The Northwood Anchor

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Briefs

Santa visits continue

Santa is once again making visits to Northwood to check in with local children, with some COVID-19 safety measures in place.

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 will visit the shelter 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.

Free movies continue at Northwood Theatre

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 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.



Let there be lights

On Saturday, Northwood held its annual kick off to Christmas, with the lighted parade traveling along Central Avenue into Swensrud Park. While safety precautions limited some of the annual activities, the streets were still lined with parade-goers, socially distanced, to view the illuminated procession.

Worth County reports first COVID-19 death

Last week, Worth County hit an unfortunate milestone in the impact of COVID-19, with the reports of the first death of a Worth resident attributed to the virus.

Last Friday, Worth County Public Health announced that the county's first COVID-19 death had occurred. The death was of some in the elderly range, those over the age of 80.

With that in mind, WCPH and other health officials are reminding the public to continue to wear a mask, social

County, see Page 4

Worth schools see expenditures down $189,436 due to COVID

The Iowa Department of Education recently released a report, as directed by the Iowa Legislature, on the financial impacts of COVID-19 on Iowa school districts, from March 13 to June 30, the end of the previous school and fiscal years.

Information in the report was collected using a survey sent to district administrators.

The report focuses on "expenditure reductions" or costs that the schools did not incur as students were not in classes. The report also shows the impact of additional costs that were not anticipated prior to COVID-19.

The report includes totals for a variety of aspects of educational expenses for the state as a whole, as well as information for individual districts, including both that call Worth County home.

Statewide, Iowa school districts reduced expenditures by $69,366,717 over the course of just over 3 1/2 months. Iowa districts reported additional unexpected expenses totaling $25,925,786. For the school year that ended on June 30, that meant a net reduction of expenditures, statewide, of $43,440,931.

Locally, Central Springs schools reported an expenditure reduction of $97,764. CS incurred $10,248 in additional expenditures. That meant a net reduction of of $87,516.

At Northwood-Kensett,

Schools, see Page 2

Hengesteg hired as new N-K business manager

On Wednesday, December 2, three finalists for Northwood-Kensett's school business official position were interviewed.

Those candidates included Justin Vermeer, Blaine Rourick and Kim Hengesteg. Each group involved in the process provided feedback on the three finalists after the interviews.

Northwood-Kensett Superintendent Mike Crozier announced on Friday that Hengesteg had accepted the offer to serve as the district's new school business manager/ board secretary, after meeting with the board of education on December 3.

"We are very excited to attract a qualified individual such as Kim. She will be a great asset to our staff," Crozier said.

According to Crozier, during the formal interviews it was clear that Hengesteg was a great fit for the position. "Her commitment to the school dis-

N-K holiday concerts set for online viewing

This year's holiday concerts will not be held in person, with the exception of limited guests of high school students. However, others will still be able to see N-K students perform online.

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

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 allow for the gyms to clear and be cleaned and allow for the high

Concerts, see Page 4

CDC presents options for shortened quarantines

Last week the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that, with certain conditions met, quarantine times could be shortened for those that had come into contact with someone with COVID-19.

The CDC still recommends that those that come into contact with someone with COVID-19 quarantine for 14 days after that contact. However, the agency now says that there are acceptable alternatives, based on current understanding of the virus.

According to the CDC, quarantine can end after 10 days without test-

CDC, see Page 2



Photo credit by Ann Low

The Week's WEATHER

by National Weather Service Observer John Podgorniak

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues. Dec. 1	38	9	
Wed. Dec. 2	45	11	
Thurs. Dec. 3	42	24	
Fri. Dec. 4	46	22	
Sat. Dec. 5	45	18	
Sun. Dec. 6	38	24	
Mon. Dec. 7	30	22	

Supervisor election set for January 19

A Special Election to fill the vacancy of the District 3 Supervisor will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Only those living in District 3 will vote in the election. District 3 consists of the city of Northwood; Deer Creek Township Sections 7-9 and 16-21 and Grove and Hartland townships. Polls will be open at the Worth County Fairgrounds Community Room from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The last day to file nomination papers with the auditor is Monday, December 28, 2020. This includes non-party candi-

Election, see Page 2



Ice on the water

While warmer weather has kept traces of snow and ice from the ground and from buildings in the area, the Shell Rock River has kept traces of ice in place, as seen above, despite the above-freezing temperatures.

Winter sports seasons begin — See Sports inside

COVID-19 increase on the rise again

With Worth County's first death due to COVID-19, the number of cases continue to increase, trending upward again.

From November 23 to November 30, cases increased from 336 to 364, or 8%. In the past week, from November 30 to December 7, cases increased from 364 to 401 an increase of 10.2%.

At the same time, positivity rates saw a small increase. Positivity rates are the amount of residents with COVID-19, out of those taking a test. From November 23 to November 30, the rate increased 0.5%, to 13.9%. From November 30 to December 7, the rate increased 0.9% to 14.8%. A total of 2,702 Worth County residents had been tested as of December 7.

A new figure was made available by the State of Iowa last week, showing the total number of tests that had been taken by Iowans. As of press time Monday, 6,365 tests had been taken by Worth County residents.

Another figure that has been a focus, as an indicator for schools, is the 14 day positivity rate, the measure of how many residents have tested positive over the past 14 days, out of those tested.

In Worth County, the 14 day positivity rate, as of December 7, was 13%. That was down from 16.1% on November 30.

The rate would put Northwood-Kensett back in the minimal to moderate category.

Central Springs falls within four counties, including Worth. Besides Worth, CS county rates include 19% in Mitchell County, 19.9% in Cerro Gordo and 20.4% 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 a shortage of staff would be a bigger consideration.

In Worth County, there are 221 COVID-19 cases listed as recovered, with 180 potentially remaining active.

In counties that border Worth, there were a total of 12,415 confirmed cases, as of Monday, up 975 from the previous week. Cases in neighboring counties included 986 in Winnebago, 952 in Hancock, 3,837 in Cerro Gordo, 1,156 in Floyd and 866 in Mitchell counties in Iowa, and 1,697 in Freeborn and 2,921 in Mower in Minnesota.

Including Worth's first COVID-19 related death, 151 have died in the region because of COVID-19, up 48 from last week.

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.

CDC
Cont. from Page 1

ing, with daily monitoring and no signs of symptoms.

Quarantines can end after 7 days, if the person tests negative for COVID-19 and there have been no symptoms. This only applies if the person was tested 5 days or later after they were in contact with COVID-19 and they have a negative test result.

Those ending a quarantine before 14 days must continue to monitor their symptoms daily, wear masks when in contact with others, practice hand and cough hygiene, avoid crowds and ensure adequate indoor ventilation.

Anyone with questions about the process may find information online at the Iowa Department of Public Health website, at idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus or coronavirus.iowa.gov. Those with questions may also contact Worth County Public Health.

WCDA grants return in spring 2021

When COVID-19 led to the shut down of businesses, including casinos, for several weeks earlier this year, the WCDA decided to forego its fall grants, as funding remained in question. However, with casinos open for business again since June 1, the WCDA will once again offer grants to Worth County and regional recipients in the spring.

Grant applications will be accepted from January 1-29, 2021.

Anyone with questions may call the WCDA office at 641-324-1618.

Election
Cont. from Page 1

dates, candidates nominated by petition and those nominated by the Democratic and Republican parties. The auditor's office will be open until 5 p.m. that day.

The voter pre-registration deadline is on Friday, January 8, 2021. The County Auditor must receive all registration forms no later than 5 p.m., unless postmarked on or before Monday, January 4, 2021.

Voters may request an absentee ballot at the auditor's office at any time. If the ballots are not at the office at the time of request, the will be mailed to the voter as soon as they are available. The deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed is 5 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2021. Voters may request and vote ballots at the auditor's office until 5 p.m. on Monday, January 18, 2021.

Schools
Cont. from Page 1

there was a reported reduction of expenditures of $148,909. With additional expenditures of $46,989, the district reported a net impact of $101,920 less spent than expected.

Countywide, expenditures were reduced $189,436.

The report broke the changes in expenditures into categories that included transportation, employee layoffs and spring/summer programs that were canceled or altered.

As the report notes, many Iowa school districts spent less than expected on transportation, but still used staff and vehicle resources in ways other than transporting students. That included delivering meals and learning materials. Some schools also brought mobile internet resources using their vehicles.

Statewide, 294 out of the state's 327 districts reported transportation reductions, spending $14,118,95 less between mid-March and the end of June.

CS had a reduction of $38,000. N-K had a reduction of $38,996.

Only 14 districts reported expenditure reductions due to employee layoffs. State funding, combined with conditions of federal relief, meant that districts were required to continue to pay employees.

