The Northwood Anchor

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Briefs

Santa returns to Northwood

Santa will once again be visiting Northwood a few times before his big day of travel and deliveries arrives.

While Santa can't welcome children in his village in Central Park, he has been able to take precautions and will be welcoming young visitors at the shelter house in Swensrud Park.

Santa and Mrs. Clause will be dressed for the weather, and encourage their visitors to do the same. The fireplace in the shelter house will also be lit to provide some additional warmth.

Santa will visit the shelter this Saturday, December 5, after leading Northwood's lighted parade.

Santa will return on Saturdays, December 12 and 19, and on Thursday, December 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

Those visiting must follow social distancing rules and wear a mask when they visit Santa.

Northwood Theatre presents free movies

The Northwood Theatre is once again offering free movies as Christmas approaches.

An ongoing difficulty getting movies to show other days has kept the theater closed, but local businesses have sponsored the showing of some holiday movies through Christmas day.

This Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to noon will be a showing of "The Santa Clause."

Theatre, see Page 2



The Week's WEATHER

by National Weather Service Observer John Podgorniak

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues. Nov. 24	37	32	.06
Wed. Nov. 25	38	33	.64
Thurs. Nov. 26	39	26	
Fri. Nov. 27	37	25	
Sat. Nov. 28	49	31	
Sun. Nov. 29	37	21	
Mon. Nov. 30	30	18	



Polar postage

Unfortunately, Jax-Ryan and Kjirsti Love live in the busy city of Chicago and have no place to mail their letters to Santa. So, they wanted to make sure their Christmas correspondence was delivered to the North Pole. What better place to mail these letters than the big red mailbox in downtown Northwood. Derek and Amy Love are the parents of youngsters and happened to be here for Thanksgiving at their home of their grandparents, Daryl and Wanda Love.

Northwood kicks off holidays Saturday Dec. 5

With Christmas just over three weeks away, the Northwood Chamber of Commerce is once again holding its lighted parade, and welcoming visits from Santa, starting this Saturday.

The annual holiday kick-off will take place this Saturday, December 5, with the lighted parade at 6 p.m. It will travel from the fairgrounds, then onto Central Avenue.

Those watching the parade are asked to follow social distancing guidelines and are encouraged to wear a mask.

The parade will also be shown live on the Northwood Chamber of Commerce Facebook page for those that want to view from home.

Other events in the park and downtown will not be held this year, due to COVID-19 concerns.

Following the parade, Santa will greet visitors at the Swensrud Park shelter house.

Santa will also be in Northwood a few more

Kick-Off, see Page 2

WCSO seeks help finding deer head poachers

In recent weeks, the Worth County Sheriff's Office has responded to calls of deer carcasses found missing their heads.

According to a message from the sheriff's office, two carcasses have been found.

The first was found by Joice and it could not be determined whether or not the deer had been hit by a vehicle before its head was taken.

The second deer was shot with a rifle near Northwood before its head was removed.

According to the WCSO, both instances, regardless of how the deer died, "are a crime, a waste of a natural resource and gives hunting a black eye."

The WCSO is asking that anyone with information about these events or other acts of poaching, or other violations of Iowa's wildlife laws, to call the Turn in Poachers (TIP) hotline at 800-532-2020.

Those calling the line help protect wildlife resources and may qualify for a reward.

Those with information may also call the Worth County Sheriff's Office at 641-324-2481 or Iowa DNR conservation officer Matt Washburn at 641-425-0822.

N-K holiday concerts set for online viewing

With Christmas on the way, Northwood-Kensett students will once again share their talents with holiday music. However, state guidelines for COVID-19 safety mean that this year's concerts will be viewed a little differently.

At N-K Elementary, the concerts for grades K-1 and 2-4 won't be held in person this year. However, the students will still have a chance to perform.

Individuals and classes will have their performances recorded and will be made available on the N-K website (www.nkvikings.com) on Monday, December 21, through the holiday break.

The junior high and and high school bands and choirs will hold their concerts in person. However, each student will only be allowed to have two people attend the concerts, per state law.

The concerts will be held in the gym at the high school on Sunday, December 13.

The junior high concert will be held at 2 p.m. The high school concert will be held at 3 p.m. The times will

Holiday, see Page 2

Good news makes good table for N-K designers

For most that subscribe to the Northwood Anchor, or purchase it at a local store, they take in the quality content inside and then send it to be recycled, or find some use for it around the home. But a group of students at Northwood-Kensett recently found a way to furnish a different option.

The students took some Anchor issues set to be recycled and used them as part of the Paper Table Design Challenge, competing against other schools throughout the Central Rivers Area Education Agency.

N-K's design team consists of Madalynn Hanson, Lindsey Moore and Damaris Peterson.

Their challenge was to create a table using newspapers. They had to build it at least 21 cm tall (8 inches) and able to hold a plastic tub that is 38 cm (15 inches) long and 28 cm (11 inches) wide.

They had a 60 minute window to build their table, using unlimited paper, but no more than one roll (60 yards) of standard masking tape. They were also to submit a video explaining their process and design.

In the competition, a plastic tub is placed on the table and filled with sand until it crimps, bends or folds. The weight of the sand,

Good news, see Page 2



Damaris Peterson, Madalynn Hanson and Lindsey Moore

Winter Sports preview — See Sports Page 5

Good News
Cont. from Page 1

along with aspects of the table design, are used to determine the winner.

Normally a competition like this would be held in person, with the students able to watch as the weight is added to their bucket.

This year, the event is being held remotely. The tables are being sent to the AEA office in Cedar Falls, where judging will take place, with first through third places recognized for their efforts.

The winners and video of the table testing will be released by the AEA on December 21.

And perhaps next year's competitors will build a table using issues that contain this story, or perhaps one announcing the N-K team's success.

Holiday
Cont. from Page 1

allow for the gyms to clear and be cleaned and allow for the high school students' spectators to enter.

Social distancing will be required and all those attending will be required to wear a mask.

The concerts will also be streamed live via the 98.7 KISS Country website. The performances will only be available live, due to copyright restrictions.

Council approves cemetery project

The Northwood City Council recently revisited and approved a project at the Sunset Rest Cemetery, providing a new option for those that chose cremation for their after-life option.

Council member Gary Nerlien, a retired funeral director, brought the idea of building a columbarium to the council earlier in the month. Nerlien had presented the option at council meetings in the past.

A columbarium is an above ground structure in which cremated remains can be placed, instead of burial in a grave. A columbarium would consist of compartments, called niches, for remains. Niches can hold individuals or couples. They can be marked with etchings or plates can be added to memorialize the person who has passed.

Nerlien presented a proposal for a columbarium that would hold 36 niches, at an estimated cost of roughly $14,000.

Nerlien proposed costs that would include $1,000 for a single niche and $1,400 for a companion niche. There would also be standard fees, such as engraving or decorating, interment, etc.

According to Nerlien, cremation is an increasingly common choice, with 60% of those buried in the past year choosing that over typical burial. He suggested that this would be a good alternative to offer to save on some expense for those planning how they will be laid to rest and leave room open in the cemetery.

The City's cemetery board was consulted and agreed that a columbarium would be a good option to have, but left the ultimate decision to the council. The council planned to work with them on location and other decisions, should the project proceed.

While no location was chosen at the council meeting, it was suggested that an ideal location would be near the veterans memorial in the northeast corner of the cemetery.

The council voted to proceed with the project, subject to finding a funding source. The City plans to look at grant options before proceeding. Nerlien suggested that the soonest a columbarium could be added would be in 6-7 months.

Kick-Off
Cont. from Page 1

times as Christmas approaches.

Santa plans to return to the shelter house on Saturdays, December 12 and 19, and on Thursday, December 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All those visiting Santa must follow social distancing guidelines and will be required to wear a mask.

Theatre
Cont. from Page 1

On Saturday, December 12, at 10 a.m., there will be a free showing of "The Polar Express."

The movie on Saturday, December 19, at will be "Frozen 2," starting at 10 a.m.

On Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, the theater will show "Home Alone" at 7 p.m.

Each free showing comes with a free small pop and small popcorn.

Anyone coming for a movie is asked to wear a mask, except for when they are eating or drinking.

Worth COVID increase slows

Since press time last week, the amount of COVID-19 cases in Worth County has increased, but at a less severe rate than in recent weeks.

From November 16 to November 23, cases increased from 274 to 336, or 23%. In the past week, from November 23 to November 30, cases increased from 336 to 364 an increase of 8%.

At the same time, positivity rates saw a small increase. Positivity rates are the amount of residents with COVID-19, out of those testing. From November 16 to November 23, the rate increased 1.8%, to 13.4%. From November 23 to November 30, the rate increased 0.5% to 13.9%. A total of 2,610 Worth County residents have been tested as of November 30.

Another figure that has been a focus is the 14 day positivity rate, the measure of how many residents have tested positive over the past 14 days, out of those tested. The number is one that is to be used by schools as they consider how to safely educate their students.

In Worth County, the 14 day positivity rate, as of November 30, was 16.1%. That was down from 18.8% on November 23.

The rate would put Northwood-Kensett in the category of substantial controlled.

Central Springs falls within four counties, including Worth. Besides Worth, CS county rates include 23% in Mitchell County, 22.1% in Cerro Gordo and 22% in Floyd. that would put Central Springs in the substantial uncontrolled category.

