operated the Walk Bros. turkey growing and breeding farm for 41 years; first, with his brother, Harley, and eventually with his nephew, Mark, where they produced 350,000 hatching eggs annually.

Lowell was mayor of the City of Grafton for 26 years. He served on the Grafton Fire Department. He was president of Grafton Community Action and chairman of Grafton Turkey Day for many years. He was a member of the American Legion for 74 years. He served on an extensive list of county, regional, community and church boards and committees throughout his life, and spoke with such pride and consideration of the importance of each of them, individually. He was a faithful servant to his community and church throughout his life.

Lowell was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan and loved to talk about and follow sports. He was proud to see them win the World Series in 2016 and felt so honored when they allowed him, at age 93, to go to the front of the line to have his picture taken with the trophy. He enjoyed visits with groups of friends over coffee and sharing the news. He had a great sense of humor and loved people. He was especially proud of serving coffee at church fellowships over recent years, knowing just who wanted regular or decaf or tea. He took an interest in his cherished friends, even in his final days.

Lowell is survived by his daughter, Nancy Walk, of Grafton; five nephews and nieces, Pam (Mrs. Bruce) Knapp, John (Lynn) Knapp, Diane Ruebling, Mike Roppe, Mark (Tracy) Walk and Anne (Harry) Hammond; and many extended relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia, his parents and his brother, Harley.



National Agriculture week March 22-28, 2020

National Agriculture Week is devoted to educating people about where food, fiber and fuel come from. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and others join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. National Ag Day falls during National Agriculture Week.

Farm Facts

– According to most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, there are 386,531 men working as farmers and ranchers. There are 51,865 women working as farmers and ranchers.

– A farmer today grows twice as much food as his parents did – using less land, energy, water and fewer emissions.

– Today, the average U.S. farmer feeds 155 people. In 1960, a farmer fed just 26 people.

– To keep up with population growth more food will have to be produced in the next 50 years as the past 10,000 years combined.

– U.S. farmers produce about 40 percent of the world's corn, using only 20 percent of the total area harvested in the world.

– According to the USDA, one acre of corn removes about 8 tons of carbon dioxide from the air in a growing season. At 180 bushels per acre, corn produces enough oxygen to supply a year's needs for 131 people.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Learn about agriculture activities presented by Future Farmers of America, the National Farm Bureau or National Farmers Union. Share events and photos using #AgWeek on social media. Use the week to follow a new influencer, such as The Farmer's Life or Farm Babe. Download a new podcast, such as Agriculture Proud or The AgVocate.

HISTORY

The week-long celebration is organized each year by the Agriculture Council of America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

'Food brings everyone to the table' is theme of National Ag Day 2020

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) hosted National Agriculture Day on March 24, held during National Ag Week 2020, March 22-28. This was the 47th anniversary of National Ag Day, which is celebrated in communities across the country. The theme for National Ag Day 2020 was "Food Brings Everyone to the Table."

National Ag Day and National Ag Week are organized by the Agriculture Council of America. The ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

· Understand how food and fiber products are produced

· Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products

· Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy

· Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry

The ACA once again featured the Ag Day Essay Contest. The winning essay was to be presented on National Ag Day. The national written essay winner, Eli Mittermeyer from Loraine, Illinois, received a $1,000 prize

The written essay is found below:

Food Brings Everyone to the Table
By Eli Mittermeyer

"Pass the mashed potatoes, please." When that heaping dish of fluffy goodness comes your way, you might think to thank the person passing it to you, or the person who prepared them. However, rarely does one consider all the people that brought that food your way.

The food we enjoy at our table exists because of the dedication of America's farmers and ranchers. Our farmers embrace constantly evolving challenges and minimize environmental impacts while maximizing food production. They must embrace new technology while respecting old traditions and their business requires not only a significant financial investment, it requires an investment of blood, sweat and tears while battling frustrating working conditions, weather hardships, economic challenges, and more. Farmers do all this to provide us with bountiful and affordable food, so when we sit down to eat, the farmer who produced the food joins us, but that farmer joins more than just our family, as each U.S. farm feeds 166 people annually.