At most districts, faculty stayed on, teaching classes remotely. Nutrition and transportation staff were kept on hand to prepare and deliver meals. Custodial staff still had roles in keeping districts maintained. Where possible, other staff were given new roles.

Statewide, a total of 301 employees were laid off from school districts, reducing expenditures by $906,323.

Neither Worth County district reported employee layoffs.

Summer and spring programs was another source of expenditure reductions. That accounted for programs that were cancelled or impacted, but still held. Programs included student activities, like sports, as well as district daycare, summer school, summer meals and other programs.

Across the state, 262, or 80% of districts reported reductions of $16,118,924, due to cancelled or altered spring and summer programs.

Of that, 200 districts reported reported canceling programs, for a reduction of $3,995,131. A total of 106 districts reported programs that were impacted, but not canceled, reducing expenditures $2,175,040.

CS reported reductions in spring/summer programs totaling $36,568, including $20,000 for cancelled programs and $16,568 for impacted programs.

Central Springs reported effects on cancelled and impacted student activities, summer school, nutrition and other expenditures.

N-K reported total reductions of $71,252, including $32,404 in canceled programs and $38,848 in impacts.

N-K reported effects on student activities, summer school and nutrition.

Districts were asked to list any other impacts on expenditures.

At Central Springs, that amounted to $23,196 for utilities, summer custodians and staff travel.

At N-K, that totaled $38,661 in substitute wages, professional development and summer custodians.

Districts were also asked to outline the unexpected costs of COVID-19. A total of 286 districts reported unforeseen expenses of $25,925,786 across the state.

At CS, that included $10,248 for cleaning supplies, postage and personal protective equipment (PPE).

At N-K, that included $46,989 for PPE, technology, cleaning supplies, instructional supplies, administrative supplies and services and additional transportation for activities, such as additional buses need to keep students distanced on the way to summer sports.

Districts were asked about the unexpected costs of COVID-19, both on additional money spent in the fiscal year that began on July 1 and on what impact it would have on their enrollment.

Statewide, 15 districts answered that they didn't expect additional COVID-19 related costs, while 290 did, including both CS and N-K.

As to the impact on enrollment, 118 districts expected close to projections, while 7 expected higher enrollment and 192 expected lower enrollment. Of that amount, 86 expected the students to stay away, 91 expected some to return and 5 expected most or all to return.

CS expected close to projected. N-K expected lower numbers, with some returning over the school year.

Hengesteg
Cont. from Page 1

trict and larger community was clear and her background in accounting and finance was seen as a real asset for the position."

Hengesteg currently serves as the NSB Bank Deposit Specialist in Northwood. She has been in this role since 2000, where she supervises tellers, provides financial reports and conducts financial audits include the school districts athletic budget.

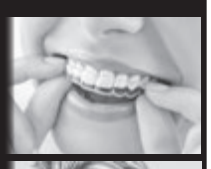
Hengesteg has a degree in business administration from Minnesota State University.

Hengesteg will officially begin her new role at N-K on Monday, December 21.

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N-K board discusses construction projects, snow day learning

At their regular meeting on November 12, the Northwood-Kensett Board of Education received a construction project update and discussed using at home learning to limit snow days this year.

The school board received information on the cost of a road portion of upcoming developments, as well as a timeline for the projects.

The two projects, which will begin in the spring, are a new transportation center and the Vikings Activity Center.

The design phase of the projects was expected to begin this year, ready for bidding to begin in January. Bids would be approved at the February school board meeting.

Construction of both projects is set to begin in April 2021. The transportation center is set to be complete in October 2021. The activity center is expected to be complete by February 2022.

The location of the transportation center is on City of Northwood land north of the northwest corner of the secondary campus property.

The City and school districts are working on plans to share in the construction of a road to access the transportation center. The road would lead to a housing development that the City has been working to pursue for several years.

An estimated cost of the road construction shared at the meeting was roughly $222,000.

Also at the school board meeting, the school board approved a request for proposals from businesses interested in leasing a space in the activity center. The space was included in the design with the hopes that a physical therapist or other related office would open there, providing access for students and generating some rent to offset the ongoing costs of the center.

With winter on the way, N-K is one of many districts throughout the state that look to take advantage of a new policy that allows schools to learn from home when winter weather makes it dangerous to come to school.

Iowa districts are required to offer 108 days or 1,080 hours of education to their students each school year. And sometimes, depending on the calendar and the winter's severity, the snow days will accumulate and extend the end of the school year.

But that may not be necessary with a new state policy that allows districts to plan ahead when winter weather is forecast, and have students take part in classes from their computers, tablets or other methods from home.

In cases where students learn from home, those days would still count for the 1,080 hours of education and would not have to be made up.

Superintendent Mike Crozier informed the school board of the plans to use that opportunity this year.

Crozier acknowledged that sometimes snow days are a valuable break for students and staff, and said that on some days, classes should be called off.

A draft of a snow day distance learning policy said that the first four days of school called off because of weather would be normal snow days, with no learning involved. After that, a district e-learning plan would be put into effect.

As that becomes more likely, teachers will begin preparing students for what will be involved in learning from home.

Teachers will be available by email during the normal school hours on those days.

For grades 5-12, teachers will provide lessons and activities for each class, posted online by the start of the school day. Completing those activities counts as attendance.

Students in grades K-4 will be given a packet to take home at the start of each month, to be used for at home learning days.

Chapter ES distributes baked cookies in place of annual Cookies with Santa

By Jean Stowell, Chaplain of Chapter ES PEO

Due to COVID-19 Chapter ES is not hosting the special event for the community called "Cookies With Santa" this holiday season.

However we have decided to bake cookies and distribute them throughout the community to our resident widows and widowers who still live in their own homes.

In the past, two young families have always "helped" with the cookie event and this is another way of expressing a "community holiday spirit."

Jake and Anneke Urbatsch and Addie and Kris Rugland are the parents of these four children. Max and Amaya Rugland and Ivy and Olivia Urbatsch are our willing little helpers.

We will be assembling our cookie treats on Sunday, December 13, at the Olson Room at 2 p.m. Our delivery of the cookies to the widows and widowers will be divided among Chapter ES members, along with the children, who will participate in delivery. This is a wonderful expression of holiday spirit by these young children.

No 'Kids for Christmas' at Share Shoppe

From the Share Shoppe of Worth County:

During this time of COVID-19 everyone has had to adapt and make changes, with cancellations, closures, new guidelines, new protocols, new procedures, etc. Thus, the Share Shoppe of Worth County now finds itself making more changes, too. The shop was closed earlier this year, but with dedicated volunteers, it has been open until a couple weeks ago.

The Share Shoppe board and manager decided to close the shop two weeks ago due to the high positivity rate of COVID. They are hoping to keep the volunteers and the patrons safe during the holidays.

The board has also decided to not have the "Kids for Christmas" event this year.

For many years, the shop has opened its door for parents to bring their children in to choose gifts for siblings, parents and grandparents. The gifts were wrapped and tagged for each child.

The "Kids for Christmas" event has been well-received by the area families and has brought joy to the volunteers.

The board hopes to open the shop after the holidays.

The shop recently opened for a family who had a house fire. The shop will open for anyone in need.

Please contact Mona Pierce at 641-324-1471 or JoAnn Brunsvold at 641-845-2580 for assistance.

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Iowa State University Extension Worth County Office

641-324-1531 Calendar of Events for December 2020

December 10–Iowa State University 4-H Webinar at Worth County Extension Office, Northwood, 9 A.M. with Mindy Tenold and Dennis Johnson
December 10–Worth County Fair Board Meeting at Worth County Extension Office, Northwood, 7 P.M. at Worth County Fairboard President, Chad Nelson, Worth County Fairboard Vice-President, Jeff Moretz, Worth County Fairboard Treasurer, Kris Gordon, Worth County Fairboard Secretary, Kim Hennigar and Worth County Extension Education Specialist, Dennis Johnson
December 11–("Postponed")Worth County Corn and Soybean Pesticide Clinic at Moving to Virtual Format TBD with Dennis Johnson
December 15–NIACC Agriculture Advisory Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting from North Iowa Community College Campus, 1:30 P.M. with Dennis Johnson
December 15–North Iowa Foods Coalition Meeting at North Iowa Landfill, Mason City, 3:30 P.M. with Dennis Johnson
December 16–Region 3 ISU Extension 4-H Staff Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting from Cerro Gordo County Extension Office, Mason City, 9:30 A.M. with Dennis Johnson and Mindy Tenold
December 17–Iowa State 4-H Staff Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting from ISU Extension State 4-H Office, Ames, 2 P.M. with Mindy Tenold, Dennis Johnson, and Dr. Debbie Nistler, Iowa State University Extension State 4-H Program Leader
December 17–Worth County Extension Council Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting at Worth County Extension Office, Northwood, 7 P.M. with Dennis Johnson, Donovan Olson, Regional Extension Director and Curt Schaub, Worth County Extension Council Vice-President
December 19–Worth County Fair Calf Weigh-in (Suspended due to Covid 19 Restrictions)(Just Iowa State Fair 4-H Beef Weigh-in for 2021 at Iowa State Fair Calves Identified and Weighed by Appointment Only Phone: (641-324-1531) with Dennis Johnson
December 20–Worth County Hot Shots 4-H Club Meeting at Worth County Extension Office, Northwood, 1:30 P.M. Meeting with Lori and Chad Pestorious, Dean Mueller 4-H Club Leaders
December 20–Worth County 4-H Monthly Club Member Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting from Worth County Extension Office, 3 P.M. with Mindy Tenold and Dennis Johnson
December 20–Silver Lake Huskers 4-H Club Meeting at Lake Mills Community Center, 6 P.M. with Mary Buren 4-H Club Leader
December 30–ISU Extension KGLO Radio Program Update at Radio Park, Mason City, 9:30 A.M. with Dennis Johnson and Eric Fleming, KGLO Radio Farm News Broadcaster
December 30–Worth County 4-H State Recognition Workshop at Virtual Zoom Meeting from Worth County Extension Office Northwood, 10:30 A.M. to Noon with Dennis Johnson, Mindy Tenold

