The Northwood Anchor

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## Briefs

POPS LIII

ROAD TRIP

### POPS 53 set for Friday

This Friday, March 5, Northwood-Kensett students will once again perform in the annual student showcase with POPS LIII (53).

The theme of this year's show will be "Road Trip," with songs of travel and distance. The N-K band and choir will share songs like "A Thousand Miles," "Life is a Highway," I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)," "Hit the Road Jack" and more.

POPS 53 will be held this Friday, March 5, at 7 p.m. in the elementary gym. Tickets are $5 for adults and $4 for students. N-K activity passes will also be accepted.

Masks will be required and social distancing in the audience is encouraged.

### N-K blood drive set for March 10

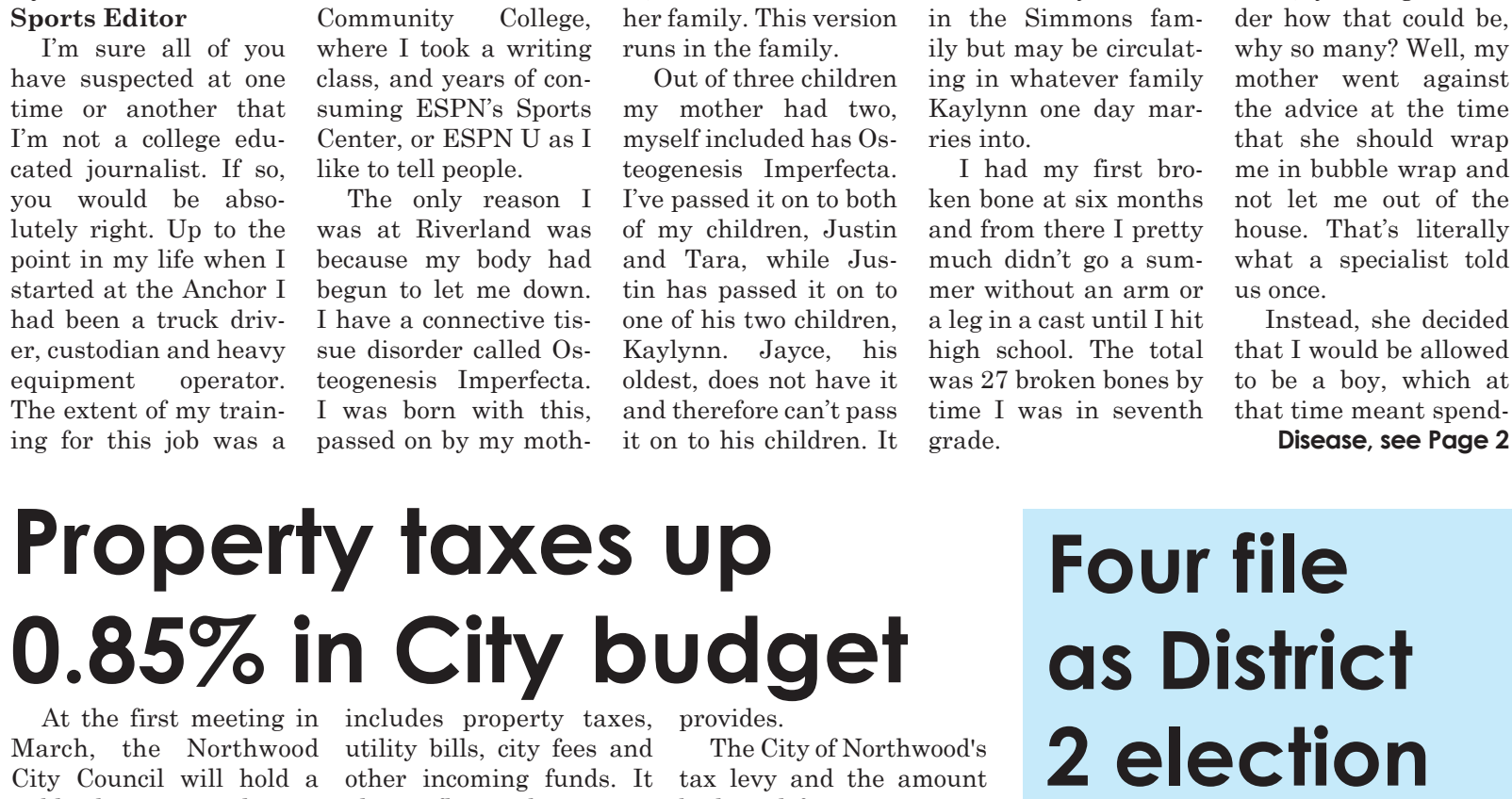
The Northwood-Kensett FCCLA group will host a blood drive on Wednesday, March 10.

The students in the group organize the drive as a community service that is a part of the efforts of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America group. Doing so also helps them qualify for scholarship opportunities.

Those that would like to donate at the blood drive can go online to the LifeServe Blood Center website, at lifeservebloodcenter.org, under the Donate link, by searching for the N-K blood drive.

Those that would like to donate may also contact FCCLA advisor

N-K, see Page 3



**Mike Simmons: You can't tell who has Osteogenisis Imperfecta just by looking at them. Here is my family, me; my daughter-in-law, Lexi; granddaughter, Kaylynn; son, Justin; daughter, Tara; wife, Della; and seated in front, grandson, Jayce. Of all pictured only me (33 fractured bones), Kaylynn (6 fractured bones), Justin (27 fractured bones) and Tara (13 fractured bones) have OI. The only thing that distinguishes someone with OI from others that is noticeable is the whites of our eyes, the sclera, which is blue.**

# How a debilitating disease led me to my dream job at the *Anchor*

**By Mike Simmons**
**Sports Editor**

I'm sure all of you have suspected at one time or another that I'm not a college educated journalist. If so, you would be absolutely right. Up to the point in my life when I started at the Anchor I had been a truck driver, custodian and heavy equipment operator. The extent of my training for this job was a semester at Riverland Community College, where I took a writing class, and years of consuming ESPN's Sports Center, or ESPN U as I like to tell people.

The only reason I was at Riverland was because my body had begun to let me down. I have a connective tissue disorder called Osteogenesis Imperfecta. I was born with this, passed on by my mother, who carried it from her family. This version runs in the family.

Out of three children my mother had two, myself included has Osteogenesis Imperfecta. I've passed it on to both of my children, Justin and Tara, while Justin has passed it on to one of his two children, Kaylynn. Jayce, his oldest, does not have it and therefore can't pass it on to his children. It will basically be done in the Simmons family but may be circulating in whatever family Kaylynn one day marries into.

I had my first broken bone at six months and from there I pretty much didn't go a summer without an arm or a leg in a cast until I hit high school. The total was 27 broken bones by time I was in seventh grade.

So, you might wonder how that could be, why so many? Well, my mother went against the advice at the time that she should wrap me in bubble wrap and not let me out of the house. That's literally what a specialist told us once.

Instead, she decided that I would be allowed to be a boy, which at that time meant spend-

Disease, see Page 2

# Property taxes up 0.85% in City budget

At the first meeting in March, the Northwood City Council will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2021, and ends on June 30, 2022.

The budget reflects the total amount of money that the City plans to collect and spend in the coming fiscal year. This includes property taxes, utility bills, city fees and other incoming funds. It also reflects the money that the city will spend to maintain streets and infrastructure, to provide law enforcement, to administer housing programs and incentives, to run the City's water and sewer systems and all other services the City provides.

The City of Northwood's tax levy and the amount budgeted for property tax revenue will increase slightly in the proposed budget, compared to re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year's budget.

In the proposed budget, an excess of the City's

Taxes, see Page 2

# Four file as District 2 election candidates

A special election to fill the vacancy of Worth County's District 2 supervisor will be held on Tuesday, March 23. Four candidates have filed to appear on ballots.

Those filing as candidates include Tom Dakin, of Kensett, representing the Democratic Party; Mark Smeby, representing the Republican Party; and Dean Mueller.

Those living in precincts in District 2 will vote in this election to choose who represents them. District 2 consists of the cities of Fertile, Hanlontown, Joice and Kensett; and the townships of Bristol, Brookfield, Danville, Fertile, Kensett, Silver Lake and Fertile.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on March 23.

The voter pre-registration deadline is Friday, March 12. The county auditor must receive all registration forms no later than 5 p.m. unless postmarked on or before Monday, March 8.

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, they will be

District 2, see Page 2



## Weather to melt by

**The effects of warmer weather were becoming transparent last week on the Shell Rock River as water began to collect in a trail down the center. With several warm days forecast this week, more water was likely to be seen soon.**



### The Week's WEATHER

by National Weather Service Observer John Podgorniak

| Date | Hi | Lo | Prec. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tues. Feb. 23 | 38 | 27 | |
| Wed. Feb. 24 | 35 | 21 | |
| Thurs. Feb. 25 | 31 | 18 | |
| Fri. Feb. 26 | 35 | 18 | |
| Sat. Feb. 27 | 44 | 24 | |
| Sun. Feb. 28 | 37 | 19 | |
| Mon. March 1 | 24 | 19 | |

## Taxes
Cont. from Page 1

expenditures will outpace revenue, for a small overall decrease in the City's fund balance at the end of the coming fiscal year.

The City of Northwood's levy rate will increase from $11.62863 per $1,000 of valuation during the current fiscal year to $11.64511 for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. That is an increase of $0.01648 per $1,000 of taxable valuation.

The taxable valuation of property in the city, combined with the levy determines the amount of property tax revenue the city receives in a fiscal year.

Re-estimated figures for the City's budget for the current fiscal year called for $670,945 in property taxes. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year includes property taxes levied of $676,672. That is an increase of $5,727, or 0.85 percent.

Two categories of revenue will see bigger shifts compared to the re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year year.

The category of charges for fees and services will increase $285,864 to $1,440,559.

One reason for the increase is that the City's wastewater has begun processing runoff fluids from the Lake Mills landfill, and the City is receiving funds for the service.

The category also reflects a potential grant that the City has applied for, to pay for a computer system at the City's water treatment facility.

Under the category of miscellaneous revenue, the City has included other potential WCDA grants. The City is also the pass-through for a State grant of $453,000 for the Vikings Activity Center, which is reflected in the miscellaneous category.

When combined with other sources of revenue, the City of Northwood has budgeted for total revenue for the next fiscal year to be $4,678,242, which is an increase of $591,191 or 14.46 percent over the current year's re-estimated budget revenues of $4,087,051.

The City's expenditures for the coming fiscal year are projected to increase, according to the proposed budget.

Expenditures in the coming fiscal year will total $4,010,794, up $680,762 or 20.44 percent from $3,330,032 in the current fiscal year.

Two categories of expenditures show significant changes in the proposed budget.

The first of those is in the community and economic development category, which will increase from $556,000 to $778,050.

The increase reflects the other side of the Vikings Activity Center grant, which the City will pass on to the Northwood-Kensett school district to pay for the VAC construction.

The category also includes some funds budgeted in the event that the district pursues any part of a housing developoment.

The other expense category with a larger increase is in the business type and enterprise category. An increase from $1,088,094 to $1,379,059 reflects the grant for the computer system at the wastewater system. Also included in this category is a potential solar energy project at the city's water plant.

The City's proposed budget projects that at the start of the fiscal year, on July 1, 2021, the City of Northwood will have a beginning fund balance of $2,359,332. The budget shows an estimated ending fund balance on June 30, 2022, of $2,338,780. Over the course of the year, according to the coming fiscal year's proposed budget, the city will take in $20,552 less than it spends, a fund balance decrease of 0.87 percent.

The Northwood City Council will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget at its regular meeting on Monday, March 8, at 6 p.m.

## Disease
Cont. from Page 1

ing 12 hours a day outside playing sports. I played pretty much everything, baseball, basketball, track and even played one year of junior high football.

Never once did I break a bone playing an organized school sport, it was always playing a sport at home where I would fall wrong and fracture a bone.

You grow out of breaking bones around puberty so from the eighth grade until just a few years ago when I slipped on the ice fracturing my pelvis and two ribs, I was broken bone free, but not out of the woods as I would soon learn.