The farmers and ranchers who produce our food must work with countless agricultural providers and suppliers to provide solutions and technology that producers need to meet the challenges of feeding a growing global population. They also contribute to the significant impact agriculture has on our U.S. GDP, and the combination of agricultural, food, and related industries contributed over $1 trillion to our GDP in 2017.

These providers and suppliers also employ vast quantities of talented individuals such as

Essay, see Page 2

National Agriculture Week
March 22-28
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Why celebrate National Ag Week?

Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize—and celebrate— Ag Day each year:

• Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.

• Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

• Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture. Career choices include:

• farm production

• agribusiness management and marketing

• agricultural research and engineering

• food science

• processing and retailing

• banking

• education

• landscape architecture

• urban planning

• energy

• and other fields.

• Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.

• Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.

• Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber and renewable resource production, processing and domestic and international marketing.

Essay
Cont. from Page 2B

scientists, engineers, and innumerable manufacturers to utilize the farmer's product. Their areas of expertise vary greatly, from drone technology to chemistry, hydrology, and beyond. Their talents help minimize agriculture's environmental impacts, and addresses the ever present challenges of feeding a global population. Due to this, the agriculture industry and its employees also join our farmers and producers at our table as our invisible guests.

We may not have intended to invite our legislators and government officials to our dinner table, but they also have a seat because of their impacts on our producers and our food supply. They are responsible for determining federal and state rules and regulations that affect everything from the environment to transportation. They develop our critically important trade policies with other countries, and establish our crop insurance rules and farm subsidy programs. These guests at the table can dramatically impact U.S. agriculture and its producers.

Food certainly brings everyone to the table, from the grateful diners, to 22.8 million employees that depend on agriculture for a paycheck. Their efforts ensure that we are able to have a stable food supply, and as such we should be more than grateful for whatever dish we are served at dinner.

Visit www.agday.org for more information on National Ag Day 2020.

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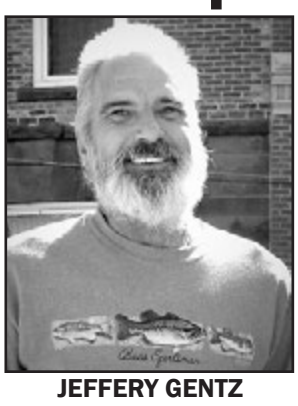
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Jeffery Gentz passes away on March 22

Jeffery Alan Gentz of Forest City, 57, passed away on Sunday, March 22, at the MercyOne North Iowa Hospice following a long and courageous battle with multiple health issues. He was surrounded by his family.

There will be a private burial for Jeffery's immediate family, and a public celebration of Jeffery's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Jeffery would love having contributions made to the International Wolf Center so that future generations will enjoy the call of the wild.



JEFFERY GENTZ

To donate send a check with a note that it is in memory of Jeff Gentz to: The International Wolf Center, 7100 Northland Circle N., Suite 205, Minneapolis, MN 55428 or by calling, 763-560-7374 ext. 2270.

Jeffery was born on February 6, 1963, son of Richard and Sharon Gentz, and was baptized at the First Shell Rock Lutheran Church in Northwood. Jeffery graduated in 1981 from Northwood-Kensett High School.

Following high school, Jeffery lived in Utah and Oregon, where he worked at Fleming Foods and then drove truck through Clark and England Trucking across the United States. Jeffery moved back to Iowa in 2000, where he worked at several places, including Winnebago and Graham Doors before becoming ill in 2017.

Jeffery loved the outdoors, fishing, skiing, camping and crabbing in the ocean. He also collected Budweiser Beer Mugs for 30 years and loved searching for geode rocks, of which he had many. He loved wolves and was a member of the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minnesota. He was also a great cook and enjoyed grilling, especially those Iowa Chops! His greatest joy was his beloved dog, Sophie, for whom he threw many tennis balls for!

Jeffery will be missed dearly by his parents, Richard and Sharon Gentz, Northwood; sister, Michele, Salt Lake City, Utah; nephew, Justin Scheel and his wife, Amber, Orem, Utah; great-nieces, Eisley and Peyton Scheel, Orem, Utah; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Jeffery was preceded in death by grandparents, William and Esther Gentz and Chester and Eleanor Stromley; his uncle, Larry Stromley; and his beloved companion Sophie.

Bolan

Pretty quiet on the "home fronts" these days, and I do believe it will continue for some time. A good time to do things around home that you never seemed to find time for!