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N-K grad shares perspective on COVID-19 controls in China

Ian Schacht is a 2008 graduate of Northwood-Kensett High School. He and his family live in China. He recently shared the following account of how China compares to the U.S. regarding COVID-19 control measures.

There is clearly a big difference between countries that are trying to maintain control over the virus versus those that don't care. I would like to add though, that there is also an argument for extremes, and what should be done to protect the populous.

On November 12 a baggage handler at the international airport in Shanghai contracted COVID. He was contact traced and the village he was from was put under high alert. Throughout the next week they found a coworker who also contracted COVID from the first guy and had also given it to his wife. This raised the threat level of Pudong, the eastern region of Shanghai, into medium risk, and the specific area where they lived as high risk. There is an estimated 6-7 million people in Pudong as a whole.

I also live in Pudong, and wanted to travel to Sichuan on this past weekend (November 21). We left from the airport that the infected worker had been employed at and traveled to a small airport in a city call Nanchong, with an estimated population of about 5 million. We disembarked the plane to very quickly get greeted with medical staff asking us to verify where we lived and what airport we flew from. They separated us based on which city we intended to continue our travel to, and then drove us 100 km to an outpost quarantine hospital for observation.

We spent November 21-23 at what I can describe as a 0 star hotel, where the only thing that was good was the food. We were tested once on the 22nd and once on the 23rd with a standard swab test, with the addition of a blood draw to determine if we had any antibodies. All of the tests came back negative and we were dismissed from the hospital on the night of the 23rd.

On November 24, we had to register with the local government to let them know that we have passed quarantine and are now at home. Upon visiting the office, we were told that we now have to self quarantine for 14 more days, and get additional swab tests taken in the next 7 days and at the 14 day mark. After this, we would be considered clear.

In the U.S., there are 200,000 people a day roughly getting diagnosed with COVID. That's 0.06% of the population a day and you are at the start of the Thanksgiving travel season and although there are suggestions, there are very little restrictions to travel. For me, 0.00005% of the population was positive in the city where I left from over the past 10 days, and yet I have to quarantine for 17 days.

Overall, the reality is that it is very complicated to determine what is the correct level of quarantine and the correct level business as usual. I believe the U.S. has not approached or maintained any level of proper controls. I also believe that China is making very extreme decisions to control any outbreak before it reaches any level that it did in February.

I don't have the proper answers, but I do have my experience, so take that for what it is. Please wear a mask, please take care of yourself and other and please try to not be an inconsiderate person.



Their tree is "shaping up"

The Northwood-Kensett Junior/Senior High School hallways have been getting a festive touch recently, as students and staff decorate the doors of the classrooms. This Christmas tree is made up of labeled polygon shapes and the message says, "The holidays are shaping up!" Pictured above with their entry in the door decorating contest, that of their advisor, Mrs. Willert, are members of the N-K Math Club, including (from left) Nathan Hannemann, Thomas Block, Weston and Wyatt Willand, Emma Davidson, Madalynn Hanson, Chloe Costello and Hayden Moore. Other club members that took part included Andrew Breitsprecher, Jadyn Beland and Kenny Conlin.

County
Cont. from Page 1

distance and wash hands frequently to help minimize the impact of COVID-19 and reduce the chance that any other Worth residents are lost to the virus.

Up to date information on the coronavirus in Worth County can be found on the Worth County Public Health Department Facebook page. Information on COVID-19 in Iowa can be found at the Iowa Department of Public Health website, at idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus or coronavirus.iowa.gov.

Concerts
Cont. from Page 1

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, and will not be available later, due to copyright restrictions.

At N-K Elementary, students in grades K-1 and 2-4 will have their performances recorded. They will be available to view on the school's website, www.nkvikings.com, on Monday, December 21, through the holiday break.

N-K FCCLA collects items for heroes

Northwood-Kensett students are taking part in a program that gathers item to share thanks with heroes that serve their community and their country.

The N-K FCCLA group is taking part in Operation Gratitude, an organization that seeks donations for items and expressions of thanks, and then shares them in the form of care packages for those serving in the military and their families, veterans and first responders.

The local FCCLA group is looking for donations through December 17.

Items to be donated include protein snacks (salty snacks, trail mix, beef jerky, etc.), drink mixes, hygiene wipes, leisure items (puzzle, crossword or word search books, for example) and handwritten letters.

N-K elementary students will be writing letters to be sent in the boxes.

Those that would like to contribute may take items to boxes at the N-K Junior/Senior High School, Fallgatter's, Kelly Hardware and others.

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2020 N-K WINTER SPORTS



N-K varsity boys basketball

Members of the 2020-21 N-K varsity boys basketball team include (from left) Te'Juan Whitelow, Nolan Senne, Cade Hengesteg, Billy Kraft, Lamonte Sims, Kael Julseth, Caden Roberts and Jason Hanson.



N-K varsity girls basketball

Members of the 2020-21 N-K varsity girls basketball team include (front row, from left) Emma Davidson, Sydney Welch, Addyson Bachtle, Briar Anderson, Peyton Shoger, Madalynn Hanson, Carly Hengesteg, (back row) assistant coach Katie Herther, Assistant coach Trevor Hunt, Olivia Stilley, Ruthie Conlin, Hayley Wallin, Chloe Costello, Marli Backhaus and head coach Daryl Love.

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The Northwood Anchor

Coping with loss during this COVID-19 season and where to find hope

By Dr. Dana Miller, School Psychologist with Central Rivers Area Education Agency (AEA)

Taking care of ourselves and those we love may seem increasingly difficult as the pandemic continues and we are experiencing more and more loss. Loss of loved ones, loss of social activities, loss of connection, and for some, loss of independence. We are also navigating the realities of the current political climate and social injustice. There is a significant impact on emotional, psychological, and social well-being. Amongst both children and adults, we are seeing higher rates of mental health concerns. The loss is real. The stressors are real. The impact is real. Mental health concerns are real. As parents and/or caregivers our focus may be occupied by just trying to get through the day. So what can we do to support our loved ones? How will we know if they are struggling?

Start by asking yourself if your loved one seems like themselves. This can be difficult, especially when the majority of our interactions may not be face to face and our circumstances are far from 'normal.' So what can we look or listen for? This could include behavioral and/or emotional changes, a sudden change in tone of voice, a change in the level of engagement in daily activities, emotional outbursts, and withdrawal from people or activities that they previously enjoyed. Are there changes in physical appearance? The changes that may raise concern are significant changes in dress, personal hygiene, and drastic changes in weight.

Next, do you notice differences when interacting? Increased distractibility, difficulty staying focused, or hyper-awareness (constantly look around, jump or physically react to loud sounds, more so than typical). Are they struggling to carry on a conversation or respond?

Listen to what they say. Do you hear statements such as "I am overwhelmed" "I do not know what to do" "I can't do this anymore" "Things would be better if I wasn't here" "I am worthless" "What's the point?" "Things are never going to be normal again."



DANA MILLER

If we are noticing the above and are concerned, what can we do? First, and most importantly, talk with them. Ask what they are thinking and feeling and then listen. Listen without judgment, without offering solutions, without being defensive, just listen. Validate that you hear them. You may not agree with what they say, but validate that you hear what they are saying, feeling, and experiencing. Do not minimize their experiences and perspective, or try to problem-solve their concerns, simply listen and hear them. Let them know that you are there for them. That they do not have to cope alone.