If student absences increase significantly, local districts may consider switching to hybrid or remote learning. However, current absenteeism levels would not be an issue. Administrators at both districts have said staffing levels could have a more immediate impact.

Of the cases currently confirmed in Worth County, 48 are in those 0-17 (up 4), 85 in those 18-29 (up 8), 41 in those 30-39 (up 4), 56 in those 40-49 (up 2), 59 in those 50-59 (up 2), 33 in those 60-69 (up 3), 22 in those 70-79 (up 5) and 20 in those over 18.

In Worth County, there are 171 COVID-19 cases listed as recovered, with 193 potentially remaining active.

In counties that border Worth, there were a total of 11,440 confirmed cases, as of Monday, up 1,091 from the previous week. Cases in neighboring counties included 931 in Winnebago, 868 in Hancock, 3,573 in Cerro Gordo, 1,054 in Floyd and 802 in Mitchell counties in Iowa, and 1,554 in Freeborn and 2,658 in Mower in Minnesota.

In those counties, 103 have died because of COVID-19, up 7 from last week.

Worth County remains one of three Iowa counties with no deaths attributed to COVID-19 complications.

In the next couple of weeks, the impact of potential group gatherings during Thanksgiving will be shown, and whether or not Iowans following the state and federal recommendations had an impact.

Those with symptoms, or who may be interested in being tested should contact their health care provider, or take an assessment and get more information at testiowa.com.

Information and resources on COVID-19 in Iowa can be found online at coronavirus.iowa.gov.

COVID-19 clarifications from Worth County Public Health

From Worth County Public Health:

Isolation and what it means.....

*Isolation keeps someone who is sick (infected with a virus) away from others, EVEN IN THEIR OWN HOME. This means staying completely separate from other people (ie, having a sick room, not using ANY common spaces like the living room, kitchen or bathroom).

*If you are sick and have symptoms of COVID it is recommended to get tested. Symptoms include cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell or at least two of the following...fever, headache, muscle or body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

*If you have symptoms you should start isolating for 10 days. Day 1 is the day symptoms started and you will need to isolate all the way through the 10th day. If you have tested and are waiting for the result, you still need to isolate while waiting. If the test comes back negative you may go back to daily activities 24 hours after fever (if you had one) and the other symptoms resolve, as long as you have not been identified as a close contact. If you do not take a test for COVID at all and have the symptoms of COVID you need to isolate the entire 10 days with the three criteria listed below.

*Criteria for stopping isolation once 10 days have passed...1). No fever for at least 24 hours without having to use medicine that reduces fever. 2). Symptoms have improved and no new symptoms (so you could still have some lingering symptoms but they have to have improved) and the full 10 days has passed since the start of symptoms.

*If you have tested positive for COVID and have NO symptoms you will still need to isolate the entire 10 days from the date of the test.

*Do not share personal household items, like cups, towels and utensils.

Please remember the following even when not ill.....

*Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol when you are unable to wash your hands.

*Clean and disinfect surfaces often.

*Wear a mask and maintain social distancing (6 ft.)

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N-K Turkey day prep

Students in Northwood-Kensett's Family and Consumer Sciences classroom were as busy as many in their home kitchens, preparing Thanksgiving staples. They prepared and deep fried two turkeys, along with sides for four classes. Students in the N-K FCCLA group also prepared pies and meals for families in the community.

COVID-19 exposure app now available in Minnesota

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz recently announced the availability of a new COVID-19 exposure notification mobile application, COVIDaware MN, which could slow the spread of COVID-19 by helping Minnesotans protect themselves and their loved ones.

The voluntary, anonymous application will alert a user if another user with whom they have had close contact during the virus' infectious period tests positive for COVID-19.

" As we see a dangerous surge in cases across the state, we need to use every tool possible to cut off the spread of the virus," said Walz. "COVIDaware MN gives our state a powerful and anonymous new tool to alert others we've had close contact with – even people we don't know – and slow the spread of COVID-19."

"Knowing when we've been exposed to COVID-19 is a critical part of curbing the spread of COVID-19, especially as cases surge," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "This app will help Minnesotans keep themselves and their families safe. I encourage all Minnesotans to opt in and spread the word about this free, voluntary, and anonymous app."

"This innovative technology protects the privacy of Minnesotans and collects no data about a user," said Minnesota's CIO and Commissioner of Minnesota IT Services, Tarek Tomes. "If Minnesotans opt in and follow health recommendations when notified of an exposure, we will slow the spread of COVID-19 and be one step closer to returning to many of the activities we miss so much."

When Minnesotans download the app and allow notifications, COVIDaware MN generates a random, privacy-protecting key for a user's phone. According to Minnesota officials, the app does not track individuals' locations or their positions relative to one another. Using Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology, the user's phone and the phones of other users they are near anonymously exchange these privacy-protected keys. If a person receives a positive test, the Department of Health will provide a unique code the person may enter into the app, if they choose. If they enter the code, users with whom they've been within six feet for 15 or more minutes over a 24 hour period in the past 14 days will receive a notification of an exposure. COVIDaware MN will exchange random keys with anyone who downloads COVIDaware MN or similar applications developed by other states that use the same technology framework.

"The COVIDaware MN app will supplement Minnesota's contact tracing efforts, which typically rely on a person to remember who they may have been in contact with or places they have visited while they were sick. With COVIDaware MN, Minnesotans can learn of an exposure to COVID-19 even when the exposure involves people they don't know," said Jan Malcolm, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health.

COVIDaware MN uses a COVID-19 exposure notification technology developed by Apple and Google. More than 20 states and territories have launched apps based on Google and Apple's exposure notification technology, including Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wyoming. More states are expected to adopt this technology as part of their COVID-19 response efforts.

When Minnesotans download and use COVIDaware MN, they are helping others in the community make informed decisions about their health and are playing their part to slow the spread of the virus. The more individuals who download the app, the more effective the tool will be to notify Minnesotans about potential exposures.

Minnesotans can learn more about the app on the COVIDaware MN website, and download it from the Google Play or App Store.

The app was built with open-source software from PathCheck Foundation, a nonprofit founded at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, dedicated to containing COVID-19, revitalizing the economy, and protecting individual privacy and liberty. PathCheck's digital pandemic response software is being used by multiple states, territories and countries.

Christmas in Northwaat

Saturday, December 5, 2020



Lighted Parade

Central Avenue, 6 p.m.

Visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at the Shelter House in Swensrud Park Afterwards

Remember to follow safety guidelines by social distancing and wearing a mask

Take photos at Santa's Village

Swensrud Park After Glow

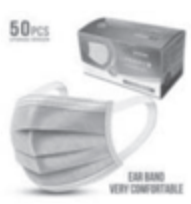
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2021 Worth County Fair calf weigh-in suspended with only State Fair weigh-ins and identification required

Worth County 4-H will not be holding the traditional Fair Calf Weigh-in for 2021. However, all steers and market heifers that plan to be exhibited at the Iowa State Fair must be weighed in and retinal scanned to be eligible to exhibit in Des Moines next summer.

Worth County Fair 4-H and FFA members will not be required to weigh-in their calves for the 2021 beef show in June. Those wanting to exhibit at the State Fair will need to make an appointment to get identification and weigh-in of the calves completed by the deadline of February 1, 2021.

Further information is available by calling 4-H Beef Superintendent Andy Julseth at 641-324-1023 or Worth County Extension Education Specialist Dennis Johnson at 641-324-1531 or emailing Dennis at djohn@iastate.edu.

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2010 Toyota Prius, 150k	$5,995
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3. When you shop locally, you help yourself and all of us! Keep your dollars close to home — shop locally for goods and services.

Remember It's Good Business To Do Business in Northwood

ABSTRACT
Worth County Abstract

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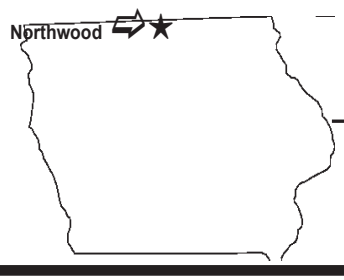
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Northwood - "A Friendly Town"

Play Ball!
Once again, we start another COVID-19 athletic season

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

After making it through a summer sports season pretty much unscathed I think most people hoped that by the time the fall season and at the very least the winter season rolled around that we would be on the downhill slope of the worldwide pandemic, but we obviously are not. Cases are spiking in nearly every state in the union and that has caused the state of Iowa and the Top of Iowa Conference to implement much more restrictive guidelines than the ones they pushed earlier in the pandemic.

Here is a quick rundown of some of the measures you will need to be aware of if you are planning to attend any winter sporting events.

Per Governor Reynolds' proclamation on November 10, 2020, seating will be limited to two spectators per athlete, seating areas are to be marked off on the bleachers for fans to sit and physically distanced.

The TIC has come up with its own lanyard system where each athlete will be issued two lanyard passes to be given to whomever they choose for entrance to their games, both home and away. However, your pass is only good for the one game unless you have a boy and a girls competing in, say basketball. So in other words, if you go to see your daughter play basketball you have to leave the gym at the conclusion of your daughter's game. You cannot stay and watch the boys contest as well. You will be asked to leave.

The TIC also asks that all spectators arrive just before the scheduled start time of their child's game to decrease congestion in between games. Also, and this one I'm sure will have some push back among the people who participate, but pep band members, dance team members, national anthem singers and even cheerleaders are to be considered non-athletes, meaning that they can still be in attendance and even perform, but they will not be provided a lanyard for parents to attend.

