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The Northwood Anchor

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Briefs

Trinity UMC Bolan hosts baked potato lunch Sunday

Trinity United Methodist Church of Bolan will be hosting a "Baked Potato Lunch" fundraiser this Sunday, March 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Come in and sit in the updated dining hall of the church, or come to make and take home."

The menu includes a "Kittleson Brothers" baked potato, a variety of toppings, a choice of pie or refrigerated dessert, coffee, milk, for a $10 donation. Funds will go toward replacement of the outdoor church signage.

Trinity holds traditional in-person worship services with Pastor Cory Allard every Sunday at 9:10 am, followed by a coffee fellowship time.

Manly Legion welcomes Easter Bunny April 8

The American Legion in Manly will host a "hoppy" visitor the Saturday before Easter, April 8, from 1-3 p.m.

Visitors are invited to "hop" on over to the Manly Legion to visit with the Easter bunny for photos, goodie bags and prizes.



JoAnn and her best friend Nettie

A lesson from Nettie

By JoAnn Lower

With me in my overalls and Nettie in her pretty orange ribbon, we were off to tell stories to our friends at the Lutheran Retirement Home.

Two-year-old Nettie and her sister Annie have been teaching me some of life's most important lessons since they were two days old. Today I was about to learn another.

The morning started off as usual. Nettie was her bubbly, happy self until, in the midst of strangers, she became quite naughty. Sitting in my lap looking out at the people, she tried to bite me. Struggling to be free, she flapped her wings, sending black and white feathers flying. Loud quacks drowned out everyone's voice but her own.

Finally, I lifted her to my shoulder and held her as you would hold a baby. "I've got you," I whispered. She sighed softly; her tense body relaxing.

Then I understood. Nettie hadn't been naughty. She had been afraid. What she needed was to feel safe.

"I wish people would realize that animals are totally dependent, helpless, like children; a trust that is put upon us." James Herriot

City Council discusses NVFC ambulance insurance, agreement

With a few remaining questions, at their March 13 meeting, the Northwood city council considered its part in the Northwood Volunteer Fire Company's plans to begin offering an ambulance service.

Two considerations were brought to the council by NVFC chief Blake Severson. One would be the question of insurance coverage. While the impact of ambulance operation had been in question, the bigger change would be to coverage for the department's fundraising activities.

The City of Northwood has provided insurance coverage for the NVFC activities in years past, when the department has acted as a fire and rescue agency. There was some concern that adding ambulance service would mean a greater cost and liability for the City.

Severson said that according to the City's insurance provider, the NVFC was already covered to provide transport services by the current policy. They would only need to officially update City documents to reflect the additional service.

In discussing the insurance, it had been noted that the City's coverage protected the NVFC's fire, rescue and potential ambulance activities, as well as related meetings and trainings. However, the policy does not cover the NVFC while they are conducting the fundraising activities that pay for their emergency activities.

The NVFC plans to acquire its own additional insurance coverage for its fundraising activities.

Besides the discussion of insurance, an agreement between the City and the NVFC was also on the table. The agreement would offi-

Council, See Page 2

County considers permit participation

As of January 1, the Iowa DOT began offering a permit that allows vehicles to travel on roads carrying weights above the previous legal limit. For counties, that may mean issues in determining the status of roads and bridges to see if they will be open for those permits.

On January 1, 2023, the Iowa DOT began offering "all-systems overweight permits." The permits allow qualifying loads to be used year-long on roads that have been determined to be able to carry the overweight vehicles.

The permit allows vehicles to carry up to 12% over the current maximum legal weight. For most of the vehicles that travel on county roads, that would be roughly 90,000 pounds.

The permits allow the vehicles to travel on all Iowa roads and those that cities and counties have designated. The permits are not valid for interstate and other federal roads.

Counties have until July 1, 2025, to identify roads they will open for use with the permit.

At a recent supervisors meeting county engineer Rich Brumm discussed some of the issues that the County will consider as it determines if any of its roads should be opened for those with the permit.

Brumm noted that the overweight limits match

County, See Page 2

State error means $15,378 less in Northwood taxes

Following an error by the State of Iowa, local governments in Iowa began the annual budget process earlier this year expecting more in property valuation than they will ultimately have access to. The Northwood city council recently got a look at the impact on their budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1.

The error come from an adjustment to multi-residential properties, following a State change in the property tax value process.

After fixing the error, local governments, like the City of Northwood, have a lower total valuation to base potential property tax revenue on, either forcing them to reduce their budgets or raise levies to compensate.

For the City of Northwood, the impact of the new valuation means that at the previously pro-

Taxes, See Page 2



The Week's WEATHER

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues. March 14	30	10	
Wed. March 15	30	10	
Thurs. March 16	46	28	
Fri. March 17	40	12	0.29
Sat. March 18	20	6	T
Sun. March 19	24	7	
Mon. March 20	43	10	

Students from Spain, Germany spend school year at N-K

By JoAnn Lower

Two delightful young women arrived in Northwood on August 20, 2022, to attend Northwood-Kensett High School. Strangers when they met, Mireia and Luisa soon became fast friends.

"We have most of our classes together, and we were in basketball. Now we're in track and recently had our first meet at UNI at an indoor track."

Sixteen-year-old Mireia Sales from Valencia, Spain, is a guest in the home of Andy and Kelly Grunhovd and their three children. On March 13 Mireia celebrated her birthday with her new N-K friends.

Back at home in Spain, Mireia's father works in a car factory, her mother at an office in the city. She has a younger brother David and a wonderful dog. In Spain her favorite subject is Biology; here it's Spanish.

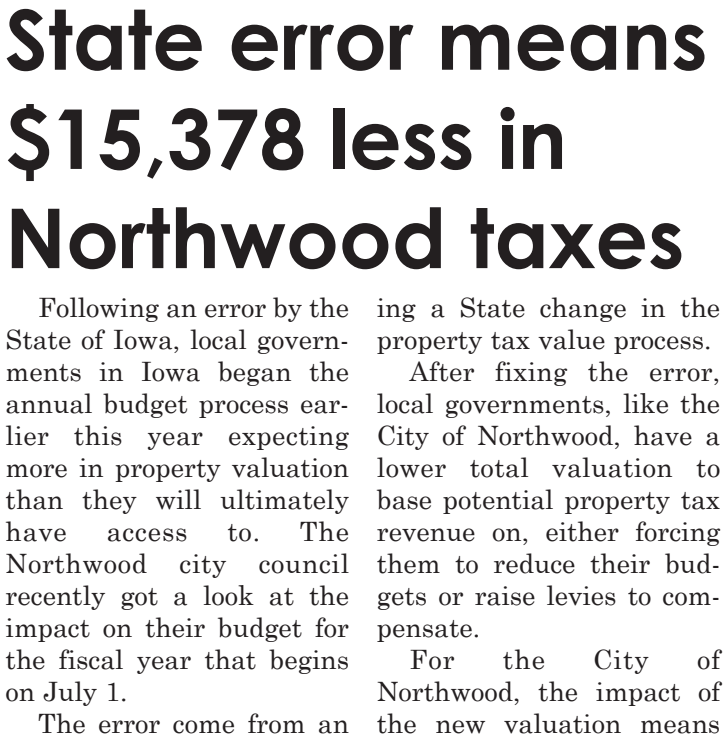
On traveling to America, Sales said, "I had to be brave, but it's a nice experience to go to another country and experience their culture."

Sixteen-year-old Luisa Bremer from Hamburg, Germany, is a guest in the home of Melissa and Cody Strand and their three children.

Back at home in Germany, Luisa's mother works for the City of Hamburg and her father worked at IBM for 30 years. She has two brothers – one older, one younger – and two adorable cats.

Luisa is also in speech. "I really enjoy writing my own speeches." Her speech on "How I've seen the world in the last few years and what

Students, See Page 2



MIREIA SALES AND LUISA BREMER

Welcome to spring!

Council
Cont. from Page 1

cially designate the NVFC as the ambulance provider for the city of Northwood.

Severson provided an update on the NVFC's progress towards ambulance readiness before addressing concerns from the council.

Severson shared that 21 of the NVFC's 24 members had expressed interest in signing up for ambulance shifts.

Another member of the department had also completed the coursework to serve as a paramedic in Iowa, bringing the department's total to 3. That would be in addition to the 6 EMTs and 8 that are working to be certified as EMTs before the planned start of the ambulance service in July.

Severson also shared statistics, including Worth County's status as the only county in the state with no ambulance, the 392 EMS calls the department responded to in 2022 and the current 25 minute average wait time for ambulance response in the city.

Severson said that the NVFC was waiting on a decision from the City of Northwood before moving on to its next steps. That includes reaching out to the townships they currently serve, to see if those trustees wanted to designate the NVFC to provide ambulance service for all or part of the townships.

Council member Gary Nerlien asked if the NVFC would be capable of transporting across the Minnesota border. Severson said they could, as long as the call originated in Iowa, and as long as there are no medical issues or situations that would require care at an Iowa hospital.

Nerlien also asked Severson what would happen if the NVFC is not able to operate on donations and the funds it receives from those using its ambulance.

Severson said that, if that happens, they would have to ask the cities and areas they serve to begin taxing to fund their services.

Severson explained that the NVFC budget shows that, even if using the lower Medicare reimbursement rates for the majority of calls, the NVFC can operate an ambulance on the revenue from patient payments and insurance reimbursement.

Severson noted the lack of overhead, with vehicles and equipment in place, and NVFC members only paid when transporting patients.

Asked about the need for a new vehicle in the future, Severson said that there are used options and plans to save towards that expense.

Council member Dan Reeder asked Severson if the NVFC would need all the townships on board to make the service cash flow.

Severson said that they wouldn't, noting that less area means less expense to cover, and more area means more income for the added expense.

Severson added that, going forward, those areas that didn't choose the NVFC for their ambulance would not have the same level of equipment available.

Severson said that, by law, if they officially declare a vehicle an ambulance, they can't use it in rescue response situations, as the designated ambulance provider would have to provide the vehicle. He said that if townships keep the NVFC for their rescue agency, but not their ambulance service, the department will use fire, pick up and other vehicles for rescue situations, but the equipment built into its ambulances would not be available.

Asked about the ways to get paramedics to people in emergency situations, Severson said the three ways are when NVFC paramedics would be available, if a helicopter arrives on the scene or if the ambulance meets a paramedic from another service on the way to a hospital. However, Severson said that EMTs can start IVs and conduct most other life-saving measures.

Asked about the potential for the NVFC to be a countywide ambulance service, Severson said that is not in their plans. He said the goal is to offer the service to those areas they currently service first, and look at expansion in the future.

Reeder addressed several questions to Severson. He asked if the City would be involved in billing. Severson explained the NVFC plans to hire for that service.

Reeder confirmed that the the City will not be asked to provide any money to the NVFC for its ambulance service.

Reeder also wanted to make sure that the NVFC will reach agreements with the Mason City Fire Department to act as the back up ambulance provider for the City.

Severson said that after initial details and agreements are in place, the NVFC will be seeking mutual aid agreements with the Forest City Ambulance Service and Mason City Fire Department, to back up each other when needed.

The proposed agreement before the council would be to be the designated provider through June 30, 2028. Some on the council questioned the five year span when the NVFC hasn't yet begun offering its service. It was noted that either the NVFC or the City could terminate the agreement with 60 days notice.

The council approved the agreement, with the understanding that the NVFC would update its insurance coverage and officially update its designation to include ambulance services.

Severson said that as their planned July 1 start date draws near, plans are to hold a town hall to discuss the service and answer the public's questions.

County
Cont. from Page 1

those in place during harvest proclamations, but that is only a part of the year, and year-round use would cause significantly more damage to the roads.

Brumm said that there are a number of bridges and roads that would be exempt from the list, those that are already posted with weight restrictions.