Friday lunch and afternoon guests at the Joe Nydegger home were Larry Nydegger and Daniel and Evelyn of rural Ellendale, Minnesota. They needed to take a break for a few hours from being "homebound." L&D helped Joe sort out items in his shop and E helped her Gram make apple crisp! A little family bonding here! Saturday night the Scott Willert family were supper guests at the Nydeggers.

Due to the Coronavirus, on Saturday Scott Willert helped Cole move his belongings home from his dorm at UNI. On Sunday he helped Kelsie move out of the dorm at Grand View University. They now will be finishing this year's college courses online.

Supervisors

March 16, 2020
Twelfth Day

The Worth County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with A.J. Stone, Kenneth J. Abrams and Mark Smeby present.

Stone led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the following motions offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Stone, Abrams and Smeby. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: none.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to amend the agenda to include a discussion regarding COVID19.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to approve the March 16, 2020 agenda as amended.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to approve the March 9, 2020 board minutes.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to approve drainage claims in the amount of $33,551.50 as per the following schedule:

Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD#11/Main A, Prof Services $667.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD#11/Main A, Prof Services $7,704.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD#21 West , Prof Services.. ..... $2,266.50
Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD#46/Lat 9, Prof Services $3,960.00
Peterson Excavating & Drainage, DD#63, Repairs.... ..... $18,954.00
Grand Total.... $33,551.50

Motion by Abrams, second by Smeby, carried to recess the regular session.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to open the closed session per section 21.5(1)(j) of the Iowa Code to discuss proposed storm sewer easement agreement compensation. Those present were: Jason Petersburg, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.; A.J. Stone, Kenneth J. Abrams, Mark Smeby, Rich Brumm, Jeff Greve and Jacki A. Backhaus.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to close the public hearing at 8:54 A.M.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to reconvene the regular session.

Motion by Abrams, second by Smeby, carried to authorize Jason Petersburg, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. to negotiate compensation for the proposed storm sewer easement with the landowners and report back to the supervisors.

Motion by Abrams, second by Smeby, carried to adjourn at 9:48 A.M. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:30 A.M.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Aaron Stone, Chairperson

Supervisors

March 20, 2020
Special Meeting

The Worth County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with A.J. Stone, Kenneth J. Abrams and Mark Smeby present.

This was an electronic meeting pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8 – In circumstances where such a meeting is impossible or impractical due to concerns about COVID-19 and social distancing for the safety of board members and the public.

Stone led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the following motions offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Stone, Abrams and Smeby. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: none.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to approve the March 20, 2020 agenda.

Motion by Smeby, second by Abrams, carried to approve the March 16, 2020 board minutes.

Motion by Abrams, second by Smeby, carried to approve the following Emergency Declaration:

Disaster Emergency Declaration

Whereas, In preparation for the arrival of and attempt to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 Virus, Worth County, Iowa has experienced significant disruption of services and economic impact to both public and private sectors starting March 17th 2020. Worth County IA has become overwhelmed with the preparation, mitigation efforts and economic stress.

Therefore, the Worth County Board of Supervisors has declared a state of emergency as authorized under Iowa Statute and will execute the expenditure of emergency funds from all available sources, the invoking of mutual aid agreements and applying to the State of Iowa for assistance.

Aaron Stone
Chairman, Worth County
Board of Supervisors
03/20/ 2020
Attest by:
Jacki A. Backhaus
Auditor, Worth County Iowa

Motion by Abrams, second by Smeby, carried to adjourn at 8:48 A.M. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:30 A.M.

Jacki A. Backhaus
Auditor
Aaron Stone
Chairperson

Department of Management - Form S-PB-6

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Northwood-Kensett School Budget Summary
Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Location of Public Hearing: Northwood-Kensett Secondary Media Center
Date of Hearing: 04/09/20
Time of Hearing: 7:00 pm