Prioritize spending time with them engaging in activities you both enjoy. Talk with one another. If you struggle to find topics of conversation do an internet search for discussion starter questions then set aside time for your family to respond to daily questions. This will help us learn more about each other and open lines of communication. Learn together, cook a meal or dish you've never prepared before, learn a new yoga pose, or write a story where each person in the family contributes. This will help you create new memories, and new behaviors to replace the things we are grieving that are not possible this year.

Plan activities that align with what they are missing. Go for a walk and schedule virtual hangouts with friends. Several may be grieving the things we typically do at the holidays that can't be done safely this year. Consider other ways to connect during the holidays and honor traditions. For example, schedule a family and/or friends virtual meeting, and eat the Thanksgiving meal together, host a virtual ugly sweater party, and/or gift exchange. To help the family get into the holiday spirit have your child pretend to be an elf whose role is to do nice things for other people in the family. Considering going 'old school' and making homemade cards and letters to send to those we are thinking of and missing.

Connect loved ones with support. If there is an immediate need connect with mental health professional call Your Life Iowa (https://yourlifeiowa.org, 855-581-8111 Text: 855-895-8398.

and they will help connect you to support. Connect with community supports. Please Pass the Love (pleasepassthelove.org), a not for profit organization, is offering free Teen Workshops to support teen mental health. Iowa National Alliance for Mental Illness (Iowa NAMI) offers support groups for those living with mental illness and caregivers. For additional information email: info@namiiowa.org or call 515-254-0417.

Check out the student and family self-care toolboxes on the AEA Well-Being Website (https://www.centralriversaea.org/mtss-for-well-being/self-care/).

As we continue to cope, remember that our struggles are real and valid, and so is hope. We will get through this together. You are not alone.

Dr. Dana Miller is a School Psychologist with Central Rivers Area Education Agency (AEA), based in Cedar Falls. She can be reached at dmiller@centralriversaea.org. Central Rivers AEA serves over 65,000 students in 18 counties of Iowa.

Enderson claims top prize in Holiday Crossword

A Worth County woman has won a $50,000 lottery prize.

Andrea Enderson of Manly won the sixth top prize in the Iowa Lottery's "$50,000 Holiday Crossword" scratch game. She purchased her winning ticket at Cubby's, 1302 First Ave. in Manson, and claimed her prize at the lottery's Mason City regional office.



ANDREA ENDERSON

The $50,000 Holiday Crossword is a $5 scratch game that features 13 top prizes of $50,000 and overall odds of 1 in 3.53.

Players can enter nonwinning holiday scratch tickets into the lottery's Winner Wonderland® Play It Again® promotion f through 8:59 a.m. on January 5. The promotion features $640,000 in cash prizes, including a $250,000 grand prize. For rules and complete details, visit ialottery.com.

Northwood Anchor Church

Fertile Lutheran Church

Sunday, Worship Service, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School with Confirmation, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Council Meeting, 7 p.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., Check out YouTube, Bethel Website, Radio Station 97.1 FM (Previous Sunday Service), 10 a.m.

Pastor Cory Allard

Northwood United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Service, 10:45 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.

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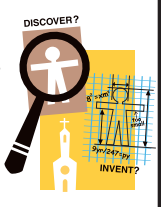
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Do we discover or invent ourselves?



There is a sense in which we find ourselves in the world with a very definite nature, a nature that is a product of both our biological inheritance and the society we are born and raised in. We can no more throw off our genes or the contributions of our society than a Zebra can throw off its stripes. But, we are also more than just our genes and our social upbringing. We make choices from a young age which determine the direction and shape of our destiny. Geneticists now know that certain genes are in fact turned on or off in response to certain events, and some of those events are things of our own choosing. Our wonderful journey through life is both a journey of self-discovery and a process of self-invention. Who we are and who we will become are always struggling with and playing off of each other. Strive to know yourself, but also become the best person you can be. – Christopher Simon

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.
– Carl Jung

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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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

There is no shortage of holiday cookbooks. Some are large, glossy and fancy. Some, such as "Your Holiday Chef," are anything but. This little gem was published by the Forest City Summit and the Britt News-Tribune in December 1995. It's newsprint, yellowed by 25 years of age and stuffed with recipes from real people, some of whom have their pictures along with their favorite dishes. I'll focus on those who were brave enough to show their smiling faces with a few adaptations.

Golden Parmesan Potatoes
Nedra Kelley, Forest City

6 large potatoes, peeled and quartered
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup real butter

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Put the dry ingredients/seasonings into a plastic bag and mix well. Add the cubed potatoes and shake to coat. Place in a buttered 9x13-inch baking dish, sprinkling any left over flour mixture on top. Melt the butter and drizzle over the potatoes. Bake for 30 minutes, then turn the potatoes over and bake for an additional 30 minutes or until tender.

"You Make It Hot" Chili
Marvea Smidt, Britt

2 cans tomato soup
2 pounds lean ground beef
2 cans chili beans
1 tablespoon chili powder
2 cans (8 oz. each) tomato sauce
2 tomato sauce cans water
1 jar (8 oz.) salsa, hot, medium or mild, your choice

Brown the ground beef and drain away any fat. Add it with all the other ingredients to a slow cooker. Cook on LOW for 8-10 hours. SANDy'S NOTE: today's slow cookers run hotter than those in '95. You might want to cook for a shorter period of time.

Italian Dunkers
Betty Wood & Belinda Hoff, Woden Elementary School Cooks
(This one will feed a lot of kids!)

9 pounds ground beef
4 oz. dried onion flakes
3 tablespoons garlic powder
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 cans (#10) crushed tomatoes
3 tablespoons chili powder
2 1/2 quarts tomato paste
3 tablespoons oregano
3 tablespoons parsley flakes
2 tablespoons basil
4 oz. beef soup base (powdered or paste)
1 tablespoon pepper
1 tablespoon salt
100 hot dog buns
7 pounds shredded mozzarella cheese

Brown the ground beef; drain. Add the remaining ingredients except the buns and cheese. Mix well and simmer for 1 hour. Open the hot dog buns and sprinkle each with 1 oz. of cheese. Bake until the cheese melts, at 325 degrees F. Serve ½ cup of the beef mixture with 2 bun halves to dip. SANDY'S NOTE: Anyone who attended school in this area will remember these tasty treats; one of most kids' favorite school lunches. You'll need a very large pot to cook it in! Anyone with good math skills (also taught in elementary school) can cut this down to a regular family-sized meal.

Ham Balls
June Newman, Garner

2 pounds lean ground beef
2 cups cracker crumbs
1 pound ground pork
1 cup milk
2 eggs, slightly beaten

Mix together and shape into 2-inch balls. Place in a baking dish in a single layer and cover with the following topping:

1/2 cup cider vinegar
1/2 cup water
1 cup brown sugar
2 teaspoons prepared mustard

Put all ingredients into a sauce pan and heat to boiling. Pour over the ham balls and bake at 350 degrees F. for 45 minutes, basting frequently. Makes about 35 balls; they freeze well.

SANDY'S NOTE: My sister makes wonderful ham balls and always uses graham cracker crumbs although this recipes does not indicate that. Use your own judgement; the balls will be sweeter.

Every family has its own holiday traditions, whether Thanksgiving or Christmas. It's always sad when an older family cook passes away but hasn't written down his/her recipes for favorite dishes. Don't let that happen; use your old-fashioned paper, pen and recipe box to make a treasure to pass down for years. And... that's all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society





A chair-itable effort

As the Timbers events center in Northwood awaits the chance to be used for celebrations and gatherings, finishing touches and furnishings are underway. That included last week's delivery of chairs and tables. Members of TUNE welcomed the assistance of students from Northwood-Kensett as they unpacked and arranged 40 chairs and 50 tables. The students assisting included (from left) Tyler Mills, Kasson Moretz, Madalyn Berge, Justin Mills, Emma Logeman and Jackson Foss.

Northwood Public Library

By Morgan Johnson
Library Director

Happy holidays everyone! We've almost made it through this challenging year. It has certainly been a year to remember and made difficult by so many of the adjustments we've had to make to keep our families and community safe.

Keeping with this trend, the library will not be hosting our annual "gingerbread" house story hour for the kids, any adult craft nights or having our annual holiday open house. The safety of our community is our number one concern. We wish you all health and happiness in the year to come!

The library will be closed on Thursday, December 24 through Saturday, December 26 and then again on Friday, January 1, for the holidays. We will also close early at 4 p.m. on December 31 for New Year's Eve.

Fortunately, our to-go craft kits have been a hit! The most recent craft kit has an ornament craft, a handprint craft, a bingo page and some holiday goodies for each child. Join us on Thursday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m. to use that bingo card in our "LIVE" Zoom bingo game! The zoom meeting information will be available at the bottom of the bingo card or by request via our email, morgan@northwood.lib.ia.us. Families are also invited to stop in the library and go on a scavenger hunt. Those who complete it can enter to win a basket of goodies!