With all the changes, school administrators ask you be patient and cooperate with the restrictions.

"We continue to take the information as it's given to us and then make the best decision for CS coaches, athletes and the community members," said Central Springs AD Ethan Miller. "Adaptability is the name of the game now and we will control what we can in the best way possible."

At Northwood-Kensett, its new AD, Jordan Reindl, has known nothing but the pandemic since taking the job last summer.

"We're just trying to roll with the punches. The kids have been through it with the summer sports and now volleyball and football, so they are getting used to it, the parents not so much," Reindl said. "It really helps this time that the restrictions are for the most part coming from the governor. It takes a lot of the pressure off of school administrators who have at times been looked at as the bad guy in this."

Both N-K and CS will get their respective winter sports season underway this week, so follow the guidelines. Wear a mask so the kids can continue to wear their uniforms, it's really not that much to ask.

Lady Vikings enter 2020-21 season looking to reverse current 13-game skid

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

The Northwood-Kensett girls basketball team enters the 2020-21 season hoping to put the brakes on its current 13-game losing streak that dates back to last year.

The Lady Vikings, who finished last season with a 2-19 record, started the year with an impressive 44-26 win over North Iowa, but unfortunitly for N-K it would taste victory only once more after going 1-19 after the win over the Bison, including a season ending 13-game losing streak.

But if the Lady Vikings are to have a successful 2020-21 campaign they will have to improve on offense dramatically after losing half of last year's scoring to graduation.

N-K averaged just 27.8 points per game last season, but its graduating seniors took with them 14.2 points per game, something the returning letter winners will have to make up.

Speaking of returning veterans from last season the Lady Vikings will still have plenty of girls who showed progress throughout the year, including Ruthie Conlin (2.6 pts.), Carly Hengesteg (4.7 pts.), Olivia Stilley (2.5 pts.), Emma Davidson (2.9 pts.) and Sydney Welch (0.1 pts.).

Those numbers almost make up for last year's senior losses but if the Lady Vikings hope to put more points on the board and win more games they might well have to depend on some new faces to get the job done.

Those newcomers are a mix of last year's JV and a couple of freshmen who have extensive AAU experience. Last year's JV veterans getting a crack at varsity competition are Peyton Shoger, Addy Bachtle and Marli Backhaus, while the team's two freshman newcomers are Madalynn Hanson and Chloe Costello, who measures as the tallest on the team at five foot eight inches tall.

The Lady Vikings started regular season play on Tuesday at North Butler and will end the week hosting Nashua-Plainfield on Friday.

N-K wrestling is short on numbers but bursting at the seams with talent

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor



Most small school wrestling teams would have a hard time surviving the loss of their No. 1 ranked wrestler from a year ago (Gideon Rollene), who entered the state tournament unbeaten and placed seventh when all was said and done.

Or how about the loss of a perennial team MVP (Caden Schrage), who won well over 100 matches in his career?

The two of them were Northwood-Kensett wrestling the past few years, but this team presses on.

With all the focus on making it to the big show last year the names and records of some outstanding wrestlers were lost in the shuffle. Now it's their time and they're fired up to show the wrestling world who they are.

But because they failed to make it to Des Moines their big seasons were diminished in some people's minds, but not this sports writer's. N-K had numerous kids last season who had records they should be very proud of, including Treycen Rollene, who, as a freshman last year, compiled an incredible 38-18 record, Brandon Varner, whose 26 wins last year give him a 66-46 record heading into his senior year on the mat; Tyler Mills, who brings a 27-16 career record to his junior year; Josiah Kliment, who was tied for third on the team last season with 39 wins; and Drake Tiedemann, who went 39-5 and is just 31 wins shy of the allusive 100 win milestone with a career mark of 69-15.

Other members of this year's team include Michael Janssen, Dalton Logemann, Hayden Moore, Dante Sims, Mason Thofson and Christopher Madsen.

The Vikings competed in their first regular season match on Tuesday and will be in action again on Thursday when they travel to Osage for an evening quad.

Loaded with experience, Vikings expect more than a three-win season

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

It's been five long seasons since this once highly decorated and respected Northwood-Kensett boys basketball program won more than three games in a season, but that's about to change.

The Vikings, since the 2015-16 season, have won just 10 games while losing 78 with that same year being the last time a boys team at N-K posted a winning season when they went 12-10.

But, like this year's North Iowa football team, who took its share of lopsided losses when it was dominated by freshman and sophomores only to enact revenge on those team's this season, this year's Vikings look to do the same.

Usually when you look at a team's losses from the previous year you naturally look at the seniors lost. With N-K it lost only two from a season ago, Ross DeArmoun and Isaiah Hagen, who saw action in just four games last year.

DeArmoun, on the other hand, will be a bigger loss to replace, not so much because of his scoring, he averaged only 4.1 points per game, but because of the calming effect his personality had on the team.

So let's take a look at what the Vikings will have on the court this season to work with. N-K will return four of its top five scorers from a year ago, including Caden Roberts (8.5 pts.), TJ Whitelow (7.9 pts.), Cade Hengesteg (5.1 pts.) and Kael Julseth (4.7 pts.).

Also returning this season and expecting to see more playing time are Carter Severson, Seth Clapp, Jason Hanson, Nolan Senne, Logan Mayberry and Cody Wahl.

The Vikings started regular season play on Tuesday against North Butler. The Bearcats are 20-6 against N-K but the Vikings did snap a nine game losing streak last season with a narrow 51-48 win – N-K plays again on Friday when it will host Nashua-Plainfield.

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Ponderings from the Batt Cave

By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

I walk 6 miles each day.

What's the secret to your dedication?

There's this wonderful pizza place 3 miles from my home.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me, such as: I sat in my car in a parking lot as I waited for an appointment. I watched two little boys pull a wastebasket on wheels past my vehicle. They stopped by a dumpster. One kept watch by the wheeled wastebasket as the other crawled into the dumpster. I figured they were pursuing aluminum cans. That's an industrious, albeit messy endeavor. The one inside the dumpster handed things to the outside lad. There were no cans. They appeared to be snatching papers, notebooks, ledgers and other things of that ilk. They placed all prizes from this dumpster box of Cracker Jack into the wheeled wastebasket. After 15 minutes, the boy hopped from the dumpster. He wasn't covered in anything nasty, at least that I could see. The boys pulled the wheeled wastebasket past my car once more, this time in the direction from where they had come. They seemed chuckled. I'm trying to develop a conspiracy theory but am unable. Life is a mystery.

The boys appeared to have gotten what they wanted. As anyone who has ever wished for anything knows that doesn't always happen. I wanted to be a Boy Scout, but there wasn't such a thing in the nearest town. An aunt gave me an old Boy Scout Handbook. That was a great day in kidhood. I hoped perhaps another relative would come up with a Boy Scout knife, one with four blades that did five tasks — regular blade, leather punch, can opener, bottle opener and screwdriver. My father gave me an ancient, battered Barlow knife instead. I was its third owner.

The cafe chronicles

You're not eating your smoked salmon.

I don't like it.

How do you know if you don't try it?

I've tried it before, but I didn't inhale.

I've learned

My toes by any other name would smell as feet.

To give a sock puppet a hand.

The world is small in a big way.

Bad joke department

What did the farmer say when he couldn't find his tractor? "Where's my tractor?"

Where do you go to weigh a pie? Somewhere over the rainbow.

A bumper sticker reads, "I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do, it's because I've missed my exit."

From the mailbag

Nels Thompson of Owatonna wrote, "I am a big fan of cranberry sauce. In addition to its unique flavor, its color really brightens things up. Because the stuff looks like the container it is extracted from, my boys call it 'canberries.'"

Mike Walsh of Fairbanks, Alaska, said his closest encounter with a bald eagle had come when he rented a pickup truck. Unbeknownst to him, the box of that truck had fish scraps in it. It quickly filled with eagles.

An Albert Lea reader emailed that "Anchorman" should be on every list of the funniest movies. I countered with "Michael." A customer from Waseca stated, "Any list of funny movies without 'Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure' is bogus." I proffered "Rain Man."

Nature notes

Any mammal can get rabies. Birds, fish and snakes cannot. The CDC says raccoons, skunks and foxes are the animals most often infected with rabies in the United States. Small rodents like squirrels, chipmunks, rats, mice and rabbits are rarely infected. The chance of rabies in an opossum is extremely rare, with the opossum's low body temperature making it difficult for the virus to survive in its body.

Research led by the University of Exeter found people who spend at least 120 minutes in nature each week are significantly more likely to report good health and higher psychological wellbeing than those who don't visit nature during an average week.

Mothballs are pesticides that release a gas vapor that kills and repel moths and their larvae. They are toxic to humans and pets. As a pesticide, the Environmental Protection Agency regulates them. Mothballs aren't an effective pest repellent to repulse mice. When the chemicals in mothballs react with the air, they produce fumes. For mothballs to effectively discourage mice and rats, the fumigant concentration must be high. If you can take the smell, so can the mice and rats. Better you should befriend a weasel. Short-tailed weasels (ermine) are white except for black tail tips. They are excellent mousers.

Meeting adjourned

Be kind and forgive. Lily Tomlin said, "Forgiveness means giving up all hope for a better past."

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Notice

NORTHWOOD-KENSETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO LEASE REAL PROPERTY

The Northwood-Kensett Community School District ("District") is requesting bids from those persons interested in leasing office space within the District's facility located at 704 7th Street North, Northwood, Iowa for the purpose of operating a physical therapy clinic.