As you age, Osteogenesis Imperfecta as it's called, affects your connective tissue, ruptures of the patella, Achilles and quadricep tendons along with the replacement of my aortic heart valve followed, as well as I'm sure you all know my aortic dissection that nearly took my life close to two year ago.

I have sometimes told people that I sympathize with Lou Gehrig when he said that despite his disease, he was the luckiest man in the world. And while Osteogenesis Imperfecta isn't a death sentence like the disease Gehrig suffered from, it has been a struggle.

I've had 33 broken bones now, numerous knee surgeries, two open heart surgeries, including one where I was basically dead for close to 20 minutes, and as I get older it becomes harder to stand and walk.

That's what eventually brought me to the Anchor, with my body no longer able to handle a physical job I auditioned for a job at the Austin Herald covering sports, with no experience in writing or photography, I just winged it and got the job, eventually transferring to Albert Lea, where I have lived since 1994. So after covering Northwood-Kensett for the Albert Lea Tribune for three years and falling in love with not only the kids, but the community, I jumped at the chance to come to the Anchor when John Podgorniak asked me one night in Lake Mills when the Vikings still played class A football.

For my first three years at the Anchor I covered all three schools, N-K, Rockford and Central Springs, forging some relationships with coaches and administrators that I cherish to this day.

But covering three schools the way I demanded of myself, which was to give them all the best coverage they've ever gotten, was too much on a body suffering from Osteogenesis Imperfecta, I dropped everything but coverage of N-K, which I did solely up until two years ago when I started covering CS again.

So now it's been two years of covering the two schools and while it's harder on my body, I don't have nearly the time off as I used to have when I was covering just N-K, the pain has proved to be well worth getting to know all the kids, but the pain does persist.

I can't count the times I've come home from a football game that was followed by a two hour drive and could barely make it out of the truck and up the three steps I need to navigate to get in the house.

To do it all without pain is a fantasy, but, without Osteogenesis Imperfecta I wouldn't be living my dream right now, and that's working at the Northwood Anchor and Manly Signal. I'm a high school dropout with a GED and a semester of community college writing sports for two local newspapers. How much more of a fantasy could it be?

But really, when I look back at my career in Northwood, none of it would have happened had I not suffered from Osteogenesis Imperfecta, and for that, believe it or not, I'm thankful.

I always feel uncomfortable when people thank me for what I do. It makes me feel selfish because I'm the one that's grateful. If not for this job and having these communities depend on me for their sports coverage, I'd be sitting at home wilting away receiving disability checks every month.

I know the kids probably don't notice whether I'm at a game or not, but me convincing myself that it matters that I'm there covering their sports, that no one cares like I do, well, it's what has gotten me through this debilitating disease the last few years.

You see, it's me that owes all of you, more than you will ever know. It's why I'm grateful to be at the Anchor and Signal. Without Osteogenesis Imperfecta I would have never found my dream job, writing sports for the best student athletes and fans in the world.

# IDPH announces vaccine assistance options

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) announces the launch of Vaccinate.Iowa.gov, a new website that provides information about vaccine priority populations and eligibility, resources available for Iowans age 65 and older, and answers to frequently asked questions about vaccine. The site also hosts a locator tool where users can enter their zip code to find vaccine providers near them.

Once a provider is selected, appointment scheduling will be done through the provider's website or scheduling platform. Information on the site will be updated regularly and site content can be translated into multiple languages.

To help older Iowans navigate the scheduling process, IDPH is partnering with 211 to provide a dedicated team of vaccine navigators who will schedule appointments for Iowans age 65 and older who are unable to do so because of technology barriers. This 211 vaccine navigator service will be available starting the week of March 8.

As of February 26, Iowa has administered 626,947 vaccines.

More vaccine administration information, as well as other Iowa coronavirus information is available online at coronavirus.iowa.gov.

"We encourage Iowans to remain patient as more vaccine arrives in the weeks and months ahead. It is also critical to continue practicing the mitigation measures that can slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"Wear a mask or face covering

"Practice social distancing with those outside your household

"Clean your hands frequently with soap and water

"Stay home if you feel sick

"Get tested if you are exposed to, or have symptoms of COVID-19

"Get a COVID-19 vaccine when you are eligible."

## District 2
Cont. from Page 1

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, March 12. Voters may request and vote ballots at the auditor's office until 5 p.m. on Monday, March 22.

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Fax 641-324-2432
email:
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# Worth's COVID death toll up in past week

Since last week, three more Worth County lives have been lost to COVID-19, according to the State's coronavirus data website. At the same time, the county has seen the smallest number of new cases week-to-week in months.

Since last Monday, February 22, three more Worth County residents have been lost to COVID-19, bringing the total to seven.

In the eight county area that includes Worth, there have been 281 deaths to COVID-19. That is up five from the previous Monday.

In the past week, the positivity rate, the amount testing positive out of those tested, increased from 2.7% on February 22 to 6.7% on March 1.

The 14 day positivity rate reflects the number that have tested positive out of those tested, falling within the two week window that COVID-19 may be transmitted and in which symptoms may develop, according to the CDC.

In Worth County, the 14 day positivity rate, as of March 1, was 3.7%. That was up from 3.1% on February 22.

From from February 15 to February 22, cases increased to 687, an increase of 6%. In the past week, from February 22 to March 1, cases increased to 696, an increase of 0.9%.

Overall positivity rates were up slightly. Overall positivity rates include the amount of residents with COVID-19, out of those taking a test since testing began.

From February 15 to February 22, the rate increased to 19.8% From February 22 to March 1, the rate remained the same.

A total of 3,510 Worth County residents had been tested as of March 1. A total of 10,813 tests had been taken by Worth County residents.

In counties that border Worth, there were a total of 17,957 confirmed cases, as of Monday, up 172 from the previous week. Cases in neighboring counties included 1,380 in Winnebago, 1,468 in Hancock, 5,329 in Cerro Gordo, 1,627 in Floyd and 1,307 in Mitchell counties in Iowa, and 2,805 in Freeborn and 4,041 in Mower in Minnesota.

As of March 1, 1,450 vaccine doses have been administered to Worth County residents. That is up roughly 210 from the previous week. A total of 343 people in Worth County have received two doses, for a full course of the vaccine, up 99 from the previous week.

Information and resources on COVID19 in Iowa can be found online at coronavirus.iowa.gov.

Local information, including about vaccine access and availability can be found at Worth County Public Health's Facebook page.

# Tips to help deal with getting COVID vaccinations

Piercing the skin with something sharp usually isn't a pleasant experience. Some people even can become physically sick and overwhelmingly anxious at the very thought of an injection. With COVID-19 vaccinations becoming more available in the community, Mayo Clinic Health System is offering advice to those who might be afraid of the needle poke.

"A fear of needles can manifest itself in many ways, depending on each individual," says Jessica Wadium, certified child life specialist at Mayo Clinic Health System. "Just the sight of a needle, a phobia called trypanophobia, can cause sweating, nausea, fainting, dizziness and even heart palpitations."

Immunizations using a needle have been around for centuries. Vaccinations protect people from preventable diseases, including diphtheria, measles, polio and influenza. COVID-19 vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are being offered to patients as they become available.

"Fear of needles shouldn't stop you from getting your COVID-19 vaccine or any other vaccination," added Wadium. "Although it's a small poke and it's over in seconds, it is important to recognize that there are many ways to help counter the fear and anxiety that can stop people from getting a vaccination."

Wadium offers a few strategies when coping with receiving a COVID-19 vaccination (or any other phobias):

• Deep breathing. Deep breathing lowers pain, relaxes muscles and decreases anxiety. This helps because when the muscle is relaxed, the injection does not hurt as much.

• Distraction. "Distractions can work differently for each person," explains Wadium. "Common alternatives to help focus on something else include watching a video, playing a song or talking to another person. Any of these methods can help the individual focus on another topic during the injection, and, therefore, lowers the fear in the moment."

• Voicing your preferences. "Feel free to inform the nurse on what helps the individual cope best. Let the nurse know if you would prefer to have him or her count down, or have a specific arm you would like the injection in. You also can let them know if you want to watch or look away," Wadium adds. "Most importantly, tell the nurse if you have a history of feeling lightheaded or faint with needles and would benefit from laying back."

• Positioning (pediatric patients). Comfort positioning, such as having the child sit on the caregiver's lap facing chest-to-chest, promotes feelings of control, comfort and active participation in one's medical care, which can increase compliance and a positive experience.

• Preparation. Talk or think through each step, feel more prepared and in control of the situation. Do not stop thinking through once the injection is finished. Remind yourself what you are going to do after the injection, as a reminder that it is one moment in time.

Pain management. "Ask the nurse about pain management if it is a pediatric patient, patient with special needs or if there is high fear of pain. For pediatric patients, there are multiple options for pain management, and these may be available for adults, as well," Wadium says.

N-K
Cont. from Page 1

Megan Thorson at the school or by email at mthorson@nkvikings.com.

Appointments are available between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.







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# Worth County Top of Iowa Trail Meeting set for March 3

Worth County Trail enthusiasts will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 3 at 6 p.m. via a Zoom Connection.

The meeting will focus on organizing plans for trails in each of the seven Worth County communities and designated potential rural areas.

More information is available by calling Tom Reid, "Worth County Top of Iowa Trails" committee chair at 641-323-0003 or Dennis Johnson at the Worth County Extension Office at 641-324-1531.

# Worth County Fair 4-H and FFA swine weigh-ins held March 5 & 6

The Worth County 4-H and FFA will be holding the Worth County Fair Junior Swine Show Weigh-ins on Friday, March 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, March 6, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the N-K High School Ag. Shop in Northwood.

Exhibitors need to have the pigs ear notched and castrated. Members may weigh both gilts and barrows with a maximum weight of 85 pounds.

More information is available by calling Worth County Extension Education Specialist Dennis Johnson at the Worth County Extension Office at 641-324-1531 or Marty Cotter, Northwood-Kensett High School Vocational Agriculture Instructor, at 641-324-2142.

# Worth County 4-H State Recognition Day held on Saturday, March 27

Worth County 4-H senior high members will be participating in a statewide 4-H Recognition Interview Day on Saturday, March 27. This is scheduled for those Worth County 4-H'ers who submitted State 4-H Recognition Award applications on February 1.

Worth County 4-H led the state again with 29 4-H State Recognition applications submitted, with Polk County 4-H at Des Moines in second place with 18 applications. The awards recognition includes trips to Atlanta, Georgia, and Washington, D.C., and includes State 4-H Project awards as well as opportunities for 4-H members to serve as State 4-H Council and Shooting Sports ambassadors.

More information is available by calling Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist, at 641-390-0795 or emailing him at djohn@iastate.edu or contacting Mindy Tenold, Worth County Extension Youth Coordinator, at mtenold@iastate.edu.

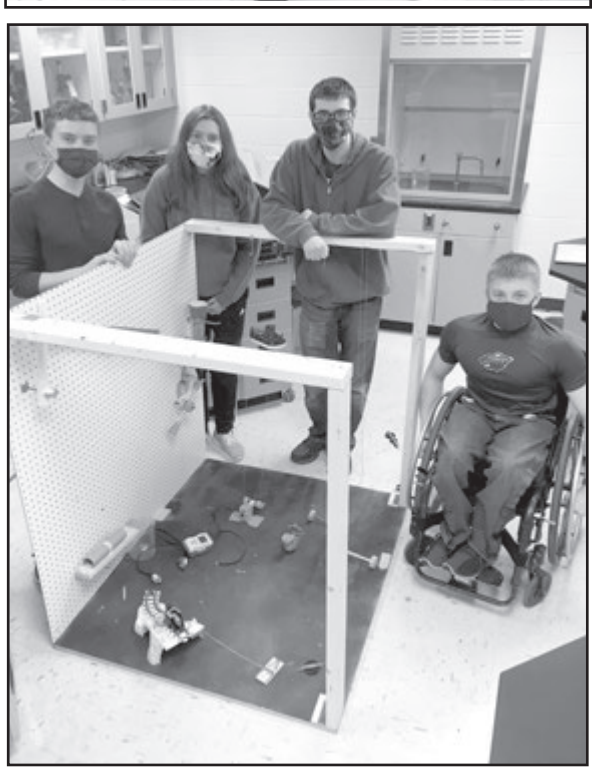
# 4-H Animal Science Round-up applications due on April 1

All Worth County 4-H members interested in participating in this year's 4-H Animal Science Roundup during the annual State 4-H Conference scheduled for June 29-July 1 are reminded to get applications submitted to the State 4-H office by Thursday, April 1.

