

Briefs

Easter egg hunt set for Saturday

The Northwood Area Chamber of Commerce is once again planning to offer children in the area and those visiting for the holiday the chance to hunt for eggs at the Worth County Fairgrounds.

This Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m., the Chamber, assisted by the Deer Creek Ribbon Takers 4-H Club, will open the Easter egg hunt for children in three age groups, ranging from 0 to 12 years old.

Those planning to join the hunt are encouraged to be there early, as the search goes quickly.

Grafton hosts Easter egg hunt Saturday

Grafton Community Action will host an Easter egg hunt this Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. at the Grafton Community Center.

The hunt will include games, food and prizes.

The Easter egg hunt is open to children 12 and under. Those hunting should bring their own basket.

N-K hosts blood drive April 5

Northwood-Kensett High School will host a school and community blood drive next Friday, April 5.

A LifeServe Blood Center drive will be held at the high school. Not only will donors contribute life-saving blood, by they will be eligible to receive a free color-changing cup.

The blood drive will be held on April 5, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Appointments are encouraged and can be made by texting LIFESERVE to 999-777, calling 800-287-4903 or online at lifeserveblood-center.org.



The Week's WEATHER from National Weather Service Information

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues. March 19	36	21	
Wed. March 20	59	22	
Thurs. March 21	37	21	
Fri. March 22	36	27	0.03
Sat. March 23	32	16	
Sun. March 24	35	16	0.05
Mon. March 25	38	28	0.9



Reading and writing at the library

Local storyteller, reporter, writer and most recently children's book author JoAnn Lower welcomed people at the Northwood Public Library. Lower read her book, "Li'l Elmer & Archie," about the reluctant friendship between a mouse and a farmer. Lower signed copies of the book as well as reading the story.

County candidates file for primary election

The deadline for county candidates to file to appear on ballots in the June primary election was last Friday.

Three county offices will be up for election in the November general election. Before that, the primary election will be

held to decide who will represent political parties.

County offices on ballots this year include supervisor representing District 2, auditor and sheriff.

Auditor Jacki A. Backhaus filed to represent the Republican party

for re-election.

Current deputies Jesse Luther and Chad Wurtzel filed to appear on primary ballots to be the Republican candidate for Sheriff.

Current supervisor Mark Smeby and current Hanlontown mayor Rick

Election, see Page 2

State mental health region shift challenges local progress

For local officials involved in the mental health region, proposed changes at the state level could reverse progress made to provide resources to Worth residents.

Starting back as early as

2017, Worth and other nearby counties' officials worked to find an alternative to a mental health service region that had little benefit locally. At the time, the smaller counties at the edges of the County Social

Services region felt that their residents were not receiving access to any significant mental health services, despite being asked to contribute funding.

Local officials, like coun-

Mental, see Page 3

Worth County schools prepared for the opioid epidemic

On September 6, 2023, the Central Springs Community School District faculty members and on December 13, 2023, Northwood-Kensett Community School District faculty members were trained in General Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution by a represen-

tative of Prairie Ridge, an Integrated Behavioral Health organization in Mason City.

Laken Rodemaker, a Prevention Specialist, conducted the trainings, providing the attendees with a thorough explanation of opioids, their legal and ille-

Opioid, see Page 3

City Council considers mowing bids, tree replacement

The Northwood City Council, at its recent regular meeting, considered bids to mow the small park area north of the city

The Top of Iowa Park area

is located north on Highway 65, just past the viaduct. Each year for the past several years, the city has welcomed bids to mow the project.

City Council, see Page 2

Process to set ambulance districts, levies progresses

At recent meetings, the next step in establishing funding for ambulance service in the county was taken by cities and townships.

At the March 18 meeting of the Worth County supervisors and the most recent city council meetings in Fertile, Grafton, Hanlontown, Joice and Manly, petitions were delivered to establish EMS districts in the county.

In November 2022, a vote for countywide ambulance funding failed. Following that, in early 2023 requests were made from two ambulance provid-

ers for their services in Worth County.

The Mason City Fire Department has requested \$500 per ambulance call to the area that includes Lincoln, Union and a portion of Danville townships and the cities of Manly and Grafton.

In the western side of the county, including a portion of Danville, along with Fertile, Bristol and Silver Lake townships and the cities of Joice, Fertile and Hanlontown, the Forest City Ambulance Service (FCAS) originally asked for

Ambulance, see Page 2

Supervisors receive jail update, prepare for county property sale

The Worth County supervisors were recently updated on the progress toward relocating jail inmates and discussed the sale of county property

The Worth County Supervisors will hold a public hearing on April 1, after which they plan to sell county property near the northern wind tower near the Interstate 35 interchange.

The County plans to offer for sale approximately 10 acres of County-owned property along 375th Street, north of the casino interchange.

The sale includes areas near the northern water tower and well on the property tower. The water tower is the stand alone tower in

the area.

The public hearing on the sale will be held at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m. at the April 1 supervisors meeting, the County will receive bids in an auction sale. A minimum bid of \$60,000 has been set for the property.

Bids may be submitted to the Worth County Auditor prior to April 1.

More information on the hearings and auction appeared in the March 13 issue of the Northwood Anchor and March 14 issue of the Manly Signal.

Also discussed at the meeting was an update on the process of having jail inmates housed in another county.

Earlier this year, Worth

Property Sale, see Page 2

Easter Services

Area Christian churches will hold special services this weekend to observe Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Following is a list of when area churches will hold Easter holiday celebrations this year:

First Lutheran in Northwood-Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., Good Friday at 7 p.m. at Deer Creek Valley, Easter service with communion at 9 a.m.

Northwood United Methodist-Good Friday worship at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m. with Easter brunch following.

Bethlehem Lutheran in Manly-Maundy Thursday at 2 p.m., Good Friday at 7 p.m., Easter worship at 9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic in Manly-

Holy Thursday mass at 6:30 p.m., Good Friday mass at 6 p.m., Holy Saturday Easter vigil, 8 p.m., Easter Sunday mass at 10:30 a.m.

Bethel United Methodist in Manly-Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise service at 8 a.m., Easter service with cantata at 10:30 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran in Kensett-Easter service at 9 a.m.

Elk Creek Lutheran-Easter service- 10 a.m. with communion

Grace Lutheran in Hanlontown-Good Friday at 7 p.m., Easter worship at 7:30 a.m.

Church, see Page 2



Fixing the flagpole
The Northwood public works crew spent some time last week performing maintenance on the flagpole that sits in Central Park, near the basketball courts.