The space available for lease will be located within the new Viking Activity Center, a 24,000 square foot facility to be constructed on District property with an expected completion date in the summer of 2021. The specific premises to be leased pursuant to this RFP include 2 exam rooms, 2 office spaces, and a shared reception area. The bidder may specify whether they prefer to lease all the space or a portion of the space.

All offers to lease must be made using the attached bid form. The District reserves the right to request additional information for the evaluation of the bids received. The District reserves the right to reject any or all offers and to waive irregularities in any offer and to enter into an agreement, with or without modification, as shall be deemed to be in the best interests of the District.

If you require any other information, please contact District Superintendent Michael R. Crozier at mcrozier@nkvikings.com or 641-324-2101 x301.

Each offer must be enclosed and sealed in an envelope plainly marked with the words: "OFFER TO LEASE REAL ESTATE." Offers must be received by Superintendent Michael R. Crozier at the District at via email to mcrozier@nkvikings.com no later than 1:00 PM on January 11, 2021.

No offeror may withdraw its offer after the scheduled time for receipt of offers. Upon selection of the successful bidder(s), the District will negotiate the terms of a formal written lease agreement on terms and conditions acceptable to the District.

NORTHWOOD-KENSETT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT REAL ESTATE LEASE BID FORM

Bidder Name:
Bidder Address:
Premises:
Lease Term:
_____ years commencing on the later of _____ or Tenant's occupancy of the Premises. Tenant shall have _____ renewal options of _____ years each.

Rent: Base Rent: Tenant will pay rent of $ _____ per month in Base Rent for the Demise Premises.

Additional Rent: Tenant shall pay Landlord its proportionate share (based on square footage) of taxes, utilities, and maintenance costs that Landlord pays or otherwise incurs on behalf of Tenant as Additional Rent.

Deposit:
$_____.

Use: Tenant may use the Demised Premises and Leased Equipment for _____and other uses necessary and incidental thereto.

Other Terms:

Bolan

There were a few more volunteers this past weekend helping to decorate the Village of Bolan for the Christmas season. It is pretty well done, except for some special lighting being added sometime soon, hopefully!

Those able to take part from Trinity Church for the First Sunday of the Advent Season worship service held at Bethel UMC were: Linda Nydegger, telling why the song "Love Came Down at Christmas" was one of her favorites. Steve Wendt, Lori and Kelsie Willert and Linda sang that song during the service and also "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "There's a Song in the Air" accompanied by Mary Wendt. Sharing the lighting of the first Advent candle was T.J. Ausborn, and he also read the scripture.

Joe and Linda Nydegger hosted a small group for Thanksgiving Day dinner. The 25th wedding anniversary of Scott and Lori Willert was also observed.

Northwood Anchor Church

Fertile Lutheran Church

Sunday, Worship Service with Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School with Confirmation, 10:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran, Manly

Sunday, Worship at Bethlehem, 10:30 a.m., Grace Outdoor Worship, 9 a.m.

Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church/Elk Creek Lutheran

Wednesday, Confirmation TBA; Thursday, MANNA Open 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Worship - Elk Creek, 9 a.m., Radio Broadcast of Worship on 97.1 FM or Kensettia.com, Worship Bethany, 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - Elk Creek, 9:15 a.m.; Monday, MANNA Open, 10 a.m. - Noon.

Pastor Tom Martin

Trinity United Methodist, Bolan

Sunday, Streaming on Bethel of Manly Facebook Page, 10:30 a.m., Radio Station 97.1 FM (Previous Sunday Service), 10 a.m.

Pastor Cory Allard

Northwood United Methodist Church

Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Worship Service from Bethel on Facebook, 10:30 a.m., 97.1 FM Radio Station (Previous Sunday's Service), 10 a.m.

Rev. Rob Lanphere

One In Christ Lutheran Parish

Sunday, Worship Services 10:30 a.m. available online at "One in Christ Lutheran Parish" Facebook Page and YouTube under "One in Christ Lutheran Parish." Sunday Worship Services, 8 a.m. Immanuel, 105 E. 3rd St., Scarville, 641-568-3666; 9 a.m., Bethany, 201 Franke St., Joice, 641-588-3366, Wednesdays 6 p.m., KC (Kids & Christ) Night; 9:30 a.m., Silver Lake, 705 Silver Lake Rd., Northwood, 641-293-5556, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m., Winnebago, 40029 210th Ave., Lake Mills, Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Lunder, 14982 735th Ave., Albert Lea, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; All services require masks and social distancing.

Check with your local church about online services, updates and changes.

Conquering Evil with Good



Wise men and women of various faiths have told us that we should never return evil for evil, but should conquer evil with acts of kindness and goodness. The Dhammapada puts it this way: "Hatreds never cease through hatred in this world; through love alone they cease. This is an eternal law." Saint Paul advises us in the twelfth chapter of Romans to "Never repay injury with injury" and then quotes the Proverb "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you." (Proverbs 25:21-22) Saint Paul concludes his kindly advice by saying "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21) The curious part of the quoted proverb is the notion that in being kind to someone who has harmed you, you will be "heaping burning coals on his head," which sounds plainly vindictive. Without knowing what the exact meaning and implication of this phrase is, and scholars have suggested everything from inciting anger in your enemy to giving them coals to carry home for their own hearth, perhaps the best interpretation is that in doing so you will be remonstrating against your enemies' evil and causing them to have remorse. They will indeed carry these hot coals home with them, but these coals will be their own conscience, reminding them they will always be burned by vengeance. – Christopher Simon

Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD. –Leviticus 19:18

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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

I took a cooking class once where the instructor convinced us that we could serve pan-seared chicken breast five nights a week and if we used a different sauce each night it would be like five different meals. That was a bit of an exaggeration but it is true that knowing how to make a flavorful sauce will take your main course up a notch. When I was reading "Better Homes & Gardens Meat Cook Book" (1965, Meredith Press, NYC & Des Moines) it wasn't the meat recipes that caught my eye, it was the sauce chapter. This oldie but goodie book has 11 recipes in the section titled "Piquant Sauces – Lively Accents for Meat and Fish."

Warren's Barbeque Sauce

1 cup catsup
1 cup water
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup cider vinegar
Tabasco sauce to taste
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon celery seed
1 teaspoon salt

Combine all the ingredients in a heavy saucepan. Heat to boiling. Let simmer, uncovered, to reduce to a thick sauce, about 30 minutes. Stir occasionally so it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan.

Seafood Cocktail Sauce (for dipping chilled, boiled shrimp)

1/2 cup bottled chili sauce
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 tablespoons prepared horseradish
1/4 teaspoon grated onion
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
Salt to taste
2 drops (or more to taste) hot pepper sauce

Combine the ingredients and chill thoroughly. Makes about 1/2 cup.

Jiffy Mustard Sauce

1 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons prepared mustard
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish

Combine all ingredients, chill and serve with pork chops.

Raisin Sauce for Baked Ham

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon dry mustard
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon vinegar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 cups water
1/4 teaspoon lemon zest
1/2 cup raisins

Mix the brown sugar, dry mustard and cornstarch. Very slowly add the vinegar whisking. Add the lemon juice and zest, water and raisins. In a heavy saucepan stir over low heat until thick. Makes 2 cups to serve hot alongside baked ham.

Horseradish Sauce for Roast Beef

1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
2-3 tablespoons horseradish.

With an electric mixer, beat the cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in the horseradish. Chill before serving; add minced chives on top. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

Fluffy Mustard Sauce for Ham Loaf

2 egg yolks, beaten
1 tablespoon sugar
3 tablespoons prepared mustard
2 tablespoons vinegar
1 tablespoon real butter
1 tablespoon water
1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped

In a double boiler or saucepan over boiling water, combine the egg yolks, sugar, mustard, vinegar, water and salt. Mix well. Cook, stirring constantly, until it is thick, 4-5 minutes. Blend in the butter and horseradish. Remove from heat and cool completely. Fold in the whipped cream. Store in the refrigerator until 30 minutes before serving. Delicious with ham or ham loaf. Makes a 1 ½ cups.

Cherry Sauce for Ham

1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/2 cup sugar
1 can (16 oz.) pitted tart red cherries
Red food coloring, if desired

Combine the cherries with their liquid, sugar and cornstarch in a heavy saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, over low heat until thick and clear. Add a few drops of food coloring if desired to enhance the appearance of the sauce. Serve hot with baked ham. Makes 2 cups.

Lemon-Butter Sauce for Fish or Chicken

1/2 cup real butter, no margarine
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

Melt the butter, add the lemon juice and parsley. Serve warm to keep the butter liquid. Good on seafood, fish or chicken.

Cucumber Sauce

1 medium cucumber, unpeeled
1/4 cup real mayonnaise
1 tablespoon grated onion
2 teaspoons white vinegar
1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley
1/2 cup real sour cream
Salt and pepper to taste

Cut the cucumber in half lengthwise and scoop out the seeds. Grate the cucumber; you'll need about 1 cup grated. Drain well. Combine with the remaining ingredients, blending well. Chill and serve with chicken or fish. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

Hmmm, let's see: chicken breast with lemon-butter sauce; chicken breast with cucumber sauce; chicken breast with barbeque sauce? I'm not sure it would fly in most families but these sauces used with different meats are sure to add flavor, color and interest...even to a hamburger. And...that's all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society

Stoneking – Lyon wed Sept. 19

Mary Stoneking And Cody Lyon were united in marriage on September 19, 2020 in Ames, Iowa.