This opportunity is being offered to all eighth grade to 12th grade 4-H members that might want to attend one of three days of educational training in the areas of horse, swine, sheep, dairy, beef and poultry.

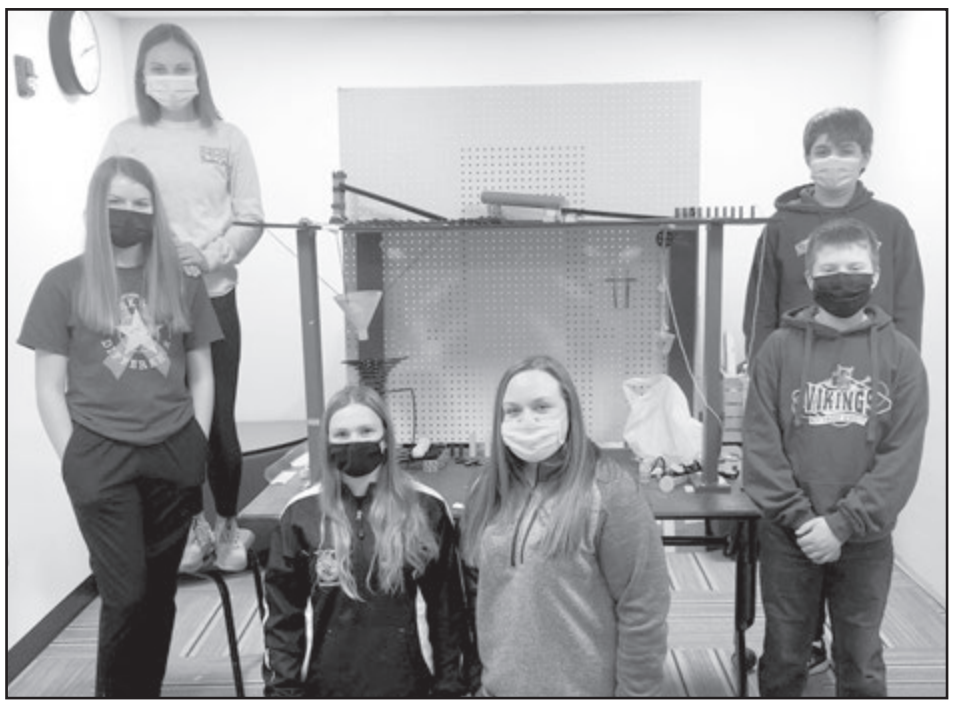
More information is available by calling Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist, at the Extension Office in Northwood at 641-390-0795 or emailing Dennis at djohn@iastate.edu.





## Getting ready to Rube

**For several years, students in Northwood-Kensett's physics classes and Math Club have taken part in a machine design contest, which has been known as the Rube Goldberg competition. It is named after the engineer, inventor and cartoonist who drew excessively complicated contraptions to complete simple tasks. The competition challenges students to build their own complicated machines. This year's theme is "Driving Change through Transportation." The competition will be held in St. Ansgar on Friday, March 12. Pictured at top is Physics Team 2, including (from left) team captain Ruthie Conlin, Kayla Senne, Evelyn Ocel, captain Thomas Block, Kaden Mayberry and Hayden Moore. Physic Team 1 is seen in the middle picture and includes team captain Nathan Hannemann, Emma Davidson, Tyler Husske, captain Wyatt Willand and Harli Reich (not pictured). Pictured at bottom is the Math Club team, including Chloe Costello, Madalynn Hanson, Jadyn Beland, captain Teagan Johnson, captain Weston Willand and Kenny Conlin. Sponsoring the N-K teams are Beland Tree Service, Trustile Doors and Viafield.**




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# Legislators update, answer questions at February forum



The Iowa legislators that represent Worth County at the Capitol in Des Moines were recently in Northwood to share updates on legislation and answer questions from their constituents.

Iowa Senator Waylon Brown, representing Iowa's Senate District 26, and Representative Jane Bloomingdale, representing Iowa House District 51, welcomed visitors at the Olson Community Room in Northwood, in a forum hosted by Winn-Worth Betco and the City of Northwood.

The legislators opened the forum with a discussion of some topics being discussed in their committees.

For Bloomingdale, that primarily included education funding, ranging from the state aid to schools in additional funds to be given to districts that continued educating students in person this school year, including both districts in Worth County.

Brown mentioned a bill that would allow those 14 1/2 to get a permit to drive vehicles between farms. Brown also shared progress on efforts to treat paycheck protection program funds the same for fiscal and calendar year tax filers.

The legislators were asked about a number of topics following the update on their focus in the session so far.

One self-proclaimed newcomer to following state politics asked what is the best way to follow the progress of a bill being considered.

Brown said that information is available from the Iowa legislature website, where bills can be searched by topic, the legislator that introduced a bill or bill number.

That person also asked for advice when contacting a legislator.

Brown and Bloomingdale said that they can be reached by email at their legislative addresses. They did advise that anyone using that method should make sure that they make an email personal to stand out from form emails.

They also said that people can reach out by phone.

Both also shared examples of outreach they make. Brown noted a recent meeting he had with members of rural electric cooperatives. Bloomingdale pointed to video conferences with superintendents and meetings with local elected officials.

One forum attendee addressed concerns of a "bottle bill" that was being considered at the time. That version would allow grocery stores to stop accepting redeemable cans and bottles if there were a redemption center within 20 miles. There was a concern that would be a long distance, particularly for elderly residents or those without a way to travel that far.

Brown shared the discussion he had heard about several different bottle bill options, noting that finding a consensus remained a struggle. Other considerations included an automated deposit system, the concerns of grocery stores forced to find a safe way to store dirty, contaminated containers in limited, space near food. He said that legislators continued to struggle to find a balance that best meets the needs of all involved.

Bloomingdale shared that she had heard discussion about eliminating the money for returns, as had been done in neighboring states, without additional littering impacts.

Another person asked about the registration stickers on vehicles, and the discrepancy based on how much one person's vehicle may actually impact roads.

Brown noted that the fees are in place to pay to maintain the state's roads and bridges.

Asked about conflicts between property owners and utilities, in regards to managing vegetation around utility lines and infrastructure, Brown said that discussions continue and that he would like to find a way that both sides can work together, noting that the utilities want to keep their employees safe and property owners want to make sure their property is respected. At the same time maintenance is necessary for the company to provide service and for landowners to have power.

Also discussed was biofuel standards.

Brown said that the current focus remained on the ethanol standards, with biodiesel up for future consideration. Brown also noted that there was some discussion about establishing a standardized color for handles at the fuel pump so people could recognize which type of fuel they were buying.

A Northwood resident shared her concerns about the heavy truck traffic on Highway 65 through Northwood's downtown.

Brown said that he would share the concerns of more than one person at the meeting.

Also mentioned was the possibility of alternate routes.

In response, one Manly resident at the meeting pointed out moving the highway would have its own drawbacks, noting the comparison of Manly's modern downtown to Northwood's, which has continued to reap benefits of the passing travelers.

Alternative energy was also discussed.

Bloomingdale said that she has heard more positive comments than negative, with landowners benefitting from additional taxes and rent, and those in favor of alternative energy.

In terms of solar, Bloomingdale shared efforts that had been made to address a potential financial impact on the county's tax rolls. She said changes had been made to lower the solar project value to qualify to pass on utility taxes to counties, dropping the project total from $10 million to $1 million.

Bloomingdale said that the lower limit would mean that a project being considered in Worth would bring more in replacement taxes than the land previously generated in ag land taxes.




# Ag Decision Maker unveils new look for 25th anniversary

A popular source of online information for the agricultural industry in Iowa has a new and improved look. The Ag Decision Maker, published by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, unveiled a new design January 16.

The new site offers the same timely information Iowans and farmers across the Midwest have depended on for years, but in a more mobile-friendly format.

Ag Decision Maker large.The site includes a wide range of resources for both crop and livestock producers, including whole farm resources, business development resources, information for cooperatives and the energy markets.

"This has been a multi-year project to make the materials more accessible and mobile friendly," said Ann Johanns, education extension specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "We cleared out some dated materials that weren't relevant anymore, with mobile friendly being our real goal."

The site is updated monthly with some updates that occur more often, including market prices and farm business data.

The goal of the Ag Decision Maker is to keep producers and the industry informed, so they can make timely decisions for their operation.

In addition to the website, there is an Ag Decision Maker newsletter, available each month online and in print.

Links to videos and current webinars are also available, including farm bill information, ag market outlook, farmland leasing information, the Farm Financial Planning Program at Iowa State and much more.

Johanns updated the website with the help of Liisa Jarvinen, who has been involved in numerous website projects at Iowa State University.

The February edition of Ag Decision Maker includes the recently released 2021 estimated costs of crop production, and an Ag Market Outlook presentation with Chad Hart, following the release of the February World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

Additional updates for February include a series of annual updates on livestock returns, prices, and historical basis.

"Since its launch, Ag Decision Maker has supported the efforts of the Farm Management Team, and we look forward to continuing that virtual presence along with going back to more in-person events," said Johanns.

## Iowa State University Extension Worth County Office 641-324-1531

### Calendar of Events for March 2021

March 3– Ornamental and Turf Pesticide Recertification Meeting at Worth County Extension Office Community Room (Fairgrounds), Northwood, 9 to 11:30 A.M. with Lacey Waller, Worth County Extension Office Manager

March 3–"Worth County Top of Iowa Trail" meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting, 6 P.M. with Tom Reid, "Worth County Top of Iowa Trail" Committee Chair and Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist

March 5 & 6–Worth County Fair Swine Derby Weigh-in at Northwood-Kensett Vo. Ag. Shop. 4-6 P.M. on March 5 & 9 to 11 A.M. on March 6 with Dennis Johnson, Marty Cotter, Northwood-Kensett Vo Ag Instructor, Jake Trainer, Worth County Fair Swine Superintendent and Jackie Backhaus, Worth County Fair Swine Superintendent

March 7–Worth County 4-H Hoofprints Club Meeting at Worth County Extension Community Room (Fairgrounds), Northwood, 1:30 P.M. with Pat Rothove, Hoofprint 4-H Club Leader

March 8–ISU Extension Foods I-Team Meet and Greet at Virtual Zoom Connection, 3 to 4 P.M. with Mindy Tenold, Worth County Extension Youth Coordinator, Lacey Waller, Worth County Extension Office Manager and Dennis Johnson

March 9–Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Annual Conference at Day Long Virtual Zoom Connection with Lacey Waller, Mindy Tenold and Dennis Johnson

March 10–Worth County Extension Private Pesticide Applicator Training at Worth County Extension Community Room (Fairgrounds), 9 A.M. with Lacey Waller and Dennis Johnson

March 10–Certified Handlers Commercial Applicators Training at Worth County Extension Office, Northwood, 9-11:30 A.M. with Lacey Waller

March 11–Worth County 4-H e-Staff Meeting at Adobe Connect Virtual Meeting, 9 A.M. with Mindy Tenold and Dennis Johnson

March 11–Worth County 4-H Staff Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting, 10 A.M. with Gail Castillo, Region 4 4-H and Youth Field Specialist with Lacey Waller, Mindy Tenold, Donovan Olson, ISU Extension Region 4 Director and Dennis Johnson

March 11–Region 4 County Extension Directors Meeting at Virtual Web Ex Connection Meeting, 2 P.M. with Donovan Olson and Dennis Johnson

March 11–Worth County Fair Board Meeting at Worth County Extension Office Community Room, Northwood, 7 P.M. with Worth County Fair Board and Dennis Johnson

March 13–Iowa Association of Extension Councils Annual Conference at Virtual Zoom Session, 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. with Jennifer Vit, Executive Director, Iowa Association of Extension Councils, Curt Schaub, President of Worth County Extension Council, Donovan Olson and Dennis Johnson

