

These Businesses are Proud to Serve Northwood & Worth County Areas With Over A

CENTURY OF SERVICE

Area businesses celebrate 4,749 years of service to Northwood and Worth County

Each year the Northwood Anchor gives area businesses an opportunity to showcase their years serving Northwood and the surrounding area, with a section known as "Century of Service."

The six page section of the paper begins with, "These Businesses are Proud to Serve Northwood and the Area With Over a Century of Service." The pages are filled with 110 businesses in the Northwood area.

While the message at the start of the section says that the businesses have served over a century, the businesses have served a combined 4,749 years to area residents. The average time of service for businesses listed in the section is 43 years. The business that

has served the area the longest is the City of Northwood itself, since 1858, for a total of 163 years.

The oldest entries on the list are a community group and business that have each operated for 152 years. The Northern Light Masonic Lodge has been serving Worth County in various capacities since 1869. Also beginning service to the community in 1869 was Worth County Abstract.

Others providing more than a century of service include Albert Lea Monument, the Worth County Fair, Worth Mutual Insurance, the Northwood Volunteer Fire Company, the Northwood Anchor, Viafield, Worth County Extension and Worth County Farm Bureau.

New to the section this year are Modern Gardens Floral & Gifts and The Rustic Thread.

A number of businesses will be celebrating special milestones of service to Northwood and the

surrounding area this year, including:

Ten years- Shellrock Repair and Tequila's Mexican Bar & Grill

Thirty years- Moonlight Floors & Maintenance

Forty years- The

Real Estate Office and Dewey Kruger Music

Fifty years- Century 21

Seventy-five years- VFW Post #6779

One hundred years- Farmers State Bank

The Northwood

Anchor thanks these businesses for their service to the community and the community that has supported their local businesses for a combined 4,749 years.



City of Northwood

Established in **1858**

Serving Worth County for 163 Years

Northern Light Masonic Lodge

Established in **1869**
Northern Light Order Eastern Star
Organized in 1899

Serving Worth County for 152 Years

Worth County Abstract

Established in **1869**
Sarah Hendricks, 2011

Serving Worth County for 152 Years

Albert Lea Monument

Established in **1877**

Serving Worth County for 144 Years

Worth County Fair

Established in **1878**

Serving Worth County for 143 Years

Worth Mutual Insurance

Established in **1882**
Kory Olson & Jayson Olson

GRINNELL MUTUAL
Serving Worth County for 139 Years

Northwood Fire Company

Established in **1883**

Serving Worth County for 138 Years

The Northwood Anchor

Established in **1885**
Kris Kenison, Publisher 2018

Serving Worth County for 136 Years

Viafield

Established in **1911**
Viafield, 2010

Progressive Ag Cooperative, 2006
formerly Northwood Co-op Elevator
Serving Worth County for 110 Years

Worth County Extension

Established in **1913**
Worth County 4-H

100 *Serving Worth County for 108 Years*

Worth County Farm Bureau

Established in **1918**

Serving Worth County for 103 Years

Farmers State Bank

Established in **1921**
Northwood Branch Office, 1996

Serving Worth County for 100 Years

L.R. Falk Construction

Established in **1922**

Serving Worth County for 99 Years

NSB Bank

Established in **1933**
Kary Paulson, Chairman

Serving Worth County for 88 Years

Olson Insurance

Established in **1934**
formerly Glenn O. Tenold Insurance, Inc.
Tenold Olson Hagen, Inc.

GRINNELL MUTUAL
Serving Worth County for 87 Years

Local veterans have continued their service through VFW for 75 years



By JoAnn Lower

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is an organization of U.S. war veterans established by James C. Putnam in 1899 in Columbus, Ohio.

On June 19, 1946, Northwood VFW Post 6779 was chartered.

“Our last charter member to pass away was newspaper man Oscar Kelly,” said Paul Ferley, himself a 50-year-member of the VFW.

Paul graduated from N-K in 1963, went into the Navy in September 1965, and married Sharyl three months later at Christmastime.

Returning from serving four years off the waters of Vietnam, he went to work at Wilson & Company in Albert Lea, where, in 1971 he became a member of the VFW. After moving to Northwood he bought his lifetime membership in the Northwood VFW in 1986.

“Our membership has dropped from 100 to the high 60s, partly because we’ve lost a lot of WWII vets, partly because of the time commitment and also that the dues have gone up.”