Mary is the daughter of Dennis and Leanne Stoneking of Northwood. Cody is the son of Corey and Della Lyon of South Carolina and Sandi Saxton of Michigan.

Those joining in the bridal party were Hannah Astarita and Adam Jakee (friends of the couple), Lexie Stoneking (sister-in-law) and Justin Batcheler (brother-in-law), Cari Batcheler (sister of the bride) served as matron of honor with Mark Stoneking (brother of the bride) standing in as best man.



CODY AND MARY LYON

Mary is a 2015 graduate of Northwood-Kensett and a 2019 graduate of ISU. She is employed by ACDI of Ankeny, Iowa as an Event Planner.

Cody is a 2016 graduate of Riverland Community College. He is employed as an electrician with Kline Electric in Des Moines.

Quilting ladies of First Lutheran Church donate quilts to soldiers

The generosity of the quilting ladies who meet (when possible) at the First Lutheran Church, Northwood will soon be appreciated by soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

Melanie (Wallin) Anderson, N-K class of 1985, has a son serving with the 1194A unit. A chance encounter and conversation with classmate Chamaine (Amundson) Snell revealed Melanie's hope to send quilts to the men serving who are from the Spencer area and other parts of Iowa.

Her local church donated 15 quilts to Anderson and the First Lutheran Church quilters donated the remaining 21 quilts.

The quilting ladies are appreciated for sharing their time and talents with others and showing that they care.

Worth County 4-H State Recognition Workshop set for December 30

The Worth County Extension Office will host a Virtual 4-H State Recognition Workshop on Wednesday, December 30, at 10:30 a.m.

All ninth grade to 12th grade 4-H members are invited to participate in learning about the many State 4-H Award winning opportunities that are available.

Past Worth County 4-H State award winners will be on the Zoom meeting to share information about how to apply for the awards and recognition trips to Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, D.C. The 4-H members will also have a chance to learn about what the duties and responsibilities are of the Iowa State 4-H Council and what the application and interview process is to be able to serve on the 2021-2022 Iowa State 4-H Council Team.

To learn more about this 4-H workshop and to get the Zoom link address email Worth County 4-H Program Coordinator Mindy Tenold at mtenold@iastate.edu, email Worth County Extension Education Specialist Dennis Johnson at djohn@iastate.edu or phone Mindy or Dennis at 641-324-1531 at the Worth County Extension Office in Northwood.

Worth County Crop Pesticide Clinic postponed

The Worth County Extension Service annual Crop Clinic/ Pesticide Recertification meeting that was scheduled for Friday, December 11, at the Diamond Jo Event Center is now being postponed to a later date due to the Covid-19 meeting gathering restrictions.

The private pesticide recertification will likely be moving to a virtual format with dates and times to be determined. Pesticide applicators with questions may call Dennis and Lacey at the Worth County Extension Office at 641-324-1531.

Medlangs welcome new granddaughter

Hannah and Charlie Lundeen of Cokato, Minnesota, announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia May, on November 8. She weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Morris and Janelle Medlang of Kensett and Doug and Lori Lundeen of Cokato, Minnesota.

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Santa Claus
will greet boys and girls at the Shelter House in Swensrud Park Northwood
After the Parade
Saturday, Dec. 5
6 p.m. - ?
Saturday, Dec. 12
Saturday, Dec. 19
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Christmas Eve
Thursday, Dec. 24
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Please remember to follow safety guidelines to social distance and wear a mask

Northwood Anchor Early Files

100 years ago

November 24, 1920

Northwood High defeated Clear Lake 14 to 7. The inability of Clear Lake's forward wall to stop Northwood's line bucks cost the game for the resort lads.

The Northwood high school girls basketball team was defeated by the Osage high school girls at Osage by the close score of 14 to 13. The locals were handicapped by the absence of their captain, Galdys Johnson, who was injured in a recent practice. The Northwood girls are being coached by Miss Nelson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Butler returned from their trip to the West, where they spent several weeks visiting and sightseeing. At Stities, Idaho, they spent three weeks with C.M. Butler and family and with many relatives and friends along the way.

At a called meeting of the American Legion Paul G. Thonn was elected post commander to take the place of Leon E. Morse, whose resignation was accepted on account of his early removal to Mason City. Arthur Sharp was elected to the position of post welfare officer in place of Mr. Thonn.

Lieutenant J.J.M. Gibney, wife and son, of Iowa City, returned to their home after having been in attendance at the funeral of their cousin, Miss Hilda Grosland. Lieutenant Gibney is one of the efficient instructors of the Iowa State University.

75 years ago

December 6, 1945

First of the gift turkey distributions by the Northwood Commercial Club will be held in front of the Northwood Theatre. Other distributions will be held on December 12, December 15, December 19 and December 22. A total of 75 live turkeys will be given away during the holidays, with 75 business and professional men of the city joining in the event.

Marlin Field, 25, of near Joice, lost his right hand just above the wrist when his jacket sleeve caught in a power wood saw he was operating. His arm was drawn into the saw and his hand severed about two inches above the wrist.

City water rates will be raised in Northwood from 25¢ to 40¢ per 1,000 gallons, according to action taken by the town council in regular session Tuesday evening. The new rates will be effective for the next quarter. "This increase was necessary to meet increased costs of operations of the water systems."

Glenn Otis, 11-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn O. Johnson of Rochester, Minnesota, was killed when the car in which he and his father and grandmother, Mrs. John G. Johnson, southwest of Northwood, were riding skidded on the icy road near Gordonsvillle and crashed into an embankment. The child died of a broken neck. Mrs. Johnson was taken to the Naeve hospital in Albert Lea with chest and leg injuries. Mr. Johnson was also taken to the hospital, but his injuries are not serious, it is understood. The three were the car's only passengers.

50 years ago

December 3, 1970

A barn and about 50 head of hogs were lost in a fire at the Duane Broitzman farm, five miles north of Northwood. Fire companies from Northwood and Myrtle helped contain the blaze from spreading to other buildings. Cause of the fire is unknown at the present time.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Trenhaile, Kensett, announce the engagement of their daughter Carolynn to Mr. Randy Meyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Meyer of Corwith. Carolynn is a senior at the University of Northern Iowa and her fiancé is attending NIACC. A wedding date has not been set.

The Northwood Jaycees have put up "Santa's Mailbox" in Central Park for the Christmas season and invite area youngsters to use it for mailing letters to Santa. They also suggested that names and returned addresses be completed so Santa can answer the letters.

The State Conservation Commission has purchased the former Mrs. Josie Peterson farm five miles northeast of Lake Mills in Silver Lake Township. The 40 acre tract is about half marsh and half prairie grass. The area will be maintained as a public hunting area and is now open to the public. Planting of trees will be completed next year as well as wildlife food such as sorghum and corn, according to Rocky Bridges, Rice Lake game unit manager, who will be in charge of the area.

Pfc. Jerry Bergdale left to report to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he has been stationed. Bergdale was on a nine-day leave and spent that time here with his wife and daughter, Jennifer Sue, in Northwood and with his father Carl Bergdale in Kensett.

25 years ago

December 6, 1995

Northwood-Kensett Junior High flutist Melissa Meyer and cohorts Melissa Harang, Kyle Hagen and Sarah Madson had their hands full as they rehearsed for their upcoming Christmas concert. They and other N-K musicians and vocalists in grades 5-8 will present their concert on December 7, at 7 p.m.

An audience made up of Northwood-Kensett Elementary's entire fifth-grade class gave Mason City "buck-skinner" Kurt Kruggel their undivided attention during a lesson on Native American clothes, customs and lore. Kruggel's presentation was part of the N-K fifth-grade's ongoing studies about Iowa's upcoming sesquicentennial.

Dennis Meyer, of Northwood, received the Worth County Farm Bureau recognition award at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) annual meeting in Des Monies on November 29. Merlin Plagge, IFBF president, made the presentation to Meyer, who is the Worth County Farm Bureau president. Worth County Farm Bureau received gold star recognition for its 1995 programs in membership and silver star recognition for policy development, legislative, ag in the classroom and county action activities.

Everett and Janet Klein have decked out the porch of their Central Avenue home in lighted evergreen wreaths and garlands to help usher the Christmas season and the holiday spirit into Northwood.

10 years ago

December 8, 2010

Plants of the holiday season typically bring one color to mind. This holds true for the greenery of Christmas trees, wreath, mistletoe and holly. However one holiday plant stands out for its brilliant display of another color of seasonal significance. The poinsettia brings a stunning red tint to the season, which makes the flower a perfect accent to holiday decorations, as well as for holiday gifts and greetings. Tom Sculley of Village Florist is pictured amidst the holiday plants at his greenhouse.

Connie Hickle of Flower Zone by Connie helped Moreen Jensen, visiting Northwood from Bennington, Nebraska, with some of the Christmas decorating ideas available at Flower Zone, one of the many local stores that offer holiday help.

The First Lutheran Church basement tables were filled with red and green bags full of groceries as Manna volunteers filled bags for people requesting food this holiday season. Terri Sculley, who organized the food distribution and is secretary of Manna of Worth County, was overwhelmed with the number of youth organizations and individuals who showed up to help fill the bags. According to Tom Sculley, president, 225 bags of groceries were filled. Manna has been taking food donations and received a grant from the WCDA to purchase food locally with the help of Jeff Jessen, owner of Grafton J-Mart, and Kevin Petznick, manager of Fallgatter's Market in Northwood.