March 18–Worth County 4-H Interview Preparation Night at Worth County Extension Office WebEx Virtual Connection, Northwood, 7 P.M. with Evan Fritz, Worth County 4-H Communications Project Leader, Mindy Tenold and Dennis Johnson

March 22–Covid 19 Town Hall Meeting at Virtual Zoom Connection, 9-10:30 A.M. with John Lawrence, Vice-President of ISU Extension and Outreach and Dennis Johnson

March 24–Worth County Extension Private Pesticide Applicator Training at Worth County Extension Community Room (Fairgrounds), 9 A.M. with Lacey Waller and Dennis Johnson

March 24–Northwood-Kensett Schools Junior and Senior High Teen Mental Health Education Staff Inservice at Virtual Zoom Session, 1:45 P.M. with Keith Fritz, Northwood-Kensett Junior and Senior High School Principal and Dennis Johnson

March 25–Worth County 4-H State 4-H Recognition Final Preparation Meeting at Virtual WebEx Connection Meeting, 7 P.M. with Dennis Johnson, Evan Fritz and Mindy Tenold

March 27–Worth County 4-H State Recognition Day at Iowa State University, Ames, All Day with Mindy Tenold, and Dennis Johnson

March 30–Worth County Extension Council Meeting at Virtual Zoom Meeting, 7 P.M. with Curt Schaub, Worth County Extension Council President, Lacey Waller, Mindy Tenold, Dennis Johnson, and Donovan Olson, Region 3 Extension Education Director

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# The Constituent Connection



## Waylon Brown
State Senator
District 26

**88th General Assembly:**

My Mondays typically start off the same during session: get up and go through the usual morning routine of loading the car for the week, wish my wife and kids a good week, make my coffee and out the door I go for the two and a half hour commute to the Capitol. But this week was different. This week was National FFA Week, and I detoured to Charles City High School to visit and observe some of their teams and individuals practice for their upcoming contests. It was great to visit with the advisors and see everything they were working on. I also had an opportunity to see the Comet Corner. Hopefully they have ties soon so I can sport a new tie at the Capitol.

This week was once again busy under the dome. One of the biggest bills which saw floor debate this week was the Election Integrity bill. There has been much misinformation about this legislation.

The bill would strengthen Iowa's elections after the vulnerabilities found after this last election cycle and standardize election law across the state and across every county. It changes the signatuåre requirements of candidates seeking state and federal office to a uniform benchmark, brings our state more in line with the national average for early voting days and return deadlines, and standardizes the times polls close in Iowa instead of it varying for different elections. Iowans will have three weeks to vote in an election, which provides time for informed voting and reduces voter remorse.

We heard from many county auditors with concerns about one section of the bill that adds new penalties for auditors who refuse to follow the law. This legislation will not punish auditors who simply make mistakes. This legislation will only punish those auditors who openly defy the election law as written by the Iowa Legislature. Auditors found to be intentionally violating state law are subject a fine up to $10,000 from the Secretary of State and the county attorney will be notified to investigate possible election misconduct.

This legislation does not inhibit any voter from requesting and voting by absentee ballot. Iowans will still have all avenues to request an absentee ballot as they did in previous elections. Request forms can be found on the Secretary of State's website, at the county auditor's office, or even by mail if a campaign, organization, or political party decides to send them out or if a voter requests one from their auditor.

I understand not everybody agrees with this legislation. I, however, believe this legislation does make improvements to our election laws in the state of Iowa and will help to ensure our state will be less likely to see issues that happened in other states, which threatened to undermine the legitimacy of their elections.

Another bill moving through the process that I am managing is SSB 1046. This piece of legislation sets up a sunrise review framework to ensure that before a new occupational license or board is created in this state, the regulation created is the least restrictive manner to ensure the safety concerns for the public are applied. This language also restructures the functions of the State Government Efficiency Review Committee to perform an ongoing five-year review of all boards, committees, councils except for state pension boards and the IECDB. The intent of this legislation is to promote good governance and opportunities to eliminate redundancies and improve efficiencies in state government.

Next week is the first funnel. Any Senate bill needs to be through the committee process and floor eligible by the end of next week in order to still be able to be discussed this session. The same applies to house bills in their respected chamber. Next week will be very busy with continued subcommittee work with most committees meeting multiple times to continue moving legislation through the process. I anticipate little to no floor debate next week due to it being the first funnel.

# An update on elections



## Jane Bloomingdale
Iowa House
District 51

Week Seven

This week our attention was focused on the Election Integrity Bill and after several hours of debate on Wednesday night it passed out of the House 57-37. The changes made will provide uniformity in our election laws, streamline our process, require maintenance on voter databases and overall strengthen our election security. What this bill doesn't do, is suppress the vote.

This bill shortens the absentee ballot request period to 70 days (from 120) and shortens the mailing period for absentee ballots to 20 days (from 29). You can vote early in-person at the auditor's office 20 days prior to the election. This change brings us in line with the states around us and puts us at the national average. After you return your ballot, you can track it through your auditor's office, as there are daily updates when ballots are received.

The polls will close at 8 p.m. and your ballot must be received by the close of polls on election day or it will not count. This will help our volunteer poll workers who currently work a 12 hour plus day. We are still open later than the national average.

This bill prohibits the mailing of pre-filled absentee ballot request forms and county auditors from mailing unsolicited ballots. It prohibits ballot harvesting and limits who can return an absentee ballot for someone else. The exception here is for LT Care Facilities, they will be handled the same.

It creates a fine for election officials who are issued technical infractions and an appeal process that doesn't currently exist. Fines are for willful misconduct, not a simple mistake.

Drop boxes were authorized and used in the last election as a result of the pandemic. This bill codifies the use of a drop box with prescribed security measures. This will allow voters another way to return their absentee ballot.

The auditors in our state do a great job administering our elections. Thank you to the auditors in my district for their opinions, concerns and suggestions about these changes. We have small offices in this district and our auditors do a great job with limited staff and resources.

Next week is funnel week, so we will be busy with subcommittee and committee work. For a bill to be considered this year, it must pass out of committee in the House or the Senate this week. We have a couple of bills to move in Local Government, but we did a lot of work last week to make time for other committees this week.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you with any questions, comments, or concerns. I can be reached at jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov. Check out my Facebook page for other updates.

# Green Thumb Garden Club meets Jan. 25

The Green Thumb Garden Club met on January 25, 2021, at the Olson Room. An installation of officers for the next two year term was performed.

The meeting program was a review of upcoming events and programs for meetings. Members were informed of several Zoom classes and also those available online to further our gardening knowledge. Mary Low and Penny Robb served lunch after the program.

The Green Thumb Garden Club met on February 22, 2021 at the Olson Room. Mary Low reported on a Zoom class that she, Penny R. and Nancy A. had participated in. The topic was designing with Market flowers, available in grocery stores. The program consisted of discussion and clarification of the fair entry rules in Botanical Arts category for Worth County Fair 2021. It was very helpful to review this information. Refreshments were served by hostess Nancy Amundson.

Nancy Amundson,
Secretary

# Northwood Anchor Church

**Fertile Lutheran Church**
Wednesday, Lenten Service, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Worship Service with Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School & 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, Lenten Worship, 7 p.m.; Thursday, MANNA Open 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Worship - Bethany, 9 a.m., Radio Broadcast of Worship on 97.1 FM or Kensettia.com, Worship Elk Creek, 9 a.m., Sunday School - Elk Creek, 9:45 a.m., Bethany, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, MANNA Open, 10 a.m. - Noon.
Pastor Tom Martin

**Trinity United Methodist, Bolan**
Tuesday, Bible Study via Zoom from Bethel UMC; Sunday, Worship Service/Communion, 9:10 a.m., Coffee Fellowship, 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.

**First Lutheran Church, Northwood**
Wednesday, Lenten Services, 7 p.m.; Sunday - 9 a.m. worship, also available to watch live on the Facebook page; Wednesday - 5:45 p.m. Confirmation

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


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Please bring any worn or unserviceable flags to the Veterans Affairs office. There will be a Dignified Disposal Ceremony later this year. June 14th, Flag Day, would be the preferred day.
*Watch this space for an update.*

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Friday: Baked Cod Fillet, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Berry Fluff Jell-O Salad
Monday: Half Ham Sandwich, Cup of Potato Soup, Mixed Fruit, Ice Box Cookies
Tuesday: Chicken Noodle Hot Dish, Coleslaw, Peaches, Banana Bread
Wednesday: Herb-Rubbed Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Spinach Augratin, Pears

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## Don't Worry About Your Own Happiness




One of the supreme ironies of human nature is the fact that being overly concerned about our own happiness usually diminishes it, while working diligently to improve the welfare of others usually adds to our own happiness. And, while it is true that we should be the primary caretakers of our own welfare, and should tend to our own health, education and well-being with care, it is still the case that being overly concerned with our own happiness almost always interferes with it. Happiness is usually a by product of other activities. Perform your work well and you'll probably feel good about it. Cultivating your relationships with family and friends pays big dividends in terms of our happiness. Limit your desires for material things. Greed and envy are preventable obstacles to happiness; money and material things are a very fleeting source of satisfaction. So, do what you can to help others, and do it with a pure heart, seeking only the good of the other and not your own.
– Christopher Simon

***You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.***
***– John Bunyan***


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# Cook Bookin'



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

Bulwer Lytton, Edward Robert

**by Sandy Olson**

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

I have to confess I am not much of an authority on Caribbean cooking. I haven't traveled much in that part of the world and haven't studied the methods and ingredients of island cuisine. I acquired "Taste of the Caribbean: 70 Simple-To-Cook Recipes From This Tropical Cuisine" (1995, Smithmark Publishers Inc., NYC) to help understand what goes into the dishes enjoyed in that area of the world. Authored by Rosamund Grant, it is one of a series of cookbooks from the Creative Cooking Library. The following recipes are adapted for modern kitchens.

**Crab and Corn Gumbo**

2 tablespoons real butter
2/3 cup sherry wine
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon ketchup
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
4 oz. okra, trimmed and chopped
2 teaspoons Worcestershire
1 tablespoon finely chopped celery
2 ears sweet corn, off the cob
2 1/2 cups canned seafood broth
1 pound crab meat
Fresh cilantro for garnish
Hot pepper sauce, to taste

SANDY'S NOTE: use frozen corn, thawed, if fresh is not available. About 1 cup. Crab meat can be found frozen or fresh in markets or there is the "fake" crab that is readily available and much more economical. Use your best judgment when making this soup. Seafood broth or stock can be found canned or bottled or boxed. There are also paste versions to be mixed with boiling water. Okra can be found frozen or fresh if in season. It's a must for a gumbo! Don't worry about it becoming "slimy" when cooked as this is a thickened soup so the okra texture won't be noticable.

Make a golden roux by melting the butter in a heave saucepan over low heat and adding the flour, stirring well. Cook this for about 10 minutes and watch the color change from white to creamy to tan. Remove from the pan to a plate and cool. Heat the oil in the same saucepan over medium heat and saute the onion, okra, garlic and celery. Mix together and cook for a few minutes. Add the broth, sherry, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce and spices plus hot sauce to taste. Mix well and bring to a boil then simmer gently for about 10 minutes or until the vegetables are tender. Add the roux, stirring well into the soup and cook for another few minutes until thickened. Add the corn and crab meat and simmer over low heat until the corn is cooked, about 10 minutes. Spoon into serving bowls and garnish with some chopped fresh cilantro, if desired.