Spring clean up begins April 25

The annual fall clean up begins in Northwood on Thursday, April 25, continuing through Saturday, April 27. The City is offering a chance for residents to dispose of unwanted items as they do some spring cleaning.

Dumpsters will be provided for Northwood residents at the Northwood city yard, located on the east side of Northwood along Highway 105.

Clean up days are intended for discardable items

that would not be picked up through normal garbage collection, meaning regular day-to-day garbage will not be accepted.

Other items that will not be accepted include computers and accessories, construction debris, tires, batteries, paint, hazardous and flammable items and fluorescent light bulbs and tubes.

The City is asking that the public not remove any items from the dumpsters during clean up week.

More information is available in the ad in upcoming issues of the Northwood Anchor or by contacting Northwood City Hall at 324-1075.

A number of the items not accepted during clean up week may be disposed of at the Worth County Recycle Center.

All Worth County residents may dispose of used tires without rims, old appliances, waste oil and scrap metal.

There are fees associated

with disposing of tires and appliances. Waste oil, scrap metal and computer towers are accepted at no charge.

More information on the Worth County Recycle Center, including hours of operation and fees, is available at the Worth County website, www.worthcounty.org, under the departments link at the top of the page, or by calling the Recycle Center at 641-845-2200.

Ambulance Cont. from Page 1

\$40,000 to support rapid paramedic response.

That has since become Winnebago County Ambulance Service (including the services in Forest City and Lake Mills).

The remainder of the county is covered by the Northwood Volunteer Fire Company's ambulance service. The NVFC established its service without asking for any extra funding from the governments in its service area.

According to state code, ambulance coverage is not essential, and as such no ambulance is obligated to respond in Worth County if they can't fund the service.

Elected officials in the county, cities and townships have been working for months on a way to raise the funds to continue ambulance coverage in their areas.

They plan to do that by establishing EMS districts. EMS districts can levy up to \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable property valuation to pay for EMS costs. That excludes agricultural property.

The first official step in the process of establishing EMS districts and levies took place at recent meetings of the Worth County supervisors and western and southern cities.

Petitions were presented to the county supervisors and city councils. Those petitions had to have 25% property owners owning at least 25% of the property in their areas, whether that be townships or city limits.

State law establishes that EMS districts can encompass unincorporated areas of counties and portions of cities. However, they can't be combined.

With that in mind, two

EMS districts would cover areas in townships. That includes the western portion served by Winnebago ambulances and the southeastern portion covered by the MCFD. Each city would establish its own EMS district covering its city limits.

With petitions accepted, the cities and counties set public hearing dates for members of the community to share comments on the proposed EMS districts.

Hearing notices appear in this week's and next week's Northwood Anchor and Manly Signal, for the County and the cities that have those as designated newspapers. That includes the county, and the cities of Grafton, Hanlontown and Manly.

Hearings have been set for the week of April 15.

Following the hearings, the city councils and super-

visors will decide whether or not to approve the EMS districts. If they do, engineers will be consulted to define district borders and the taxable property in the districts.

With EMS dimensions defined, the EMS districts will move on to set additional publications and hearings to hold elections before EMS levies will be put up for a vote.

On September 10, if approved, the city and township districts will ask voters to decide whether or not up to \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation should be levied for ambulance coverage.

As discussed at the March 18 supervisors meeting, the cost of holding the election for townships will be covered by Worth County. The cost for city EMS elections will be covered by those cities.

Church Cont. from Page 1

Bethany Lutheran in Joice- Good Friday worship at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise worship at 7 a.m., with breakfast following.

Silver Lake Lutheran- Good Friday worship at 3 p.m., Easter Sunday worship at 9 a.m. with communion

Trinity United Methodist in Bolan- Good Friday service at 7 p.m., Easter Sunday service at 9:10 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran in Grafton- Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m. with communion, Good Friday worship at 7 p.m., Easter services at 9:30 a.m.

Fertile Lutheran Church- Maundy Thursday Service with communion at 7 p.m., Good Friday Prayer Service, at 2 p.m., Easter Sunday Sunrise service at 7:30 a.m., with Easter brunch following at 8:30 a.m. and an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.

Property Sale Cont. from Page 1

County Sheriff's Office officials presented a proposal that showed a savings of roughly \$500,000 over three years by having inmates relocated to another county.

Sheriff Dan Fank told the supervisors at their March 11 meeting that Worth is pursuing an agreement with Cerro Gordo County, waiting for

both counties' supervisors to review the agreement.

The primary savings come as the county reduces jail staffing. With reduced jail staff, Fank said that the Sheriff's office will need to reduce the hours its office is open to the public.

For those that need to have firearms permits renewed and other similar

tasks, the sheriff's office will be open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. seven days a week.

An intercom will also be available after those hours for those reporting on criminal activity or other specific needs.

The change in inmate housing and office hours is expected to begin in July.

Election Cont. from Page 1

Scholbrock will appear on ballots to represent the Republican party as the candidate for supervisor representing District 2.

State and federal offices will also appear in the primary election.

State offices in the primary election include Senator from District 30. Incumbent Waylon Brown, Osage, and Doug Campbell, Mason City, will appear to be the Republican candidate. Democrat Richard Lorence will appear unopposed to be his party's candidate.

For state representative representing District 60, incumbent Jane E. Bloomingdale, Northwood, and John Rosenfeld, Clear Lake, will be on ballots to

represent the Republican Party. No candidates filed to be the Democratic or Libertarian candidates.

One national office will appear on Worth County primary ballots.

Incumbent U.S. representative Ashley Hinson, Marion, will appear on ballots unopposed for the Republican nomination. Democrat Sarah Corkey, Cedar Falls, will appear unopposed on primary ballots.

The voter pre-registration deadline is Monday, May 20. The county auditor must receive all registration forms no later than 5 p.m. unless postmarked on or before Monday, May 20.

Voters may request an absentee ballot at the

Auditor's Office at any time. If the ballots are not at the office at the time of request, they will be mailed to the voter as soon as they are available. The deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed is 5 p.m. on Monday, May 20. Voters may request and vote ballots at the auditor's office until 4 p.m. on Monday, June 3.

The 2024 primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 4. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

More information, including sample ballots, can be found at the Auditor's Election Website at <https://elections.worthcountyia.gov> or by contacting the Auditor's Office at 641-324-2316.

City Council Cont. from Page 1

At their regular meeting on March 11, the Northwood city council received 2 bids to mow for the season.

Normally, the City would approve the lower bid, but there was some question raised by one bidder's connection to the City.