The VFW is actively

involved in our community. On Memorial Day at the cemetery they provide the speaker, honor guard and a large wreath to honor all veterans.

The VFW leads the 4th of July parade, marching behind the Sheriff’s Department, carrying the VFW flag, the American Flag and the POW and MIA flags – the American flag held highest. Previously a trailer with chairs was provided so that older veterans could ride in the parade. Unfortunately those people are no longer with us.

The VFW does the opening exercise at the Relay For Life, and Founders Day finds the members serving a pancake breakfast.

Speaking of pancakes, the VFW will be serving a pancake breakfast the first Saturday of the month.

They line up the speaker for the Veterans Day program at the high school. They also have what is called The Voice of Democracy for high school kids as well as the Patriots Pen Contest for elementary kids. The VFW picks a winner, each winner is given a \$50 check and a

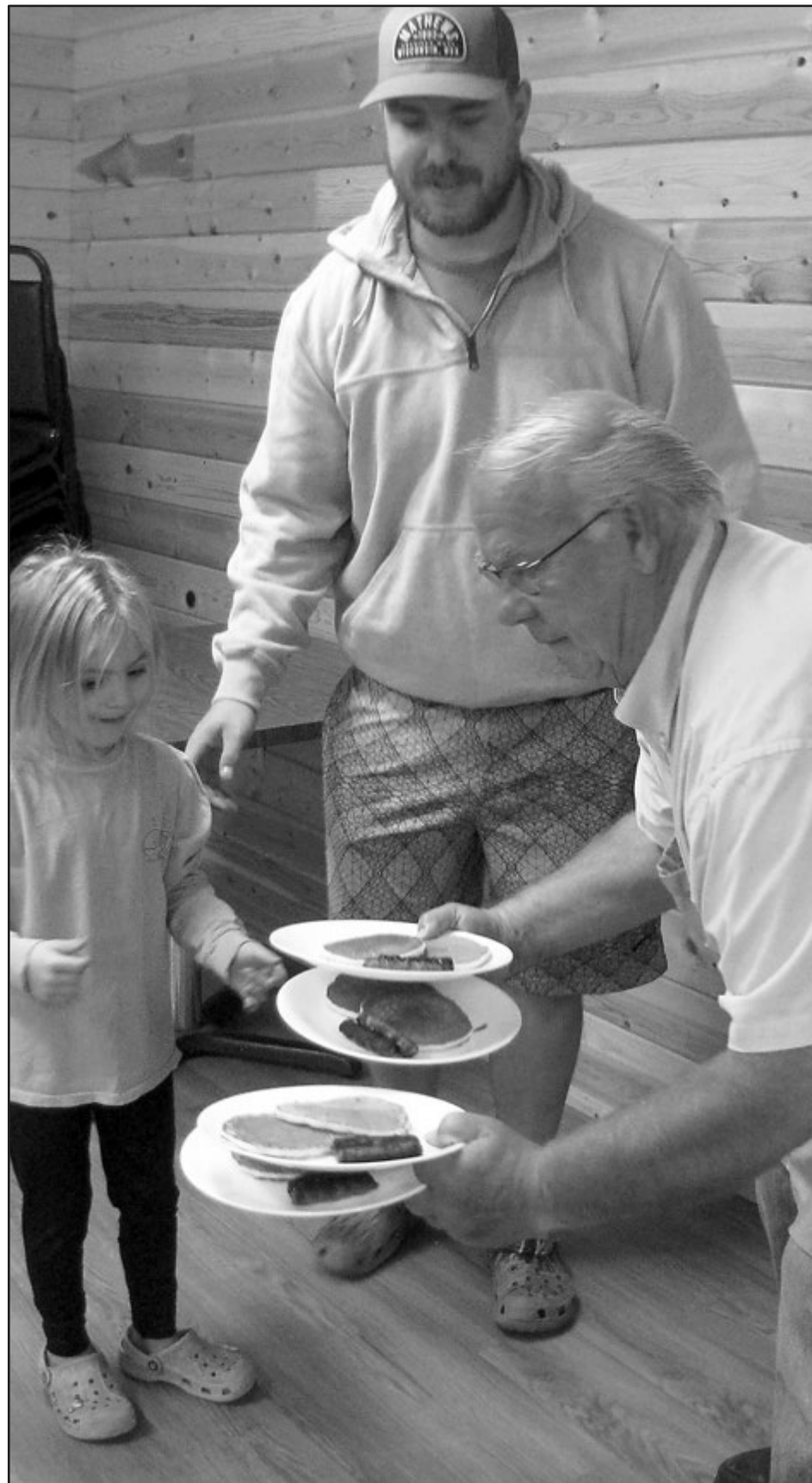
Voice of Democracy lanyard.