**Beef Pot Roast with Red Onions (needs to be started the day before serving)**

3-4 pound bottom round beef roast
1 1/4 cups red wine
1 tablespoon hoisin sauce
1 1/4 cups cold beef stock
2 large garlic cloves, crushed
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 tablespoon five-spice powder
1/4 teaspoon dried basil
1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
flour or cornmeal for dusting
1/2 medium green bell pepper, thinly sliced

This recipe is best cooked in a cast iron Dutch oven or very heavy deep skillet. Cut a deep pocket in the roast (NOTE: if you find one that is rolled and tied, just untie it for stuffing). Spread the hoisin sauce on the meat and add the garlic cloves and half the five-spice powder. Layer the sliced onion and green pepper inside and sprinkle with the basil. Retie the roast or seal the pocket with some toothpicks. Sprinkle the outside with the remaining five-spice powder. Place the meat in a large bowl. Add the wine and cold beef stock; try to make sure the meat is covered. Cover the container with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least several hours; overnight is better. NOTE: if there is not enough liquid to cover the meat, roll it around a few times during the marinating period) Remove the meat and save the marinade. Roll the roast in either fine cornmeal or flour. Heat the oil in the Dutch oven and brown the roast on all sides. Remove the meat from the pan and drain away any excess fat. Return the meat to the pan and add the marinade. Bring to a boil the cover and let the meat simmer gently over low heat for 2 ½ to 3 hours or until it is meltingly tender. Transfer the meat to a serving place and tent to keep it warm. Bring the marinade to a boil and reduce by half. Serve this sauce alongside the sliced meat. It is traditionally served with mashed sweet potatoes and garnished with fresh basil.

**Coconut Ice Cream**

1 can (14 oz.) evaporated milk
1 teaspoon almond extract
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
Freshly ground nutmeg
1 can (14 oz.) coconut milk or cream
Lemon slices, shredded
coconut, lime slices

Mix together the three milks in a large freezer-proof bowl. Stir in the nutmeg and almond extract. Chill in the freezer for 1-2 hours or until it is semi-frozen. Remove from the freezer and whisk the mixture with a hand or electric whisk until it is fluffy and almost doubled in volume. Pour into a freezer container and freeze. When ready to serve, remove from freezer to allow the ice cream to soften a bit. Scoop into servings bowls and garnish with shredded coconut and lime/lemon slices.

Caribbean cooks use similar techniques but some very different ingredients in their dishes. This cookbook features full-color pictures for each step of the recipes which aids those of us landlubbers to create a recipe as it supposed to be created. There is a spicy potato salad recipe that is familiar as well as unusual but that's for another time. And....that's all she wrote.

# Northwood Anchor Society



## A sentiment of sweets

**Worth County Farm Bureau public relations committee members Ron Davidson and Cary VanVeldhuizen recently presented goodies to the Northwood Anchor in appreciation for their continued support of agriculture.**

# Child care providers receive share of funds for local food

Funding totaling $43,000 has been awarded to 125 Early Care and Education (ECE) sites who participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to take part in the incentive pilot called Local Food Makes Cents: For Iowa Kids and Farmers. That includes three sites in Worth County.

Last November, partners within the Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Coalition were awarded a Farm to Early Care and Education Implementation Grant (FIG) from the Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN). One of the grant strategies focuses on improving child nutrition by investing in Iowa agriculture through this incentive pilot.

Awarded centers and home providers will be allocated funding from April through September to purchase local foods (fruits, vegetables, protein, dairy and grain) from local farmers, farmers markets or food hubs. This funding for local food procurement will help mitigate financial risks associated with new procurement partnerships and new foods.

Grant coordinators seek to create positive local food purchasing experiences for the providers, children and families, and local farmers and food hubs.

Reimbursement, administered by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, will occur after the purchase of local foods takes place and the foods are incorporated into a reimbursable meal or snack. Providers must spend a minimum of 50 percent of grant funds on local fruits and vegetables.

Local child care providers that will receive funds include Child Time Daycare, Jennifer Bram and Mandy's Daycare.

# Applications are still being accepted for energy assistance

North Iowa Community Actio Organization is still taking applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The deadline to apply is April 30, 2021.

Help with heating costs may be available if you are eligible for LIHEAP. The program is not designed to pay a household's total energy costs, but it can provide supplemental assistance for eligible households based on several factors. Those factors include total household income, household size, dwelling type and type of heating fuel, among others.

Applications are accepted by mail, email, online or by telephone.

Requirements for service are proof of income - all income must be from the same time period.

- Most recent 30 days of income or most recent federal income tax return.
- Include check stubs, award letters from social security, etc.
- FIP/child support/pension/dividends/all other income sources.

Social security number verification names and dates of birth for all household members. Most recent heat and electric bill.

Annual household income guidelines are: one household member, $22,330; two household members, $30,170; three household members, $38,010; four household members, $45,850; five household members, $53,690; and six household members, $61,530.

Printable applications are available on the website at www.nicao-online.org. Those interested may apply online at portal.liheapia.net.

More information is available by contacting the Outreach Office for Worth County at 404 N. Jackson, Charles City, IA 50616, or by calling 641-228-2893.

# Pi Day pie sale held by Elk Creek WELCA

That's right, celebrate Pi Day on March 14 (3.14) with a homemade pie. Pi Day celebrates the number pi, which is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It is a decimal number that never ends and is represented by the Greek letter n. Too much math info? Okay change the subject to pie!

The Elk Creek WELCA was not able to have their annual Soup and Pie Supper in 2020 nor this year, so they decided to sell the pies instead. They will take pre-orders until Thursday, March 11, and the pies can be picked up at Elk Creek Church, rural Kensett on Sunday, March 14. Pick up time will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the 14th. This will be a no-contact delivery to the vehicle.

Those interested may preorder pies by emailing e1kcreek1275@yahoo.com or calling 641-845-2580 and leave a message if no answer. If anyone has any questions feel free to call or email and they will reply as soon as possible.

The choices for pies are apple, cherry, blueberry, pumpkin, pecan, coconut, French silk and lemon meringue. People may also call for possible gluten free options. The pies will be $20 for a whole pie and a slice of pie will be $5. The proceeds from this fund raiser will support the mission areas, church projects and the quilting project.


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Elk Creek Lutheran WELCA
**Pi Day Pie Sale Fundraiser**
*Pre-Order Pies by Thursday, March 11*
*email elkcreek1275@yahoo.com*
*or call 641-845-2580*

Whole Pies $20
Slices $5
**Homemade Pies Available:** Apple, Cherry, Blueberry, Pumpkin, Pecan, Coconut, French Silk & Lemon Meringue

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For more information contact
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# Who to contact

**U.S. SENATORS**
**Charles E. Grassley (R)**
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C . 20510
202-224-3744
grassley@senate.gov
Website: www.grassley.senate.gov

**Joni Ernst (R)**
11Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3254
Fax: 202-224-9369
ernst@senate.gov
www.ernst.senate.gov

**U.S. CONGRESSMAN**
**Ashley Hinson (R)**
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2911
www.Hinson.house.gov

**STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 26**
Waylon Brown (R), St. Ansgar
waylon.brown@ legis.iowa.gov
515-281-3371

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 51**
Jane Bloomingdale (R), Northwood
jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov
515-281-3221

**To Contact a Legislator Call:**
Iowa SENATE 515-281-3371
Iowa HOUSE 515-281-3221
Or write c/o State Capital Building,
Des Moines, Iowa 50319


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# Ponderings from the Batt Cave

*By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.*

**Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting**

What's wrong?

Nothing and everything. I'm a born worrier.

Well, you were born at the right time.

**Driving by Bruce's drive**

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. We weren't cameras with legs in those days. We took a roll of film to Rexall Drug in New Richland for processing and called every couple of years to see if the photos were ready. The pandemic has caused my wife to review our photos and cull the herd. She came across a photo of a bear seen not long after we'd married. We thought all bears were like Yogi Bear. He might steal your picnic basket but was otherwise no threat. We'd left our lodgings (Lutsen Resort) in a friend's car. I'll call him Wally because that was his name. Wally drove his land yacht to Tofte in Cook County to watch the black bears feeding at the dump. Wally had brought along marshmallows to feed the bears. We treated the bruins as if they were Jet-Puffed marshmallow-loving huge hamsters. Gulls grabbed the marshmallows before the bears could, causing one bear to seek the source of the spongy confections. We dove back into the car. Wally had been taking photos of the bears. In his haste to relocate, he'd left his camera on the roof of the car. We sat in that parked vehicle, hoping to retrieve the camera when it was safe. The bear grabbed it. He chewed on it and covered the camera with bear slobber, but he took no photos of other bears.

**No grape, no nuts**

There is a shortage of Grape-Nuts cereal. My father favored them. So did Euell Gibbons, who was a spokesperson for Grape-Nuts cereal and said, "Ever eat a pine tree? Many parts are edible" in a TV commercial. Gibbons wrote a successful cookbook "Stalking the Wild Asparagus. He said that Grape-Nuts "Tastes like wild hickory nuts." Few people knew what a hickory nut tasted like, but it sounded good. I called it gravel and recommended my father soak it in milk for a week to make it chewable. Because of this, I hadn't noticed its shortage.

**I'm all hat and no cattle**

I've worked often in Texas, and my wife and I have spent time in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV). I had a Texas-sized bucket list. Birds, plants, insects, snakes, scorpions, H-E-B (grocery stores with 100,000 employees in Texas and northern Mexico), Buc-ee's (travel center/convenience store) and Whataburger. I saw all but Buc-ee's in the LRGV and needed to journey north to find one. The basic food groups in Texas are Tex-Mex, BBQ, grapefruit without sugar needed, chicken-fried steak and Whataburger. Whataburger is a fast-food chain the founder hoped would cause customers to exclaim, "What a burger!" Nolan Ryan, the Hall of Fame pitcher, promoted Whataburger.

**From the mailbag**

Neil Case of Albion, Ind. wrote, "An uncle, when he was 96, told me he was living so long because he was ornery. Then, pointing a finger at me, he said, 'And you're going to live longer than I will.' He lived to be 102. May you as long as my uncle."

**Bad joke department**

What do Winnie the Pooh and Attila the Hun have in common? They have the same middle name.

What's red and smells like blue paint? Red paint.

If you crossed the street, changed a lightbulb and walked into a bar today, your life is a joke.

Nature notes

1. Maple sap flow is triggered by thawing days followed by freezing nights.

2. Chipmunks are out and about.

3. Migrating Canada geese arrive.

4. Marcescent (withered but persistent) leaves drop from red oak and ironwood trees.

5. Wild turkeys have started their spring courtship with toms gobbling, flaring tails and strutting.

6. The bulk of the noisy, male robins tend to follow the 37-degree average daily isotherm as they move northward. There is a wide variation among individuals, but that temperature means food (earthworms) is available. An isotherm is a line drawn on a map linking places having the same temperature. A customer of this column told me when you see a robin near a house, it foretells good fortune for the inhabitants of the house. We're lucky folks.

7. House finches sing long, jumbled warbling songs of short notes, often ending with an upward or downward slur as if the bird was asking a question or had forgotten its song.

8. Meteorological spring began on March 1 and astronomical spring starts on March 20.

9. Red osier dogwood becomes the red veins of spring.

Meeting adjourned

Kindness, like grain, increases by sowing.

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# What does election bill mean for voters?

**By Katie Akin**
**Iowa Capital Dispatch**
**www.iowacapitaldispatch.com**

A sweeping election bill that shrinks Iowa's absentee voting window and introduces new penalties for election misconduct was headed to Gov. Kim Reynolds' desk.

The House passed the bill, Senate File 413, by a 57-37 vote. The Senate voted 30-18 to pass an identical bill.

Reynolds is expected to sign the bill into law. It will go into effect immediately. Here's what will change for Iowa voters:

Twenty days for absentee voting

Before 2017, Iowans had a 40-day absentee voting window. That means that a county auditor could start sending out absentee ballots beginning 40 days before Election Day, giving voters over a month to complete the ballots and return them.

The Legislature shortened that window to 29 days as part of a 2017 voter ID law. That's how long voters had for the November 2020 election. Republican lawmakers pointed toward record voter turnout in the 2020 general election as evidence that offering fewer absentee voting days did not suppress the vote.

Under the new bill, that window will be even shorter. County auditors can start sending absentee ballots 20 days before Election Day.

Changes to absentee ballot request process

Voters in Iowa must request an absentee ballot if they wish to vote by mail. Absentee ballot request forms can be completed at the auditor's office or printed from the Secretary of State website.

The new bill clarifies that voters may call their county auditor to request an absentee ballot request form be sent to them by mail. However, county auditors may not send out an absentee ballot request form to all registered voters or to any Iowans who do not specifically request them.