Recently retired public works crew member George Goeders submitted the low bid of \$595. Hovey Lawn Care, who have mowed the area for several summers, submitted a bid of \$650.

Typically, the City would automatically approve the lower bid.

However, members of the council present expressed concern about whether it would be appropriate to award the bid to a city employee so soon after his retirement, especially as the Hoveys had done the job for many summers.

It was noted that George may be able to come back to help the City after the four month break that is required by IPERS, the Iowa Public Employee Retirement System.

With that in mind, the council agreed that the Hoveys should be awarded the bid and that George would be welcome to sub-

mit again for the following summer.

In other business at the meeting, city superintendent Dirk Van Ryswyk said that the City is dealing with a number of dead trees in Sunset Rest Cemetery and city parks.

Van Ryswyk said that he is looking at grant and other options to replace the trees.

With the drought conditions and the extra measures that would be involved in tree planting and care involved, the trees won't be put in this spring.

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Opioid
Cont. from Page 1

gal uses, their benefits and the dangers they possess when used outside of controlled, medical environment. In addition, the course identified overdose risk factors, presented strategies to reduce them, as well as describing the steps to take when administering Naloxone to someone in a suspected overdose situation.

Naloxone is a prescribed and over the counter medication that temporarily blocks the effects of opioids and is used to interrupt an opiate-related overdose, allowing time for the affected individual to receive thorough medical treatment.

Signs and symptoms suspected of someone having an opioid overdose are slow breathing (less than 1 breath every 5 seconds) or no breathing, vomiting, face is pale and clammy, blue or ashy lips, fingernails or toenails, slow, erratic, or no pulse, snoring or gurgling noises while asleep or nodding out and no response when you yell the person's name or rub the middle of their chest with your knuckles.

Naloxone is safe and can be administered to children and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. It rapidly takes effect within one to three minutes, reversing the overdose and temporarily reviving the individual.

Naloxone reverses the overdose by disrupting the opioids effects on receptors that control the transfer of

normal function signals to the brain, allowing auto-respiratory functions to resume and restoring consciousness to the individual.

It is important to note that the effects of any additional mind-altering substances that might be present, such as alcohol, benzodiazepines or methamphetamine, will not react to Naloxone so it is essential that EMS is immediately notified.

As mentioned above, Naloxone's effects are temporary. They last from 30 to 90 minutes before the substance user is once again overcome by the substance remaining in the bloodstream. Therefore, it is critical that the individual receives professional medical treatment.

The response of the Central Springs and Northwood-Kensett faculty members was enthusiastic, welcoming the information and commenting that, as a result of the training, they are now much better prepared to rapidly respond to a suspected opioid overdose. Since then, both school districts have acquired an adequate supply of Naloxone and have it readily available, should it ever be needed..

For further information, and/or to schedule additional presentations and trainings about opioid overdose and overdose reversal within your community – and to receive free Naloxone – contact Laken Rodemaker, Prevention Specialist at lrodemaker@prairieridge.net.



NVFC has a busy Sunday

Sunday's wintry weather made for dangerous travel conditions. It was a busy day for the volunteers on the Northwood Volunteer Fire Company. According to chief Blake Severson, the department responded to 11 calls on Sunday, including seven vehicle accidents. There were 16 members of the NVFC that took part in the rescue and emergency calls over the course of the day.

Mental
Cont. from Page 1

ty supervisor and mental health region board member at the time Ken Abrams, said that larger population areas received the majority of the benefits paid for by Worth County funds.

Over the course of three years, Abrams and representatives of other counties worked to find a solution. When counties objecting to how County Social Services operated tried to form their own region, they were told that the State of Iowa would not allow that. Other solutions were also prevented by State rules.

Eventually, in July 2020, Worth, along with Winnebago and Kossuth counties, broke ties with County Social Services and joined Northwest Iowa Care Connections (NWICC), a mental health region consisting of other Iowa counties to the west, now known as Care Connections of Northern Iowa (CCNIA).

Since the change, Worth residents have had improved access to 24/7 crisis response and ongoing services, treatment services, mental health supports and educational services.

Now, a proposed change in mental and substance abuse treatment regions would divide Worth from the CCNIA.

Worth County supervisor AJ Stone represents Worth County on the CCNIA board.

At recent meetings, Stone has shared concern and frustration that the proposed reorganization would reverse the progress that was made to provide Worth with mental health and crisis services.

At a recent meeting, Stone said that a 15 county region would have three elected officials in charge, with others in an advisory role.

Stone said that Worth County was just starting to go in the right direction and now they would be starting over again.

Stone worried that with Worth County's smaller population in a region with large counties like Cerro Gordo, Webster, Story and others with hospital and medical facilities, the majority of funds and benefits would be directed to those areas.

Stone said that he feared Worth County would once again be contributing mental health funds to larger counties with little to no return.

Department of Natural Resource releases draft of impaired waters list, including Silver Lake

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on the newly released draft impaired waters list (303(d) list). Data released by the Iowa DNR today shows a reduction in 96 impairments relative to the 2022 303(d) impairment list, once the 2024 list is approved by the EPA.

Iowa's 2024 303(d) list includes waterbody segments that are not meeting all applicable state water quality standards for their designated uses. A water on the 303(d) list is referred to as an impaired water. Once the DNR creates a water quality improvement plan for the segment (called Total Maximum Daily Loads, or TMDLs), the segment does not need to be included on future 303(d) lists. Additionally, more current data may show that a previously included segment is no longer impaired and can be excluded from the list, subject to conditions contained in the reporting methodology. The DNR and the EPA refer to either of these scenarios as delisting an impaired water.

The 303(d) list and associ-

ated methodology can be found on the DNR's website, at: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/adbnnet/Assessments/Summary/2024>. A list of waters delisted relative to the 2022 303(d) list that are not included in the 2024 303(d) list can also be found at the DNR's webpage.

The DNR analyzed 1,428 waterbody segments for the 2024 303(d) list, which include portions of rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands. In total, the 2024 303(d) list shows a net reduction in 21 impaired segments from the 2022 303(d) list.

The list include one body of water in Worth County, Silver Lake. It has been on the list for several years.

"The assessment of Iowa's waters is an always-changing story, one that can only be properly told with quality data. I'm happy to report that increased monitoring and availability of data was a key driver in the reduced number of impaired segments this cycle," said Noah Poppelreiter, supervisor of the DNR's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment section. "We

hope to continue increasing the DNR's monitoring capacity throughout the state in 2024 and 2025."