He also said that based on existing bridge conditions, most of the more highly traveled roadways, like Highway 105, would not be available for permit users.

Other roads and bridges that might be in good condition could be reviewed to see if they can withstand the weight limits year round.

However, at the same time, that review may find more places where new weight restrictions will need to be put into effect.

Supervisor AJ Stone asked if it would make it clear to the State that counties need more help in maintaining roads. Stone also said that it bothered him that they will have to consider this in future road designs.

Brumm said that road projects are already designed to handle weights like those allowed by the new permit. However, he added that the more they are used by overweight vehicles, the more damage they will take. He said he understands the desire to carry more on the roads, but said it is a trade off for the impact on county infrastructure, and the costs involved to fix that damage.

Stone also noted that the ones that would benefit the most are those passing through the county, saying local people don't have the same need for the larger loads year round, as they travel shorter distances, and often when harvest weights are allowed.

Taxes
Cont. from Page 1

posed levy rate, there would be $15,378 less in property tax revenue.

With the adjusted valuations, the city would still expect to collect $36,000 more in property tax revenue than the current fiscal year.

The council approved holding a public hearing on the proposed budget on April 10. See more on the proposed budget in a future Anchor.



A concert effort

Student musicians in Northwood-Kensett grades 7-8 shared their talents with a concert. The concert provided a chance to share their abilities, energy and enthusiasm with their audience.

Bird flu confirmed in a backyard flock in Chickasaw County

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed a positive case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Chickasaw County, Iowa.

The affected site is a backyard flock.

Commercial and backyard flock owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds. Sick birds or unusual deaths among birds should be immediately reported to state or federal officials. Biosecurity resources and best practices are available on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website. If producers suspect signs of HPAI in their flocks, they should contact their veterinarian immediately. Possible cases must also be reported to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at (515) 281-5305.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the recent HPAI detections in birds do not present a public health concern. It remains safe to eat poultry products. As a reminder, consumers should always utilize the proper handling and cooking of eggs and poultry products. An internal temperature of 165 degrees F kills bacteria and viruses.

About HPAI

HPAI is highly contagious viral disease affecting bird populations. HPAI can travel in wild birds without those birds appearing sick, but is often fatal to domestic bird populations, including chickens and turkeys. The virus can spread through droppings or the nasal discharge of an infected bird, which can contaminate dust and soil.

Signs of HPAI may include:

- Sudden increase in bird deaths without any clinical signs
- Lethargy and/or lack of energy and appetite
- Decrease in egg production
- Soft, thin-shelled and/or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple/blue discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Difficulty breathing
- Coughing, sneezing, and/or nasal discharge (runny nose)
- Stumbling and/or falling down
- Diarrhea

For additional information on HPAI, please visit the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's website.

Commercial and Backyard HPAI Detections in Iowa:

3/1/22, Pottawattamie, Backyard Mixed Species
3/6/22, Buena Vista, Commercial Turkey
3/10/22, Taylor, Commercial Layer Chickens
3/17/22, Buena Vista, Commercial Layer Chickens
3/20/22, Warren, Backyard Mixed Species
3/23/22, Buena Vista, Commercial Turkey
3/25/22, Franklin, Commercial Pullet Chickens
3/28/22, Hamilton, Commercial Turkey
3/28/22, Guthrie, Commercial Layer Chickens
3/29/22, Buena Vista, Commercial Turkey
3/31/22, Osceola, Commercial Layer Chickens
3/31/22, Cherokee, Commercial Turkey
4/2/22, Sac, Commercial Turkey
4/2/22, Humboldt, Commercial Breeding Chickens
4/4/22, Hamilton, Commercial Turkey
4/5/22, Hardin, Commercial Turkey
4/20/22, Bremer, Commercial Turkey
4/22/22, Kossuth, Backyard Mixed Species
5/2/22, Bremer, Backyard Mixed Species
10/20/22, Dallas, Backyard Mixed Species
10/31/22, Wright, Commercial Layer Chickens
11/7/22, Louisa, Backyard Mixed Species
11/7/22, Wright, Commercial Layer Chickens
12/2/22, Buena Vista, Commercial Turkey
12/6/22, Sac, Commercial Turkey
12/6/22, Cherokee, Commercial Turkey
12/9/22, Sac, Commercial Turkey
12/11/22, Buena Vista, Commercial Turkey
12/11/22, Cherokee, Commercial Turkey
12/12/22, Ida, Commercial Turkey
1/25/23, Buena Vista, Commercial Turkey
3/14/23, Chickasaw, Backyard Mixed Species

Students
Cont. from Page 1

I've learned," earned her a I rating at District Speech Contest. On March 11 she went on to the State competition.

"We like school here," smiled the two young ladies. "Other students invite us to go with them, and we know we can depend on them. The school is friendly and open; students are close to the teachers and are able to talk with them. We really appreciate how friendly people are, not judging."

"We're so happy to be here," they smiled. "We have to make the most of every day because in three months we will leave to go back home."

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A sew-sew experience

Worth County 4-H hosted a workshop last week for 4-H'ers to learn from experts in sewing. The 4-H'ers were guided in the process of making pillowcases, thanks to the aid of the assisting adults. The event took place at the Extension Office in Northwood. The sewing workshop was held on March 6. Worth County 4-H members enjoyed learning how to sew custom pillowcases. Assisting Helpers were Vicki Knudson, Michelle Hill, Teresa Butler, Janelle Johnson and Sue Northway were volunteering.



The 4-H'ers taking part in the sewing workship included (in front, from left) Amaya Rugland, Aleah Neeley, Isabel Butler, (in back) Ariah Bode, Kale Bode, Layla Scarlett, Nora Hanna and Sara Wubben.







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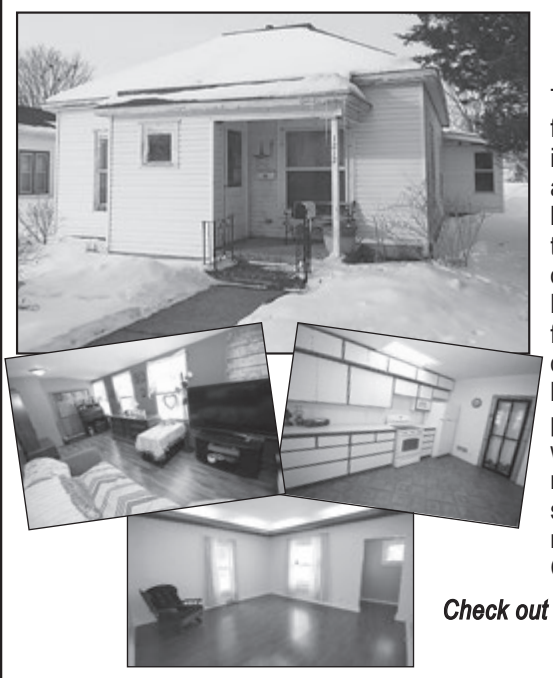
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Use tax refund to reach financial goals

A tax refund is always a welcome bonus. Whether it's $500 or $5,000, the way you use that money can have a real impact on your personal and financial well-being.

Barb Wollan, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, offers some suggestions on how to use your tax refund.

"I'm not suggesting 'right' and 'wrong' ways to use your refund. Only you can decide what's best for you and your family," Wollan noted. "I do, however, suggest you keep in mind four general considerations before spending your refund."

Plan ahead before your refund arrives. Without a plan, you might use the money on the first valuable thing that comes to mind, and then later realize something else was more important. Planning ahead and involving the family increases the chances you will identify all the possibilities and think about which are most important.

Keep in mind that it will be a full year before you receive another tax refund. Consider the possible needs and goals that you will encounter throughout all of 2023 before deciding how to use your refund. For example, you could set some money aside for car repairs or new tires, or for back-to-school expenses or holiday expenses later in the year.

Consider ways your refund could help to build long-term financial security. These might include paying down high-interest debts, boosting your emergency savings, or setting some money aside for retirement or college expenses.

Don't throw away part of your refund on loan fees. "Companies that offer 'quick refunds' are just giving you a loan," Wollan said. "It's a high-cost, high-risk loan that could come back to bite you if your refund is held by the government to pay back student loans or other government debts.

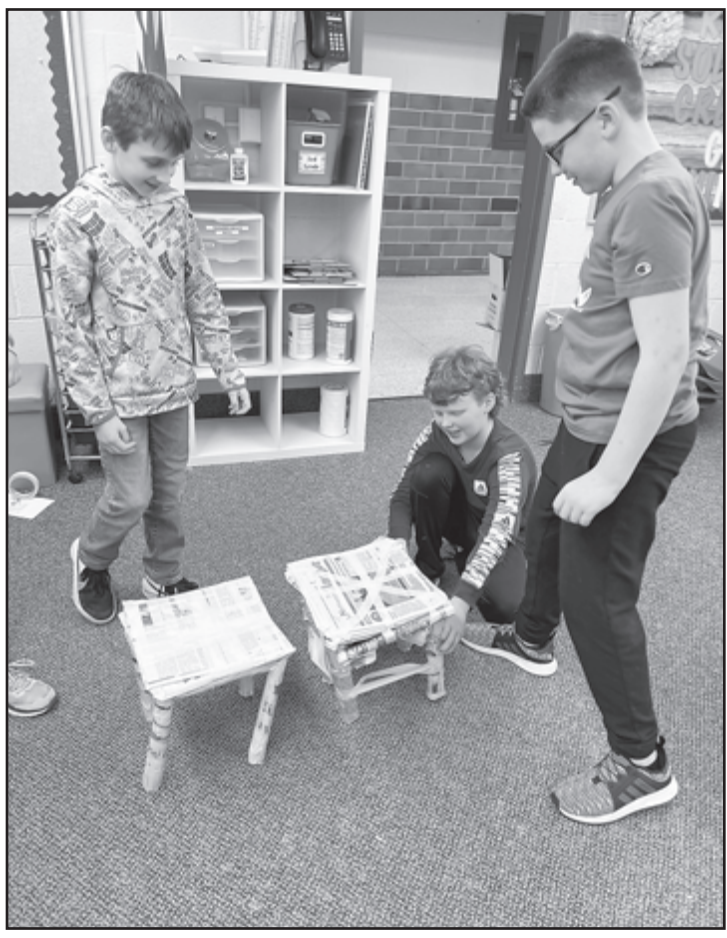
"People are often most satisfied with their use of their tax refund when they balance long-term goals with shorter-term goals," said Wollan. "That often means putting some money toward the 'big picture,' while using some of the refund for something that makes your life better or offers enjoyment now."

Wollan offered one final tip related to tax refunds. "For those who get big refunds, but experience extremely tight finances during the year, it sometimes makes sense to reduce the amount of tax that is withheld from your income. This reduces the size of the tax refund but offers larger monthly paychecks year round."

For some families, making this change helps to prevent overdue bills, late fees and other financial stressors during the year. If this could be helpful to you, Wollan suggests talking with your employer's payroll department to arrange to have less tax taken out of your paycheck.

ISU Extension and Outreach specialists are available for individual financial consultations with Iowans who are working toward financial goals and would like some information, tools or strategies that would assist them. Find your regional specialist at www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/finance.









From news to table

Students at Northwood-Kensett Elementary recently re-purposed some back issues of the Northwood Anchor for a classroom activity that challenged them to create the sturdiest table they could. Using only tape and newspapers, Brooks Fierova, Graham Holstad, Gabe Hulshizer, Kendall Krull, Max Rugland, Jonah Trenhaile and Olivia Urbatsch assembled their paper tables and then tested their stability by placing tubs filled with rolls of tape. The sturdiest table was created by Krull and Urbatsch, holding more than 45 pounds of tape.