Previously, voters could send in their absentee ballot request form 120 days before the election. For a November election, that means that Iowans could request their absentee ballot in the middle of the summer, even if the ballot itself would not arrive until, at most, 29 days before the election.

With the passage of the bill, the earliest day a voter can request an absentee ballot from their county auditor will be 70 days before an election. That would be late August ahead of a November election.

New cut-off for absentee ballots received on Election Day

In previous elections, absentee ballots would be counted as long as they were postmarked the day before Election Day. That means you could put an absentee ballot in the mailbox on Monday morning and it would, eventually, be counted in Iowa's final vote totals.

Now, absentee ballots must arrive at the auditor's office by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

There are a few exceptions to this new rule. Voters in address confidentiality programs, like the Safe at Home program for domestic violence survivors, will still be counted based on the postmarked date. Out-of-state military ballots that arrive after Election Day will also be valid based on the postmark.

New ballot drop-off and drop box restrictions

Some counties deployed absentee ballot drop boxes for the 2020 general election. These secure boxes allowed voters to deposit their absentee ballots with no interpersonal contact or time restrictions.

However, drop boxes were not explicitly legal under Iowa law.

Under the new law, county auditors would be allowed to set up one drop box at their office. The box would be under security to prevent any misconduct or tampering.

There will also be new regulations on who can return a completed absentee ballot. Right now, a friend or neighbor could return your ballot, so long as it is properly sealed and signed. The new law specifies that only household or family members, caregivers and election officials assisting with confined voters may deliver a ballot on behalf of another person.

An unauthorized person returning someone else's ballot would be committing a serious misdemeanor.

Twenty days for early in-person voting

Before this bill, county auditors could offer early in-person voting locations beginning 29 days before an election. One location would be at the county auditor's office, allowing Iowans to cast an absentee ballot in person. Some counties would also offer satellite voting sites at places like community centers or libraries.

The bill makes two major changes to early in-person voting.

First, it shortens the early voting window to 20 days, just like the absentee voting window.

Second, the bill requires that county auditors open satellite voting locations only when petitioned to do so. At least 100 eligible electors must formally request a satellite voting location for the auditor to open one.

Polls close at 8 p.m. for all elections

Poll hours have varied across Iowa's elections. In the most recent general election, polls closed at 9 p.m.

Under the new bill, polls in all elections will close at 8 p.m. statewide.

Employees allowed two hours to vote on Election Day

State law mandates that Iowans who work on Election Day must have enough time to vote, if they so choose. In current law, employees who do not have three consecutive hours off during the time when polls are open, they can take that time off work.

The new bill says Iowans will be allowed two hours to vote, not three.

Voters marked inactive after one missed general election

Presently, Iowans will be marked as an inactive voter if they do not vote in two consecutive general elections and do not respond to a notice from election officials. Under the new bill, Iowans will receive notice that they will be marked inactive after just one missed general election.

Voters will be marked as "active" again when they request an absentee ballot, vote in an election, register again or report a change in name, address, contact information or political affiliation.

Changes for candidates

Candidates for political office in Iowa will need to collect more signatures on nomination petitions. These provisions apply to any candidates who will be appearing on the ballot in or after 2022.

U.S. president, vice president, governor, lieutenant governor and U.S. senators must collect 3,500 signatures from eligible electors across the state.

U.S. representative candidates must collect 1,726 signatures from eligible electors in that congressional district.

Other candidates for statewide office need 2,500 signatures from eligible electors.

If a candidate has been nominated for a position by a political party, they can not also be nominated by a non-party political organization for the same office in the same election.

Changes for county auditors

The county auditor is designated the county commissioner of elections. That means they oversee voter registration and conduct elections, including the collection and counting of absentee ballots.

The bill introduces new penalties for county auditors and election officials — employees of the state commissioner and county commissioners — who disobey state election laws, including 5-figure fines and potential jail time.

# Northwood Anchor Early Files

## 100 years ago

**March 2, 1921**

An opening meeting was held in the school house at Joice to form a new bank, a large number of farmers and many towns people being in attendance. Stock in the new farmers' bank was placed on sale and a large portion of the 250 shares offered at $140 each was taken. The new institution expects to be ready for business early in April.

S.F. Lundberg, who, for more than two years, has been in business in Northwood, sold his restaurant and pool room to his son Arthur Lundberg and Milton Thompson, south of town.

Memorial services will be held at the Silver Lake Church in remembrance of the six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Johnson, who passed away on January 29 from the effects of diphtheria. The Rev. Fosnes will conduct the services.

Mrs. Myrtle Whitcomb of this city was married to R.A. Maggarrel on February 14. She has registered her position as clerk in the Northwood post office. They will make their home in Sterling, Illinois.

In an accident, Mrs. Adam Ramsey, well known and highly respected resident of Deer Creek Township, received injuries that resulted in her death. Her grandson, Arthur McDermitt, who was with her, was uninjured with the exception of a few bruises.

## 75 years ago

**February 22, 1946**

Funeral services for Beverly Lee Pedersen, 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Pedersen, who live east of Northwood, were held at the Klein Funeral Home in this city.

Electricity rates in the town of Northwood will be lower, effective on March 1, according to a new schedule of rates submitted by the Peoples Gas and Electric Co. to the town council at a special meeting. Every user of electricity in volume over the minimum of $1 will save at least 25¢ per month, according to the new schedule.

The 792 lambs entered in the third annual 4-H lamb show in Northwood sold for $17,372 at the auction sale at the fairgrounds as the closing event of the two-day show. This included a $2,734 subsidy paid by the government.

Memorial services for Pfc. LeRoy Harmon, formerly of Kensett, will be held in the Immanuel Lutheran Church at Mankato, Minnesota, in connection with a memorial, which will include other members of that congregation who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country in World War II.

A head-on collision between cars driven by Lars Ballandby, west of town, and Arnold Ofstedal of Albert Lea resulted in a fractured leg and other injuries for Ballandby and facial cuts and other bruises for Mrs. Ballandby. Mr. Ballandby was taken to a Mason City hospital.

John Bruhns, 76, who was a resident of Northwood and vicinity for about 49 years, died at this home on east Central Avenue. He had been afflicted for 15 years with a heart weakness, which was the cause of his death.

## 50 years ago

**March 4, 1971**

Three N-K seniors are participating in the Luther College Dorian instrumental festival. They are Janelle Rupert, Lavonne Jones and Glenda Stoddard. They will be accompanied by George Feuerhelm, instrumental instructor.

Snowmobiles of all makes and from up to 100 miles away competed in the second annual snowmobile derby sponsored by the Northwood Jaycees on Sunday. Approximately 400 spectators watched the event from the grandstand.

Marvin D. Kingland, Hanlontown, was a member of the winter quarter graduating class at Iowa State University, Ames, on February 27. Degrees were awarded to 625 students by W. Robert Parks, president.

"The Swinging Sweetheart" all-girl dance band has made several appearances throughout the area for gatherings. The most recent was the annual Masonic George Washington party. They also were seen on television during the Eagles Cancer Telethon. Members of the band are Lu-Ann Erickson, piano; Kathy Johnson, drums; Ellen Madsen, cornet; Stephanie Ihnen, baritone sax; Penny Robb, tenor sax; Debbie Walser, alto sax; Jane Morris, trumpet; and Cathy Garnas, trombone.

Mrs. Ellen Johnson, Northwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Nassen of Albert Lea, and Jason Dahlstrom, son of Mrs. Marie Dahlstrom of Northwood and the late Charles Dahlstrom, were married on February 25.

## 25 years ago

**February 28 , 1996**

The Northwood Volunteer Fire Company couldn't prevent Cinda Rustad's garage from burning down, but they extinguished the flames before the fire could jump from the free-standing garage to the Rustad house a short distance away. Volunteer firefighters Rob Eilertson and John Carlson trained a high-pressure hose on burning remnants of the garage and the 1984 Buick LeSabre parked there. The fire is believed to have originated in the car after Rustad's oldest daughter, Kelly, drove it inside the garage on returning home from school.

Northwood businesswoman and basketmaker Sandy Madden toured a Thai workshop that produces seven-foot-wide rice baskets like the one in the fairground here. Thais use the baskets for rice storage and transportation.

Temperatures reaching into the high 40s made short work of Worth County's snow cover, leaving troughs of snow in roadside ditches, narrow drifts along fence lines and some large patches like the one on the hillside near this Hartland Township barn. Cold weather, however, threatens to ruin the spring-like spell, as forecasters are predicting below-freezing temperatures and a little snow.

After watching and cheering through four quarters of nip-and-tuck basketball, Northwood-Kensett seventh-grader Landon Perkins and fifth-graders Tom Low, Sam Hengesteg and Ben Johnson were too hoarse to fire up the old school fight song in the moments following N-K's win over Manly.

## 10 years ago

**March 2, 2011**

A group of Deb Dakken's students at Northwood-Kensett High School took part in a contest for students to write an article, with graphics, an interactive element and bibliography. The contest is sponsored by FEFE, which provides curriculum for Dakken's Single Survival course, and would put winning entries on their website. Senior Nicole Wahl was one of the students submitting an entry. She did not win placement in the top 10 of those entires submitted.

These students took part in the regional MATHCOUNTS competition, held on Saturday, February 5. Mathcounts is a national enrichment competition program that promotes mathematics achievement. Athletes are Devan Wilcox, Nathan Buchanan and Mary Stoneking.

Junior Britney Low drains a long range jumper against CAL-Latimer. Low led the Vikings with 285 points this season and is now the No. 2 leading scorer in N-K history behind Kate Hartman.

Sophomore shooting guard Brady Cotter splashes a three-pointer against North Butler. Cotter will be key to any success N-K has next year as he is the team's best put shooter.

Junior Tyler Thofson, who will be counted on to be a force in the middle yet again next year, makes an acrobatic shot in the Vikings' lone win over CAL-Latimer.

# Northwood Anchor Obituaries

## Robert 'Bob' Reeder



ROBERT REEDER

Robert "Bob" Ellsworth Reeder, Jr. passed away peacefully at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, on Thursday, February 18, 2021 from complications associated with COVID-19.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2021, at Conner Colonial Chapel, 1008 First Ave. South, Northwood, with Rev. Becky Sogge of First Lutheran Church in Northwood officiating. Robert was laid to rest at Sunset Rest Cemetery with a private family committal service.

Visitation and public viewing were from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, 2021, at the funeral chapel. This happened to also be Bob's 75th birthday date.

In lieu of flowers and customary remembrances, the family suggests making a contribution to the Masonic Lodge No. 266 in Northwood or a charity of your choice in Bob's memory.

Bob was born on February 21, 1946, in Mercy Hospital in Mason City, the son of Robert and Phyllis (Hrubetz) Reeder. He was baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Northwood. He attended and graduated from Northwood-Kensett High School in 1964 and later received a business administration degree from Hamilton Business College in Mason City.

Bob worked for many area construction contractors and the Great Plains lumber yard before starting his working career with Winnebago Industries. Bob worked for Winnebago Industries for 40 years and received a commendatory mantle clock for his service.

Bob enjoyed hunting and fishing with his brothers. They spent many days trout fishing in the streams in Northeastern Iowa. Bob was very active in Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. He became a Master Mason in 1971 and was a past master of Northern Light Lodge #266 as well as past worthy patron of Eastern Star, both of which are located in Northwood. He was well versed in Masonry and became a District Lecturer in 1976 for North Iowa. He received a 32 Degree designation from the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry of Des Moines and was active in instructing other Masonic Lodges in the use of correct liturgy and procedure protocol of Free Masonry. He was a Masonic member in Northwood for over 49 years.

Bob was a very caring person and was always willing to help others. He was interested in flowers and spent many hours working in his large flower gardens at his home. He read the Bible many times and was very knowledgeable in the liturgy. He enjoyed the Bible studies at Maple Court and the other participants in the group.