Process for Impaired Waters Study

The DNR uses all credible data that is readily available to assess waterbody segments. To start, the DNR maintains sampling programs that collect data through fixed station river monitoring, ambient lake monitoring, beach monitoring, Wadeable Stream Biological Monitoring, fish tissue monitoring, and wetland/shallow lakes monitoring. Other data is also analyzed before assessing a segment, including data from sources such as the DNR's Supplemental Streams Monitoring program; data collected by DNR Fisheries and stored in the DNR's Fish Kill Database; data collected by federal partners such as the US Geological Survey; data collected by municipalities; and data collected on the border rivers by adjacent states.

The DNR then compiles all available credible data collect-

ed within the correct time frame. The data is reviewed and assembled into a standard format. Then, these results are compared to appropriate criteria for each designated use. The final assessment for each segment is a compilation of all these results. The 2024 303(d) list is a collection of 2,440 use assessments.

Most Iowa waters are designated for both aquatic life protection and water contact recreation. Others also may include one or both designa-

tions for drinking water or human health protection.

Success stories: Get involved!

To keep the positive momentum moving forward to improve water quality in Iowa, the DNR is encouraging citizens to get involved. The DNR Watershed Improvement program provides assistance on how to start a water quality effort and seek grant opportunities.

Iowa has several water quality success stories includ-

ing watershed improvements. To qualify as a success, there must be evidence of water quality improvement that led to a desliding.

Public comment is welcomed now through April 12, 2024, and should be sent to IRcomment@dnr.iowa.gov or Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Impaired Waters/Segment List, Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Section, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319.

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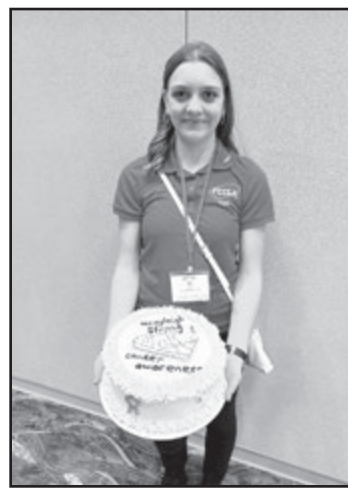
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FCCLA at State Conference

Students in Northwood-Kensett's FCCLA chapter traveled to the Iowa State FCCLA Conference in Cedar Rapids last week. Students competed in a variety of competitions, events and activities. Pictured above from the left are Mia Fierova with a hand-sewn stuffed animal project; Maci Smith with projects, including a hand-crocheted blanket; Quinn Schroeder, who received a gold honor and qualified for Nationals with a Career Investigation Star Event; Iowa Award winners Ivy Torsdahl, 2nd on her Cake Decorating, Bailey Thorson, first on Creed Speaking and Mia Fierova, 2nd on her FCS project showcase; and Macy Thorson (right) recognizing FCCLA advisor Megan Thorson. Pictured below, from left, are Creed Speaker Bailey Thorson; Ivy Torsdahl with her Cake decorating entry; and True Hackenmiller and Mya Johnson, who received a Silver Award on their Professional Presentation.

Easter Eggs-travaganza

Northwood-Kensett High School played host to kids, families, bunnies and chickens in a preview of Easter fun. The Easter Eggs-travaganza was once again hosted by the school's FCCLA, National Honor Society and Student Council. The event included a number of arts and crafts, Easter-themed games and an Easter egg hunt. Some baby chicks were on hand, and in hand as well. The Easter Bunny even made an appearance before his busy weekend.



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Eggs-cellent assistance

This Saturday, dozens of young people will arrive at the Worth County Fairgrounds to hunt for Easter eggs. While Santa has his elves, the Easter Bunny gets some help from residents at the Lutheran Retirement Home. Each year the residents spend some time filling Easter eggs with candy for the kids that take part in the annual hunt.



Getting help is the first step to getting better.

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Applications for USDA urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grants due on April 9

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production. Applications for USDA's Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production grants are due on April 9, 2024, via grants.gov.

"This grant program has proven very popular and impactful in recent years, and we look forward to partnering with more communities nationwide to strengthen local food systems and increase access to healthy foods," said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which leads USDA's Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). "These projects will add to the important work communities are doing to build food security in underserved areas."

Since 2020, UAIP grants have invested more than \$46.8 million in 186 projects across the country, and they're part of USDA's broad support for urban and innovative producers. UAIP grants are available to a wide range of individuals and entities, including local and Tribal governments, nonprofits, and schools. OUAIP provides grants for two types of projects, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects.

Planning Projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers and the development of plans related to zoning and other needs of urban production. For example, the May James Urban Agriculture Park Planning project in Charlotte, N.C. will address significant issues including food deserts, socio-economic disparities, physical inactivity and nutrition-related health problems by planning an urban

agriculture park in an underserved area. In Flagstaff, Ariz. the County of Coconino and partners will develop, implement, and refine a model for community and culturally connected agriculture education to increase engagement in the local food system and increase food security for resident populations in need.

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors. For example, Flint River Fresh in Albany, Ga. will bring fresh, healthy food directly to the community and guide residents to self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship through urban agriculture including a new hydroponic greenhouse, a grocery space in a low food-access location and expanded outreach and educational opportunities. Grow It Forward in Manitowoc, Wis. will increase food production and improve access to local healthy food, establish an urban agriculture training program, and expand the capacity of the existing hydroponic farm, community garden, and greenhouse.

OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and

works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. Other efforts include:

Administering the People's Garden Initiative, which celebrates collaborative gardens across the country and worldwide that benefit their communities by growing fresh, healthy food and supporting resilient, local food systems using sustainable practices and providing greenspace.

Creating and managing a Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production to advise the Secretary on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban agriculture.

Providing cooperative agreements that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

Investing in risk management education to broaden reach of crop insurance among urban and innovative producers.

Organizing 27 FSA urban county committees to make important decisions about how FSA farm programs are administered locally. Urban farmers who participate in USDA programs in the areas selected are encouraged to participate by nominating and voting for county committee members.

Establishing 17 new Urban Service Centers staffed

by FSA and NRCS employees where urban producers can access farm loan, conservation, disaster assistance and risk management programs.

Partnering with the Vermont Law and Graduate School Center for Agriculture and Food Systems to develop resources that help growers understand and work through local policies.

Learn more at usda.gov/urban. For additional resources available to producers, download the Urban Agriculture at a Glance brochure or visit farmers.gov/urban.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities throughout America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.