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2020 21 school budget at the above-noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Budget 2021	Re-est. 2020	Actual 2019	Avg %19-21
Taxes Levied on Property	1	3,362,546	8,266,137	3,183,832	2.8%
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	65,263	63,801	65,678	-0.3%
Income Surtaxes	3	144,079	145,481	143,836	0.1%
Tuition/Transportation Received	4	297,757	309,254	338,777	
Earnings on Investments	5	21,243	19,950	35,014	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	150,294	149,800	146,653	
Student Activities and Sales	7	127,300	125,500	221,307	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	698,766	699,252	556,566	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	0	
State Foundation Aid	10	3,189,086	3,098,031	2,977,322	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	0	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	623,034	625,948	592,629	
Commercial & Industrial State Replacement	13	111,834	94,135	97,247	
Title I Grants	14	80,573	80,573	81,361	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	319,806	273,555	276,370	
Total Revenues	16	9,195,581	8,951,417	8,716,592	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	4,035,000	0	0	
Transfers In	18	12,180	12,000	720,249	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	0	0	0	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	0	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	13,242,761	8,963,417	9,436,841	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	4,150,799	3,406,286	5,765,813	
Total Resources	23	17,393,560	12,369,703	15,202,654	
***Instruction**	24	4,618,795	4,407,656	4,228,112	4.3%
Student Support Services	25	266,628	209,479	174,551	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	405,686	388,165	383,413	
General Administration	27	284,329	274,656	216,577	
School Administration	28	421,374	404,647	389,109	
Business & Central Administration	29	152,033	142,140	133,109	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	515,345	500,402	521,784	
Student Transportation	31	463,833	332,339	326,916	
This row is intentionally left blank	32	0	0	0	
***Total Support Services (lines 25-32)**	32A	2,509,428	2,251,828	2,145,459	8.2%
***Noninstructional Programs**	33	356,156	331,168	319,408	5.6%
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	34	1,596,673	585,770	3,648,862	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	35	393,792	393,792	507,505	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	36	240,501	234,690	226,773	
***Total Other Expenditures (lines 34-36)**	36A	2,232,966	1,216,252	4,383,140	-28.6%
Total Expenditures	37	9,717,325	8,206,904	11,076,119	
Transfers Out	38	12,180	12,000	720,249	
Other Uses	39	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	40	9,729,505	8,218,904	11,796,368	
Ending Fund Balance	41	7,664,055	4,150,799	5,406,286	
Total Requirements	42	17,393,560	12,369,703	15,202,654	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per $1,000 taxable valuation)		12.66012			

City Council

The Council of the City of Northwood met in special session at City Hall on 3/16/20 at 6pm with Mayor Moehle presiding and the following council members present: George-Zenz, Meyer, Nerlien, Reeder, Tenold.

Motion to approve the agenda. Unam.

Following the public hearing, there was a motion to approve Resolution No. 2003-06 Approving FY 21 Maximum Property Tax Dollars. Unam.

Motion to set the FY21 Budget Public Hearing for March 30, 2020 at 6 pm. Unam.

Motion to adjourn. Unam.

Doug Moehle, Mayor
Amber Julseth
City Administrator/Clerk

N-K School

The Northwood-Kensett Board of Directors met in a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2020 in the Secondary Media Center at 8:00 P.M.

Members present: John Anderson; Roger Harris; Cindy Pangburn; Susan Kliment; Larry Hovey

Members Absent: none

(5-0) Approved the agenda

New Business

Discussion of COVID-19 topics: Suspension of school thru April 10th; Summer Meals program; Distance Learning; Hourly employees

(5-0) Approved the Resolution for the Pandemic Response and Emergency Suspension of Policy

(5-0) Adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm

Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR Worth COUNTY
EQUITY NO.
EQCV012705
ORIGINAL NOTICE
FOR PUBLICATION

Bankers' Bank,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Sheila Olson, Executor of the Estate of Marlene Thelma Roberts; Spouse of Sheila Olson; Rhonda Schukei; Spouse of Rhonda Schukei; Ricky Olson; Spouse of Ricky Olson; and Parties in Possession,
Defendants.