“We are quite proud of Lindsey Davidson, who went all the way to the national contest where she also placed high,” said Paul.

In March, the TUNE Trivia Annual Event was held, the last event in 2020. Everything since then has been cancelled because of the pandemic.

Paul and Sharyl have two children. Daughter Suzette lives in Mount Vernon, Iowa; son Mark in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Ferley, who served as District III Quartermaster for eight years (District III is the largest district in Iowa), reminds us “The VFW is a very worthy organization, the leading force in working to get benefits for disabled veterans.”



Conner Colonial Chapel
Established in **1939**
Gary Nerlien, 1990
Megan Ott 2014
Serving Worth County for 82 Years

Bratrud’s
Established in **1945**
Allan Bratrud, 1961
Randy Bratrud, 1996
Serving Worth County for 76 Years

#6779 Northwood VFW
Established in **1946**
Serving Worth County for 75 Years

Northwood Country Club
Established in **1948**
Serving Worth County for 73 Years

Fallgatter’s Market
Established in **1948**
Doug & Gloria Fallgatter
Casey Connors - 2019
Serving Worth County for 73 Years

Kensett Volunteer Fire Department
Established in **1949**
Serving Worth County for 72 Years

Welsh Chiropractic
Established in **1953**
by Dr. M.P. Welsh
Dr. James Welsh, 1984 - 30 Years
Serving Worth County for 68 Years

Abrams Drainage
Established in **1954**
Ken Abrams & Matt Abrams
Serving Worth County for 67 Years

Royal Motel
Established in **1955**
Dan Luedtke & Deb Bartman
Serving Worth County for 66 Years

State Farm Insurance
Established in **1956**
Dave Osborne, Jan. 2019
Serving Worth County for 65 Years

Izaak Walton League of America Inc.
Established in **1957**
Worth County Chapter of the State of Iowa
(July 17, 1957)
Serving Worth County for 64 Years

Larsen Plumbing & Heating
Established in **1958**
Fertile
Serving Worth County for 63 Years

Beauty Nook
Established in **1958**
Cotter & Co., 1996
Jolene Cotter
Serving Worth County for 63 Years

Lutheran Retirement Home
Established in **1962**
Serving Worth County for 59 Years

Robb treasures connections made in 21 years with Century 21

By JoAnn Lower

Julie Hagen Robb is celebrating her 21st year with Century 21. But how many of us knew she began her real estate career working with her sister Nancy?

"Nancy was working as an administrator at a real estate office and thought it would be fun to get her license, so we did it together. I drove to Northfield three days a week because it was a good place to learn. Nancy and I worked together for three years at Edina Realty and had such a good time. Our business card said 'Sisters in Real Estate.'"

Asked why she chose realty as a career, Julie said, "I had always been into decorating and enjoyed seeing people's homes."

"Back in the day I coached some basketball, volleyball and softball. Now I'm coaching people through the home-buying or selling process. It's exciting to hand over the keys to a new buyer, exciting to help someone sell their house so they can move on to their next chapter, exciting to be a part of their major life decisions."

"After 21 years I'm still learning new things. This is more than a career; it's a way of life because your relationships with clients are never done. Once you go through that with someone you form a bond. It's more than a casual hello, you really do want to know how

they're doing."

There have been many changes in real estate in the past few years that have helped to make a realtor's life better, more efficient. "The internet, cell phones, e-signing and lock boxes have changed things so much."

"I remember the time I needed to get signatures from a gentleman in Northfield, but the only time he was coming through was on the train at 10:00. When the train stopped at a crossing, he stepped out and signed the document."

Another interesting sale in her early career was the day she had to get the signatures of four ex-husbands who all had to sign off on one tiny property.

Julie's husband Dan, the UPS man, is enjoying retirement. Their daughter Calsee and her husband Ben live in Seattle with their beautiful 4-year-old daughter Ada Grace. Calsee is employed as Principal Product Manager, Global Mile at Amazon; Ben is working on another internet start-up company.

Son Tyson earned his real estate license when he was 20 years old and worked with his mom for a few years at Century 21 before getting into the rental/renovation business, which he still does along with working with a farmer. His partner Stephanie works in health care. They have three chil-



dren — Tinzley, Henry and Lane.