My name is Caleb. What I like most about school is everything. My favorite class is math. My favorite teacher is Ms. E. My favorite thing to do outside of school is play video games. If I had \$1 million, I would save it and wait for something to go on sale.

Asset of the Week

Students in Worth County schools and 4-H clubs will highlight one of the 40 Developmental Assets each week. The Assets are ways to help create healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

Asset:

Self Esteem—

Young person reports having a high self-esteem.

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Paint with Carolyn

The Northwood Public Library held a Paint with Carolyn Class on Monday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Olson Community Room. Reeder taught participants how to paint a watercolor monochromatic painting.

Revisiting AEA, education, teacher salaries

WEEK ELEVEN – AEA BILL, AGAIN

What we thought might be a short week as we waited for bills to be debated by the Senate, turned into a long Thursday. The AEA bill was once again revised by the House, after the Senate passed their unacceptable amended version of the earlier House bill. After conversations and some compromise, this is the final iteration of this AEA bill. I supported its passage in the House on Thursday. The House bill contains most of the original House bill and includes a significant increase in the Teacher Compensation package, funding for salary schedule compaction and increased funding for our support staffs. No money is being pulled from the system, all dollars are either with the AEA or the school districts. Our plan will give school districts more flexibility, provide more accountability, and empower a task force to study how to improve special education in the future. What HF 2612 as amended (h-8237) includes:

- This bill increases teacher salaries and salaries for paraprofessionals.
- This bill increases the



Jane Bloomingdale
Iowa House
District 51

minimum teacher pay to \$47,500 in the first year and \$50,000 in the second year and provides money for schools to increase salaries. This will put Iowa's minimum teacher salary at 5th highest in the nation.

- Teachers who have 12 years of experience can make no less than \$60,000 in year one and \$62,000 in year two.

- Allocates \$22.3 million for those who are between the salaries being set to deal with salary schedules.

- This money will be built into the base going forward, meaning it will increase with SSA in subsequent years.

- This allocates \$14 million to increase pay for educational support staff.

- It contains a policy that allows retired teachers to return to the classroom after just one month without affecting their IPERS benefits.

This bill creates a task force to study the best way to

improve special education.

- The task force will review the current AEA system and look for areas for improvement. They will look for ways to improve services, provide effective oversight, and eliminate redundancies.

Other changes to the bill.

- Year one, all money goes to the AEAs, and schools are mandated to use AEAs for special education. Following years, 90% of funds go to AEAs (mandate continues) and 10% go to school district. The 10% money must be used for special education.

- Media and Ed services split funding in year one between the AEAs and the school districts, following years all the funding goes to the school district.

- Operational Sharing continues as is.

- Professional Development is approved through the Dept. of Education

- The Department of

Education will create a Special Education Division with 13 FTEs in Des Moines and 40 staff within the AEAs. This bill does not terminate any AEA employees.

Other bills of interest:

HF 2649 - Capital Gains exclusion This bill reinstates an exclusion of the net capital gain tax from the sale of certain livestock such as cattle and horses. It also excludes other breeding livestock that have been held by a taxpayer for a year, so long as they meet the requirement of having more than a half of their income come from farming or ranching operations.

HF 2655 - Childcare Center Property Tax Relief This bill allows childcare facilities to be taxed at the residential rollback rate rather than the commercial rate.

SF477 - Internationally Trained Physicians This bill provides medical licensing for qualified international medical graduates without additional training or residency requirements. Provisional medical licenses may be issued to internationally trained medical graduates who have an employment offer from a health care



Bloomingdale is pictured with a group from One Vision in Clear Lake visiting the Capitol.

facility in the state.

It is an honor to serve as your Representative and as always, please feel free to contact me with any ques-

tions and concerns. My email is jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov.

Northwood Anchor

Fertile Lutheran Church

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

Bethlehem Lutheran, Manly

Maundy Thursday, Holy Communion at Bethlehem, 2 p.m., Holy Communion at Grace, 7 p.m.; Good Friday, Service at Behlehem, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, Service at Grace Breakfast Follows, 7:30 a.m., Service at Bethlehem, 9:30 a.m.

Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church/Elk Creek Lutheran

Thursday, MANNA Open, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Service at Bethany Breakfast, 8 a.m., Service at Elk Creek, 10 a.m.; Monday, MANNA Open 10 a.m. - Noon

Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Trinity United Methodist, Bolan

Friday, Good Friday Services, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Easter Services, 9:10 a.m.

Pastor Cory Allard

Bethel United Methodist Church

Wednesday, Diner, Wonderful Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.; Thursday, Pastor at Circuit Meeting, 10 a.m., Girl Scout Meeting; Sunday, Bethel Worship, 8 a.m., Trinity Worship, 9:10 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., Bethel Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Lenten Study, 10 a.m.

Northwood United Methodist Church

Thursday, Pub Theology at Worth Brewing, 9:30 a.m.; Friday, Discipleship Journey, Good Friday Worship, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Sunrise Service & Breakfast, 7 a.m.; Tuesday, Swallow Coffee House LM, 10 a.m.

Rev. Rob Lanphere

Church

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, 10:30 a.m., Silver Lake, 705 Silver Lake Rd., Northwood, 641-293-5556; 9 a.m., Bethany, 201 Franke St., Joice, 641-588-3366; 8 a.m., Lunder, 14982 735th Ave., Albert Lea; 10:30 a.m., Winnebago, 40029 210th Ave., Lake Mills; 9:30 a.m. Immanuel, 105 E. 3rd St., Scarville, 641-568-3666.

First Lutheran Church, Northwood

Wednesday, Choir, SH Youth, 7 p.m.; Thursday, Quilting, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Group, 9 a.m., Lenten at FLC with First Communion, 7 p.m.; Friday, DCV Lenten Service, 7 p.m.; Sunday, DCV with H.C., 7 a.m., Service with H.C., 9 a.m., DCV with H.C., 10:30 a.m., JH Youth, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Staff Meeting, 11 a.m., AA-Al-Anon, 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, Northwood

Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9 a.m., Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School following service.

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. Ben Valentine, Associate Pastor

www.sacredheartmanly.org

Faith Lutheran Church, London

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, 9:30 a.m. (Fall through Spring); Sunday, Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Kent Otterman

Maternity care award given to Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Albert Lea, Austin, Red Wing

Mayo Clinic Health System in Albert Lea and Austin and Mayo Clinic Health System in Red Wing have been recognized for outstanding achievement in attaining recognition as a Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA). This recognition is granted to healthcare facilities that demonstrate expertise and commitment in providing high-quality maternity care

services safely and effectively.