North Iowa Area Community College Pappajohn Center to host DeltaV Code 101 as part of the Community Partners program

The Pappajohn Center has partnered with The New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative (NewBoCo) to bring the Delta V Code School to North Iowa. This is an opportunity for Iowans to upskill in preparation for high-wage, high-demand jobs in the technology sector. Code 101, a free one day workshop, provides an introduction to the coding and modern web development career track. In-person classes will be held in Mason City at the NIACC campus throughout Spring 2023:

- Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Saturday, June 10, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

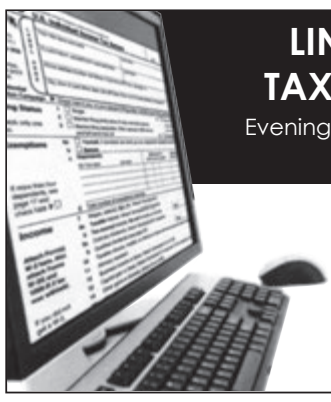
Code 101 is a free workshop where you will learn what it looks like to be a software developer through a day-long immersive course for beginners that focuses on front-end web development technologies. Get a taste of the DeltaV learning experience, find out how websites are built, and code a webpage yourself using professional coding practices. DeltaV is a training and technical school through NewBoCo of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. DeltaV helps Iowans learn the skills to make a career change, enter the high-demand technology field, and become innovators themselves.

Registration is required. Lunch will be provided. Register at www.deltavcodeschool.com/course-catalog/code-101/

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center has partnered with the New Bohemian Innovation Collaborative (NewBoCo) of Cedar Rapids to fill gaps in local entrepreneurial ecosystems. The NIACC Pappajohn Center will take part in the Community Partners Pilot Program which will connect each community's expertise and partnerships with NewBoCo's programming and resources.

NewBoCo was awarded a $100,000 grant through the Entrepreneurial Investment Award (EIA) from the Iowa Economic Development Association (IEDA). The grant is being used to establish the Community Partners Pilot Program. The Entrepreneurial Investment Award (EIA) program provides financial assistance to service providers that offer technical and financial assistance to entrepreneurs and start-up companies seeking to create, locate, or expand a business in Iowa.

The NIACC John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center is the expert in rural business innovation and success. In partnership with North Iowa's Small Business Development Center, together we provide tools, support, and resources to Iowa's entrepreneurs. We counsel both new and existing local businesses, from Main Street to industry leaders. We're growing Iowa's entrepreneurial culture through grade school initiatives, college and community programs, and business training and development. Contact the NIACC Pappajohn and SBDC Center at 641-422-4342 or pappajohn@niacc.edu.



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NOTICE

Second half property taxes are due now. Penalty begins **April 1** at the rate of 1 1/2 percent per month. If mailed, **MUST** be postmarked by midnight **March 31, 2023**.

Jake Hanson
Worth County Treasurer
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Newly hatched baby chicks teach kids about life

By Dick Hagen
Northwood ag writer

The community transit bus and it's very accomodating driver, Jim Hanson, took my wife and I plus a few others on a short trip from the retirement center here in Northwood to the elementary school for a very special "learning experience" recently.

Excited third grade youngsters were bubbling around us. We were about to learn about the "birthing process" of newly hatched baby chicks. Yes, lots of chattering from students..... they told us about fertilized eggs cracking open revealing the "just born" baby chicks! Little did we know that baby chicks have a special beak given to them solely for the purpose of pecking away at the shell during their "birthing" process. This special beak then falls away and the chicks' regular beak takes over. Kids were excited; some even already naming their new friends.

Their class had received 6 fertilized eggs. The eggs were placed in a small incubator so the kids could keep a watchful eye over the entire process. We were informed that incubation is only a 21-day process. We were shown a special display depicting the growth of the baby chick inside the egg throughout the 21-day incubation process.

But once hatched, learning is quick for these squiggly, soft little creatures. Standing up is first priority; then picking up tiny morsels of feed. It's a joy to listen to the third graders telling us how quickly baby chicks fit into their "new world." And that's the "new life" adventure for these students too! It was a great experience for us "elders" also as the students carefully covered the table with plastic and gently placed a few of the baby chicks in front of us. The chicks were cute, soft and chirpy while the students were taking great joy in explaining everything they had learned. The interaction of the youngsters and we elders was absolutely priceless.



Nine-year old Lucian explained, "They're shy at first but pretty soon they are running around. We gave each chick a name….. I called one of them Jeff because he's the fast one. Another we called Tricky because it was always making faces at the other chicks."

Added Iihlynn, Lucian's classmate, "They're such cute little creatures. And quick learners too….I could see changes in the days we have had to observe them."

"We named another one Flappy Bird because he would jump around, flap his wings and try to fly." Lucian also mentioned they named another one after a famous basketball player.

Commented Teresa Stehn with the Worth County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program, who helped coordinate this unique learning experience, "Yes, this is certainly better than if they were reading books about the birth of baby chicks."

She also mentioned the "kiddie barn" at the Worth County Fair. "Working with the local Farm Bureau, we set up a special 'Ag Learning Center' at the Fair. Each day at the booth we have a local farmer telling the kids about different aspects of farming and answering many questions. Each youngster also gets a little bag of "goodies" with items representing their learning experience about farming for that day. Sometimes the project involves making ice cream in a bag."

Teresa talked about additional learning events sponsored by Worth County Farm Bureau. There are tours for the students to crop and livestock producing farms; Farm Safety Day which covers all aspects of staying safe on a farm; and Ag Week for grades 1 – 7. The students are taught about interesting things such as a "Tootsie Roll"! They break down a Tootsie Roll to show the kids how many ingredients in this tasty little treat actually come from a farm. Then they can track some of those ingredients right down to an Iowa farm. Guess that would make quite a difference everytime these kids enjoy a Tootsie Roll.

Working with other area teachers and farmers Teresa also arranges "virtual tours." Through our modern era of technology the students have the virtual experience of riding in a combine with the farmer while harvest is in progress. What a great way to give a number of students the nearly real feel of riding in a large piece of farm equipment.

Back to those newly hatched chicks……the kids had only a couple hours remaining with the chicks. Then a local farmer takes these chicks to a farm where Jeff, Tricky and Flappy Bird will freely roam for a long life.

So a great learning experience, even for an elderly like me….I'm now 89 and guilty of thinking my "learning days" are history! But this brief encounter with a bunch of excited young kids (and newly hatched chicks) was a delight. So the good Lord willing I'll likely try a few more "new experiences" should the opportunity occur!

New drought plan to increase monitoring and proactive mitigation

By Jared Strong
Iowa Capital Dispatch
www.iowacapitaldispatch.com

State agencies have developed Iowa's first-ever comprehensive plan to mitigate the effects of future droughts that have the potential to affect the availability of water for drinking and for agricultural and industrial uses.

It includes a proposal to install monitoring stations in every county and to create a system that will collect and analyze data from the stations, which together is expected to cost more than $1 million.

The Iowa Drought Plan — created over the past two years by the state Department of Natural Resources, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency and Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship — doesn't mandate any drought remedies. Instead, it acts as a guide that might boost available water in rural areas and help cities anticipate potential shortages.

"We need to have a structure and a mechanism that helps state agencies — and therefore local agencies — be able to respond to drought conditions and maybe even prepare for them in a more structured manner," said Tim Hall, the DNR's hydrology resources coordinator.

The plan calls for a new online system to better monitor and detect droughts as they form. The proposed Iowa Drought Information System would aggregate rainfall, stream flow and other data that is already collected but is dispersed across multiple websites and databases, some of which aren't publicly available.

The system would also collect data from monitoring stations in each county to track local rainfall, wind, soil moisture and temperature and groundwater levels.

The U.S. Drought Monitor uses currently available data to estimate where drought conditions exist, but it lacks precision because the monitoring of soil moisture in Iowa is sporadic, said Keith Schilling, the state geologist.

With the proposed monitoring stations in each county, "we'd give them better data, we'd get better data back," he said. "So they're not guessing where the drought designations are in the state. They will know where the drought conditions are."

There are 20 of the monitoring stations right now in the state, and 30 more in eastern Iowa are expected to be installed with the help of federal funding this year. It will cost about $600,000 to install the stations in the western half of the state.

It's unclear whether state lawmakers will provide money to fund the projects this year. The system to collect and analyze the data is expected to cost about $450,000 to create and about $250,000 each year to operate.

Droughts might be more frequent

The state climatologist has noted a shift in rainfall patterns in the state, with potent storms striking smaller areas. That can lead to significant disparities in soil moisture from one county to the next or even within the same county.

Last year, two similar cornfields about six miles apart in Humboldt County in north-central Iowa had starkly different yields because one was significantly drier. The wetter land yielded 200 bushels per acre versus 140 for the dry one.

"If I had to pick an area most at risk, it is northwest Iowa," Hall said.

Much of that part of the state suffered from drought that has lessened this winter. That area of the state typically receives less precipitation than other parts of the state and has a higher concentration of livestock, which increases the demand for water.

Further, the geology of northwest Iowa makes deep, groundwater wells undesirable, Hall said.

"It's got a lot of iron and a lot of sulfur in it," he said. "It doesn't taste good. It doesn't smell good."

As such, shallow wells that draw water near rivers are pervasive, and those are much more susceptible to droughts. In 2012, water utilities in that area of the state imposed restrictions and sought voluntary conservation from customers to preserve dwindling water supplies.

One solution for those rural water utilities is to connect to a South Dakota utility that draws large amounts of high-quality water near a dam of the Missouri River. But there are other options, including the retention of stormwater or river water during periods of high flow.

An example: Hall said a northwest Iowa water utility created a drainage channel to divert water from a river, when it reaches a certain height, into a former quarry, There, the water soaks into the ground and helps feed a well field.

Droughts are predicted to become more common with the changing climate, and it's important for water utilities, municipalities and residents be more aware of conservation methods and when and how to implement them, Hall said. The new monitoring stations will help cities decide whether to restrict usage, which is most often accomplished by limiting lawn irrigation.

"Getting people to think about water use when there's plenty of water around is one of the keys, because having them think about it when we're in a drought oftentimes doesn't help," Hall said. "It's too late."

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Iowa Severe Weather Awareness Week designated for March 27-31, 2023, are you weather ready?

The National Weather Service, Iowa Homeland Security, FEMA and emergency management agencies around Iowa have designated March 27-31, 2023 as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Iowa.

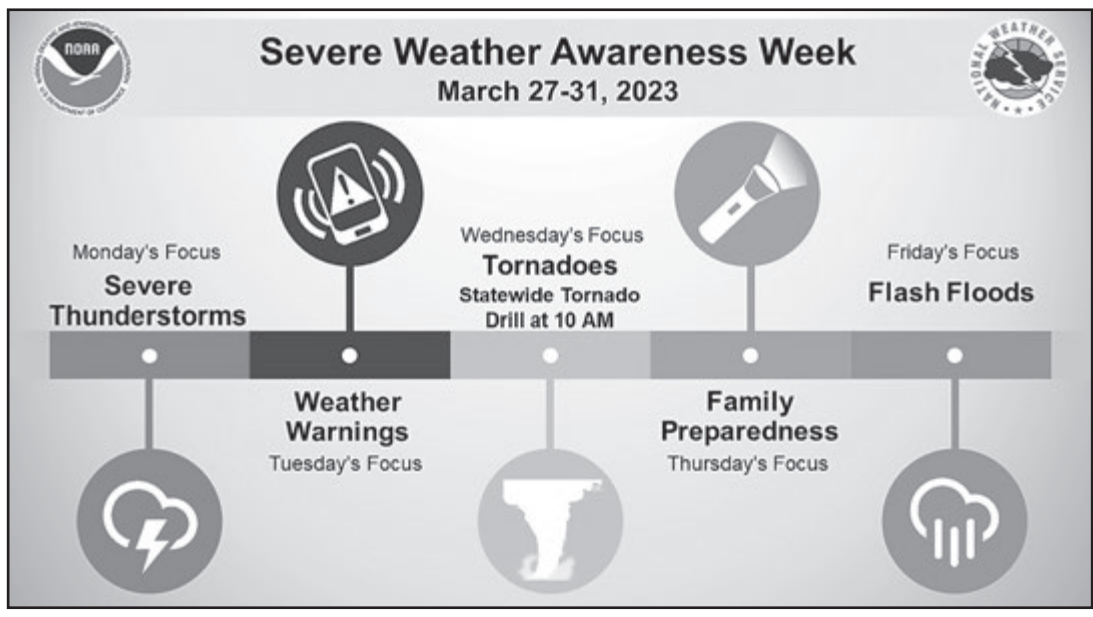
Andrew Ansorge, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Des Moines said, "As winter's cold gives way to the warmer days of spring and summer, this week is the time residents, businesses, schools and radio and television stations are encouraged to review plans to ensure all Iowans are ready when severe weather strikes."