Northwood Anchor Obituaries

Gloria Helgeson



GLORIA HELGESON

Gloria Jean Helgeson, 75, of Kensett, passed away on Thursday, November 26, 2020, at Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus, in Rochester, Minnesota, after a long battle with cancer.

A public viewing and visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at Conner Colonial Chapel, 1008 First Ave. South, Northwood, Iowa. The family appreciates your patience and understanding as we practice social distancing and follow state guidelines on public events.

A private family service will be held, but a live stream of the service may be found at 2 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2020, on the Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapels Facebook page.

The family plans to host a public Celebration of Life with all of Gloria's friends and family in the Summer of 2021. She will be laid to rest in Elk Creek Lutheran Cemetery, Kensett, Iowa.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family asks that donations be directed to either the Worth County 4-H Extension, Elk Creek Lutheran Church or the Worth County Relay for Life, all organizations and charities she loved dearly.

Gloria Jean Adams was born on January 16, 1945, in Northwood, the daughter of Frank E. and Henrietta (Abrahams) Adams. Growing up in Northwood with her seven siblings, Gloria attended Northwood-Kensett Schools, graduating in 1963. She continued her education at the Mason City School of Practical Nursing, where she graduated in 1964. On January 25, 1969, Gloria married the love of her life, David "Jim" Helgeson at Elk Creek Lutheran Church, Kensett. The couple was blessed with two children, Michelle and Todd.

Gloria was a true caretaker and had a passion for helping others. She began working for St. Joseph Mercy Hospital before moving to the offices of Dr. Houlahan and Dr. Baker. Later she worked at Mason City Clinic specializing in ENT, where she worked for 28 years until her retirement in 2006.

Gloria and Jim were longtime members of Elk Creek Lutheran Church, where Gloria was very active, leading Vacation Bible School and serving as the Sunday School Superintendent for numerous years.

Gloria was also the Green Shamrocks 4-H leader for 35 years, earning her way to the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame in 2009 and was an alumni member of Worth County Extension since 2001.

Most of all, Gloria loved her family dearly and enjoyed spending time together. Her greatest joy was becoming a grandmother, spending time at the lake house with family and friends, and attending her grandchildren's activities and sporting events.

Gloria never stopped moving. Whether it was planning the next variety show, spending time in the garden, working on church activities, Relay for Life, 4-H or the many other volunteer positions she agreed to, she was constantly on the go. She filled her life with things she loved, constantly giving to others. She and Jim took many trips over the years, experiencing many places and different cultures. Her hardworking, dedicated planning and loving nature will be missed by all.

Those left to cherish her memory are her husband of 51 years, Jim; her beloved children, Michelle (Troy) Conroy of Algonquin, Ill. and Todd (Kim) Helgeson of Kalamazoo, Mich.; grandchildren, Seth Conroy, Jadon Conroy, Tyler Helgeson and Kate Helgeson; siblings, Frances Guertin and Delores Marsh; sister-in-law, Judie Adams; a special niece, Melina Lagios; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Preceding her in death are her parents, Frank and Henrietta; siblings, Hariet Anderson, Frank Adams, Arlene Adams, Albert Adams and Marilyn Lagios; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Andy Anderson, Gordon Marsh, Obie Guertin and George Lagios.

Margaret 'Margie' Rosch



MARGARET ROSCH

Margaret Ann (Margie) Rosch, 63, of Northwood, passed away on Friday, November 27, surrounded by her loving family. She fought a long and courageous battle with cancer.

A public visitation will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at Schroeder & Sites Funeral Home, Northwood starting at 9:30 a.m. In light of the current state mandates masks will be required for the visitation and service, and only 15 people will be allowed in the building at a time, please plan accordingly. The family understands if you would prefer to send condolences. Please send those to 4996 Partridge Avenue, Northwood, IA 50459. A private memorial service will also be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020.

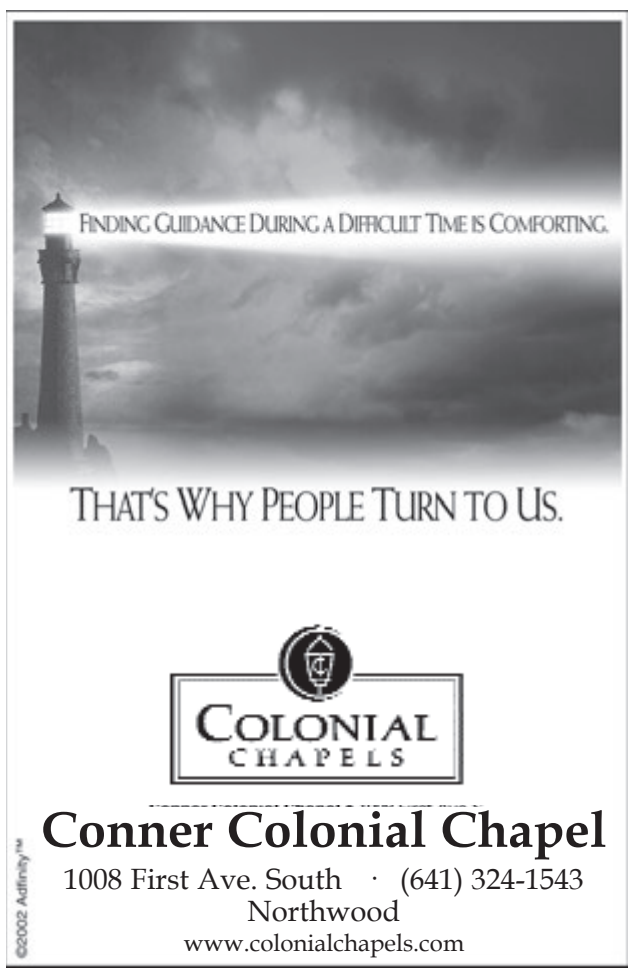
Margie was born on August 9, 1957, in Hastings, Minnesota, to William and Florence Zeien. She was a 1975 graduate of Hastings High School. She married Steven Rosch on September 10, 1977. They lived in Minnesota and moved to Northwood in 1984. Steven passed away in 1994.

Margie was a 4-H leader in Worth County for many years and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Manly. She was the office manager of Welsh Chiropractic Clinic in Northwood for 28 years.

Margie enjoyed gardening, crafts and birdwatching. She loved being a mother and grandmother, and spoiling her grandchildren. She enjoyed annual family traditions, including pumpkin carving, egg dying and cookie day with the grandkids. She also loved holiday decorating in her beautiful home.

Margie is preceded in death by her husband, Steven; parents; and father and mother-in-law, Dale and Phyllis Rosch.

She is survived by partner, John Janssen; daughter, Sara (Marcus) Rienhardt of Janesville, Minn.; son, Joey (Kate) of Rochester, Minn.; grandchildren, Adalynn, Parker, Max, Garrett, Ruby and Everly; four sisters; five brothers; and many other relatives and friends.



Northwood Anchor Obituaries

Gerald 'Jerry' Gudmonson

On Monday, November 23, Gerald (Jerry) Gudmonson, loving husband, father, son and brother, passed away at the age of 60 in his home in Savage, Minnesota.



GERALD GUDMONSON

Jerry was born on September 5, 1960, in Mason City, Iowa, to Donald and Jean (Miller) Gudmonson of Northwood, Iowa. He graduated from Northwood-Kensett Schools in 1979. He went on to pursue an electronic technician certificate from Hennepin Technical Center in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, in 1985.

After working as an electronic technician for a couple of years, he moved back to his hometown of Northwood, and began work in the maintenance department at Winnebago Industries in Forest City, Iowa. In 1989, he moved back to Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and began maintenance work at Malt-o-Meal Corporation in Northfield, Minnesota. He continued to work there until deciding to change paths and become a mortgage loan officer in 1998. Jerry continued in the mortgage business and created a successful business, supporting his customers and forging many friendships with his customers and business partners.

On June 19, 1993, Jerry married Doreen Hengesteg. Together, they raised two daughters, Lauren and Kendra. Jerry's greatest joy in life was spending time with his family, whether it was at their home in Savage, Minnesota, their lake house in Clear Lake, Iowa, or taking family trips. No matter where he went, he had the amazing ability to talk to just about anyone about anything. Jerry enjoyed watching sports and was known to place a wager here and there. He also enjoyed catering to (or spoiling) the family pet dog, Bentley.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father, Donald; paternal grandparents, Kenneth and Myrtle Gudmonson; maternal grandparents, Verle and Corrine Miller; and uncle, Robert Gudmonson.

Jerry will be loved and missed by his wife, Doreen; daughters, Lauren and Kendra; mother, Jean Blake; and stepfather, Dan Blake; sister, Shawn Charlson and her husband, Dan; brother, Mark Gudmonson and his wife, Linda; father and mother-in-law, Robert and Marg Hengesteg; sisters-in-law, Deb Nelson and her husband, Brad, and Darla Otis and her husband, Dan; brother-in-law, Ron Hengesteg, and his wife, Stephanie; nieces, Donika Charlson, Callie Gudmonson, Becca Cronbaugh and Taylor Pierce; nephews, Jacob Charlson, Troy Gudmonson, Eric Otis, Michael Otis, Zach Hengesteg and Cade Hengesteg; and many uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

Jerry will be laid to rest in Sunset Rest Cemetery in Northwood, following an intimate family ceremony. A celebration of life will be planned for this spring.