To achieve recognition as a Blue Distinction Center for Maternity Care, healthcare facilities must meet specific criteria established by BCBSA. These criteria encompass:

- Clinical quality
- Expertise and experience
- Maternity care practices
- Patient safety and satisfaction

- Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

"This recognition is a tribute to the relentless commitment and hard work of our staff, who consistently go above and beyond to ensure every patient receives the highest quality of care," says Tina Rauenhorst, M.D., regional chairperson for Obstetrics and Gynecology, Mayo Clinic Health System in Southeast Minnesota. "That dedication ensures our

patients receive unparalleled maternity care and truly reflects our collective commitment and dedication to our patients."

Mayo Clinic Health System's OB-GYN programs provide surgical and nonsurgical care for women in all stages of life, from adolescence to pregnancy, to menopause and beyond. They see patients in person and virtually, including through the Mayo Clinic OB Nest program.

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Please call to confirm that your Veterans Service Officer is available.
An effort will be made to accommodate your schedule.

With the coming of Spring, it's time to inspect your flags. Please replace unserviceable flags. Bring the worn, faded, tattered, and otherwise damaged flags to the Veterans Affairs office for storage until the next Dignified Disposal ceremony is conducted.

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The Meaning of Easter

Easter is the oldest and arguably the most important celebration in the Christian church, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion and death. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs after the vernal equinox, leading some to suggest that the holiday has pagan roots. This idea is reinforced by the fact that the name of the holiday is connected to the Anglo-Saxon word "Eostre," which was the name of the goddess of Spring. The fertility symbols that have somehow accreted onto the modern holiday, such as eggs and rabbits, adds further credence to that view. However, early celebrations of Easter were clearly not about these pagan fertility symbols, but were intended to commemorate Jesus' rising from the dead and ascending to heaven after his death. That the celebration takes place at a time when the cold, seemingly dead earth comes back to life at Springtime is perhaps a fortuitous reminder that there is something of a resurrection built into nature. The seed must die and be buried in the earth in order to spring back to life. Early Christians were encouraged by Jesus' resurrection to believe that by dying with Christ in their heart they might, like the seeds in Spring, rise to new life in heaven. — Christopher Simon

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." — 1 Peter 1:24-25 NIV

The Sponsors of this feature do so with the hope that more people will attend the church of their choice on a weekly basis

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Cook Bookin'

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

by Sandy Olson



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

“Low Carb Smoothies” is not a cookbook. Written by Linda Gassenheimer, this is a beautiful set of recipe cards in a slipcase. Each card has a full-color picture of the smoothie on the front with a description, shopping list, recipe, nutritional information and helpful hints on the back. Published in 2004 by Bay Books, San Francisco, this is a great addition to any recipe collection. Smoothies are a very convenient way to enjoy a quick meal, usually breakfast or lunch. Most smoothies, however, are loaded with sugar meaning loaded with carbs. In these recipes, which are said to have seven or fewer carbs per servings, Ms. Gassenheimer uses fresh fruit and sugar replacement for the desired amount of sweetness. There are also recipes for savory smoothies and some using coffee and chocolate. Get out the blender; we’re going to make smoothies from all categories. NOTE: most of these recipes make two small drinks so the calorie and carb count are low. Double it if you decide to drink the entire beverage.

Berrylicious Smoothie

1/4 cup frozen mixed berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries)
1/2 cup fat-free, light mixed berry yogurt
Sugar substitute equal to 2 teaspoons of sugar
1/2 cup water
1 cup ice cubes
Put all ingredients except the ice into the blender. Blend 15-20 seconds until smooth. Add the ice cubes and blend 20-30 seconds until thick. Makes 2 servings. Calories 38; Net carbs 6.4 grams

Mocha-Mint Melt

1 tablespoon sugar-free, fat-free instant chocolate pudding mix
1 teaspoon instant decaf espresso coffee powder
3 tablespoons pasteurized liquid egg whites
1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
3/4 cups water
1 cup ice cubes
Place all ingredients except the ice into the blender and blend for 20 seconds or until smooth. Add the ice cubes and blend

30 seconds or until thick. Makes 2 servings. Calories 33; Net Carbs 4.7 grams SANDY’S NOTE: If you can’t find the pasteurized liquid egg whites, you can use whole pasteurized eggs and save the yolks for another use.

Nutter Butter Punch

2 tablespoons crunchy peanut butter
1/2 cup non-fat ricotta cheese
1/2 cup water
Sugar substitute equal to 2 teaspoons of sugar
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
1 cup ice cubes
Place all ingredients except the ice into the blender and blend until smooth, about 20-30 seconds. Add the ice cubes and blend an additional 30 seconds or until smooth. Makes 2 servings. Calories 147; Net Carbs 6.1 grams.

TomatOJ

1/2 cup diced ripe fresh tomato
1/3 cup minced green onion, both white and green parts
1/4 teaspoon orange extract
1/2 cup non-fat ricotta cheese
3 tablespoons liquid pasteurized egg whites
Sugar substitute equivalent to 2 teaspoons of sugar
1 cup ice cubes
Put all ingredients into the blender except the ice. Blend until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add the ice cubes and blend another 30 seconds or until thick. Makes 2 servings. Calories 75; Net Carbs 6.1 grams.

Virgin Bloody Mary

3/4 cup tomato juice
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish
Several drops of Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
1/4 cup soft tofu
1 cup ice cubes
Place all ingredients except the ice into the blender and blend until smooth, about 30 seconds. Add the ice and blend another 30 seconds until thick. Makes 2 servings. Calories 38; Net Carbs 4.4 grams.
Smoothies are tasty, easy (all the instructions are the same for these recipes so it’s hard to make a mistake) and there is just the blender container to wash. Any type of sugar substitute is okay; there are so many on the market so choose your favorite. And...that’s all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society



Chess-tival

Northwood-Kensett students traveled to the Central Rivers AEA offices near Clear Lake last week. They were there for a day of practicing and honoring their chess skills against each other and students from several area schools. Students taking part (pictured in the top photo, from left) Gabe Hulshizer, Graham Holstad, Max Rugland, Jonah Trenhaile, Brooks Fierova, Kendall Krull and Olivia Urbatsch.

Applications now open for the annual John Pappajohn Iowa Entrepreneurial Venture competition

The 2024 John Pappajohn Iowa Entrepreneurial Venture Competition application portal is now open. The nineteenth annual statewide competition will award \$100,000 in cash prizes to early stage Iowa startups and entrepreneurial ventures that intend to scale operations in Iowa.