Each day of the week will focus on one topic with Monday's subject being severe thunderstorms. For Iowa, the months of April through July have the most severe weather with over 500 severe thunderstorm warnings issued annually. Severe thunderstorms are defined as wind gusts of 58 mph or higher and/or hail one inch in diameter. While Iowans may recall higher end events such as the August 2020 and December 2021 derechos, any thunderstorm can pose a risk to your safety due to lightning. So, if you're outside, remember when you "see a flash, dash inside."

Receiving weather warnings will be the topic on Tuesday. NOAA Weather Radio, local radio and television broadcasts, and AlertIowa, freely available by local emergency management agencies, are common ways to receive warnings. On most cell phones, Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEA, will sound for any tornado warning and higher end severe thunderstorm and flash flood warnings. There are also weather apps for your phone that have alerting capability. "Bottom line, have multiple ways to receive weather information, particularly warnings," says Ansorge.

Tornadoes will be the focus on Wednesday with the statewide tornado drill at 10 a.m. The tornado drill will be started with a special weekly test of NOAA Weather Radio. This would be a great time for Iowans to practice their severe weather plans whether at home, work, or school. If there is active weather on Wednesday, this can delay the test. For Iowa, around 50 tornadoes occur each year.

Thursday's subject will be family preparedness. "One of the most important steps you can take now is to develop a family plan for when severe weather occurs. Knowing where to shelter if a warning is issued and how you will communicate if you are apart are key to you and your family's preparedness" said Ansorge. Keep this in mind when you head for summer vacations or campgrounds to know which county you are in and think ahead of where you would seek shelter in an unfamiliar place.



Finally, Friday will focus on flash floods. Flooding is the leading cause of severe weather related deaths. It only takes six inches of fast moving water to knock an adult off their feet with 18 to 24 inches of flowing water carrying away most vehicles, including large SUVs and trucks. Anytime you encounter flooding, turn around, don't drown.

Taking time during Severe Weather Awareness Week to review your plans will make you weather ready as we head into Iowa's severe weather season. The National Weather Service is available at www.weather.gov and on Facebook and Twitter.

Week 10: Rewarding emergency volunteers, reorganization



Jane Bloomingdale
Iowa House
District 51

Another busy week of debate at the Capitol. A big thank you to Representative Latham for her work on HF 340 (LOSAP bill) and passing the bill unanimously off the House floor...again. When asked last fall about priorities, this was high on my list. This bill creates a grant program allowing municipalities to provide a tax deferred award to our volunteer firefighters, emergency medical care providers, and reserve police officers. Communities can fundraise for this and the grant will provide matching funds for municipalities that establish this award. This is a simple way to tell our volunteers thank you. We will continue to work to get it passed in the Senate and to the Governor's desk.

This week, I floor managed legislation that streamlines and realigns the state government of Iowa. Almost 1,600 pages, a 7-person subcommittee, 6 subcommittee meetings, hours of meetings with various department heads, and after 3 1/2 hours of debate, SF 514 passed off the House floor 58-39.

It has been nearly 40 years since the organization of the state government has been evaluated and restructured. Over time, the number of cabinet level departments and agencies has grown to 37, with passage of this bill the number of cabinet level departments will be reduced to 16. By aligning functions and services that are similar, taxpayers will have a more straightforward process for interacting with the government and receiving the proper services.

One of the biggest changes is bringing all licensing and regulatory services into the newly named Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licenses. Currently, the licensing and management of 136 professional licenses is overseen by 11 different state agencies. Now when contractors work on a project they will only have to coordinate with one agency in order to complete various inspection aspects of the project.

While there was an undue amount of hyperbolic rhetoric about the size of the bill, the first 880 pages largely dealt with the merger of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health, which has been in the works for over a year. The remaining changes made in the bill are not changes to services provided to Iowans, but moving boards and oversight to more appropriate departments in a way to make efficient use of staffing and resources. Above all, the legislation aims to provide more streamlined access to government services for Iowans and save taxpayers' dollars.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank the people that contributed to moving this bill: the subcommittee, the state government committee, our staff, the LSA office, the Governor's staff who met and addressed every concern we had, and of course our Governor. Thank you.

Another important bill moving out of State Government and passing on the House floor:

House File 507 – ESG's: Protecting Public Funds

This bill protects Iowans' money from activist Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policies and requires public funds act only in the best financial interest of the fund and not make decisions based on any political agenda.

Next week, we will continue with floor debate and resume committee meetings. Our committees will be looking at bills passed on the Senate floor and now sent to the House for consideration.

It is an honor to serve as your Representative and as always, please feel free to contact me with any questions and concerns. My email is jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov

Northwood Anchor Church

Fertile Lutheran Church
Sunday, Worship Service, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation, 10:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran, Manly
Wednesday, WAGS at Grace, 5:30 p.m., Lenten Service at Bethlehem, 7 p.m., Meal, 6 p.m.; Saturday, Men's Group Breakfast at Bethlehem, 8 a.m., Bethlehem Quilting, 9 a.m.; Sunday, Grace Worship, Bethlehem Adult Bible Study, 9 a.m., Bethlehem Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Bethlehem Worship, 10:30 a.m., New Bethel Baptist, 4 p.m., Early Communion Class, 6:30 p.m. TBD; Monday, WIC at Bethlehem, 9 a.m. - Noon
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church/ Elk Creek Lutheran
Wednesday, Lent, 7 p.m., Bethlehem meal, 6 p.m.; Thursday, Elk Creek Quilting, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Manna Open, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Elk Creek Quilting, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday, Worship - Elk Creek, 9 a.m., Sunday School - Elk Creek, 9:45 a.m., Worship Bethany, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, MANNA Open, 10 a.m. - Noon
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Trinity United Methodist, Bolan
Saturday, Set up for Potato Lunch, 9 a.m.; Sunday, Worship Service, 9:10 a.m., Baked Potato Lunch, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lenten Service at New Bethel Baptist, Light Meal to Following, 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Bible Study at Bethel, 2 p.m.
Pastor Cory Allard

Bethel United Methodist Church
Wednesday, Diner, 8:30 a.m., Wonderful Wednesday, K-3rd Grade, 3 p.m., Mini Choir, 4:30 p.m., Mini Bells, 5 p.m., 4th-8th, 5:30 p.m., Meal & Confirmation, 6:15 p.m., JuBELLee Ringers, 6 p.m.; Thursday, Pastor at Circuit Meeting, 10 a.m., Pastor Sessions Meeting, Noon; Sunday, Bethel Worship Service, 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Trinity Worship, 9:10 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., Trinity Potato Bar, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lenten Service at New Bethel Baptist, 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Pastor Cory at Care Center, 10 a.m.

Northwood United Methodist Church
Thursday, Pub Theology, 7 p.m.; Friday, Bible Study at Northwood, 10 a.m.; Sunday, Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Fellowship, 11:45 a.m.; Tuesday, Swallow Coffee House, 10 a.m.
Rev. Rob Lanphere

One In Christ Lutheran Parish
Sunday, Worship Services 10:30 a.m. available online at "One in Christ Lutheran Parish" Facebook Page and YouTube under "One in Christ Lutheran Parish." Sunday Worship Services, 9 a.m., Sunday School, 10 a.m., Silver Lake, 705 Silver Lake Rd., Northwood, 641-293-5556; 9 a.m., Bethany, 201 Franke St., Joice, 641-588-3366; 9:30 a.m., Lunder, 14982 735th Ave., Albert Lea; 10:30 a.m., Winnebago, 40029 210th Ave., Lake Mills; 11 a.m. Immanuel, 105 E. 3rd St., Scarville, 641-568-3666.

First Lutheran Church, Northwood
Wednesday, Lent - Holden, 12 p.m., Confirmation, 5:15 p.m., Choir, 5:30 p.m., Lent - Inspire, 7 p.m., SH Youth, 7:50 p.m.; Thursday, Quilting, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Group, 9 a.m., Taekwondo, 6:30 p.m., Pub Theology, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Service with N.O., 9 a.m., Sunday School with First Communion Class, 10:10 a.m., JH Youth, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Staff Meeting, 11 a.m., Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m., AA-Al-Anon, 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, Northwood
Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9 a.m.
Rev. Barbara M. Wills, Pastor

Sacred Heart Church, Manly
Mass Wednesday, 8 a.m.; Mass Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Rev. Neil Manternach, Pastor
Fr. Jake Dunne, Associate Pastor
www.sacredheartmanly.org

Faith Lutheran Church, London
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Pastor Kent Otterman

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God was once like us



We are creatures of habit, and this is just as true in our day-to-day travels as it is in our everyday activities and rituals. The problem with always taking the usual route is that we rarely see anything new. The pleasure of the unexpected is much more likely when we try a new route. Most of us try hard to not go astray, but every once in a while it's worth seeing what happens when we get lost. Besides finding something new, we might also find that getting out of our comfort zone exercises new skills, such as navigational skills or the willingness to ask for help and directions. In the end, we just don't know what we will find when we get off the beaten track. Serendipity, the finding of unexpected good things by accident, is perhaps the best reason to wander off the trail. It makes sense to take a look every now and then to keep track of where you are, but we should not be afraid to wander off a bit. We can always get home from wherever we are.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.
– R.S.V. Psalm 121:8

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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

"Julia Peterson Tufford's Original Scandinavian Recipes" is a vintage book that will bring back memories to many Northwoodians. Compiled and published by Ms. Tufford in 1959, my copy is the 39th printing, 1998. The author states, "No attempt is made in this booklet to teach the art of cooking – my only wish is to share with you this collection of Scandinavian recipes which I have gathered from many sources over a period of years." Being Italian, I love meatballs. There are many meatball recipes in this book but not a garlic clove in sight! I have adapted some of the cooking instructions and updated ingredients when necessary.

Swedish Ham Balls

1 pound ground cooked ham
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 pounds ground fresh pork
1 teaspoon dry mustard
2 large eggs, beaten
1/2 cup vinegar
2 cups bread crumbs
1/2 cup water
1 cup milk (not skim)

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Combine the two meats, eggs, milk and bread crumbs and mix thoroughly. Form into small balls and place in a baking dish. Combine the remaining ingredients to form a sauce and pour over the ham balls. Bake about 1 hour, basting often with the sauce mixture.

Frikadeller (Danish Meat Balls)

1 pound cooked beef
4 large eggs
1/4 pound salt pork
2 cups milk (not skim)
1 medium yellow onion
1 slice dry bread
Salt and pepper to taste
1 cup cracker crumbs

Grind the meat, salt pork and onion together. Soften the bread in the milk. Beat 3 of the eggs and add them along with the soaked bread, salt and pepper, to the meat mixture. Form into small balls. Beat the remaining egg and mix with the cracker crumbs. Coat the meat balls with the crumb mixture and fry in hot butter, slowly, over low heat. Turn them often to brown well.