Those left to cherish his memory are his mother, Phyllis Mortenson; his sister, Patricia (Richard) Stromley of Mason City; brothers, Daniel (Carolyn) Reeder and Dennis (Janet) Reeder, all of Northwood; step-sisters, Kay Mortenson of Northwood and Melissa Mortenson of Minneapolis, Minn.; nephews, Randy (Kris) Stromley of Des Moines, Robert Stromley and special friend, Kristi Tabbert of Mason City and Garret (Danielle) Reeder of Ankeny; a niece, Anneke (Jake) Urbatch of Northwood; four great-nieces; and four great-nephews; as well as numerous extended family members.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, Robert Reeder, Sr., and step-father, Clarence Mortenson.

# Century 21 Preferred office receives awards for productivity and excellence

Recognizing the extraordinary sales effort and service of CENTURY 21 Preferred in 2020, Century 21 Real Estate LLC, awarded the office with the Quality Service Pinnacle Award. The annual award is based on results from the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Survey, which is emailed to consumers immediately after the purchase or sale of a home. To earn the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award, an office must receive completed customer surveys with an average survey score of at least 95% or better for two consecutive years.

The office also received the Per Person Productivity Award and the President's Award. The President's Award is bestowed upon those CENTURY 21 System offices that earn the CENTURY 21 CENTURION® award and the CENTURY 21 Quality Service Pinnacle award in the same calendar year. The CENTURION Award is presented to CENTURY 21 System offices that achieve or surpass sales production of 445 closed transaction sides within a calendar year.

CENTURY 21 Preferred is a full service office located in Mason City with a branch office in Clear Lake and Northwood. There are 23 REALTORS® managed by Broker/Owner, Dodie Wilkins, 641-424-9400.

# Free Start Smart Workshop to be offered over Zoom

The NIACC Pappajohn Center and the Small Business Development Center will offer a free two-hour workshop designed for anyone who is considering starting a business. At Start Smart, participants will learn how to create a business plan, conduct market research, discuss different types of business ownership and learn how to register a business.

Start Smart will be offered on Wednesday, March 10, online via Zoom from 6-8 p.m.

The activities involved in starting a business fall under two broad categories—feasibility (the business plan) and administrative tasks. While the feasibility issue is a focus, Start Smart provides information and the chance to ask questions on numerous other topics, including:

- Business registration
- Doing customer research
- How bankers evaluate business concepts and loans
- Start-up costs
- Business plan tips and more

After attending Start Smart, people can make an appointment to meet over the phone individually with the Small Business Development Center Counselors to help review a business plan or provide guidance with other issues. Registration is required online at www.pappajohncenter.com, by clicking on the Program and Events tab.

Anyone with questions may contact Mary Spitz-SBDC office at NIACC at 641-422-4342 or at mary.spitz@niacc.edu.

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center is an expert in rural business innovation and success. In partnership with North Iowa's Small Business Development Center, they provide tools, support and resources to Iowa's entrepreneurs. They counsel both new and existing local businesses, from Main Street to industry leaders. They seek to grow Iowa's entrepreneurial culture through grade school initiatives, college and community programs, and business training and development.

# Winter has been tough on deer

For wildlife, surviving an average Iowa winter is challenging enough. When the winter includes consecutive days where temperatures don't cross above zero and new snow arrives weekly, survival can become extremely difficult.

"Every winter we lose wildlife but in winters like this, we do expect some additional mortality," said Tyler Harms, deer program leader for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "While people may think it's a good idea to put out a pile of corn for the deer to eat, it actually causes more harm than good. Perhaps the biggest issue with feeding deer is the increased risk of spreading disease through the local herd."

Artificially congregating deer in close quarters, like over a pile of corn, increases the likelihood of disease transmission to other deer.

"All it takes is for one deer to be infected with a disease to stop by, feed on the corn and leave its saliva and urine behind for there to become an outbreak," Harms said. "But beyond disease transmission, feeding deer can cause other health issues."

In winter, a pile of corn is the equivalent to a pile of candy, Harms said, and too much candy is not good for anyone. "There is other food available that is better for them," he said.

It's also important to not set out grains because it changes deer behavior.

"When the snow is deep and it's hard to find food, deer will adjust biologically to the situation to conserve energy," he said. "They will congregate in places where there is shelter and they can conserve their energy. Placing food out will cause them to change that behavior, possibly expending more energy to get to the grain than they will gain by eating it."

Those interested in helping deer to survive Iowa winters are encouraged to reach out to their local Iowa DNR wildlife biologist to discuss what types of habitat and food sources to install that benefit deer.

**The Northwood Anchor is now available online!**
**www.nwdanchor.com**

**Call us for details 641-324-1051**
**anchor1@nwdanchor.com**

## Bolan

Scott and Lori Willert and Joe and Linda Nydegger and joined by Kelsie Willert attended the Missouri Valley Conference Indoor Track and Field Event at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls on Friday afternoon. The UNI Men won the Meet by 2.5 points. Cole Willert ran a 50:? leg in the Distance Medley Relay which placed fifth to help the team. As big as the Dome is, there was no problem social distancing!

Northwood Anchor

# Legal

## City Council

The Council of the City of Northwood met in regular session at City Hall on 2/22/21 at 6 pm with Mayor Moehle presiding and the following council members present:

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

Motion to approve the agenda. Unam.

Motion to approve the following under Consent Agenda: Council Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2021; Approve Beer Permit Renewal – Dollar General Store #9644. Unam.

Motion to accept the bid from Memorial Park for a thirty-six-unit niche columbarium to be placed in Sunset Rest Cemetery. Unam.

Motion to approve the bid from Hovey's Lawn & Garden to mow the Top of Iowa Park for the 2021 season. Unam.

Motion to adjourn. Unam.

Doug Moehle, Mayor
Amber Julseth
City Administrator/Clerk

## Notice

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY**
Case No. ESPR009253
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD STANLEY LUCAS, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Harold Stanley Lucas, deceased, who died on or about the January 3, 2021:

You are hereby notified that on the February 25, 2021, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

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

Dated February 26, 2021.

Beverly C. Lucas
4150 B Orchid Avenue
Kensett, IA 50448
Administrator
of the Estate

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

Date of second publication 10th day of March, 20 21. 9-2t

## Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY
PROBATE NO. ESPR009252
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT E. REEDER, JR., DECEASED

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Robert E. Reeder, Jr., Deceased, who died on or about February 18, 2021:

You are hereby notified that on the February 26, 2021, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

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

Dated February 26, 2021.

Daniel L. Reeder
102 Shellrock Drive
Northwood, IA 50459
Administrator
of the Estate

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

Date of second publication 10th day of March, 2021. 9-2t

## Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY
PROBATE NO. ESPR009250
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY E. IHNEN, DECEASED

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Mary E. Ihnen, Deceased, who died on or about January 28, 2021:

You are hereby notified that on the February 11, 2021, the last will and testament of Mary E. Ihnen, deceased, bearing date of the October 1, 2002, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Stephanie R. Perkins was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

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

Dated February 17, 2021.

Stephanie R. Perkins
400 12th St. S.
Northwood, IA 50459
Executor of Estate

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

Date of second publication 3rd day of March, 2021. 8-2t

## Notice

**THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY**
Probate No. 02951
ESPR009238
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GLENN I. BUTLER, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Glenn I. Butler, deceased, who died on or about the 3rd day of December, 2020:

You are hereby notified that on the 9th day of December, 2020 the Last Will and Testament of Glenn I. Butler, deceased, bearing the date of the 23rd day of December, 2015 was admitted to probate in the above named Court and that James I. Butler, Jon E. Butler and Jennifer D. Butler were appointed Executors of the Estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the District Court of Worth County, Iowa within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the Will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

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

If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in Court because of a disability, immediately call you district ADA coordinator at 641/421-0990. (If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942).

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2021.

James I. Butler,
Executor of Estate
4238 Nuthatch Avenue
Kensett, Iowa 50448

Jon E. Butler,
Executor of Estate
4171 Nuthatch Avenue
Kensett, Iowa 50448

Jennifer D. Butler,
Executor of the Estate
1792 Covington Lane,
Egan, Minnesota 55122

Richard P. Schwarm,
ICIS PIN No: AT0007119
Attorney for Executor
Address: 110 West Main Street, Lake Mills, Iowa 50450

Date of second publication 10th day of March, 20 21. 9-2t

## Supervisors

**February 22, 2021**
**Eighth Day**

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

Stone led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Smeby, second by Loberg, carried to approve the February 22, 2021 board agenda.

Motion by Smeby, second by Loberg, carried to approve the February 16, 2021 board minutes.

Motion by Smeby, second by Loberg, carried to approve drainage claims in the amount of $22,617.00 as per the following schedule:

Rognes Bros Excavating, DD 2/Lat A & A-1, Repairs ... .....$5,600.00
A1 Excavating & Drainage, DD 7 Main, Repairs..... .....$9,122.00
A1 Excavating & Drainage, DD 22 Main Open Ditch Repairs.....$5,000.00
A1 Excavating & Drainage, DD 23 Main, Repairs..... .....$1,950.00
A1 Excavating & Drainage, DD 8, Repairs ...$300.00
A1 Excavating & Drainage, DD 48, Repairs .$645.00
Grand Total....$22,617.00

Motion by Smeby, second by Loberg, carried to approve claims in the amount of $106,770.10 as per the following schedule:

A T & T, Service-911 .... 40.73
Agco Plus, Parts-Con . 334.74
Agvantage Fs Inc Fuel-Eng ..... 7,709.45
Ajb Enterprise Llc Service-Gsr ..... 170.00
Alliant Energy Service-Sdp ..... 849.79
Aramark Service-Gsr ..... 302.47
Berge Oil Company Fuel-Eng ..... 17,153.18
Boone County Sheriff Service-Juj ..... 49.55
Brett Backhaus Reimb-Con ..... 58.83
Brian Lund, Reimb-Gsr . 5.35
Carquest Auto Parts Inc Supplies-Shf ..... 40.42
Centurylink Service-911 ..... 362.01
Cerro Gordo County General Assistance Service-Soc..... 135.00
Cintas Corporation Supplies-Eng ..... 223.03
City Of Fertile Service-Eng ..... 82.71
City Of Kensett Service-Eng ..... 49.20
Culligan Of Mason City Service-Con..... 38.80
D & L Equipment Supplies-Con ..... 329.78
Des Moines Stamp Mfg Co Supplies-Trs ..... 43.00
Dick's Place Body & Tow Service-Shf..... 515.00
Drivers License Guide Company, Service-Shf ..... 31.95
Electronic Specialties Inc Supplies-Eng ..... 550.00
Fallgatter's Market Inc Supplies-Shf ..... 530.38
Federal Auto Upholstery Service-Con..... 170.00
Five Star Cooperative Fuel-Eng ..... 116.60
Henry M. Adkins & Son Inc. Service-Aud ..... 1,016.84
Ia Law Enforcement Academy, Edu-Shf..... 625.00
Ia Secretary Of State Notary-Trs ..... 60.00
Ip Pathways Service-Dap ..... 758.00
Isaac Hovey Safety-Eng ..... 55.96
Isac, Edu-Asr ..... 500.00
Jessica Reyerson Reimb-Phd ..... 50.00
John Deere Financial Service ..... 384.08
Johnson Controls Fire Protection Lp Service-Gsr ..... 4,068.27
Kelly Hardware Supplies-Eng ..... 415.81
Kevin Springer Construction Service-Gsr ..... 320.00
Larsen Plumbing & Heating Inc, Service-Gsr ..... 1,093.42
Lawson Products Inc Supplies-Eng ..... 1,215.27
Luckason Tractor Repair Supplies-Con ..... 416.00
Mail Services Llc Service-Trs..... 261.08
Manly Junction Signal Service-Sup & Aud ... 537.90
Marco Technologies Llc Service-Dap & Asr.... 731.96
Matt Parrott/Storey Kenworthy, Supplies-Trs..... 42.00
Mercyone North Iowa Occupational Health Service-Eng ..... 84.00
Nelson Family Trust Rent-Shf..... 300.00
Niacc, Edu-Shf..... 260.00
Niacog, Service-Ndp 1,000.00
Northwood Anchor Inc Service-Vaf ..... 2,619.76
Nuss Truck & Equipment Inc Parts-Eng..... 4,518.79
Peopleservice Inc Service-Wat & Wwt..... ..... 14,131.00
Pinnacle Quality Insight Service-Phd..... 154.50
Pitney Bowes Supplies-Dap ..... 237.98
Reindl Repair Service-Phd..... 1,000.42
Shred Right Service-Gsr ..... 456.70
Singelstad's Hardware Supplies-Eng ..... 41.88
Stanard & Associates Inc Service-Sup..... 42.84
State Hygienic Laboratory Service-San..... 152.00
Street Cop Training Edu-Shf..... 199.00
Trading Post Supplies-Eng ..... 199.88
Ver Helst Snyder Drug Supplies-Phd ..... 415.93
Verizon Wireless Service-Eng ..... 186.86
Visa, Service-Shf ..... 1,656.04
W.Reeves And Associates Inc., Supplies-Shf .... 6,240.00
Waste Management Of Iowa Inc, Service-Sdp..... 2,650.00
Waste Oil Furnace Distributing, Supplies-Eng .... 7,000.00
Watson & Ryan, Plc Service-Asr ..... 3,083.34
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Iowa Flex Fees-Ndp ..... 415.80
Windstream Service-Eng ..... 14.80
Winnebago Co Auditor Service-Soc..... 4,028.24
Winnebago Coop Telephone Assn, Service-Sdp..... 86.63
World Fuel Service, Inc. Supplies-Eng ..... 995.67
Worth County Engineer Fuel-Phd ..... 215.57
Worth Lumber Co Supplies-Eng ..... 376.34
Xerox Corporation Service-Dap ..... 91.06
Ziegler Inc Parts & Service-Eng ..... ..... 11,472.51
Grand Total ..... 106,771.10

Motion by Loberg, second by Smeby, carried to approve the addendum to Agreement for Law Enforcement between Worth County and the City of Grafton and Worth County and the City of Kensett.