The \$100,000 in seed funding includes a \$50,000 contribution from the late John Pappajohn, matched by \$50,000 from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). This competition aims to support Iowa’s entrepreneurial ecosystem by assisting entrepreneurs.

Iowa businesses that have been in operation for four years or less or are

not yet cash flow positive are eligible to apply. This competition is open to businesses including, but not limited to, technology, biotechnology, green technologies, medical, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, engineering, and education industries.

The deadline for first-round submissions is May 13, and second-round submissions for select applicants is on July 15, with final awards announced on August 22, 2024.

Participants will be judged first on their written submissions; those who advance to the final round of the competition will give a formal presentation to a panel of judges. First place will be awarded \$40,000,

second place \$25,000, and third place \$15,000. Awards for other honorable mention categories will total up to \$20,000.

The competition is a collaborative program among

the Iowa John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Centers located at Drake University, Iowa State University, North Iowa Area Community College, the University of Iowa, and the University

of Northern Iowa. The Iowa Economic Development Authority provides funding to bring the total prize package to \$100,000.

To apply, visit www.pappajohncompetition.com.

For additional information about applying to the competition, contact the NIACC Pappajohn Center at pappajohn@niacc.edu or call 641-422-4111.

Last chance Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction course set for April 2024

Worth County Extension will offer a “Last Chance” Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for private pesticide applicators at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, and Friday, April 12 at 9 a.m. at the Worth County Fairgrounds Community Room at 1206

Third Ave. N. Northwood, Iowa. This program is shown in cooperation with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP).

Applicators must pre-register at least 24 hours in advance prior to the training. The course

runs for approximately two and a half hours. The registration fee is \$30. To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Lacey at the Worth County Extension office at 641-324-1531.

The course will fulfill 2023 recertification re-

quirements for private pesticide applicators. Topics to be covered include equipment calibration and safe application techniques, drift reduction, phytotoxicity, pesticide stewardship, and pest management and pesticides.



Annual Board Meeting of the Lutheran Retirement Home and Auxiliary

Thursday, March 28
Meeting at 6 p.m.

in the
**Lutheran Retirement
Home Chapel**

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**Northwood-Kensett
Children's Garden
PRESCHOOL**
Pre-Registration 2024-2025

Wednesday, April 3
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Preschool Room
at Northwood-Kensett Elementary School
1200 1st St. N., Northwood

Registration is for **NEW** students only.
Students attending preschool this year
should have already signed up

Any questions call 641-324-1127 ext.208

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**BIG Easter Sale
& Sloppy Joe Luncheon!**

Saturday, March 30 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Senior Center (Reconnect 720)
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Cute affordable Easter baskets!
Big selection of Spring decor & kitchen hand goods!

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Northwood
Anchor

Opinion

Savvy Senior

Best cell phones for seniors

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good cell phones for seniors? My 79-year-old mother needs to get a new mobile phone and has asked me to help her find one that she would like.

Searching Daughter

Dear Searching,

For older adults, choosing a cell phone is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. Some seniors love the latest high-tech smartphones with high-megapixel cameras, while others prioritize simple phones with basic functions. So, the best cell phone for your mom will depend on her comfort with technology, priorities and budget.

Best Cell Phones

To help identify the best cell phones for older adults, I consulted Wirecutter, a product testing and recommendation service from The New York Times who recently tested 18 cell phone models.

Their testing focus was on three different areas, including best phones for older adults who are comfortable with technology and want to upgrade to a full-featured smartphone with robust accessibility settings; best cell phones for seniors who are not tech-inclined or who prefer a smartphone with fewer features, as well as those who are experiencing vision, hearing, or dexterity issues; and best cell phones for elderly seniors who need specific accessibility features due to physical or cognitive issues. Here are their top choices based on their tests.

Apple iPhone 15 Plus: This is a great choice if your mom is comfortable with technology and willing to spend more for a top-tier smartphone with a range of accessibility, health, and safety features. The 15 Plus has an easy-to-read, large (6.7-inch) screen and the most robust health and safety features, including an off-grid SOS, a personal-safety check, and plenty of customizable accessibility options that help seniors with vision and hearing loss, as well as with speaking and/or dexterity problems. (\$899, apple.com).

Google Pixel 8: If your mom has been using an Android device and is more comfortable with this operating system, the Pixel 8 is a high-end, reasonably priced smartphone that tops their list for older adults. It too has a sharp, large (6.7-inch) screen with an excellent camera and many health, safety, and accessibility features that can help seniors with vision impairment, hearing loss, hand tremors and more. And it costs significantly less than the new Samsung Galaxy and iPhone models. (\$699, store.google.com).

Lively Jitterbug Smart4: If your mom wants a simplified smartphone that's very affordable, she might prefer this model. Like the Apple 15 Plus and Google Pixel 8, the Jitterbug Smart4 also has a 6.7-inch screen, but this phone comes with a list-based menu (no icons) that provides easy navigation. It also offers voice commands capabilities, and a number of health and safety services including a 24/7 emergency monitoring service. This phone would also work well for people with memory or vision issues. (\$150, lively.com).

RAZ Mobility Memory Cell Phone: This phone is specifically designed for seniors with memory issues or more-advanced cognitive decline. Its uncluttered, simple functionality allows users to stay in touch with family and friends while also reducing common problems such as unnecessary calls to emergency services, spam, and fraud. It also has a dedicated SOS link on the screen that can alert up to three contacts; has GPS tracking capabilities; provides caregiver controls and more. (\$349, razmobility.com).

Snapfon ez4G: This is a non-smartphone if your mom doesn't want or need all the functionality of a full-featured smartphone. This simple cell phone provides large buttons, big screen type and an SOS emergency button on the back of the phone that will alert up to five preselected contacts by call and text. (\$100, snapfon.com).

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 never know when it's raining hard enough to turn on my lights.

By law, you have to turn on your headlights when it's raining in Sweden.

That's a good law, but how do I know when it's raining in Sweden?

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The weather was unusual, as it usually is. When it comes to weather, we're always waiting for the next shoe to drop. The weather is like us, it sometimes has difficulty making up its mind. My car became covered with snow while parked overnight at a hotel. I used a plastic discount card to scrape the ice off my windshield and got 10% off.

The song on the radio played, "In the jungle, the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight." There were a bunch of "A-weema-weh, a-weema-weh, a-weema-weh, a-weema-weh." I guess the song was saying that March's lion is only a whim away.