The library's hours continue to remain the same. We are open with restrictions Mondays and Fridays 1-5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Masks are now required for entry to the library.

We continue to monitor the situation and may switch to curbside if the need arises. Be sure to check Facebook or our website for the most up to date information on library hours and services.

New at the library this month:

Adult Fiction: "Burden of Proof" by Davis Bunn, "Christmas at Holiday House" by Rae-Anne Thayne, "Next to Last Stand" by Craig Johnson, "The Diplomat's Wife" by Pam Jenoff, "Deadly Cross" by James Patterson, "Daylight" by David Baldacci, "Piece of my Heart" by Mary Higgins Clark, "The Searcher" by Tara French, "Chance of a Lifetime" by Jude Deveraux and "Little Wishes" by Michelle Adams.

As always stay up to date with us by following us on Facebook and/or contact us with any questions or concerns you might have. My new email address is morgan@northwood.lib.ia.us! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Saturday, Dec. 12
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11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Christmas Eve
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Please remember to follow safety guidelines to social distance and wear a mask

Northwood Anchor **Opinion**

Reaching the halfway point

By Ann Lebo

Director of the Iowa Department of Education

As we near the end of 2020, and undoubtedly one of the most unconventional school years any of us have experienced, it is important to take note of how far we have come since the pandemic changed the face of our education system nearly nine months ago.

What seemed insurmountable in the spring became part of our learning landscapes this fall, with classrooms coexisting as physical and virtual spaces, shifting the framework for what and how learning looks like for our school communities.

As I visit with teachers and administrators, I witness how they are working harder than ever. Access, equity, delivery of instruction and monitoring the physical and mental health of students and staff are among the many challenges of this school year. All of our educational staff and partners, including school nurses, administrative assistants, aides, food service workers, bus drivers, custodial and maintenance staff and every member of our school communities, share the challenge of taking on additional responsibilities to ensure learning continues for students. But in a year full of unpredictability and pitfalls, the reassurance of their efforts is helping our students and communities with the resources they need as we work together to find a way forward.

All of this comes as our student population changes, creating yet new challenges. The latest edition of the Annual Condition of Education report shows how diverse Iowa's student population has become. More than one in four Iowa students is a minority student. Over 42 percent of all Iowa students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, and 6.5 percent of students in Iowa's public schools are English language learners.

Schools are the cornerstones of our communities and provide essential services to those they serve. Complicating the challenges that schools face in providing those services are the added hardships endured by families who lack the resources to support their children's learning at home. That, in turn, widens the educational disparities for some of our most vulnerable students. The work that our schools are doing to meet the emerging needs of their families and to engage with every learner is more important than ever.

Meeting students where they're at and helping them grow is challenging under normal conditions, but I am encouraged by the continued passion and commitment of our educators and school leaders as they adjust to each new challenge the pandemic throws our way. While navigating these rapidly changing circumstances hasn't been easy, we have learned that we can adapt and will continue to do so to ensure a brighter future for our students, and ourselves.

Thank you for your service, and I look forward to serving you in 2021.

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Ponderings from the Batt Cave

By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

I'm sorry I hurt your feelings when I called you stupid.

I appreciate the apology.

I wouldn't have called you stupid if I'd have thought you didn't know.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me, such as: I'm dodging and weaving my way through each day, just as you are. Life can be a suitcase without a handle. Life is a matter of getting used to things and a string of giving up things. I started ringing bells for the Salvation Army when I was a young meathead. Last year, as an experienced meathead, my wife and I rang for 32 hours, plus some extra hours when the scheduled ringers didn't show up. There was a rash of that last year. The year before, we rang 40 hours, plus standing in for others. Forty hours has been our norm. One year, I rang 36 hours in three days. Another year, I rang while getting chemotherapy from a bag strapped to my midsection. I'm not writing this as a sneaky version of "Yay, me." I'm writing this to show how important ringing those bells is to me. After consultation with the Queen B (my wife) and medical professionals, it was suggested we don't ring this year. I've agreed, but not without a whimper. I'll miss seeing all the people, even the bah-humbug guy. My undying gratitude to all those who keep a kettle company.

It wasn't down with going up or down

"Hey, hey. Ho, ho. That door opener has got to go," I sang like a man who'd spent part of a day in a choir because they needed another tall guy to balance a photo of the singers. That was because I had.

The garage door opener had issues. It made the door go up or down only when inspired. It had only one job. I suspected its befuddling bewilderer had broken. I visited the company where I'd purchased the opener. I hadn't expected them to roll out the red carpet and they didn't. I found a guy who tried hard to ignore me before asking if he could help. He gave me the same look I give a scam email from an exiled Nigerian prince. I pretended he was happy to see me as I explained my problem. No, not that problem. The problem with the opener. I hadn't presented it as a conspiracy theory he believed. He suggested I watch a YouTube video and take notes, gave me a dunce cap and sent me away. I considered going elsewhere but hoped the opener could be fixed. A couple of days later, I disguised my voice and called the company. They sent a repairman three times. Small parts were exchanged and the opener became as good as almost new. I press a button and the garage door goes up. I press the button again and the door goes down. How cool is that?

From the mailbag

John Beal wrote, "The two boys you mention remind me of something in my youth. Growing up in Blooming Prairie until age 10 before moving to Medford I had a friend Dale who lived in town. He would come to visit the farm where dad raised some beef cattle plus having some milk cows. Part of our made-up entertainment was to each carry a stick and see who could measure and find the deepest cow pie. No trophies were ever awarded but we sure had fun."

Nature notes

We complain about weather forecasts, but we should complain that they are too accurate. Canada geese flew over the yard in a lopsided V-formation, honk-a-lonking their way south. The bird feeders had been busy. If you fill your feeders, the birds will come before a storm. There was a Eurasian collared-dove, with a black collar on the back of its neck, under the feeders. It's grayish-brown and approximately the size of a mourning dove but chunkier and with a blunt-tipped tail unlike the mourning dove's longer, pointed tail. Males give a distinctive koo-KOO-kook call. This bird was accidentally introduced into the Bahamas in 1974 and first sighted in Minnesota in 1998.

A rooster pheasant flew from the yard. I heard him before I saw him. I was sorry to have bothered the handsome fellow. Male pheasants utter a series of loud, excited two-note calls when they flush. It's difficult to assign a precise meaning to these cackles. Roosters also crow throughout the year. "Cow-cat," they proclaim while making a drumming sound with their wings.

Meeting adjourned

Be happy for those who are happy.

©Al Batt 2020

Fit to print...

When does Christmas begin?

Dr. Glenn Mollette

Christmas has different beginning times for most everyone.

For some it's when you put up the Christmas tree and decorations.

For others it's when you wrap some presents and put them under the tree.

While for others it's about the Christmas music. When they first start hearing Christmas songs on the radio then Christmas has begun for them.

Christmas may begin for you when your family arrives home to share in your celebration. Or your Christmas celebration may really begin when your family finally leaves.

When I was a child Christmas started for me when everything came together. The big fresh tree was hewn down from the hillside. Once it was decorated, I started watching for Santa. But it still was't Christmas until I came up with a big package of firecrackers, cherry bombs and other noisy fireworks. I always loved putting firecrackers and cherry bombs under cans to see how far they would fly through the air.

My mother would make cookies, cakes and pies. My dad would always buy a big box of apples and oranges. It seems like they lasted a week.

Christmas really began when family came home. When we all got together, that's when it seemed Christmas really started. The excitement came by us all being together. Sharing gifts was fun and provided moments of laughter. Eating my mother's delicious meal was always a stable holiday treat we always enjoyed.

The best past part was everyone being together for a couple of days. With social distancing, this may be one element of Christmas that many will not get to enjoy in 2020.

So many thousands of people have died from COVID-19 and they will be missed at the Christmas table. If this is you please cling to the hope of life beyond this world and that you will see your loved one again.

I believe throughout our planet that seeing our sick friends get well would make Christmas for all of us.

Christmas is different this year. We must enter Christmas this year with hope. You have to have hope to live. Life without hope is like a car with no fuel. A vaccine for COVID-19 is coming. We are praying this will spare lives in 2021. We have hope that by next Christmas we can all get together and celebrate.

Keep in mind there has never been anything normal about Christmas. Mary and Joseph and the baby spent their first Christmas in a barn, which was like a cave for animals. The baby was laid in a cow's trough for a bed. Christmas always has the potential of being very different.

Remember Christmas is in your heart and that's where your main celebration and hope lie. May hope and Christmas be bright and rekindled anew and afresh. May you within your spirit hear the bells on Christmas day. And, may you hear the angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all men on whom his favor rests."

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools, including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 12 books, including "Uncommon Sense." His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.