Julie has a busy life as a realtor, a wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend to all of us. But the brightest spot in her life, well, you guessed it. "I love spending time with our awesome grandchildren!"

"I've had the pleasure of working with my sister, my son and a lot of other wonderful realtors through the years. Being in real estate, we get to meet interesting people and they all have their own story, which is often part of the reason they are buying or selling. Getting to know them and their story is pretty cool. I am truly grateful to be part of their major life decisions!"

For your realty needs, call Julie Hagen Robb at 641-390-0007.

Sisters in Real Estate

Julie Hagen Robb
(507) 645-1176

Nancy McGregor
(507) 645-1171

Ready to assist you with all of your Real Estate needs

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JULIE HAGEN ROBB
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641-324-2733
513 Central Ave. • Northwood

Greve Law Office

Established in **1963**

John H. Greve & Jeffrey H. Greve,
Law Practice

Serving Worth County for 58 Years

Peterson Excavating & Drainage Inc.

Established in **1968**

Mike Peterson

Serving Worth County for 53 Years

Century 21 Preferred

Established in **1971**

Northwood Office, 2003
Julie Hagen Robb

Serving Worth County for 50 Years

TUNE

Total United Northwood Effort

Established **1973-81**

Re-established in 2003

Serving Worth County for 48 Years

Patterson Construction

Established in **1973**

Harvey Patterson

Serving Worth County for 48 Years

Dick's Place Body & Towing

Established in **1974**

Dick Beenken

Serving Worth County for 47 Years

Northwood Electric

Established in **1974**

Todd Leonard, 2006

Serving Worth County for 47 Years

ADA Enterprise, Inc.

Established in **1974**

Serving Worth County for 47 Years

Manly Specialty Care

Established in **1976**

Care Initiatives 1994
Manly | Specialty Care

Serving Worth County for 45 Years

A & I Auto, Inc.

Established in **1976**

Al Fredericks & Ivan Fredericks

Serving Worth County for 45 Years

Thofson Plumbing, Heating & Cooling

Established in **1977**

Tim Thofson 2007

Serving Worth County 44 years

InjecTech Diesel Service

Established in **1977**

Injection Technology, 1988
Dennis Stoneking

Serving Worth County for 44 Years

Northwood True Value

Established in **1978**

Kelly Hardware
Dan and Tara Kelly 2018
Serving Worth County for 43 Years

D & L Equipment

Established in **1979**

Dave & Lucy Heiken
Serving Worth County for 42 Years

Hovey's Lawn & Garden LLC

Established in **1980**

Larry Hovey
Serving Worth County for 41 Years

Dewey Kruger Music, Ltd.