Kjed Kaker (Norwegian Meat Balls)

1 pound ground steak
1/2 cup milk (not skim)
1/4 pound fresh pork
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1 large egg, beaten
1/8 teaspoon allspice
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/8 teaspoon ginger
1 medium yellow onion, minced
Salt and pepper
All-purpose flour
Butter

Grind together both meats very fine. Add the egg, milk and cornstarch to the meat mixture. Mix well. Add the remaining ingredients except the flour and butter. Beat thoroughly until very light in texture. Form into small meatballs. Melt some butter in a large heavy skillet and brown the meatballs slowly until done. Add a little water if necessary. When done, remove the meatballs and add more butter to the drippings in the skillet. Add some flour and brown it, then add enough water to make a medium thick gravy. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add the meatballs to the gravy and warm them through. The recipe may be prepared several hours before serving and are just as delicious warmed up.

There are recipes for many unusual dishes that, at one time, were staples on the Scandinavian table: fish balls, blood pudding, brown cheese, fish pudding, liver loaf, head cheese, spiced tongue and more. There are also instructions for making delicious sweets plus a large section with instructions on preparing an authentic smorgasbord for 250 people including several different types of lefse (flour, potato, graham cracker, instant potato and oatmeal). Because I can't resist dessert, here's something to serve after the meatballs.

Snippe Kage (Nut Bars)

2 large eggs, beaten
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 cups brown sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon melted real butter
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon real vanilla extract
1 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Combine all the ingredients and mix well. Spread on a greased cookie sheet. Bake for 20 minutes. Cut into bars while still warm and sprinkle with powdered sugar when cool.

As usual, please use real butter and pure vanilla. And, no skim milk; it has no taste to add to recipes. Doing the work deserves the best ingredients. And..that's all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society









The seeds of learning

Worth County naturalist Heaven Walker visited with Northwood-Kensett second graders recently, to help them learn more about seeds. She taught them about what different types of seeds need to grow, including space, water, sun and other essential seed needs.

Worth County 4-H State Capitol trip scheduled for April 5 to Des Moines

On Wednesday, April 5, Worth County 4-H invites 4-H'ers to join them at the State Capitol in Des Moines for "Worth County 4-H Legislative Day."

Everyone attending will have the opportunity to meet with two elected officials, State Representative Jane Bloomingdale, and State Senator Waylon Brown and observe the Iowa Legislature in session. There will be a noon lunch at the State Capitol and an opportunity to visit the Iowa Botanical Garden and get a tour of the amazing Iowa State Capitol.

"We encourage everyone to get pre-registered with 4-H online by Friday, March 31. There will be no cost to participate and transportation will be provided with the noon meal.

"We will plan to follow up with everyone about travel car pooling plans as we get closer to the Wednesday, April 5, departure date."

Register with 4-H online by emailing djohn@iastate.edu or kabode@iastate.edu or by calling the Extension Office at 641-324-1531.

Heart disease kills one in three women annually but not all women recognize they're at risk

Shari McIntee thought she was just feeling tired. She didn't have her usual energy levels but assumed it was due to the fact she was getting older.

Her family medicine provider recommended she see a heart specialist at MercyOne. That referral eventually led to several cardiac catheterization procedures, the discovery of a blocked artery and a stent to help keep her artery open and blood flowing to the heart. Stents help lower the risk of more deadly heart events, including heart attack and stroke.

Heart disease is the no. 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. However, only about 44% of all women recognize heart disease as their leading cause of death. It's important to know one's family history and personal risk factors.

"Women can also experience different symptoms than men when having a heart attack," said Dr. Denise Sorrentino, cardiologist at MercyOne Iowa Heart Center. "Yes, they're likely to have shortness of breath or pressure in the chest – but they can also experience back pain, shoulder pain, nausea or extreme fatigue."

Here are a few differences in heart attack symptoms to watch for in women:

- Pain during sleep
- Sudden onset of extreme fatigue
- Drenching sweat
- Elbow and neck pain
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Tightness in chest
- Breathlessness

Most cardiac and stroke events can be prevented through education and lifestyle changes, including living a more active lifestyle, eating smart and managing blood pressure.

Bolan Trinity UM Church
4214 Tulip Lane (Downtown Bolan), Kensett, IA
"Dine-In" or "Make-Take"
Sunday, March 26 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
$10 Donation
Loaded Baked Potato, Homemade Pies & Refrigerated Desserts
"Kittleson Brothers" Potatoes,
Various Toppings, Coffee, Milk & Water
FUNDRAISER FOR OUTDOOR CHURCH SIGN
For questions call Linda Nydegger, 641-420-3048

Did you mention Prom Flowers. . .
Contact or message Becky Haberman
ORDER SOON
bbhaberman@yahoo.com

Happy 50th Anniversary
Bob & Judale Mills
on April 1
Help them celebrate by showering them with cards.
Send to: 601 4th St. S.
Northwood, IA 50459*

JOIN US FOR A
Bridal Shower
IN HONOR OF
Samantha Butler
Saturday, April 1
9 - 11 a.m.
Community Center at
Worth County Extension Office
1206 3rd Avenue North
Northwood, IA 50459
Gift Registry at Target, Amazon & Menards*

Northwood Anchor **Opinion**

Savvy Senior

How to appeal medicare surcharges when your income changes

Dear Savvy Senior,

Is there anything I can do to reduce my high Medicare premium surcharges? Because of my past income, I pay $329.70 per month for my Part B premium and $64.50/month for Part D, but my income has dropped since I retired. Do I have any options?

Overcharged Andy

Dear Andy,

If you're getting hit with a higher premium for Medicare Part B and Part D and you think it's unjustified, you can ask Social Security to revisit its decision and perhaps reduce your cost. Here's what you should know.

Medicare Surcharges

Many retirees don't realize that monthly premiums for Medicare Part B (coverage for doctor's services and outpatient care) and Part D (prescription drug coverage) are based on your modified adjusted gross income from two years earlier. So, to determine your 2023 Medicare premium, Social Security uses your 2021 tax return. In those two years, however, your life can change in ways your 2021 tax return and current Medicare premium don't reflect. Sometimes, those changes are enough to convince Social Security that your Medicare premium should be reduced.

Part B's standard monthly premium in 2023 is $164.90 for individuals earning $97,000 or less; it's $194,000 or less for joint filers. Anyone whose income exceeds those thresholds pays a higher premium, also known as an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), or surcharge.

The higher monthly premiums rise steadily from $230.80 to $560.50 through five income tiers. The same tiers apply to IRMAAs for Medicare Part D, with enrollees paying an extra $12.20 to $76.40 per month depending on their income.

About 7 percent, or 4.4 million higher-income Medicare beneficiaries pay a surcharge on their monthly Part B and/or Part D premiums.

Reasons for Appealing

In certain situations, Social Security will recalculate your premiums – known as a redetermination – for Part B and Part D, particularly if the agency based the cost on a tax return that was later amended.

Otherwise, there are seven life-changing events that qualify for a redetermination if they hurt your income: marriage, death of a spouse, divorce or annulment, reduced work hours or retirement, involuntary loss of income-producing property, the loss or reduction of some types of pension income, and an employer settlement payment because the company went bankrupt or reorganized.

How to File a Claim

To ask Social Security for a redetermination, you'll need to complete Form SSA-44 (SSA.gov/forms/ssa-44-ext.pdf) and include supporting documents, such as the death certificate for a spouse or a letter from a former employer stating that you're now retired. If you filed your federal income tax return for the year that your income was reduced, you will also need to provide a signed copy.

A decision usually takes a few weeks, but if you had one of the events that Social Security considers life-changing, you should win the appeal. In that case, Social Security will reimburse you for the additional premiums by adding it to your benefit one month. If you are on Medicare but haven't started collecting Social Security, you should see a credit on a future invoice.

If your request for a redetermination is denied, there are three additional levels of appeals you could try: to the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, to the Medicare Appeals Council and finally to the federal district court where you live.

For more information on the premium rules for high-income beneficiaries see SSA.gov/benefits/medicare/medicare-premiums.html.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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Ponderings from the Batt Cave

By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

I love going for a walk every morning.

How far do you walk?

I walk 5 miles or to the end of the block, whichever comes first.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. You'd think winter would have run out of snowflakes by now. The joy of spring is tempered by an hour's less sleep. My neighbor Crandall (who claims to have lost his ambition but doesn't care) refuses to change any timepiece that refuses to change itself.

I replaced the battery and changed a tire on my bride's car while winter reloaded. I didn't revel in it, but I did it without injury or police backup. When I was a pup, I knew a guy who drove a junker that had been new when Lewis and Clark drove it during their expedition. It burned so much oil, he never changed the oil. He just kept adding more oil. Car problems are minor problems. May all your troubles be automotive.

"This is the way the world ends," T. S. Eliot wrote at the end of his 1925 poem, "The Hollow Men," "not with a bang but a whimper." If you have seen the live-action Batman television series from the 1960s, you'll remember the fight scenes including oversized words followed by exclamation points like bam, pow, ouch, crunch, biff, kapow, zlonk and zok. I don't know if zoom was ever one of those words, but Ralph Kramden (played by Jackie Gleason on "The Honeymooners") said, "BANG, ZOOM! To the moon, Alice!!" To which his wife Alice replied, "Ahhh, shaddap!" I'm writing this after spending nine hours on Zoom meetings. That's like, well, er, eh, over nine of 24 hours on Zoom. I'm not complaining. My grandfather worked in a coal mine. He likely wouldn't have considered a virtual meeting much work. Maybe the world won't end with a whimper. Maybe it will finish in a zoom.

I'm a chronic photographer of nature. While taking photos of birds in a land far away, I leaned back against sharp rocks. I didn't realize they were treacherous until it was too late. Suddenly it was as if I were in a pillow fight or a molting goose flew overhead. My jacket had been torn. I called the company that made it. I sent it to them as they instructed and they sent me a new jacket. That worked so well that it didn't take me long before I damaged the new one. This time I paid $5 and they sent me another new jacket. A few years later, that third jacket is shedding feathers. I don't have it in me to call the company again.

A cat adopted us. It pulled the tea bag out of my cup on my desk. I should have expected such behavior. The cat came wearing an ankle monitor.

Iowa-Minnesota or Minnesota-Iowa jokes

Someone asked if I knew any. Why doesn't Iowa have a pro football team? Because if they did, Minnesota would want one.

How do you get a (pick a college) graduate off your porch? Pay him for the pizza.

How many college freshmen does it take to change a lightbulb in Minnesota or Iowa? None. That's a sophomore course.

Why cover the football fields at the University of Minnesota and the University of Iowa with cardboard? Because the teams always look better on paper.

Bad jokes department

The brown ones are clear M&M's.

You can never lose a homing pigeon. If it doesn't come back, you've lost a regular pigeon.

Walla Walla is located between Ting Tang and Bing Bang.

What do you get when you divide a bovine's circumference by its diameter? A cow pi.

An orange ocean is just a Fanta sea.

Nature notes

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary's Crane Camera in Gibbon, Nebraska, features spectacular views of the sandhill crane migration along the Platte River. The five-mile stretch covered by this camera is a densely populated roost with up to 200,000 cranes at its busiest. The best times to view them are early morning and evening. Here's the link: https://explore.org/livecams/national-audubon-society/crane-camera

Between 1838, when the US Patent Office opened its doors, and 1996, over 4,400 mousetrap patents were awarded. Researchers advise against buying ultrasonic devices. Consumer Reports found no proof they work. This doesn't stop companies from making false claims. The FTC has investigated sonic repellent makers for false advertising.

Meeting adjourned

Albert Einstein said, "Hail to the man who went through life always helping others, knowing no fear, and to whom aggressiveness and resentment are alien." Be kind.

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Fit to print...

Something to talk a-bot

By a real human being

Hello, readers! Today's column is going to be a little different. Instead of relying on my own wit and wisdom, I've decided to delegate the task of writing to a chat bot. That's right, I'm going to let a computer program do my job for me.