Motion by Smeby, second by Loberg, carried to approve the Auxiant HRA buydown plans.

Motion by Smeby, second by Loberg, carried to approve the Application for Tax Abatement/Worth County Logistics Park/Urban Revitalization Plan from Sukup Manufacturing.

Motion by Loberg, second Smeby, carried to appoint A.J. Stone and Jim Hanson as delegate and alternate, respectively to the Shell Rock River Watershed Management Coalition.

Motion by Loberg, second by Smeby, carried to adjourn at 9:30 A.M. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be Monday, March 1, 2021 at 8:30 A.M.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Aaron Stone, Chairperson

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY**
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022**
**County Name: WORTH COUNTY County Number: 98**

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:
**Meeting Date: 3/15/2021 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: Worth County Court House, 1000 Central Ave, Northwood**
**Contact Person: Jacki A. Backhaus Contact Phone Number: (641) 324-2316**

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After adoption of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.

County Website (if available): www.worthcounty.org
County Telephone Number: (641) 324-2316

| | | Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2020/2021 | Budget Year Effective Property Tax FY 2021/2022 | Budget Year Proposed Maximum Property Tax FY 2021/2022 | Proposed Percentage Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Taxable Valuations-General Services | 1 | 649,590,581 | 672,892,875 | 672,892,875 | |
| Requested Tax Dollars-General Basic | 2 | 2,273,567 | | 2,355,125 | |
| Requested Tax Dollars-General Supplemental | 3 | 1,201,742 | | 1,244,852 | |
| Requested Tax Dollars-General Services Total | 4 | 3,475,309 | 3,475,309 | 3,599,977 | 3.59 |
| Estimated Tax Rate-General Services | 5 | 5.35000 | 5.16473 | 5.35000 | |
| Taxable Valuations-Rural Services | 6 | 524,827,344 | 545,469,719 | 545,469,719 | |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Rural Basic | 7 | 1,456,396 | | 1,513,678 | |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Rural Supplemental | 8 | | | | |
| Requested Tax Dollars-Rural Services Total | 9 | 1,456,396 | 1,456,396 | 1,513,678 | 3.93 |
| Estimated Tax Rate-Rural Services | 10 | 2.77500 | 2.66999 | 2.77500 | |

Explanation of increases in the budget:
Increase is due to increase in valuations, levies remain the same.
If applicable, the above notice is also available online at:
www.worthcounty.org
The above tax rates do not include county voted levies, mental health and disabilities services levy, debt service levy and the rates of other local jurisdictions.
Regarding proposed maximum dollars, the Board of Supervisors cannot adopt a higher tax asking for these levies following the public hearing.
Budget year effective property tax rate is the rate that would be assessed for these levies if the dollars requested is not changed in the coming year.

PROFESSIONAL CARD
Business Announcements

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

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

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

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

**Congregate Meals**
**MEALS ON WHEELS**
324-1244

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# March 15 last day to complete enrollment for 2021 Agriculture Risk Coverage price loss coverage programs

Agricultural producers who have not yet enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for 2021 must do so by Monday, March 15. Producers who have not yet signed a 2021 enrollment contract or who want to make an election change should contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to make an appointment. Program enrollment for 2021 is required in order to participate in the programs, but elections for the 2021 crop year are optional and otherwise remain the same as elections made for 2020.

"FSA offices have multiple programs competing for the time and attention of our staff. Because of the importance and complexities of the ARC and PLC programs, and to ensure we meet your program delivery expectations, please do not wait to start the enrollment process," said FSA Acting Administrator Steve Peterson. "I cannot emphasize enough the need to begin the program election and enrollment process now. This process can be completed when applying for other FSA programs as well."

ARC and PLC provide income support to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms.

Although 1,033,310 contracts have been completed to date, this represents less than 59% of the more than 1.7 million contracts anticipated by the Agency. By enrolling soon, producers can beat the rush as the deadline nears.

Producers who do not complete enrollment by close of business local time on Monday, March 15 will not be enrolled in ARC or PLC for the 2021 crop year and will be ineligible to receive a payment should one trigger for an eligible crop.

ARC and PLC contracts can be emailed, faxed or physically signed and mailed back to FSA. Producers with level 2 eauthentication access can electronically sign contracts. Service Center staff can also work with producers to sign and securely transmit contracts electronically through two commercially available tools: Box and OneSpan. People can learn more about these solutions at farmers.gov/mydocs. Producers may also make arrangements to drop off signed contracts at the FSA county office. Please call ahead for local mailing or drop off information and options for submitting signed contracts electronically.

Producers are eligible to enroll farms with base acres for the following commodities: barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium- and short-grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

FSA recently updated the annual and benchmark yields for ARC/PLC program years 2019, 2020 and 2021. This data is useful to producers in choosing to participate in either ARC or PLC.

For added assistance with ARC and PLC decisions, USDA partnered with the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University to offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:

Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator, the University of Illinois tool that offers farmers the ability to run payment estimate modeling for their farms and counties for ARC-County and PLC.

ARC and PLC Decision Tool, the Texas A&M tool that allow producers to analyze payment yield updates and expected payments for 2019 and 2020. Producers who have used the tool in the past should see their username and much of their farm data will already be available in the system.

Producers are reminded that enrolling in ARC or PLC programs can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products. Producers who elect and enroll in PLC also have the option of purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider. Producers of covered commodities who elect ARC are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres.

Unlike SCO, RMA's Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by participating in ARC for the same crop, on the same acres. You may elect ECO regardless of your farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres.

For more information on ARC and PLC including web-based decision tools, visit farmers.gov/arc-plc.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will prescreen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus .

Visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator to find location and contact information for the nearest FSA county office.

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**Lots begin closing Friday, March 12th @ 10:30 am**
**Various Locations, North Central Iowa**

**Preview:** Thursday, March 11th from 9 am - 5:00 pm, or call Frank for an appointment 641-420-3243

**Pickup:** Auction day from 2 - 5 pm, Saturday and Monday, March 13 & 15 from Noon to 4:00 pm or call Frank for an appointment.

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**Tractors, Farm & Livestock Equipment:** 2018 Case IH 310 Magnum MFWD tractor, front and rear duals, 620 hours, 19 speed; 2015 Case IH 125 Maxxum MFWD tractor, 755 loader, wheel weights, 3200 hours; Drago N8TR 8 row 30" corn head; 2015 MacDon FD75 draper head, 40', CIH mounts; International 856 diesel tractor w/cab, 9600 hours; Truck Specialties 500-gallon fuel tender on a trailer; Case IH 7120 2wd Tractor, 18.4R42 rear axle duals @65%, 10 front weights, PS w/4 spd reverse, 5831 hours; (8) IH front-end weights; New Holland 195 manure spreader; Patz V300 LP vertical mixer; Knight Reel Auggie 2300 feed wagon; Plainsman RCM 3615 batwing mower, 15' wide, laminated tires; (2) Massey Ferguson CV 252TR Hay Tedders; IH 530 Manure Spreader; 2014 Case IH RMX 370 34' tandem disc, rock flex, nice; Hiniker 1000 high speed 12-row cultivator, stored inside.

**Trucks, Construction and Industrial:** 2013 Chevy 3500 WT dually truck, 4x4, flatbed, regular cab, 53,000 miles; 2005 Freightliner semi-tractor, day cab, Detroit, 550,000 miles, air ride; 1984 Chamberlain 42' aluminum grain trailer, 2001 Sterling LT7500 tandem axle dump truck, Cat 3126B engine, 333K miles, comes with snowplow. Delta steel gooseneck stock trailer, 7x24; 2002 Load Trail 26' flatbed gooseneck trailer, Monster ramps; 2012 Wilson aluminum gooseneck stock trailer, 7x24, three-compartment; 1985 International semi-tractor, cab over, 700,000 miles; Older Ford L8000 single axle service truck, diesel; 8'x13'x21' elevated fertilizer loadout tanks with funnel hopper, two stainless steel bucket elevator legs, two fertilizer mixers with controls to be dismantled by April 15th. Located in Hampton, Iowa.

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# Plans announced to return more MN students to school

As hospitalizations and new COVID-19 cases have declined and Minnesota makes progress vaccinating educators, Governor Tim Walz recently updated Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan to allow more middle and high school students to return the classroom. As of February 22, all middle and high school students could return to the classroom for hybrid or in-person learning. Governor Walz expect all schools to offer their students some form of in-person learning by March 8.

"It's time for students to be back in the classroom," Governor Walz said. "We aren't out of the woods, but our relentless progress with vaccines and Minnesotans' vigilance has put us closer than ever to the end of this pandemic. Our progress means we can get more students safely back into classrooms. As a parent and former teacher, I know how critical this step is for the economic security, well-being, and mental health of our kids and their families."

Minnesota has made progress getting vaccines into Minnesotans' arms, surpassing 940,000 doses administered to over 695,000 people. Nearly 25 percent of teachers and 40 percent of seniors have been vaccinated – numbers that are growing every day. The percentage of COVID-19 tests coming back positive is now below five percent. Hospitalizations are also steadily declining.

The State of Minnesota has prioritized vaccines and COVID-19 testing for school staff. Educators were set to have access to more than 18,000 vaccine doses at state vaccine sites and more through other providers – a significant weekly increase.

On January 4, the state began its first-in-the-nation testing program in which testing supplies are delivered every two weeks directly from the state warehouse to each school district at no cost to staff or schools. Since then, more than 96 percent of Minnesota's school districts have signed up to participate. Forty-one percent of non-public schools and two out of four tribal schools are also participating.

Districts and charter schools that are already operating in-person or hybrid learning or have publicly announced a plan to transition to in-person or hybrid learning may continue with their plans. Families who do not feel comfortable sending their students for in-person or hybrid learning may still choose a distance learning option for their student. As always, school leaders are expected to meet with their internal incident command teams and seek input from their school communities before announcing plans to transition learning models.

In December, Governor Walz updated the Safe Learning Plan to allow every elementary school across the state to operate in person as long as they are able to implement additional mitigation strategies, which include a strong recommendation for staff to wear face shields and masks together and offering no-cost regular COVID-19 testing for school staff. Middle and high schools will be required to implement similar health and safety strategies, including updated physical distancing requirements. Safe in-person learning is a public health imperative, and the state has learned more about how to reduce the potential for spread in schools.

In addition to the new health and safety protocols, students and families who are learning in person, in a hybrid learning model, or participating in sports and activities are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 test every two weeks. Families can find locations for free COVID testing on the Minnesota Department of Health's website.


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