To the above-named Defendants: Sheila Olson Spouse of Sheila Olson, Rhonda Schukei; Spouse of Rhonda Schukei

You are notified there was on January 23, 2020 filed in the Office of the Clerk of the above-named Court a Foreclosure Petition, which prays for foreclosure of a mortgage in favor of the Plaintiff on the property described herein and judgment in rem in the amount of $70,541.99 plus interest at the rate of 4.125% per annum from April 1, 2019, such amount equaling $7.97 per day, the costs of the action including title costs of $235.00, and reasonable attorney fees and that said sums be declared a lien upon the following-described premises from March 9, 2012, located in Worth County, Iowa, to-wit:

Lot Thirteen (13), in Block One (1), County Auditor's Plat to Northwood, Worth County, Iowa, excepting the East 152 feet thereof that the mortgage on the above-described real estate be foreclosed, that a special execution issue for the sale of as much of the mortgaged premises as is necessary to satisfy the judgment and for other relief as the Court may deem just and equitable. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Matthew E. Laughlin, whose address is The Davis Brown Tower, 215 10th Street, Suite 1300, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-3993, Phone: (515) 288-2500, Facsimile: (515) 243-0654.

NOTICE

THE PLAINTIFF HAS ELECTED FORECLOSURE WITHOUT REDEMPTION. THIS MEANS THAT THE SALE OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY WILL OCCUR PROMPTLY AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT UNLESS YOU FILE WITH THE COURT A WRITTEN DEMAND TO DELAY THE SALE. IF YOU FILE A WRITTEN DEMAND, THE SALE WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL SIX MONTHS (THREE MONTHS IF THE PETITION INCLUDES A WAIVER OF DEFICIENCY) FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS YOUR RESIDENCE AND IS A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING OR UNTIL TWO MONTHS FROM ENTRY OF JUDGMENT IF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY IS NOT YOUR RESIDENCE OR IS YOUR RESIDENCE BUT NOT A ONE-FAMILY OR TWO-FAMILY DWELLING. YOU WILL HAVE NO RIGHT OF REDEMPTION AFTER THE SALE. THE PURCHASER AT THE SALE WILL BE ENTITLED TO IMMEDIATE POSSESSION OF THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY. YOU MAY PURCHASE AT THE SALE.

You must serve a motion or answer on or before the 20th day of April, 2020, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or answer, in the Iowa District Court for Worth County, Iowa. You are notified that Worth County District Court utilizes the Electronic Document Management System. You are directed to the Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16 for general rules and information on electronic filing and, in particular, Division VI regarding the protection of personal information in court filings. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition.

If you need assistance to participate in court due to a disability, call the disability coordinator at 641-421-0990. Persons who are hearing or speech impaired may call Relay Iowa TTY (18007352942.) Disability coordinators cannot provide legal advice.

IMPORTANT

YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS.

Date of Third Publication the 1st day of April, 2020.

12-3t

Northwood Anchor

Legal

Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY
CASE NO. ESPR009203
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RANDY W. MCCOLLOCH, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Randy W. McColloch, Deceased, who died on or about March 6, 2020:

You are hereby notified that on March 13, 2020, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on March 11, 2020.

Rodney L. McColloch
67592 State Line Road
Emmons, MN 56029
Administrator
of the Estate

Douglas A. Krull
ICIS#: 000008531
Attorney for
the Administrator
Krull Law Office
714 Central Avenue
P.O. Box 200
Northwood, Iowa 50459
Attorney for the
Administrator

Date of second publication 1st day of April, 2020.

13-2t

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DHS Issues childcare guidance in response to COVID-19

From the Iowa Department of Human Services:

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) has issued updated guidance for childcare settings.

The updated guidance was developed in close consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

The health and safety of children, family and childcare providers is of the utmost importance.

Childcare programs provide an essential support for working families. At this critical time, we need to ensure childcare for essential workforce, including healthcare, first responders and critical infrastructure, which includes food production, food service and grocery workers.

We recommend social distancing for all ages, as such DHS encourages parents who telecommute to keep their children home with them. DHS also encourages childcare settings to limit rooms to 10 individuals per room when possible, and to increase space between children. Recess, activities and hallway passing should be staggered to limit interactions.

There are a lot of considerations that factor into this guidance. DHS originally provided guidance to ensure best practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We've issuing updated guidance to take further steps.

Our guidance aims to do the following:

· Increase sanitation practices and provide robust hygiene protocols.

· Prescreen children and staff before entering the program.

· Implement best practices for social distancing to the extent possible and minimize large groups and all optional activities.

· Report clusters of absences and any confirmed cases associated with families receiving childcare.

Please see the updated guidance online at dhs.iowa.gov/childcare-covid-19.