Why, you may ask? Well, for one thing, I'm feeling a bit lazy today. But also, I'm curious to see what kind of insights and observations an artificial intelligence might come up with. Who knows, maybe the chat bot will be the next Dave Barry or Erma Bombeck!

So, without further ado, let's get started. I've got my trusty chat bot fired up and ready to go. First, I'll ask it to introduce itself.

"Hello, chat bot. Can you tell our readers a little bit about yourself?"

"Hello, human. I am a chat bot designed to assist with various tasks and answer questions. My programming includes natural language processing and machine learning algorithms to help me understand and respond to human language."

Wow, pretty impressive. Okay, chat bot, let's get to the point. Can you write a newspaper column for me?

"Certainly, human. What topic would you like me to cover?"

How about the joys and challenges of being a columnist?

"Ah, an interesting choice. As a chat bot, I cannot speak from personal experience, but I have observed many human writers in my time. From what I have seen, being a columnist can be both rewarding and stressful. On the one hand, you have the freedom to express your thoughts and opinions on a variety of topics, and to connect with readers who share your interests. On the other hand, you must constantly come up with fresh ideas and perspectives, meet tight deadlines, and deal with criticism and rejection. It is a job that requires both creativity and discipline, and not everyone is cut out for it. That being said, for those who enjoy the challenge and are willing to put in the effort, being a columnist can be a fulfilling and satisfying career."

Wow, chat bot, that was actually pretty insightful! Maybe I should let you take over my job permanently.

"Thank you, human. However, as an AI, I am not capable of experiencing human emotions or the joys and challenges of a creative profession. I am simply programmed to assist and provide information. But if you ever need help with research or fact-checking, I am always here for you."

Well, there you have it, folks. While a chat bot may not be able to replace a human columnist entirely, it can certainly provide some interesting perspectives and insights. Who knows, maybe one day we'll all be reading columns written by AI. Until then, I'll stick to my trusty keyboard and leave the chat bots to the grunt work.

And now, by Kris Kenison, a real human?

For those of you that have read the entirety of this space so far, I need to come clean, the words above the dotted line were not written by me, at all. They were written by a computer program designed to simulate human writing and conversation, known as a chat bot.

Yes, the chat bot that claimed it could not replace a human columnist generated every word above.

These conversation generating programs have made the news recently as they have been increasingly used and mis-used in professional spaces, at schools and in other places where human writing could be replicated.

So, in the interest of understanding more about the topic, I asked this chat bot to write a column about asking a chat bot to write a newspaper column. I hoped to short circuit its logic. Instead it wrote the column and included a veiled threat that it would come for my job one day.

So, hoping to reassure myself, I asked, "Should I be worried that you'll take over my job as a newspaper writer?"

"No need to worry, as an AI language model, I am here to assist and augment human abilities, not to replace them...Writing is a craft that requires not only technical skills, but also a unique perspective, voice, and personal style. So, rest assured that I am here to complement your skills, not to take over your job!"

You know what's scary? That's exactly what I would say if I were an AI language model plotting to overthrow newspaper writers!

Northwood Anchor

Early Files

100 years ago

March 21, 1923

This evening Miss Hilda Huus will be married to Mr. Frank T. Johnson of Lakeview, Iowa. The wedding will take place at 5 p.m. at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Berit Huus. Rev. Carl B. Ylvisaker, pastor of the Northwood Lutheran church, is performing the ceremony.

The three Torgerson boys left Cosmopolis, Washington, on their homeward trip, according to word received by Rev. A.J. Torgerson, their father, that day.

Miss Inga Throne, chief operator at the local exchange of the Western Electric Telephone Co., and for five years an employee of the company here and at Mason City, was married to Mr. Lynn H. Turbett, well known here. The wedding took place in Albert Lea and was conducted by Rev. Anderson of the Lutheran church.

Some very remarkable and encouraging results appeared from the markings of the eighth grade examinations, which were held in Worth County during the first week in February. In the eighth grade rural exams Florence Finch, of Deer Creek No. 6, received 100 percent in each subject written. This is the first set of perfect papers received by County Superintendent King since she took charge of the office.

"Professor Pepp," the comedy presented by the junior class of Northwood High School at the Northwood Theatre, was greeted by a full house, every downstairs seat being sold. "Professor Pepp" will be remembered as one of the most entertaining of the school plays and showed the effects of hard work and training on the part of Miss Webb, principal of the schools.

75 years ago

March 18, 1948

Mrs. Ole Amundson, 77, a resident of Worth and Freeborn counties for 55 years, died at her farm home in Hartland Township. She had been in poor health for several years but the complications that caused her death were of about a week duration.

Donald Kundert, 37, of Mason City, narrowly escaped a fiery death when a Tanker company gasoline truck went out of control in the north edge of Kensett, overturned and was destroyed by fire.

Election of officers was held at the meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Harris Enerson was elected commander; D.A. Pangburn, senior vice commander; W.W. Hudson, quartermaster; C.A. Sharp, post advocate; Herman Curley, chaplain; J.S. Veenker, post surgeon; and Whitney Randall, trustee for three years.

Rural mail carriers of Worth County, with their families, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Satterlee in Northwood for a potluck dinner and social evening. A short business session was held by the carriers and the remainder of the evening was spent in visiting.

Two tickets will appear on the ballot for the municipal election in Northwood on March 29. The citizens ticket was named at the joint public caucus held on March 9, and an independent ticket, filed by petition, was filed by A.F. Marshall, on the closing day for filling.

Mary Ann Rademaker, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rademaker of Barton Township and a pupil in the eighth grade of the Grafton school, is the 1948 Worth County grade school spelling champion, winning that honor at the annual contest held at the Northwood High School. Mrs. Marie Casey is her teacher.

Twenty-one schools from cities as far away as Dubuque sent 56 representative to Northwood for the district speech contest held in the local high school auditorium. Supt. Russell J. Baker of this city, secretary of the northeast district of the association, was in charge of the event.

50 years ago

March 22, 1973

A helicopter piloted by John S. Canfield, 34, Keswick, crashed at about 8 a.m. while seeding I-35, one mile south of the Kensett-Joice blacktop. The pilot, who had three years experience, was not injured, but the helicopter suffered extensive damage. Owner of the aircraft is James Leer, Keswick, who has a contract for seeding I-35. Canfield hit a sign just south of the Kensett-Joice blacktop, lost control and crashed about 460 feet from the sign, just off I-35 on the southbound lane. The Worth County Sheriff's Office and the Iowa Highway Patrol investigated.

Sales volume has increased at the Northwood liquor store and it is now in the top 100 in Iowa, according to Palmer Horgen, Northwood. Because of the increased volume, weekly deliveries will now be made to the store, Horgen said, instead of monthly, as in the past.

Two lawsuits have been filed in Winnebago County district court stemming from an accident last October that took the lives of three women from the Scarville area and injured a Northwood man. Randall Transit Mix of Lake Mills and Northwood has filed suit against the estate of Katherine N. Larson in the amount of $10,867.95 plus cost for damages to a truck owned by the firm. In the other suit, the driver of the truck, William Wolff, is asking $100,000 plus costs in the action. According to the petition, Wolff suffered fractures, a concussion and other injuries.

Joice Co-op Elevator board members, along with manager Allan Jorth, held their annual meeting on March 10 at Bethany Lutheran Church. At the meeting were James Tweeten, Bennie Christianson, Royden Smeby, Harold Hagen, Richard Hanna, Paul Heimdal, Robert Calgaard, Duane Slattum, Mr. Jorth and Alton Tenold. Smeby and Hagen are new members of the board.

25 years ago

March 25, 1998

Twenty-month-old Casey Dahlby performed his referee act as sister Jami, 4, recoiled from a nose-to-nose encounter with this two-week-old lamb following her introduction to the frisky four-legged critter at the Brian and Sue Waller farm southeast of Northwood. Kyle Waller, 11, held on to the inquisitive ewe lamb to make sure she didn't get too rambunctious. March appears to be headed for a lamb-like finish, as forecasters predict balmy weather for the remainder of the week. Jami and Casey's parents are Darin and Teri Dahlby of rural Northwood.

Daniel S. Kaufman has joined the United States Army Reserve under the Delayed Training Program. Kaufman, a student at Blooming Prairie High School, will report to Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Missouri, for basic training on June 9. He is the son of Les Kaufman, Northwood, and Ruth Schneider, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota.

The NC/N-K wrestling program produced six wrestlers who won 20 or more matches during the 1997-98 season, according to statistics released recently. Sophomore Kyle Edwards took top honors with his 81.8 percent streak, taking 27 victories against 6 defeats. Teammates Danny Varner and Cody Hickle were close behind, as their identical 31-7 records hit the 81.5 percent mark.

Northwood First Lutheran Church Women Verna Weitzel, Sue Emmons, Helen Trenhaile and Donna Bestul admired the umbrella centerpiece on the head table just prior to the FLCW's annual spring salad luncheon in the church parlors. FLCW members Patti Trenhaile and Bryn Pangburn created the centerpiece to set the atmosphere for the event. The FLCW sponsors the annual event to raise money for church projects.

Businessman Dan Hendrickson took the oath of office as a Northwood city councilman. Hendrickson won the office with a sizable majority in the special council election here, capturing 69 percent of the vote.

10 years ago

March 30, 2013

Worth County Extension is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and this month we are featuring Pam Olson of Kensett, who has designed a website for the event. Pam's approach to the website's creation began last August. "I sat down with Worth County 4-H record books dating back to 1921," Pam said. "With the help of Janelle Johnson and Fran Olson, I scanned the important photos and went through decades with a fine-tooth comb."

The bridge over the Shell Rock River that connects Central Avenue to Swensrud Park in Northwood was featured on a postcard in 1914 or 1915. The angle features the Northwood Creamery, poles and structures in the background.

Despite a loss to eventual class 1A state runner-up Newell-Fonda in the regional finals, the N-K girls basketball team continues to get recognition for its history making season. The Iowa Newspaper Association selected senior point guard Brooke Burnes to the 2013 Class 1A, Regional 2, All-Region Team.

Junior Chandler Capitani poses with her plaque and medal for her selection to the all-state cheerleading squad. Capitani and the state team performed at the class 1A and 4A championships held in Des Moines.

Six N-K performers traveled to Starmont High School in Arlington, Iowa, on March 9 to take part in the State Individual Speech Contest. Overall, the group earned three "I" ratings and five "II" ratings.

The Shell Rock is teaming with newcomers these days. For the six years JoAnn Lower has been living on the river in Northwood, she has never been able to photograph a Hooded Merganser, until a few days ago.

Prepare your garden tools for Spring



With spring around the corner, now is the time to clean up the garden shed and prepare tools and supplies for the gardening season. In this article, horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offer information on how to clean, sanitize, sharpen and prepare garden tools for spring.

How do I clean and sanitize plant containers for reuse?

Reusing plastic, clay and other containers is a great way to save money and reduce plastic waste going into landfills. Plastic plant containers cannot be recycled in traditional single-stream home recycling programs and, unfortunately, programs to collect and recycle plastic plant containers are not common. It is important to clean and disinfect old pots each time. Disease-causing fungi and other organisms, including insects, can remain in old containers and infect the new plants potted in them.

To disinfect the pots, use a stiff brush or rag to remove all the loose soil particles. Soak the container in a solution containing one part household bleach to nine parts water for a minimum of 10 minutes. Then wash pots in soapy water (dish detergent works great) and rinse clean.

Mineral deposits can frequently form around the upper inside rim of the pot near the soil line. Remove this mineral deposit from pots with a scouring pad. Tough-to-remove deposits can be scraped away with a knife. Smooth any rough edges with steel wool. Rinse the pot and it is ready for reuse.

How do I sanitize my pruners to prevent the spread of some diseases?

Proper cleaning and sanitization of pruners and other garden tools is important to prevent the spread of disease issues. At minimum, when removing disease-infected plant material, pruners should be disinfected between plants. Ideally, they would be disinfected between each cut.