Established in **1981**

Duane & Betty Kruger
Serving Worth County for 40 Years

The Real Estate Office

Established in **1981**

Clara Helgeland
Serving Worth County for 40 Years

Agri-Sales

Established in **1982**

Serving Worth County for 39 Years

Ver Helst Drug

Established in **1983**

Dave Ver Helst
Serving Worth County for 38 Years

**Worth County
Veterinary Service**

Established in **1984**

Dr. Mike Dierenfeld
Serving Worth County for 37 Years

**Kevin Springer
Construction**

Established in **1985**

Serving Worth County for 36 Years

Krull Law Firm

Law Practice Established in **1985**
Doug Krull

Serving Worth County for 36 Years

Northland Custom Interiors

Established in **1986**

Sandy Madden
Serving Worth County for 35 Years

Mike's Automotive

Established in **1987**

Mike Weisert
Serving Worth County for 34 Year

North Woods Cabinetry



Established in **1987**

Tom Capranos & Tim Capranos
Serving Worth County for 34 Years

Sue's Corner Post

Established in **1988**

formerly The Corner Post
Serving Worth County for 33 Years

Berge Oil

Established in **1988**

Larry Berge
Serving Worth County for 33 Years

**Schroeder & Sites
Funeral Home**

Established in **1988**

Mitch Schroeder
Serving Worth County for 33 Years

Northwood Insurance

Established in **1988**

John Midtgaard
Serving Worth County for 33 Years

CARQUEST Auto Parts

Established in **1988**

Dan Hendrikson
Serving Worth County for 33 Years

**Moonlight Floors &
Maintenance**

Established in **1993**

Brian Hahn
Serving Worth County for 30 Years

Quality Composites

Established in **1992**

Larry and Jody Porter
Serving Worth County for 29 Years

**Bloomington Tax
& Accounting**

Established in **1992**

Jane Bloomington
Serving Worth County for 29 Years

Signature's Supper Club

Established in **1992**

Rhonda and Mark Taylor
Serving Worth County for 29 Years

Mason City Glass

Established in **1992**

Lois Nelson
Serving Worth County for 29 Years

TruStile Doors

Established in **1995**

Serving Worth County for 26 Years

Ken's Barber Shop

Established in **1997**

Kenny Stambaugh
Serving Worth County for 24 Years


Kenison Construction

Established in **1997**

Brian & Connie Kenison
Serving Worth County for 24 Years

**Top of Iowa Welcome Center,
Barn Boutique & Coffee Shoppe**

Established in **1998**

Jean Stowell 
"The Cow" Pie Coffee Shoppe, 2010
Serving Worth County for 23 Years

Northwood Sanitation

Established in **1998**

Mike Brunsvold
Serving Worth County for 23 Years

**Hogen Lawn Care
and Tree Service**

Established in **1998**

Paul Hogen
Serving Worth County for 23 Years

Shade Tree, Inc.

Established in **1999**

Shade Tree Liquors, 2000
Serving Worth County for 22 Years

Community support keeps Tequila's going strong after nearly 10 years

By JoAnn Lower

The restaurant business had long been Manuel Ramirez's dream. After living and working in California for years, he moved to Algona, where he found employment at the Mexican restaurant Cinco de Mayo. That's where Shawna, a beautiful local hotel manager, who loved Mexican food, met and later married Manuel.

"We soon began driving around smaller towns looking for a place that would work for our own restaurant,

but it was while searching online that Manuel saw potential I didn't see – the building we purchased 10 years ago this coming June, Tequila's."

While Manuel is in charge of the kitchen, the cooking and ordering, Shawna does the bookwork as well as hiring and training.

Employing between 10 and 12 people, Tequila's is open 11-9 Tuesday through Saturday, and 11-8 on Sunday, with daily specials.

"It's interesting that

we have so much carry-over," Shawna remarked. Our phone's always ringing – even before COVID-19."

"Now, more than ever, Manuel and I are grateful for everyone's support. We appreciate the relationships we've made with people who started out as customers and ended up friends."

Tequila's Mexican Bar & Grill is located at 846 Central Avenue in Northwood. Their phone number is 641-323-0000.



Buck's Recycling, LLC
 Established in **2000**
 Manly, June 2000
 Belmond, Dec. 2012; Kensett, July, 2016
Serving Worth County for 21 Years

Worth County Development Authority
 Established in **2003**
Serving Worth County for 18 Years

Brian Kvam Construction, LLC
 Established in **2005**
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

AJB Enterprises
 Established in **2005**
 Al & Jerry Brunsvold
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

Falkstone
 Established in **2005**
Serving Worth County for 16 Years

Country Inn & Suites
 Established in **2006**

Serving Worth County for 15 Years

Gasteiger Electric
 Established in **2006**
 Jarod Gasteiger & Jessie Gasteiger
Serving Worth County for 15 Years

Studio 3/Johnson Vinyl Johnson Dirtworks LLC
 Established in **2006**
 Tim & Alisha Johnson
Serving Worth County for 15 Years

Kalvig Boarding Kennel
 Established in **2006**
 Carolyn Kalvig
Serving Worth County for 15 Years

Worth Brewing Company

 Established in **2007**
 Peter Ausenhus & Margaret Bishop
Serving Worth County for 14 Years

Linda Anderson Tax and Accounting
 Established in **2007**
Serving Worth County for 14 Years

Northwood Pines
 Established in **2008**
 A division of LRH
Serving Worth County for 13 Years

Eilertson Repair
 Established in **2008**
 Gene Eilertson
Serving Worth County for 13 Years

Nate's Powder Coating
 Established in **2009**
 Nathaniel Julseth
Serving Worth County for 12 Years

Northwood Theatre
 Established in **2009**
Serving Worth County for 12 Years

Tequila's Mexican Bar & Grill
 Established in **2011**
 Manuel & Shawna Ramirez
Serving Worth County for 10 Years

Shellrock Repair
 Established in **2011**
 Troy Hillman
Serving Worth County for 10 Years

Interiors by Gretchen
 Established in **2012**

 Gretchen Hengesteg
 390-1003
Serving Worth County for 9 years

Loberg Construction
 Established in **2012**
 Eric Loberg
Serving Worth County for 9 Years

WCTA
 Established in **2012**
 Cooperative's inception in 1950

 www.wctatel.net
 641-592-6105
Serving Worth County for 9 years

Knudtson Automotive
 Established in **2013**
 Kirby Knudtson
Serving Worth County for 8 Years

From daycare to clothes, Thofson puts her best in what she does

By JoAnn Lower
 Melissa (Missy) Thofson, a loved and trusted daycare provider, has moved on to a new chapter in her life, her new business – The Rustic Thread.