Northwood Anchor Early Files

100 years ago

December 8, 1920

The dedication of the new school building at Joice will be held on December 10. Several speakers will be there for the occasion besides Mrs. Nora King, the county superintendent, and Miss Jane Wiley, the county nurse.

Dr. C.A. Hurd has added to his large collection of relics and curiosities a shipment received from Col. Arthur White of Washington, D.C., who gathered the souvenirs while going over the battle grounds of France as a member of an Army investigating committee. In the shipment was an exploded French 75 shell.

The Northwood high school basketball team went to Albert Lea to play its first game of the season. It was a hotly contested game as the teams were evenly matched and resulted in a score of 20 to 21 in favor of Albert Lea. The same evening the girls team played the Osage girls here and were the winners, score being 9 to 11.

The silver jubilee anniversary of the founding of chiropractic was held in Des Moines when chiropractors of Iowa met in state convention at Hotel Savery. W.A. Willing, local chiropractor, was in attendance.

The Hon. G.N. Haugen and Miss Catherine Vold, his private secretary, left for Washington, D.C., to be present at the opening of Congress. Lauritz, who had been here at home since the close of Congress last summer, left for Washington the evening before.

75 years ago

December 13, 1945

With 95 absences reported, it is believed the peak of the flu epidemic has passed as affecting attendance at the local schools. On Monday 70 were reported absent, and the number was reduced to 47 on Tuesday.

Plans are underway for the installation of Rev. Juul Madson as pastor of the Synod Lutheran church in Northwood on December 23, The Rev. Mr. Madson comes to the local pastorate as successor to the Rev. Martin Galstad, who resigned last summer to accept a position with Bethany College, Mankato, Minnesota.

Sub-zero temperatures were recorded officially in Northwood this week for the first time this fall with a low of five below reached. On its downward course the mercury passed the zero mark with a strong, northwest wind. The high point for the week was 45 degrees. There was a light flurry of snow on Saturday night.

At the county AAA convention in Northwood, Carl A. Hanson was elected county chairman; Harold F. Mueller, vice chairman; Oliver G. Reyerson, regular member; Erwin G. Backhaus, first alternate; Orlando H. Thompson, second alternate; and Miss Lois Jean Wignes, secretary-treasurer.

Kentner Cottingham, who was recently discharged from the Army, after nearly three years of service, started work in The Anchor office. Under the vocational training provisions of the G.I. Bill, Kentner expects to learn the printer's trade.

50 years ago

December 10, 1970

Neighbors held a husking bee at the Charles Cooper farm northeast of Northwood. Four pickers were on hand, as well as a quantity of wagons. Those assisting were Leonard Trost, Laurell Davis, Martin Rohne, Harold Hanson, Paul Hanson, Curtiss Davis, Kenneth Nelson, Leonard Tews, Norman Davis, Steven Trainer, Philip Cooper, Gene Davis and Henry Tews. Mr. Cooper has been ill, and unable to complete his harvest.

Four members of Northern Light Masonic Lodge were honored at ceremonies at the temple, Grand Master Ted Zacharias, Arthur Ruffridge, A.S. Lund and Master David Steven. Ruffridge and Lund were presented 50-year awards. Ray Walston, Cleveland, Ohio, and J. A. Bolton, Minneapolis, were not present.

The scene at the Northwood Co-op Elevator in Northwood has been the rule for the past several weeks at all grain terminals. The rush is decreasing now, however, as more farmers are finishing the harvest.

Mary Ellen Miler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B.A. Miller, and Mark Hengesteg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norance Hengesteg, Glenville, were named as members of the Luther College concert band. The band is under the direction of Professor Waston H. Noble and is known for coast-to-coast trips, European tours and countless Midwestern appearances. A tour is being planned for early next year.

At home on the Hendrickson farm northeast of Northwood are Mr. and Mrs. Horace Hendrickson, who were married in candlelight services on November 14 at Deer Creek Lutheran Church, Carpenter. Mrs. Hendrickson is the former Ann Osmonson of St. Ansgar.

25 years ago

December 13, 1995

Northwood-Kensett High School musicians and singers will present their annual Christmas concert, "Holiday Sounds," on December 21, at 7 p.m. in the West Elementary auditorium. Enjoying a recent rehearsal for the upcoming festivities were Jason Cowell, Jennifer Bugge, Gina Perkins, Nancy Rheinfels, Ben Hengesteg and Jesse Krull. The concert will be free and open to the public.

An early morning accident claimed the life of Northwood resident George Mielke. According to Worth County Sheriff Chuck Stoffregen, Mielke died when his southbound car drove off the Northwest side of the Highway 65 viaduct, drove onto the pond east of the viaduct and broke through the ice. Members of the Northwood Volunteer Fire Company, the Worth County Sheriff's Department and Dick's Place towing service worked to free Mielke's car.

Two workers from Windway Technologies of Des Moines were pictured adding the finishing touches to its newest and largest wind turbine, east of Joice. Tyler McNeal, president of the firm, says the $250,000 135 ft. turbine will produce enough electricity to power over a 100 homes yearly.

Air Force Airman Justin J. Witte has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Witte is the son of Mary A. Witte of Northwood and Daryl R. Witte of Manly. He is a 1995 graduate of Northwood-Kensett High School, Northwood.

10 years ago

December 15, 2010

Students in Northwood-Kensett kindergarten classes made the trek from their cozy classrooms to Northwood's Central Park last Thursday. The reason for their journey was the delivery of some very important correspondence, namely their letters to Santa, detailing their curious Christmas wishes, as well as their sentiments for St. Nick, to be delivered in time for Santa to make his lists and check them twice. Santa also shares the letters with the Northwood Anchor.

While the snowstorm that hit the area Monday meant tough traveling and delays that were annoying for some, for a group of young people, it meant a day without classes and plenty of snow-based fun to be had on their day off.

A crowd, estimated to be over 800 in number, packed the Northwood-Kensett High School gym on Monday night. The crowd was made up of N-K students and parents who were there to receive the laptop computers that the students in grades 4-12 will have access to for the rest of the school year. Before handing out the laptops, the students and parents heard from superintendent Tom Nugent, who outlined some rules and responsibilities involved in having the laptops.

The Northwood-Kensett Booster Club received a $500 donation from Men's Club president Tom Sculley, pictured presenting the check to booster club members Mikki Moretz, Deann Read, Cliff Davis, Tonya Davis and Kris Gordon.

Northwood Anchor Obituaries

Clarice Hagen

Clarice Mae Hagen, 86, died peacefully on Sunday, November 29, 2020, under hospice care.

While we are thankful for her peace, we shall miss this beautiful, talented woman of enduring strength and vitality. She will be remembered for her sense for humor, selfless giving to others, her sharp intellect, her love of John Deere tractors, painting and craft making, her valuable contributions to the community and most of all, her very nurturing love of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Clarice contributed richly to the life of everyone she touched and the world is a better place for having had her in it.



CLARICE HAGEN

Born in Devils Lake, North Dakota, Clarice was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Harold; her parents, Arnold and Margaret Arneson; brother, Curtis Arneson; brothers-in-law, Marlyn Luecht, Eldon Hagen, Ray Hagen, Irvin Hagen and Marlin Hagen; and isters-in-law, Avis Hagen and Gloria Hagen

She is survived by her children, Cyndy (Lynn) Bartness of Albert Lea, Minn., Patti (Larry) Brekken of Northwood and Al Hagen of Lake Mills, who were always close; five grandchildren, Heath (Dainna) Bartness, Brooke (Adam) Beise, Jeff Steele, Drew (Kylie) Steele, and Jess (Mitch) Hanson, all that brought joy and pride; seven great-grandchildren, Haddie and Hallie Hanson, Drake Steele and Lydia, Harrison, Henry and Molly Bartness, that were the best medicine in the world; her sister, Carol Luecht of Sheffield; her sisters-in-law, Dilla Arneson of Joice, Donna Hagen of Northwood and Lavonne Hagen of Forest City; and the blessing of nieces, nephews and many other relatives and friends.

Clarice and Harold were residents of Joice but also spent much time with family and friends at their winter home in McAllen, Texas.

Clarice graduated from Joice High School and NIACC. She was a bookkeeper at Joice Co-op Elevator until her retirement. The center of her life was her family and husband, their farming and love of John Deere tractors, and the blessing of many dear friends.

A private graveside memorial service was held on Saturday, December 5, 2020, at Concordia Cemetery in rural Joice, Iowa.

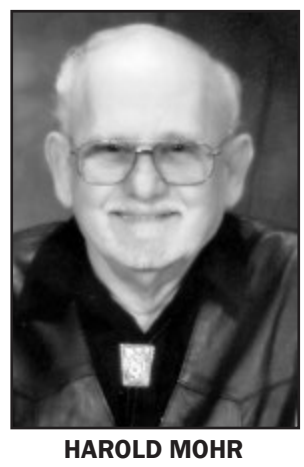
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions may be mailed to Al Hagen 1102 S. Mill Street, Lake Mills, IA 50450.