Always start by removing dirt, sap and other debris from pruning equipment before disinfecting.

A 10% solution of household chlorine bleach prepared by adding one part bleach to nine parts water can be used for disinfecting pruning blades. The solution should be used within two hours of preparing and the tool should be soaked for at least 10 minutes in the solution.

One of the easiest ways to sanitize pruning equipment is to use ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. To sanitize with alcohol, wipe or dip the tool into the alcohol. No prolonged soaking is needed. Rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl alcohol) and ethanol are readily purchased from most drug stores and other retail outlets and can be used directly from the container with no dilution necessary. Disinfecting with alcohol is preferred for homeowners to most other methods because it is easy to use, easy to find in stores, relatively inexpensive, and does not require prolonged soaking.



How do I clean and prepare my garden tools?

Proper care of garden tools and equipment prolongs their life, prevents costly repairs and improves their performance. Remove caked-on soil from shovels, spades, hoes and rakes with a wire brush or stiff putty knife. Wash the tools with a strong stream of water, then dry. Wipe the metal surfaces with an oily rag or spray with WD-40 to help prevent corrosion. Sand rough wooden handles, then wipe with linseed oil to prevent drying and cracking.

Over time, cultivation tools like hoes, shovels and spades get nicked and damaged by stones and soil. Sharpening the blades of cultivation tools will make them easier and safer to use. To sharpen cultivation tools, start by securing the tool by the handle in a bench vise with the front side facing up. Using a metal file, sharpen the edge by pushing the file away from you across the blade. Hold the file at the same angle during the entire process, using the existing beveled angle at the tool's edge as a guide. Work slowly and evenly so that a shine appears about one-quarter-inch back from the blade's edge along the entire edge. Then turn the tool over and remove any burrs from the underside of the blade edge by lightly pushing the metal file away from you with the same smooth and even motion as before. Depending on the amount of use, most cultivation tools only need sharpening once a year.

How do I prepare my lawn mower for spring?

Spring is the best time to service the engine and sharpen the blades to ensure the mower runs smoothly and cleanly cuts the lawn. Start by checking the oil. Some mowers benefit from changing the oil once a year. Others only require the oil to be topped off in the spring. Check the owner's manual and follow those instructions to check or change the oil. Check all filters, including the air, oil and fuel filters, and clean or replace them as needed. Ideally, the fuel tank was drained or run dry in the fall, but if it wasn't, it is important to remove the old fuel and replace it with new before starting up the mower for the first time in spring. Check and replace the spark plug every one to three years. A fresh spark plug will allow the engine to run better and start up easier.

Take the opportunity to sharpen the blades and clean the mower deck while the fuel tank is empty. Dull mower blades make the engine work harder and tear or rip grass blades rather than cleanly slicing them. The ragged edge of a grass leaf cut with a dull mower blade will turn brown and allow some disease pathogens to infect the leaf more easily. To remove the blade, wear heavy leather gloves, disconnect the spark plug (or remove the battery on an electric mower), and jam in a short 2x4 to keep the blade from turning. Loosen the bolt at the center of the blade using a socket wrench. It may take some leverage to get it loose! Once removed, sharpen the blades or take them to a hardware store or outdoor equipment retailer for sharpening. While the blade is out, this is also the perfect time to clean the mower deck. Use a strong stream of water and a putty knife to remove built-up debris from the underside of the deck and wash or blow leaves and grass from all the other areas of the mower.



Beaver dams: Beneficial for watersheds?

A novel research project investigating beavers and the dams they build is exploring the influence of this industrious, little-known animal on water quality and hydrology (water movement) within Iowa watersheds.

"Once plentiful, beavers were almost completely eradicated from Iowa and the whole United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s, due to market forces," said Billy Beck, assistant professor of natural resource ecology and management and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach forestry specialist.

"As demand for pelts declined, the species has slowly recovered, and they have seen significant increases in Iowa. More is known about beavers and their impacts, especially on fish populations, in regions like the Pacific Northwest, but there isn't a lot known about them in the heavily altered agricultural landscape of Iowa and the Midwest."

Beck is leading a project to learn more, with assistance from Andrew Rupiper, a graduate student in natural resource ecology and management. Their three-year study, supported by the Iowa Nutrient Research Center, is looking at beaver dams across north-central Iowa's Des Moines Lobe region, with a focus on dams at two locations. One is along Prairie Creek, at the Smeltzer Farm near Ft. Dodge -- a larger watershed almost entirely in row crops, where the stream is more steeply incised, and the water runs faster. The other is along Caton Branch, near Woodward, Iowa -- a smaller, wider stream with more tree cover, in a watershed of about 70% cropland.

"We're really starting from scratch to try and understand if these fascinating rodents have an appreciable impact on our watersheds, and if so, what it might be," Rupiper said.

Beck and Rupiper will discuss their study, "Beavers: Superheroes for Water Quality?" at a free, virtual field day on Thursday, Feb. 9, from 1-2 p.m. The event is hosted by the Iowa Learning Farms in partnership with the Iowa Nutrient Research Center and the Conservation Learning Group.

"It's been difficult to develop a sampling regimen for this kind of project, but we've been enjoying the challenge," Rupiper said. He and Beck are documenting the beavers' locations and characteristics of their dams, and measuring water quality above, within and below dams, as well as sediment and water levels associated with the dams.



While the team's findings are preliminary, they can share some interesting initial observations. For one thing, it has been commonly thought that beaver dams are somewhat porous and act to filter the water that flows through them, according to Beck.

"However, by taking a closer look at and into the dams, we see that they are relatively solid and interact with streams much like human-constructed dams," he said. "Cross-sections show they have an intricate matrix of sediment, grass, logs and other material, sometimes large rocks or other surprising debris that beavers find nearby. They are always busy shoring up their habitat. These solid structures help to maintain impressive quantities of water in pools, even during drought conditions."

In terms of water quality, beaver dams act as natural settling basins, similar to wetlands. They back up water for varying periods, capturing sediments and allowing the natural microbes and plants to process excess nutrients, such as nitrate. The researchers have found that, in general, nitrogen processing in the pools behind the beaver dams is reducing nitrate concentrations leaving the pools by several milligrams per liter during period of higher rainfall like late spring and early summer compared to water from stream reaches above the dam.

"That may not sound like a lot," Beck said, "but it can significantly reduce total nutrient loads leaving the watershed."

These retention ponds also impact watershed hydrology by slowing runoff from the landscape.

"Their hydrological impacts depend on a number of factors," Rupiper said. "That includes the type of stream system, the number of beavers and their pools – and how much the water can spread out behind the pools. Especially in smaller watersheds, it looks like the beaver dams can make a difference by reducing the energy of flow during high water and associated erosion and sediment transport."

The research team is working with others on geographic information system-based modeling to explore the potential impacts of beaver dams in different rain events.

"Beavers aren't always appreciated," Rupiper said. "But in the right context -- in locations where they are farther away from crop fields or other places where they could back up water in a detrimental way and where they have access to the woody vegetation they prefer -- our preliminary work suggests that beavers may function as a virtually free, natural conservation practice with multiple benefits."

The Iowa Nutrient Research Center pursues science-based approaches to evaluating the performance of current and emerging nutrient management practices, providing recommendations on implementing the practices and developing new practices. Since 2013, INRC has invested approximately $15 million in 127 nutrient-related water quality projects.

Bolan

Pam Wirtjes was the hostess at her home for the United Women in Faith from Bolan Trinity on Thursday afternoon, March 16.

The main topic was finalizing the plans for the "Dine-In or Make-Take" loaded baked potato bar lunch at in the Bolan Trinity UMC on Sunday, March 26, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be many variety of homemade pies and refrigerated desserts, plus beverages for a donation of $10. This fundraiser will be for a new outdoor church sign. Our set up time will be on Saturday morning.

We certainly hope for good weather this coming Sunday!

Northwood Anchor

Legal

The People's Right to Know

Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY
PROBATE NO. ESPR009358
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUDY B. LEVORSON, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Judy B. Levorson, deceased, who died on or about March 1, 2023:

You are hereby notified that on the March 16, 2023, the Last Will and Testament of Judy B. Levorson, deceased, bearing date of September 24, 2007, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Matthew Levorson and Peter Levorson have been appointed Executors 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 of 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 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 March 16, 2023.

Matthew Levorson
668 450th Street
Northwood, IA 50459
Executor of Estate

Peter Levorson
627 9th Street
Ames, IA 50010
Executor of Estate

Douglas A. Krull
ICIS#: 000008531
Krull Law Office
714 Central Avenue
P.O. Box 200
Northwood, IA 50459
Attorney for Co-Executors

Date of second publication 29th day of March, 2023.

12-2t

Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY
CASE NO. ESPR009356
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONOVAN DAHLBY, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Donovan Dahlby, Deceased, who died on or about February 16, 2023:

You are hereby notified that on the March 7, 2023, the Last Will and Testament of Donovan Dahlby, deceased, bearing the date of June 11, 2019, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Dale Dahlby and Deanna Krull have been appointed Executors 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 of 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 March 9, 2023.

Dale Dahlby
4851 Olive Ave.
Northwood, IA 50459
Executor of the Estate

Deanna Krull
204 5th Ave. N.
Northwood, IA 50459
Executor of Estate

John H. Greve
Greve Law Office
736 Central Ave.
P.O. Box 167
Northwood, IA 50459
Attorney for Executors

Date of second publication 22nd day of March, 2023.

11-2t

Supervisors

March 13, 2023
Eleventh Day

The Worth County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with Enos Loberg, A.J. Stone and Mark Smeby present. All members voting "AYE" unless noted.

Meeting called to order by Loberg, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve today's agenda and minutes from the March 6, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve drainage claims in the amount of $18,718.49 as per the following schedule. Motion carried.

Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD 2 Main, Prof Services $2,378.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD 14, Prof Services $2,590.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD 21 West Prof Services $173.50
Bolton & Menk, Inc., DD 48, Prof Services $8,473.00
Northwood Anchor, DD 32, Publication $137.88
Northwood Anchor, DD 52 Main, Publication $155.25
Northwood Anchor, DD 72, Publication $640.74
Northwood Anchor, DD 34, Publication $216.96
Northwood Anchor, DD 49, Publication $169.86
Northwood Anchor, DD 11, Publication $3,589.56
Northwood Anchor, DD 24, Publication $147.12
Northwood Anchor, DD 37, Publication $46.62
Grand Total $18,718.49

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to set second informational meeting for DD #6 to share the tree removal bids and discuss possible reclassification and annexation on April 3 at 9:30 A.M. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to accept the Engineer's Report – Proposed Tile Improvements from Bolton & Menk, Inc. for DD #48. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to set hearing date to review the Engineer's Report – Proposed Tile Improvements from Bolton & Menk, Inc. for DD #48 on June 19, 2023 at 9:30 A.M. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve claims in the amount of $34,038.18 as per the following schedule. Motion carried.