Memorials in remembrance of Jerry can be made to Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (pancan.org) or to the Northwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company in Northwood.*

Arthur 'Art' Senne

Mr. Arthur Edwin "Art" Senne, 85, of Elkhart, Indiana, and formerly of rural Northwood, Iowa, passed away peacefully at the Center for Hospice Care in Elkhart following an extended illness on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 7:55 p.m.



ARTHUR SENNE

He was born on November 9, 1935, in Buffalo Center, Iowa, to the late Dietrich and Caroline (Stohr) Senne.

On October 20, 1956, he married Renate H. Schmidt in Stuttgart, Germany, while he was stationed with the U.S. Army in Ludwigsburg, Germany. They were married nearly 60 years until Renate's passing in July 2016.

Surviving are their children, Anita (John) Knudtson of Granger and Robert (Kristen) Senne of Elkhart; sisters, Irene Holthaus of Ames, Iowa, Ardella Mostrom of Story City, Iowa, and JoAnne Curts of Mason City, Iowa; and grandchildren, Matt, Nicole, Taylor, and Sophia. He is also survived by a host of loving nieces, nephews, extended family and good friends.

Art is preceded in death by his wife, his parents, a sister, Alvina Greenwood, and a brother, Edwin Senne.

In accordance with Art's wishes, cremation has taken place and his family is hosting a memorial service at Trinity Lutheran Church, 30888 County Road 6, Elkhart, on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at 11 a.m. with visitation beginning one hour prior. Pastor Spencer Mielke will officiate, and military honors will be rendered by the U.S. Army Funeral Honor Guard and Elkhart DAV 19, depending on their availability, due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. Additionally, face coverings will be required and the church will ensure that all COVID-19 guidelines are followed.

Art's cremated remains will then be returned to the Silver Lake Cemetery in Northwood, Iowa with a service and burial to be held in the spring of 2021.

Art was an Iowa farmer, raised crops and livestock, and was highly self-sustaining due to the nature of farming itself. He could fix just about anything and was highly talented in mechanics and carpentry. Art would be the first to lend one of his neighbors or family a hand in any situation. After retiring from farming, he spent several years as a crop insurance adjuster in Iowa and continued in Indiana after he and Renate moved there 10 years ago.

He was also a man of very strong Christian faith, served on church councils, taught high school Sunday school and mentored several young people over the years at Silver Lake Lutheran Church in rural Northwood. Giving, friendly, compassionate, patient and understanding, Art's easy-going demeanor and personality won him many friends and acquaintances, and he will be greatly missed.

Memorial donations may be given to the charity of one's choice.

Sandra Botts

Sandra Sue Johns was born on October 21, 1939, to Albert William Johns and Grace Pauline Wilcox Johns. Sandra graduated from Perry High School in 1958.



SANDRA BOTTS

She married the love of her life, Larry Botts, on Valentine's Day 1960. Sandy and Larry lived in Hampton, Iowa, before settling in Mason City, Iowa, where they started an upholstery business. They were the perfect team and In 1970 they moved to Manly, Iowa, where they purchased the Dry Goods store as part of Tom's Country Market. In addition to this store she and Larry established other retail businesses in the same complex, including an upholstery shop, gift shop and TrueValue hardware store. She ended her work years as a salesperson at the Sears clothing department in Mason City, Iowa.

In 1999, Sandy retired and they moved to Macomb, Illinois, to be closer to family, where she enjoyed watching her grandchildren grow up. Sandy and Larry loved attending their grandchildren's activities, including many YMCA Dolphin and high school swim meets. She was a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother and her family was her pride and joy.

Sandy was a member of the Wesley Methodist Church.

Left to cherish Sandy's memory are her husband, Larry; sons, Mitch (Cindy) Botts, and Eric (Lori) Botts; grandchildren, Katie (Charlie) Whitaker, Tony (Jackie) Botts, Shelli Botts, Bradley Botts, Meghan (Anthony) Shaw, Hayley Botts, and Carly Botts; great-grandchildren, Reese Mabrey, Addisyn Shaw, and Cal Botts; sisters, Pat Meier and Linda (Bob) Olson; sister-in-law, Velma Riggens; and many special nieces and nephews.

Proceeding Sandy in death are her parents, Albert and Grace Johns; brothers, Donald and George Johns; sisters, Doris Pantier, Vernas Shipley, Verna Martin, Norma Herridge; mother and father in-law, John and Thelma Botts; brothers-in-law, Jack Meier, Dale Shipley, Richard Herridge, Bill Martin, Dean Botts, Jack Lientz, Virgil Pantier, Virgil Botts, Don Burke and David Riggens; sisters-in-law, Joanne Johns, Veloy Burke, Alice Botts, and Dorothy Botts; nephews, Rod Burke and Kevin and Kelly Herridge; niece, Debbie Gelbowitz.

Celebration of life funeral service was at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 28, 2020, at Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb, Illinois.

There was graveside services at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at Violet Hill Cemetery in Perry, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given in Sandy's memory to the YMCA Dolphin swim team.

You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Supervisors

November 23, 2020
Forty-eighth Day

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

Electronic public access was made available by computer or telephone via Zoom.

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 and Smeby. Nays: none. Abstentions: none. Absent: none.

Motion by Smeby, second by Stone, carried to approve the November 23, 2020 agenda.

Motion by Smeby, second by Stone, carried to approve the November 16, 2020 board minutes.

Motion by Smeby, second by Stone, carried to approve claims in the amount of $128,637.95 as per the following schedule:

A T & T, Service-911 .... 39.29
Advanced Drainage Sys Inc
Supplies-Eng 164.98
Agvantage Fs Inc
Supplies-Con 656.33
Alliant Energy
Service-Sdp 490.10
Aramark, Supplies-Eng 68.24
Arlys J Bergdale
Election-Aud 245.40
Asco Plus
Supplies-Con 78.44
Austin Office Products
Supplies-Shf 65.58
Betty Waddington
Election-Aud 141.43
Bob Barker Company Inc
Supplies-Shf 133.60
Brian M Kuchay, Md
Ems Contract 300.00
Bryn Pangburn
Election-Aud 247.41
Callie Flattum
Election-Aud 163.29
Carolyn Nedved
Election-Aud 233.03
Central Ia Distributing Inc
Supplies-Con 183.00
Centurylink
Service-911 ..... 361.23
Cerro Gordo County Relief
Service-Soc 135.00
Certified Laboratories
Fuel-Eng 965.15
Charlotte Michalek
Election-Aud 275.19
City Of Fertile
Service-Eng 81.73
City Of Joice
Service-Eng 82.76
Compass Minerals
Supplies-Eng 4,338.45
Com-Tec Land Mobile Radio
Service-Shf 6,900.07
Covert Track Group Inc
Service-Shf 600.00
Culligan Of Mason City
Service-Trs 56.00
D & L Equipment
Supplies-Con 87.29
Dana Young
Service-Mex 100.00
Dick's Place Body & Tow
Service-Shf 825.00
Donald W. Croghan, Cpa, Pc
Service-Phd 2,940.00
Esri, Service-Dap 5,100.00
Fallgatter's Market Inc
Supplies-Shf 536.87
Farmchem Corp
Supplies-Eng 711.54
Five Star Cooperative
Fuel-Eng 38.79
Frances Olson
Election-Aud 266.29
Frontier Precision
Supplies-Dap 2,500.00
Gail Read
Election-Aud 255.46
Galls, Llc
Supplies-Shf 349.14
Goodale Custom Pumping Co
Service-Wwt 4,800.00
Greve Law Office
Copies-Aty 93.00
Grp & Associates Inc
Service-Phd 36.00
Heartland Paper Company
Supplies-Gsr 221.92
Heartland Power Coop
Service-Wwt 3,091.50
Henry M. Adkins & Son Inc.
Service-Aud 7,535.49
Ia Prison Industries
Supplies-Eng 980.72
Ia Secretary Of State
Notary-Trs 30.00
Imwca
Wk Comp Prem-Ins 12,277.00
Ip Pathways
Service-Dap 727.00
Janelle Johnson
Election-Aud 26.50
Janet Fellin
Election-Aud 255.46
Janice Hare
Election-Aud 143.68
Jessica Reyerson
Reimb-Phd 50.00
Jill M Ehrhardt
Election-Aud 235.19
Joel Rohne
Supplies-Gsr 431.84
John Deere Financial
Service 1,299.73
John Wonsmos
Election-Aud 255.89
Judy Wonsmos
Election-Aud 235.19
June Haxton
Election-Aud 225.25
Karen Abrahams
Election-Aud 92.75
Kathryn Brodersen
Election-Aud 259.20
Kelly Hardware
Supplies-Eng 87.71
Kris Gordon
Election-Aud 254.03
Larsen Plumbing & Heating Inc, Service-Gsr 131.72
Lawson Products Inc
Supplies-Eng 96.65
Lexisnexis
Service-Aty 171.00
Linda Medlang
Election-Aud 253.45
Lois Low
Election-Aud 264.66
Lorraine Martin
Election-Aud 259.20
Mail Services Llc
Postage-Trs 282.79
Manly Junction Signal
Service-Sup & Aud ... 806.03
Marcia Prestegaard
Election-Aud 261.69
Marco Technologies Llc
Service-Eng 1,256.15
Mardene S. Lien
Election-Aud 235.19
Marilyn Holt
Election-Aud 113.45
Melinda Holden
Election-Aud 251.15
Mercyone North Iowa Occupational Health
Service-Tra 102.00
Midwest Pipe Supply Inc
Supplies-Eng 1,700.00
Naco, Dues-Org 450.00
Napa Auto Parts
Supplies-Eng 41.99
Niacog, Service-Tra 524.36
Northwood Anchor Inc
Service-Sup & Aud 1,204.55
Northwood Chiropractic, Pc
Service-Shf 65.00
Northwood Electric Inc
Service-Shf 260.00
Pauline Ragsdale
Election-Aud 26.50
Penny Miller
Election-Aud 263.51
Peopleservice Inc
Service-Wwt & Wat 16,389.00
Pinnacle Quality Insight
Service-Phd 154.50
Plunkett's Pest Control Inc
Service-Ema 30.00
Printing Services Inc
Supplies-Eng 661.48
Purchase Power
Service-Trs 2,020.99
R80 Llc, Fuel-Eng 104.41
Reinhart Food Service Llc
Supplies-Shf 255.92
Ronald D. Miller
Election-Aud 255.37
Rosemary Fredericks
Election-Aud 275.52
Russell Meyer
Safety-Eng 144.98
Sandra Trainer
Election-Aud 302.54
Scp, Supplies-Eng 736.90
Shanan Redinger
Election-Aud 258.77
Shelley L. Allison
Rent-Soc 325.00
Singelstad's Hardware
Supplies-Eng 39.96
Sirchie Acquisition Company Llc, Supplies-Shf 203.30
State Hygienic Laboratory
Service-San 472.50
State Medical Examiners Office, Service-Mex 2,027.00
Steven R. Hutzel
Service-Gsr 540.00
Sue Hartwig
Election-Aud 231.88
Sue Trebil
Election-Aud 255.75
Thomas Reid
Postage-Vaf 110.00
Thomson Reuters
Supplies-Cta 262.00
Trading Post
Supplies-Eng 291.69
Tyler Technologies Inc
Service-Dap 630.00
U S Postal Service
Postage-Rec 235.00
Val M. Brunsvold
Election-Aud 40.30
Ver Helst Snyder Drug
Supplies-Trs 125.36
Verizon Wireless
Service-Eng 354.92
Viafield
Supplies-Con 1,902.49
Visa, Service-Shf 1,081.62
Windstream
Service-Eng 14.56
Winnebago Coop Telephone Assn, Service-Sdp 87.70
Worth County Engineer
Fuel-Eng 4,650.47
Worth County Extension
Edu-Eng 315.00
Wunsch Construction Inc
Service-Ndp 18,596.25
Xerox Corporation
Service-Dap 54.97
Young Plumbing & Heating Inc, Service-Wat 718.14
Ziegler Inc, Parts-Eng .. 99.54
Grand Total 128,637.95