Twenty years ago Missy decided to be a stay-at-home mom and also care for other people's children. Soon after, many fortunate families began bringing their children to her house.

"When the kids walked in the door I treated them like they were my own," she said. "I had amazing kids, amazing parents. When I closed my doors on December 31, there were lots of tears, lots of emotions; it was so hard."

"Now I'm really excited about beginning something new, excited to use the creative part of me to make a living."

Thofson has taken over the apparel part of Johnson Vinyl Graphics. "I have received all the logos from Tim Johnson, bought all the equipment, and we are working together. Tim still does the signs, but any-



The
Rustic Thread
 Custom Apparel

Melissa Thofson
 2000 Central Ave
 Northwood, IA 50459
 641-390-0181

thing that has to do with clothing he sends my way."

Missy has already set up the equipment, even filled some Christmas and business orders. "My shop is on my property so I can still work from home," she smiled. "I can still walk out my door and go to work just like I did before."

"I'm on the Post Prom Committee and do a lot of things for the school. Now everyone can get N-K stuff – sweatshirts, custom orders, personalized gifts. Instead of a catalog you can come to my shop, look at the inventory and together we can make up logos. Shopping local is nice for everyone and it's fun

for me. "I'm used to running my own business, being my own boss. I've switched fields and am very thankful that the community is embracing my new business. I always tried to be the best daycare person and I will try to do my best at my new job. I take a lot of pride in every-

thing I do." Missy's husband Tim owns and operates Thofson's Plumbing and Heating in Northwood. The couple has three sons – Mason, a junior at N-K; Ethan, a student in the electrician program at Riverland; and Tyler, who works with his dad. Tyler and his wife Katelyn have

two sons, Carter and Calvin. And last but definitely not least are Missy's two little French Bulldogs, Sophie and Teddy. They're wondering where all the kids are.

The Rustic Thread is located at 2000 Central Avenue in Northwood. The phone number is 641-390-0181.

Rock-A-Billies
 Established in **2013**
 Jona Birr and Rose Roulet
 Serving Worth County for 8 Years


Northwood Chiropractic
 Established in **2013**
 Sawyer Schulz
 Serving Worth County for 8 Years

Northwood Tobacco
 Established in **2013**
 Serving Worth County for 8 Years

Strike Zone
 Established in **2014**
 Nordic Lanes 1984
 Serving Worth County for 7 years

Law Offices of James W. Hackbart
 Established in **2014**
 Serving Worth County for 7 Years

R80
 Established in **2014**
 Angela Heiken, Manager
 Kensett and Northwood
 Serving Worth County for 7 Years

Pioneer Seed
 Established in **2014**
 Brad Brunsvold
 Serving Worth County for 7 Years

Bice Electric
 Established in **2015**
 Brenton Bice
 Serving Worth County for 6 Years

Federal Foam Technologies, Inc.
 Established in **2015**
 Serving Worth County for 6 Years

Wildhorse Trading
 Established in **2015**
 Tim and Patty Machin
 Wild Horse Trading, Inc., 2006
 Serving Worth County for 6 Years

Signature's Hot Beef Sundae Trailer
 Established in **2015**
 Serving Worth County for 6 years

Worth Lumber Co.
 Established in **2016**
 Serving Worth County for 5 Years

Fringe and Lace By Brittany
 Established in **2017**
 Brittany Low
 Serving Worth County for 4 Year

Worthwhile Wind & Solar
 Established in **2018**
 Serving Worth County for 3 Years

J & L Auto Body & Custom, LLC
 Established in **2019**
 Serving Worth County for 2 Years

Exit Realty
 Established in **2019**
 Kris Gordon
 Serving Worth County for 2 Years

Modern Gardens Floral & Gifts
 Established in **2020**
 Serving Worth County for 1 Year

The Rustic Thread
 Established in **2021**
 Melissa Thofson
 New to Worth County