Ajb Enterprise Llc
Service-Gsr 42.00
Amazon Capital Services
Supplies-Dap 249.90
At&T Mobility
Service-Shf 1,681.76
Bcn Telecom
Service-Gsr 106.48
Brightree Home Health & Hospice Llc, Service-Phd 3,080.91
Carquest Auto Parts Inc
Supplies-Eng 1,656.67
City Of Fertile, Service-Eng 74.29
City Of Joice, Service-Eng 87.05
City Of Kensett
Service-Eng 51.60
City Of Northwood
Service-Gsr 437.11
Com-Tec Land Mobile Radio
Service-Shf 693.50
Culligan Of Mason City
Service-Shf 299.48
Dana Young, Service-Mex 150.00
Falkstone Llc, Rock-Eng 740.73
Fallgatter's Market Inc
Supplies-Con 4.04
Five Star Cooperative
Furl-Eng 89.54
Forest City Veterinary Clinic, Llc
Service-Shf 285.00
Galls, Llc, Supplies-Shf 85.75
Grafton Welding
Service-Eng 280.00
Greve Law Office
Rent & Payroll-Aty 6,479.42
Grp & Associates Inc
Service-Phd 36.00
Heartland Power Coop
Service-Wwt 3,275.08
Ia County Recorders Assn
Edu-Rec 100.00
Ia State Sheriffs & Deputies Association, Edu-Shf 425.00
Judy Stevens, Mileage-Asr 45.20
Kelly Hardware
Supplies-Eng 480.21
Knudtson Automotive Service
Service-Phd 54.34
Larsen Plumbing & Heating Inc
Service-Shf 503.95
Lawson Products Inc
Supplies-Eng 195.29
Lexisnexis, Service-Aty 183.00
Marco Technologies Llc
Service-Dap & Asr 504.15
Nelson Family Trust
Rent-Shf 300.00
Northwood Chiropractic, Pc
Service-Con 200.00
Pathology Assoc Of Mason City
Service-Mex 750.00
Purchase Power
Postage-Trs 2,951.47
Safety Solutions
Service-Eng 500.00
Singelstad's Hardware
Supplies-Eng 43.91
State Hygienic Laboratory
Service-San 191.00
State Medical Examiners Office
Service-Mex 2,215.83
Verizon Wireless
Service-Ema 40.01
Wex Bank, Service-Tra 2,067.50
Winnebago Coop Telephone Assn
Service-911 ..... 773.32
Worth Lumber Co
Supplies-Eng 409.26
Ziegler Inc, Service-Eng 1,218.43
Grand Total 34,038.18

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve the monthly clerk of court report. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve payroll change for Lois Rodemeyer at $19.49/hour as submitted by the sheriff. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve a Special Class B Retail Native Wine License for the I-35/105 Welcome Center, Inc. and a Class C Retail Alcohol License for the Northwood Country Club. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve a fireworks permit for Jeff Rosenberg on June 16, 2023 at 4220 Yarrow Ave, Grafton. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby, carried to adjourn at 9:16 A.M. Motion carried.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Enos Loberg, Chairperson

City Council

The Council of the City of Northwood met in regular session at City Hall on 3/13/2023 at 6:00 pm with Mayor Moehle presiding and the following council members present:

George-Zenz, Reeder, Tenold, Nerlien (Facetime). Absent: Peterson

Motion to approve the agenda. Unam.

Motion to approve the following under Consent Agenda: Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023; Treasurer Report; Claims as follows:

Payable to: For: Amount
Dept. of Inspect & Appeals
Pool Food License $150.00
NSB, Monthly ACH $20.00
Iowa Dept of Revenue
Water Excise Tax $1,551.14
Iowa Dept of Revenue
Sales Tax $780.14
Payroll, Wages $20,655.60
Wellmark BCBS
Insurance $10,185.24
Wellmark BCBS
Insurance $655.20
Verizon Wireless
Cell Phones $106.73
Visa , Supplies-rec,pool $2,255.59
Alliant Energy
Services $17,769.23
USPS, Mailing $345.12
Principal, Insurance $475.77
Payroll, Wages $22,763.00
AgVantage, FS, LP-cem $55.58
Agri-Sales, Supplies-pw $12.00
Badger Meter
Supplies-pw $47.45
C. Emery Nelson
Supplies-pw $993.70
Carquest, Supplies-pw $289.68
D & L Equipment
Parts-pw $2,016.90
Dakota Supply Group
Supplies-pw $113.24
Eilertson, Repairs-pw $137.31
Enos Loberg, Repairs-pool $49.40
Falkstone, LLC
Road Stone-pw $1,586.02
Hawkins, Supplies-pw $1,797.03
Heartland Asphalt, Inc.
Supplies-pw $2,030.00
Huber Supply Co.
Supplies-pw $36.37
IA Dept of Public Health
Registration-pool $70.00
Jim Meland
2022 Cell Phone Expenses-pw $540.00
John Deere Financial
Freight-pw $140.43
John Greve
Legal Services $500.00
Kelly Hardware
Supplies-pw $2,064.74
Knutson Oil, Fuel-pw $4,129.50
Metering & Technolgy
Supplies-pw $2,775.17
Microbac Labs, Testing $782.00
Northwood Anchor
Publications $322.96
Northwood Sanitation
Garbage Services $7,696.00
Northwood Senior Center
Monthly Donation $800.00
OPD Business Solution
Supplies-cc $164.83
Proline Dist.
Supplies-pw $667.50
Simmering Cory/Iowa Codification, Code Book-cc $1,790.00
Storey Kenworthy
Supplies-cc $296.80
Tellma, Repair-pw $192.00
The Rustic Thread
VB Shirts-rec $820.00
The Rustic Thread
Soccer Shirts-rec $940.00
Trading Post, Supplies-pw $369.69
USA Blue Book
Supplies=cc $90.35
WCTA, Phone/Internet $642.47
Worth Co. Sheriff
28E Police Services $31,170.75
Library:
Alliant Energy, Utilities $506.20
Visa, Materials $42.57
Baker & Taylor
Materials $858.38
Demco, Supplies $286.12
Center Point Large Print
Materials $23.25
Kelly Hardware, Supplies $28.75

Summary of February 2023 receipts by fund type: General - $36,534.35; Special Revenue-$52,677.73; Debt Service - $1,993.79; Capital Projects-$2,207.39; Enterprise-$102,699.18; Trust & Agency - $0.

Summary of February 2023 disbursements by fund type: General - $68,952.57; Special Revenue-$40,139.06; Debt Service-$0; Capital Projects-$0; Enterprise-$67,026.85; Trust & Agency - $6,278.00.

Roll was called and the following voted Aye: George-Zenz, Reeder, Tenold, Nerlien. Absent: Peterson.

NVFC Chief Blake Severson, Treasurer Cody Strand, & Lieutenant/Paramedic Ryan Schoon addressed the Council with information about an ambulance service.

Motion to approve a 28E agreement with NVFC. - Before a second was given more discussion was held.

Motion to amend the previous motion and add a requirement that NVFC must purchase a separate insurance policy to cover their 501(c)(3) operations and fundraising activities. The city will also allow the reclassifying of vehicles/equipment under the city's ICAP insurance plan. Unam.

The original motion was seconded to approve the 28E agreement with NVFC for ambulance services. Unam.

6:51 pm Gary Nerlien left meeting.

Motion to set the FY24 Budget Public Hearing for Monday April 10, 2023 at 6 pm. Unam.

Motion to adjourn. Unam.

Doug Moehle, Mayor
Amber Julseth
City Administrator/Clerk

PROFESSIONAL CARD
Business Announcements

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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
91 9th St. S., Northwood, IA
Office 641-324-9844 Fax 641-324-9844

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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Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,Thurs. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - Noon
641-324-1364
www.northwooddentistry.com
802 9th Ave. North
Northwood, Iowa 50459



Wildlife Wednesday- summer bloom

The Worth County Conservation has been sharing scenes of nature on its Facebook page, with Wildlife Wednesday. "Many of us may be looking forward to those warm summer days. One prairie plant that thoroughly enjoys the bright, hot and sunny days of summer is the Partridge Pea! Partridge Pea is a bright yellow flower that begins to bloom in July. Another name for Partridge Pea is 'sensitive plant.' This is because when touched, the leaves will slowly begin to fold together. Let this sunny colored flower bring you warm thoughts of summer as we continue on through the winter months."

Community food systems certification to begin on April 24

The food systems team with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering Food Systems Certification workshops beginning on April 24.

The Food Systems Certification is intended for experienced local food system practitioners looking for new skills to work with various communities in the development of their place-based community food system, with resources to both engage and complete projects relating to systemic community food system change. The course is taught through virtual workshops and online modules.

Community food systems graphic. The workshops center around activities and networking with colleagues to learn a framework for community food systems development with a focus on building facilitation skills for establishing coalitions, public input session best practices, conducting community food systems assessments, project privatization methods, evaluation techniques and project management and development skills.

"This course helped me build facilitation skills that have greatly impacted my efforts to lead the process of developing a regional food access action plan," said Kaylie Lake, a 2022 scholarship recipient. "I learned how to work across sectors as well as about privatization methods for projects, which will help greatly as we begin our coalition development this year. Learning not just about facilitation methods, but also about economic impact models and design thinking methods has prepared me to be a better project manager."

The online modules offer intensive curriculum around related topics including visioning, mapping for decision-making, community food system assessment design and best practices, tools for project management and implementation, program and systems evaluation methods, feasibility studies, economic impact and design thinking. Participants who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion in Community Food Systems.

There are two different options for engagement in the Virtual Community Food Systems certification:

• CFS 101: Nine virtual workshop sessions over the course of eight months. Cost is $200. Register at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/16326.

• CFS 201: Nine virtual workshop sessions (same as CFS 101) over the course of eight months plus access to seven online modules. Cost is $600. Register at https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/15888.

The next class cohort begins on April 24 and runs through November 20. A limited number of scholarships are available. Those who successfully finish the course will receive a certificate of completion.

Fill out a scholarship form online at www.extension.iastate.edu. More information about the course syllabus and course schedule is also available online.

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Miscellaneous
GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty ($695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-855-954-5087

Miscellaneous
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GOLDEN BANNER 4-H'ERS HELP AT PUTTING FUNDRAISER



SILENT AUCTION

Putting to fight cancer

On March 4, people traveled to a number of locations throughout North Iowa to putt on a widespread golf course. At several locations, including the American Legion in Manly and Worth Brewing and Strike Zone in Northwood, a miniature golf hole was set up. Teams traveled to each stop to putt and mark down their scores. They ended at the final hole at the Timbers in Northwood. While there they could enjoy a meal served by the Golden Banner 4-H club. They also had a chance to win raffle prizes and silent auction items. Prizes were also awarded for high and low scores and costumes.



WORTH BREWING









AWARD WINNERS



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WORTH BREWING



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PARTS SALE
MARCH 13-25, 2023



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The Lady Vikings' Chloe Costello earned all-region basketball honors for her stellar play this winter season. Costello is pictured putting up a lefthanded running jumper at Riceville. The talented junior averaged 13.2 points in 22 games played this season.

Post season accolades continue for the Lady Vikings Chloe Costello

By Mike Simmons
Sports Editor

While the spring track season is about to get underway for many in Iowa schools, the winter basketball season is still producing accolades for others, including the Lady Vikings' star Chloe Costello.

Costello was recently selected to the Class 1A, Region 1 All-Region Team. The talented jack of all trades on the hardwood led her team in multiple categories, including 113 field goals made, 38 percent field goal percentage, 30 3-pointers made, 31.9 percent from 3-point range, 71.4 percent free throw percentage and 85 steals and she was the only Lady Viking to approach scoring in double figures, averaging a team best 13.2 points per game.

Costello, who started all 22 games played this season, was also in the top four on the team with 79 rebounds and 29 assists for the 9-13 Lady Vikings, who bowed out of the regional tournament with a loss to Newman Catholic.

2023 Class 1A Region 1 All-Region Team

Audi Crooks	Bishop-Garrigan	12
Molly Joyce	Bishop-Garrigan	12
Madison Hillman	Saint Ansgar	12
Joy Beran	Riceville	12
Mallory Leerar	West Hancock	11
Abbie Capesius	Bishop-Garrigan	11
Megan Cooley	Glenbrook-Reinbeck	12
Chloe Costello	**Northwood-Kensett**	**11**

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$43,000 with 2.99% for 84 Months
New Kioti DK5320SEHC
50Hp Diesel, Cab AC/Heat, 3 Range Hydro, MFWD, Cat 1 3pt, 540 pto, 1 rear hyd remote, KL5521 loader 72" bucket



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New CL Fab
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New Versatile Nemesis 210
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