Harold 'Casey' Mohr

Harold Marvin "Casey" Mohr, 87, passed away on Friday, November 20, 2020, in his Northwood home.

A graveside service will be held at a later date.

Casey was born on May 15, 1933, the son of Carl and Marie (Seeman) Mohr of Kensett, Iowa. He was the first of his family to graduate from high school at the rural Kensett School. After graduation he enlisted in the Army to serve his grateful nation in the Korean War. His lifelong career was being a master carpenter at Larsons in Lake Mills, Iowa. Casey built countless beautiful creations. His family will treasure every item that was built for them.



HAROLD MOHR

As a young man he rode Brahman bulls in the rodeo, drove an 18 wheeler across the country hauling hay and worked for the forest service in Oregon. As an older man he had prize winning chickens, ducks and tropical birds. He always had a passion for cars and in his younger years he owned quite a few. He loved to go to car shows and as time went on his passion for them never got smaller, just the size of the cars that he collected. Casey was an avid bird watcher, who often watched them for hours at a time. Being the handy man that he was, he built an array of bird feeders outside his dining room windows. Among carpentry, Casey was a painter and created one of a kind masterpieces.

Those left to cherish memories of Casey are his children, Marc (Marie) Mohr, Tammy (Scott) Hakes, Michael "Stumpe" Mohr and Cole (Trish) Mohr; daughters-in-law, Nancy L. Mohr and Petra Mohr; grandchildren, Katrina (Ian), Ryan (Jenny), Bridgette (Matt), Rachael, Kristin (Jim), Randy (Kelly), Felicia and Andrew; 17 great-grandchildren; and sister, Marilyn Gilman; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Casey is preceded in death by his wife, Nancy J. (Fletcher) Mohr; son, Shawn Mohr; stepson, Todd Stumpe; his parents; great-grandson, Colby; brothers, Bud and Wayne; and sisters, Anita, Dorothy and Fern.

The family of Casey appreciate the members of the Northwood Community that have helped and supported him for many years. All of those people made a difference in his life and allowed for him to stay independent in his home.

'Jagged Live in NYC: A Broadway Reunion Concert' presented Dec. 13

For the first time in nearly 10 months, the Broadway cast of the 15-time Tony Award-nominated musical "Jagged Little Pill" is reuniting on stage for one night only – in a special performance live from NYC.

On Sunday, December 13, at 7 p.m., "Jagged Live In NYC: A Broadway Reunion Concert" will stream a special live performance. All tickets purchased through niacc.edu/pals directly benefit the NIACC Performing Arts and Leadership Series.

The performance will bring Elizabeth Stanley, Celia Rose Gooding, Sean Allan Krill, Derek Klena, Lauren Patten, Kathryn Gallagher, Antonio Cipriano and more to the stage of Shubert Studios at 787 Seventh Avenue for a night of searing performances – and an electrifying dose of collective joy – alongside the Jagged Little Broadway Band. The performance features songs from the Alanis Morissette rock album and musical that deals with pain, healing and empowerment.

In the spirit of the vital #SaveOurStages movement that has risen during the COVID-19 pandemic, this concert event directly supports the nation's most vulnerable venues experiencing catastrophic revenue loss during this time of suspension for live arts.

More information is available is by visiting www.niacc.edu/pals.

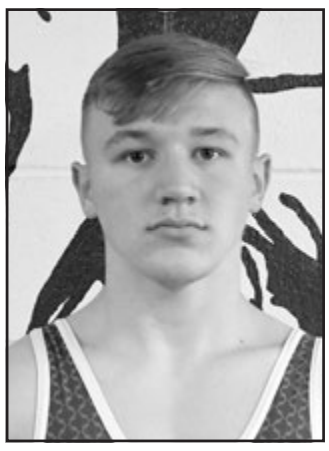
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Mitchell Schroeder
Funeral Director

Anchor Sports



RUTHIE CONLIN

Stat of the Week: *N-K's Ruthie Conlin got her senior year started on a high note with an outstanding first week of play on the hardwood. In Conlin's first night out, a Lady Vikings four-point loss to North Butler, she grabbed eight rebounds. Three nights later in front of a meager home crowd, the talented senior poured in 10 points, pulled down nine rebounds, including five on the offensive glass and had three blocked shots, ending the first week of the season averaging five points, 8.5 rebounds and 1.5 blocks.*



DRAKE TIEDEMANN

Stat of the Week: *Starting the season as the Vikings' only ranked wrestler, earning the 10th spot at 160, Drake Tiedemann is on a mission to make it to Des Moines. The talented junior posted his best season last year as a sophomore when he went 39-5 but failed to get to state. Tiedemann looks to be taking nothing for granted this year as he dominates the competition, going 8-1 in the first week of the season. Tiedemann is now 77-16 for his career, just 23 wins shy of the illusive 100 mark.*



Lady Viking Olivia Stilley takes the ball down low against North Butler last Tuesday night in Greene. Stilley helped the team on the boards last week pulling down 10 rebounds in two games.



Beating her North Butler defender off the dribble, N-K's Madalynn Hanson pushes the ball up the floor in last Tuesday night's 30-26 loss to the Bearcats. Hanson, in her freshman varsity debut, had three points, four steals and three rebounds.

Despite 0-2 start Lady Vikings look to be competitive

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

Despite the 0-2 start to the season the Northwood-Kensett girls basketball team looks like it will be competitive in the Top of Iowa Conference East this year. The Lady Vikings dropped their first two games of the season last week, a narrow 30-26 loss at North Butler and a 51-28 loss to a very good Nashua-Plainfield team.

N-K got the 2020-21 season started last Tuesday when it traveled to Greene to face the Bearcats of North Butler, a team it has beaten just five times in the teams' past 29 meetings.

As this game got underway it was obvious to the few in attendance that this was in fact both teams' first game of the season as neither team could find the basket, going close to five minutes before the first points were scored – the Bearcats led after the first quarter 8-3.

Trailing by just five to start the second quarter the Lady Vikings' two outstanding freshman decided it was time to make their presence known. With Madalynn Hanson playing point guard and Chloe Costello dominating the paint, the Lady Vikings gave the fans a taste of how good this team could be when they pulled to within four at the half, trailing just 12-8.

Both teams seemed to shake off that preseason rust and in the third quarter the two teams came out gunning with N-K's Carly Hengesteg taking over the game in the second half, ending the night with a team high nine points and 10 rebounds, including four on the offensive glass.

Still trailing 22-18 after a much better third quarter the Lady Vikings hung with North Butler throughout the fourth, each putting eight points on the board as N-K fell by four points, 30-26.

In the Lady Vikings' second game last week they played host to one of the better squads in the TIC East this season, the Huskies of Nashua-Plainfield. And while N-K made a game of it in the first half of play, trailing 22-19 at the half, the Huskies pulled away in the second half, outscoring N-K 18-2 in the fourth quarter alone on their way to the 51-28 road win over the Lady Vikings.

Veteran Ruthie Conlin had 10 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots while Hengesteg led the way with a team high 14 points.

With the two losses the Lady Vikings start the season at 0-2 overall and 0-2 in the TIC East.

N-K played at West Fork Tuesday night and will end the week on Friday when it hosts Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock, who also started the conference season at 0-2.

NB 30, NK 26

NK	3	5	10	8	– 26
NB	8	4	10	8	– 30

NP 51, NK 28

NP	15	7	11	18	– 51
NK	11	8	7	2	– 28

N-K wrestlers have busy first week, start the season at 1-8

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

N-K's season got started with a short-handed team consisting of around nine wrestlers. By week's end that number had dwindled down to about seven able bodies ready to compete on the mat as the Northwood-Kensett wrestling team got the season started at 1-8.

The Vikings got the 2020-21 season started last Tuesday night at home when they hosted Tripoli and Crestwood.

Sending just five wrestlers out to actually wrestle, the Vikings picked up their first and only win so far this season when they beat and even more depleted Tripoli's team 36-16.

In the second dual on opening night the Vikings fell to Crestwood 69-12 with N-K picking up just two wins when Drake Tiedemann and Mason Thofson pinned their respective opponents. Earning wins over Tripoli were Hayden Moore, Josiah Kliment, Brandon Varner, Thofson and Treycen Rollene.