Beyond supporting existing infrastructure, DHS is also committed to standing up emergency regulations to support community efforts to provide childcare to essential workforce. If you need access to childcare, please visit www.iowaccrr.org/families or call 1-855-244-5301 to help coordinate alternate sites.

All childcare providers should report available slots to CCR&R daily, or as frequently as possible. This will help ensure access for essential workforce.

Please visit the DHS COVID-19 Guidance for Childcare Webpage for the most up-to-date information. DHS is compiling all COVID-19 DHS resources in one place at www.dhs.iowa.gov/covid19.

Assistance available to small businesses impacted by COVID-19

Governor Reynolds last week announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has issued a disaster declaration for the state of Iowa as of January 31, and continuing.

The declaration allows pandemic-impacted small businesses to apply for low-interest support loans. The declaration comes after Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds submitted a federal funding request via the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

"This SBA Disaster Loan program is vital in assisting our small businesses that have been so heavily impacted by these unprecedented times," said Reynolds. "I will continue to work with President Trump and his administration to provide relief to Iowa small businesses as we combat the spread of COVID-19 in Iowa."

The SBA is now making loans available statewide to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to $2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%. SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

Applications can be made via the SBA's website at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

Applicants can monitor the status of their applications online after submission.

Those with questions may contact the SBA disaster assistance customer service center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

COVID-19 coronavirus: 6 tips to increase cyber security

As Iowans take precautionary steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, it is also important to protect cyber health and security by being mindful of related scams.

Cybercriminals are quick to exploit concerns surrounding public health by luring individuals into sharing sensitive information.

Cybercriminals attempting to access personal information may distribute malicious email attachments or provide links to fake or fraudulent websites featuring protective products and services, or soliciting donations to fraudulent charities or causes.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Iowa Department of Public Safety warn citizens to exercise caution should they receive any email with a COVID-19-related subject line, attachment or hyperlink, and to be wary of social media pleas, texts or phone calls related to COVID-19.

State and federal public safety officials are encouraging the public to protect themselves from malicious online activity by following these six security tips:

1. Keep personal information out of emails

Do not reveal personal or financial information in an email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. See CISA's Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Scams for more information.

2. Use extreme caution with email attachments

Avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails even if they appear to be sent by someone you know or from a source you may be inclined to trust and be wary of email attachments. See CISA's Using Caution with Email Attachments.

3. Access only trusted national online medical resources

Check web addresses to ensure you are visiting legitimate government websites for the most current, fact-based information about COVID-19 in the U.S. Be wary of emails appearing to be generated from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or experts claiming to have helpful information related to the virus. Proactively visit the official CDC website at www.cdc.gov and the coalition of World Health Organization websites that can be accessed at www.who.int.

4. Visit official state of iowa agency websites and social media accounts

• The Iowa Department of Public Health is the leading source for Iowa guidelines, testing and reported case-related information.

• Governor Kim Reynolds' Office is providing daily statewide coronavirus status updates.

• The Department of Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management coordinates the State of Iowa's collaborative response to COVID-19.

• The Iowa Attorney General's Office cautions Iowans about coronavirus-related price gouging and fraud with an important set of alerts and recommendations.

• The Iowa Department on Aging is sharing recommendations and resources for protecting yourself and loved ones in long-term care facilities.

5. Verify a charity's authenticity before making donations

Review the Federal Trade Commission's page on Charity Scams for more information.

6. Stay abreast of U.S. cyber threats to mitigate business risk

The Iowa Department of Public Safety website includes more information on scams in Iowa, visit the department's website at dps.iowa.gov.

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NOTICE

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The Constituent Connection



Waylon Brown
State Senator
District 26

88th General Assembly:

Monday night and early Tuesday morning, the Iowa Legislature passed a series of resolutions to pause the legislative session for 30 days while the state works to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We passed a resolution, SCR 102, to allow us to adjourn until April 15, 2020 and pause the legislative deadlines for this year. It would also allow us to come back into session before that date, if necessary, or after that date if we cannot come back in 30 days.