Motion by Smeby, second by Stone, carried to approve payroll eligibility for Justin North at $48,745.17 as submitted by the sheriff's department.

Motion by Smeby, second by Stone, carried to approve the Temporary Policy for Use of Sick Leave During COVID-19 Response.

Motion by Smeby, second by Stone, carried to adjourn at 8:54 A.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Monday, November 30, 2020 at 8:30 A.M.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Aaron Stone, Chairperson

City Council

The Council of the City of Northwood met in regular session at City Hall on 11/23/20 at

6 pm with Mayor Moehle presiding and the following council members present:

George-Zenz, Nerlien, Reeder, Tenold, Meyer.

Motion to approve the agenda. Unam.

Motion to approve the following under Consent Agenda: Approve Council Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2020; Beer Permit Renewal – Worth Brewing Company. Unam.

Motion to table the City Hall furnace/air conditioning bids until next meeting. Unam.

Motion to proceed with looking into purchasing a columbarium for the Sunset Rest Cemetery pending finding appropriate funding. Unam.

Motion to adjourn. Unam.

Doug Moehle, Mayor
Amber Julseth
City Administrator/Clerk

PROFESSIONAL CARD
Business Announcements

VETERINARIAN
WORTH COUNTY VETERINARY SERVICE
Michael E. Dierenfeld, D.V.M.
Clinic: 324-1084
Home: 324-1147

PHYSICIANS
MERCYONE
803 9th Avenue North
Northwood, IA 50459
641-324-1221

NORTHWOOD INSURANCE AGENCY
John Midtgaard, Agent
900 Central Ave., Northwood, IA
Office 641-324-1023 Home 324-1391

Alcoholics Anonymous Alanon
Regular meeting each Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Beginners/12 Step meeting 7:30 p.m.
Thursday
First Lutheran Church
For more information call 324-3070

Congregate Meals
MEALS ON WHEELS
324-1244

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Hope in the bag

Santa and his helpers made a stop in Northwood on Sunday to help with the Holiday Hope 2020 fundraiser, and to greet a few kids on his list. Besides holding an auction for Christmas trees and decorative items, the event included the sale of "Kids Christmas Kick Off Bags." The bags included crafts, cocoa, a hat, a mask, reindeer food, a candy cane and a sugar cookie decorating kit. The Holiday Hope 2020 funds will go towards families with financial needs this holiday season. Tree auctions are open until 7 p.m. today on the Holiday Hope 2020 Facebook page.

Holidays 2020, by the numbers

Following are facts and figures about the holiday season, provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

This festive season, or simply the holidays, is a time for celebrating, gift-giving, reflections and thanks. To commemorate this time of year, the U.S. Census Bureau presents the following holiday-related facts and figures from its collection of statistics.

The following facts are made possible by the invaluable responses to the Census Bureau's surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure America's people, places and economy.

Did You Know?

$18.4 billion

The estimated retail sales for the nation's department stores in December 2019, a decrease of 3.5% from December of the previous year.

13.9%

The estimated percentage that December sales accounted for of total hobby, toy and game store sales in 2019.

$85.2 billion

The estimated value of retail sales by electronic shopping and mail-order houses in December 2019, the highest estimated total for any month last year.

$30.8 billion

The fourth quarter 2019 seasonally adjusted after-tax profits for retail trade corporations with assets of $50 million and over, up $5.7 (±0.6) billion from the third quarter of 2020.

$2.5 billion

The value of U.S. imports of Christmas ornaments from China for 2019. China led the way with 92.4% of the U.S. total imports of Christmas ornaments.

$484.9 million

The value of U.S. imports of Christmas tree lights for 2019. Cambodia led the way with 47.3% of the total U.S. imports of Christmas tree lights.

532 establishments

The number of establishments nationwide that primarily produced dolls, toys and games in 2018, an increase of 23 establishments from 2017 (509 establishments); they employed 6,237 workers in the pay period including March 12, an increase of 117 employees from 2017 (6,120 employees). California led the nation with 93 establishments in 2018.

$546.8 million

The value of U.S. imports of tapered candles in 2019. Most of these came from Vietnam, representing more than 46.8% of America's imported tapered candles, followed by Canada with 16.7%.

Holiday Names

There are many holiday-sounding places in the United States. For example, more than a dozen places have Holly in their names, including Mount Holly, N.C. (population 16,257), and Holly Springs, Miss. (7,798). There's also Snowflake, Ariz. (5,995); Santa Claus, Ind. (2,411); North Pole, Alaska (2,094); Noel, Mo. (1,807); and — if you know about reindeer — Dasher, Ga. (1,015), and Rudolph, Wis. (416). There is also Unity, Ore. (70).

Six ways to safely 'Take It Outside' this holiday season

With the holiday season starting, the Iowa DNR is encouraging families to find safe ways to spend time outdoors this winter.

"Please be sure to keep your group small, social distance, and wear a mask when visiting places where social distancing is not possible."

Here are a few fun winter activities to "Take It Outside:"

Backyard Adventure

Turn a backyard and neighborhood into an outdoor discovery zone. Try putting up bird feeders for winter bird-watching and check out tips for best winter bird feeding online at iowadnr.gov. People can also look for animal tracks with tips and track identification, also on the DNR website.

Take a hike

Walk for miles in Iowa's state parks and forests, trail systems and nature areas. Bundle up and enjoy viewing wildlife, along with the solitude of the "off season." Find a trail or a park that's a little less traveled to get away from big crowds.

Enjoy a scenic drive

Load up the car and visit a nearby state or county park. With dozens of parks to choose from, late fall and winter provides unique viewing and scenic beauty. Bring snacks and consider staying somewhat close to home.

Pedal a trail

Cool-weather biking can be an invigorating way to explore Iowa's immense trail system. Or consider the newest trend in biking and conquer winter on a fat-tire bike.

Cast a line

Fall and winter provide a picturesque setting to catch trout with less competition and no bugs. While Backbone State Park is Iowa's only state park with a trout stream, there are streams near Pikes Peak State Park, Yellow River State Forest and Volga River State Recreation Area. Or take advantage of Iowa's many urban trout stockings, where local ponds and lakes have been stocked with rainbow trout for a new opportunity that's easily accessible for all age groups and abilities. Check out the DNR's trout fishing page for details and stocking information.

Grab those skinny skis

Some people are actually crossing their fingers for snowfall so they can get out their cross-country skis and head down the trail. Check out one of Iowa's state parks and forests that have groomed trails for cross-country skiing.

More information about state parks and ideas for outdoor activities is available online at www.iowadnr.gov.

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