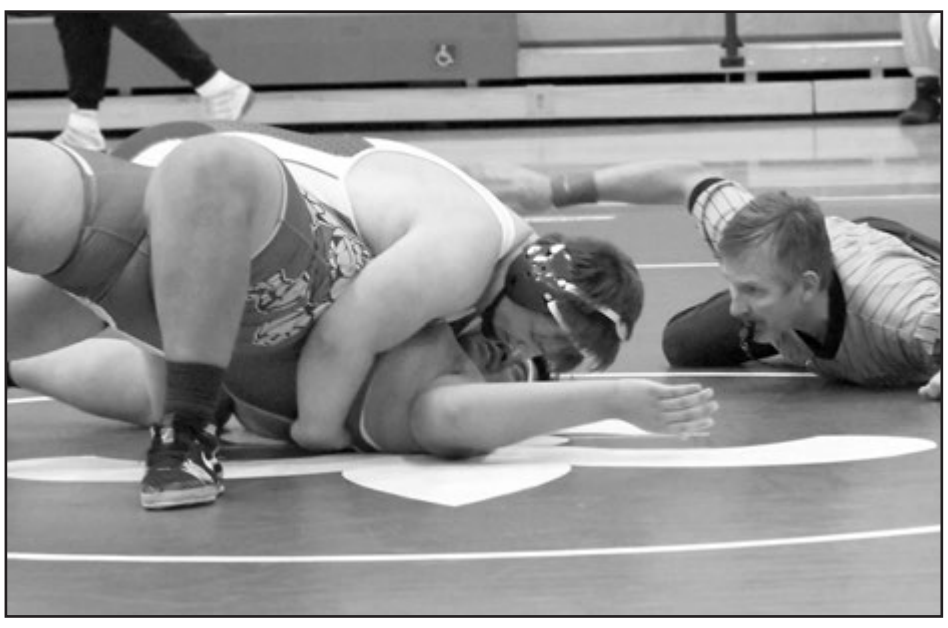
Last Thursday night the Vikings traveled to Osage and were beaten handily by North Butler-Clarksville 59-18 and Osage 57-24. N-K did however give North Union everything they could handle in the 36-30 loss, the dual not being decided until the final match.

The Vikings ended their very busy first week of the season with a five-team dual tournament in Saint Ansgar on Saturday. Suiting up only about seven wrestlers on this day N-K stood almost no chance of winning a dual but the Vikings' individual wrestlers, who did get on the mat, performed at or above expectations.

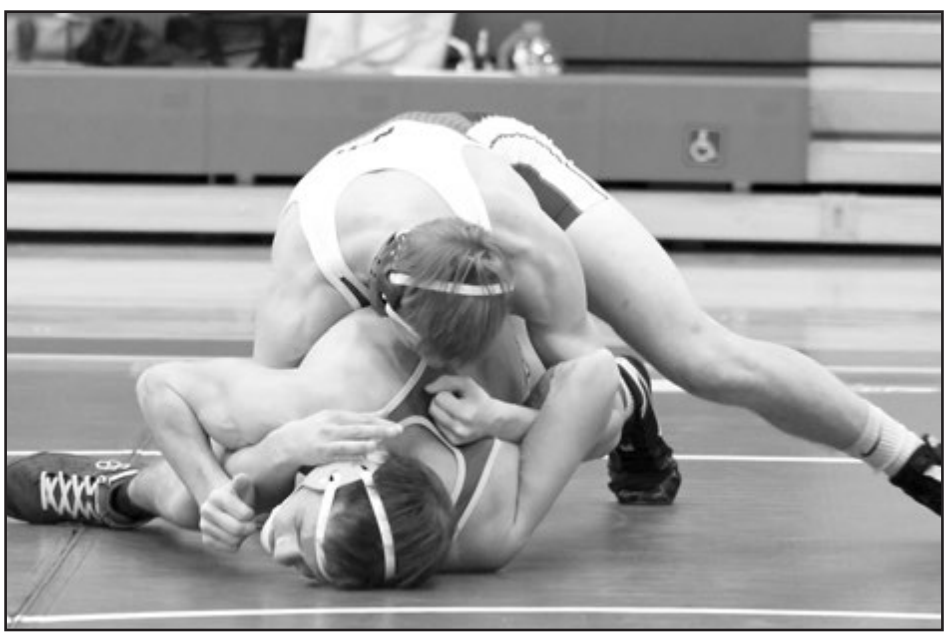
In Saint Ansgar on Saturday the Vikings lost to the Saints 51-12, Lake Mills 66-12, North Union 48-18 and Clear Lake 60-12.

With nine duals now in the books the Vikings start the season at 1-8.

N-K has two meets this week, Thursday at the West Fork Quad and an individual tournament in Nashua on Saturday. Teams at Nashua will include Bellevue, Central Elkader, Clayton Ridge, Columbus Catholic, Hudson, MFL MAR MAC, Postville, Riceville, RRMR, West Fork, West Hancock, N-K and N-P.



N-K junior Mason Thofson earns six points for his team with this pin over Amadeo Roa of Lake Mills in last Saturday's dual tournament held in Saint Ansgar. Thofson, who had a career record of just 3-4 coming into this year, is now 4-5 this season.



Taking control over his opponent in last Saturday's Saint Ansgar dual tournament is the Viking Tyler Mills. Mills lost this tight match by a 4-2 decision but had a fine opening week of the season nonetheless, winning five of his first seven matches.

Shorthanded Vikings start 2020-21 basketball season 0-2

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

Starting the season with a depleted roster is not what the Northwood-Kensett boys basketball team had in mind but it's the hand it's been dealt and so far this team is handling it all well.

Suiting up just a handful of warm bodies last Tuesday night in Greene the Vikings had to face North Butler, a team they had beaten just six times in 27 games, this one ending with the Vikings coming up short by 15 points in the 51-36 loss.

Sophomore Lamonte Sims scored the first points of the 2020-21 season for the Vikings, posting them an early 2-0 lead. Soon though the lead turned into a two-point deficit at the end of the first eight minutes of play with the Bearcats out in front 10-8.

The Vikings, who have in the past played lights out in one half, only to lose that flow in the other, followed that script in the second half of play when they were outscored 13-5 in the third and 18-9 in the fourth, sealing their fate with the 51-36 Top of Iowa Conference East loss.

Despite the loss the Vikings had some serious ballers on the floor for them in Greene. Caden Roberts had eight points, six rebounds and two dimes. TJ Whitelow had 11 points, four rebounds, three assists and three blocks. Cade Hengesteg had 10 points, four rebounds, three assists and three blocks.

In last Friday night's first home game of the young season the Vikings got the game started as about as cold as you can get, letting the Huskies of Nashua-Plainfield run out to an early 19-1 lead after the first eight minutes of play.

And while the Vikings did pull their act together to make a bit of a game of it, they did save their best for last when they returned the favor for their miserable first quarter and outscored N-P 12-1 in the fourth on their way to the 52-35 TIC East loss.

Roberts once again had a fine game for the Vikings, leading them with 13 points while Sims added nine points and four steals. Hengesteg had a good game against the Huskies as well, with seven points, eight rebounds, four assists, two steals and one blocked shot.

With the two losses in the first week of play the Vikings start the season at 0-2 overall and 0-2 in the TIC East.

After going on the road to West Fork on Tuesday N-K will end the week on Friday when it hosts Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock.



No one drives the baseline better than N-K's Cade Hengesteg. Here the senior beats his Bearcat defender off the dribble and heads for the paint. Hengesteg had 10 points, four rebounds and three assists in the Vikings' 51-36 loss at North Butler.



Viking Lamonte Sims scores the first points of the 2020-21 season last Tuesday night in Greene. In the first week of play Sims has 11 points, five steals, two assists and one rebound for 0-2 Vikings.

NB 51, NK 36						NP 52, NK 35					
NK	8	14	5	9 – 36		NP	19	13	19	1 – 52	
NB	10	10	13	18 – 51		NK	1	8	14	12 – 35	

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Bolan

On Sunday afternoon, December 6, a few of the Church Family members of Bolan Trinity gathered at the church wearing masks and social distancing to work on music for the rest of the Advent Season and Christmas Eve service. These services continue to be on the Bethel UMC Facebook page, YouTube, website and the radio station 97.1 FM, which is now the previous Sunday's worship service.

Notice

- PUBLIC NOTICE -
City of Kensett, Iowa

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Kensett, Iowa, will conduct a public hearing on the proposal to amend the water and sewer rates of the Kensett Code of Ordinances of 2020. A copy of said amendments is now on file at City Hall and available for public inspection. Said hearing will be held December 14, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall, Kensett, Iowa, at which time arguments for or against adopting said code as proposed will be heard and considered.

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Office 641-324-1023 Home 324-1391

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REMINDER

The WCDA would like to remind organizations that grant applications for the

SPRING 2021 GRANT CYCLE

are due into the WCDA office anytime from

January 1, 2021-January 29, 2021

WCDA

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If there are any questions, please call the WCDA office at

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Happy Holidays!



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