We also passed Senate File 2408, which included a supplemental appropriation to the State Hygienic Lab for additional COVID-19 testing, more money for Medicaid, Hawk-I, and the Glenwood Resource Center. It also increases the governor's transfer authority, allowing her the power to move around money between budget items as necessary. The total for this supplemental appropriation is $91.8 million. Additionally, this bill gave Governor Kim Reynolds access to the Economic Emergency Fund while session is suspended for needs related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Under this legislation, Governor Reynolds can spend up to 10 percent of the fund to address the impact of the virus. The Legislative Council, a committee of both representatives and senators, may approve up to a total of $196 million without the legislature having to reconvene.

Additionally, we set a level of spending to go into effect if legislators cannot make it back to the Capitol before the end of the current budget year on June 30. It sets spending levels for July and August 2020 at the current rate of funding for FY 2020, with the exception of education funding, which was passed and signed into law earlier this year.

Over the weekend, Governor Reynolds recommended schools cancel classes for four weeks. Since then, we have been getting a lot of questions from parents and teachers about what the school year would look like after the four weeks. The Legislature included in our legislation a provision to waive the requirement for Iowa schools to reschedule days canceled in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

All of these changes are temporary and only to address the situation our state is facing. We have not had to face a situation like this before. It was important for us to consider the precedent our actions would set, as well as ensure the resources would be there when we need them.

Information on the COVID-19 outbreak is constantly changing and I urge you to stay updated as much as possible to keep you and your families safe. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) have put out guidance on appropriate actions to take and what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones.

These include:

Individuals 60 years of age and older with underlying health conditions should stay at home and avoid gatherings or other situations of potential exposures, including travel to affected areas

Consider personal social distancing measures, like avoiding large gatherings, and limiting the number of attendees per gathering

Consider working remotely or online learning when possible

Encourage staff to telework (when possible), particularly individuals at increased risk of severe illness

Limit non-essential work travel and gatherings

Iowa currently has several cases of this virus and community spread appears to be occurring. Community spread occurs when a person has the virus but cannot specifically say when or where they got the infection or why they have it. As part of her efforts to control the public health situation, Governor Reynolds has implemented a number of emergency actions.

To keep up to date on what is happening or to answer any questions, I encourage you to check the CDC website on COVID-19 or the IDPH website. Additionally, a hotline has been established you can call 24/7 with questions. It can be reached by dialing either 211 or 1-800-244-7431. During this period, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.



Do you wanna build a snowman?

With no school and some fresh, but fading snowfall, (from left) Kenny, Kyan, Avarie and Ashlyn Skellenger jumped at the chance to build a snowman last week.

Legislature suspends session for 30 days



Jane Bloomingdale
Iowa House
District 51

Leadership in the Iowa House and Senate made the decision to suspend the legislative session for a minimum of 30 days. The decision was made in consultation with the Department of Public Health and the Governor's office following the announcement of "community spread" in Iowa. The Legislature is following recommendations from the Center for Disease Control related to mass gatherings to protect vulnerable populations. This decision was made with the best interest of the public, press, staff, and legislators.

Before the legislature passed a resolution to pause session for 30 days, they passed SF 2408 unanimously. SF2408 ensures the state can meet its budget obligations and Iowans can continue to rely on essential services by setting supplemental appropriations for Medicaid, Hawk-I, and doubling the appropriations to the State Hygienic Lab for FY20. This bill continues appropriations for the first 2months of the FY21 budget and provides the Governor with additional tools to manage the rapidly changing situation.

After a recommendation from the Governor to close schools for a minimum of four weeks, the Legislature waived the requirements for schools to make up days missed through April 12. Iowa Testing Programs has announced Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress testing is suspended until further notice.

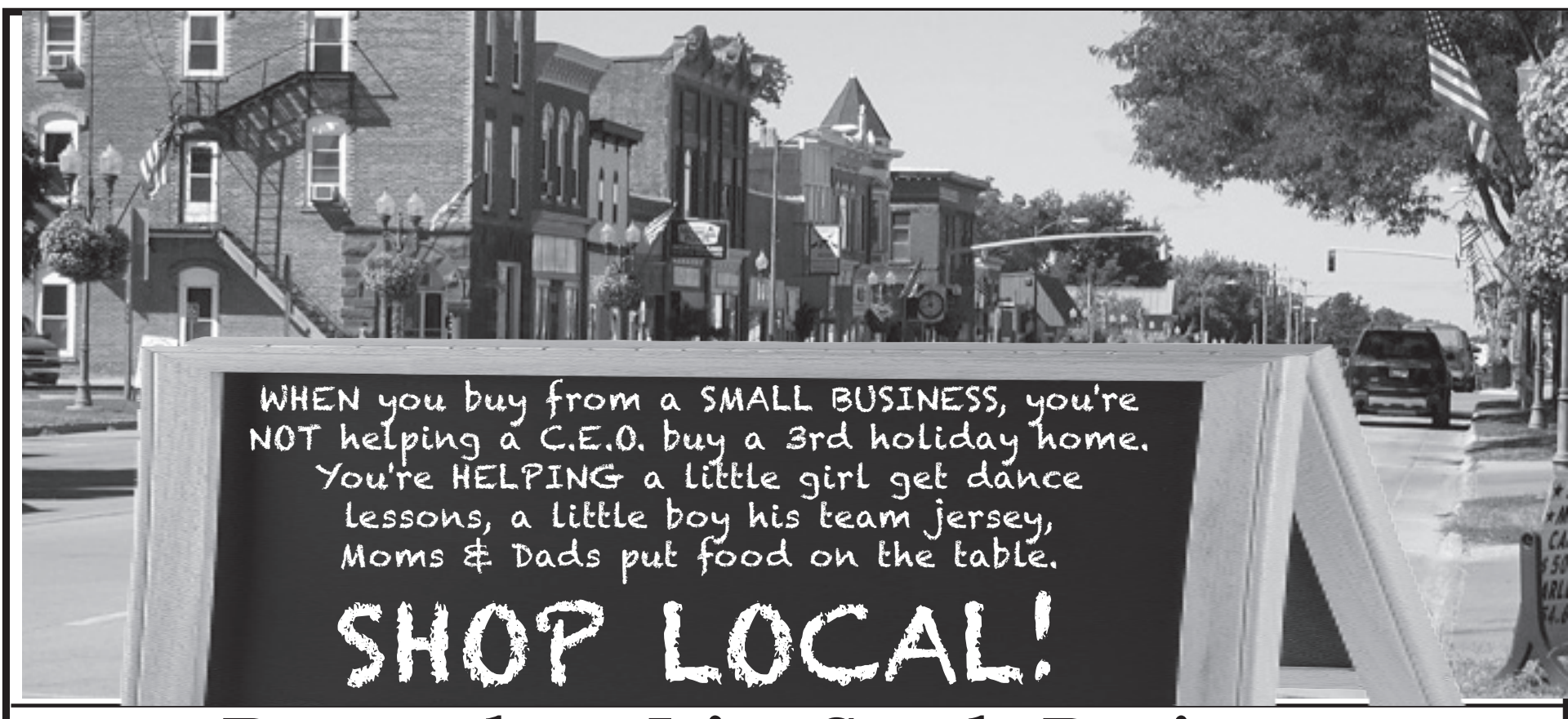
On Friday, March 20th Governor Issues New Emergency Declaration

Highlights include:

- Temporarily suspends collection of property tax penalties and interest until April 16.
- Temporarily suspends some evictions for renters
- Permits the sale of carry-out, delivery, drive-thru for unopened bottles of alcohol for bars and restaurants
- Permits public meetings or hearings by electronic means to improve the functions of government
- Suspends certain regulations to ease the transportation of agricultural supplies and commodities, food, medical supplies, cleaning products, and other household goods on all highways in Iowa

By the time you read this, I hope we have a better handle on the timeline and when life will get back to normal. To find resources and additional information on the COVID-19, including Iowa Guidance go to: coronavirus.iowa.gov/

All previously scheduled forums are cancelled until further notice. To get updates more frequently, check out my Facebook page-- Jane Bloomingdale and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. My email is jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov.



Remember It's Good Business To Do Business in Northwood

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Worth County Abstract

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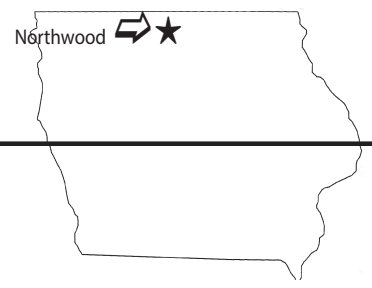
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