Once the glass was as clear as my mind during a physics test, I headed home. The car ahead of me weaved all over the road. "Get a loom!" I growled.

I waved at a rural mail carrier. I like those good people. Ours delivers magazines periodically. It's a stressful job. Too many red flags.

Hunger hit me like a tax bill. I stopped at a bakery to ask a baker to bake my day, but it was closed, so I made my way to a cafe where I had biscuits and gravy without

the biscuits and gravy. It was the special, so that dish found its way to most of the restaurant's tables, but I went with waffles. Biscuits and gravy made me think of circus peanuts. I didn't want either. Each year, my lovely mother gave me a bag or two of circus peanuts. I don't care for circus peanuts. My beloved brother Donald loved them, so I passed them along to him and told him that Mom had gotten the doubtful delights for him. The banana-flavored, peanut-shaped circus peanuts are as polarizing as black licorice, lute-fisk, candy corn and the Green Bay Packers. You either love them or hate them. Why are they called circus peanuts? I'm not sure. Nobody wanted to admit they were responsible for the name. It would be a giant leap for me to eat a circus peanut. During extreme winter weather, pheasants can go up to two weeks without feeding. If I were a rooster pheasant that hadn't eaten for two weeks and chanced upon a circus peanut, I might nibble on it.

I've learned

Less than 5% of the population makes over 95% of the laws necessary.

The louder you listen to music, the louder you'll have to listen to music. Daytime skies are most interesting with clouds. Night skies are most interesting without clouds.

A car windshield is a big pane to install.

A gym provides factory work to those who don't work in a factory.

If you want a reason to get out of bed in the morning, drink a gallon of water before going to bed.

Bad jokes department

©Al Batt 2024

Fit to print...

With Easter on the way Sunday, many are preparing for family gatherings, Easter egg hunts, church services and other holiday events.

Here is some eggs-ceptional information about the holiday:

Unique Easter traditions from around the globe

Easter Sunday is a significant day on the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on March 31, 2024, and many of those celebrations will feature some notable traditions. Some traditions are undoubtedly familiar to practicing Christians, while others might come as a surprise. As Easter approaches, faithful Christians and others intrigued by the holiday can consider these notable traditions from around the globe.

Easter witches

Witches are typically associated with Halloween, but they play a role in celebrating Easter in Finland. According to the Finland Promotion Board, Easter traditions in the northern European nation feature a mixture of religious references with customs related to the arrival of spring. It's not unheard of for young Finnish children, particularly girls, to dress up as Easter witches the Sunday before Easter and go from door to door requesting treats in exchange for offerings designed to drive away evil spirits. The FPB notes that it's even common for children in western Finland to don their witch outfits and roam on Easter Sunday.

Fireworks in Florence

The folk tradition of Scoppio del Carro ("Explosion of the Cart") takes place in Florence, Italy. The Uffizi Gallery reports that this tradition can be traced to the First

Crusade in 1099. During the first Easter in Jerusalem, Crusaders gave the blessed fire to the people as a symbol of purification. That custom has endured in Florence, where each Easter Sunday morning around 10 a.m. a candle is lit in the church of Santi Apostoli. That same candle is then used to light an antique cart loaded with fireworks, marking the beginning of a display that lasts around 20 minutes.

The Carpets of Semana Santa
Carpets might not be the first thing most Easter celebrants think of when pondering the holiday, but that might be the case for anyone who's ever spent the holiday in Antigua, Guatemala. Guatemala's Semana Santa ("Easter Festival") features detailed carpets of colored sawdust adorning a Good Friday processional route. Preparation for the colorful and stunning display begins months in advance as the intricate carpets require ample time to produce.

Whips in the Czech Republic
Among the more unique Easter traditions takes place each Easter Monday in the Czech Republic. In adherence to this tradition, known locally as pomlázka, boys, and sometimes men, gather willow branches and braid them together into whips. The whips are then decorated with ribbons before boys visit girls (or men visit women) who they know and lightly tap them with the whips. The tradition is believed to bring women luck, vitality and fertility.

These are just some of the unique traditions many Christians adhere to as part of their Easter celebrations.

Did you know?

Easter eggs are decorated in many hues before they're ultimately hid-

Some interest-egg facts for Easter

den for youngsters to find. While pastel-colored eggs are the norm, one color has particular religious significance for those who want to go a bit bolder with their egg displays. It is tradition among Orthodox Christians to exchange red eggs. According to History.com, red eggs are associated with Mary Magdalene and her role in Christianity. After the Ascension of Christ, Mary Magdalene went to the Roman emperor and greeted him with "Christ is Risen." He then stated, "Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red (pointing to an egg on his table)." After making the statement, the egg turned blood red. Mary Magdalene then began preaching Christianity to him, and the red egg has come to symbolize the blood of Christ redeeming the world.

How did Easter get its name?

Christians and even many non-Christians likely know that Easter is the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Less widely known may be the origins of the name of this significant holiday. Historians are not certain about the precise origins of the name "Easter." Some believe the name can be traced to the English monk Bede, often referred to as "St. Bede the Venerable" or "The Venerable Bede." According to History.com, in his most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, Bede asserts that the English word "Easter" can be traced to "Eostre" or "Eostræ," which is the pagan Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. Many historians past and present echo this sentiment and believe Eostre is the namesake of Easter. However, others believe "Easter" comes from the Latin phrase "in albis," which is plural for "alba" (dawn). That phrase became "eostarum" in Old High German, a language that historians have connected to Old English. Though which camp is correct may never be resolved, there's no denying that the word "Easter" represents the same spirit of rebirth that Christians celebrate each spring.

Northwood AnchorEarly Files

100 years ago

March 19, 1924

O.P. Loberg and Gust Reyerson of Silver Lake were in town on business. On the way they helped push E.E. Breen's truckload of hogs out of mud, they happened along in time to help their neighbors out a bad hole. Bottomless roads seem to be more prevalent this spring than for some seasons past.

Rumors that the meeting of the joint city caucus would be an exciting one acted as a stimulant and the courthouse auditorium was much too limited in seating capacity to take care of the crowd; how-

ever, the excitement failed to materialize.

The ladies of the New Century club entertained their husbands and a few friends at the home of H.P. Stehn with a picnic supper and program. Group singing followed the supper and Mrs. C.H. Madson avowed with instrumental music. Robert Jacobson and Marjorie Lynford both recited in a manner to win applause, and Mrs. Rob Roy Cerney favored with readings in their usual pleasing manner.

At the annual meeting of the Northwood Golf association held at the courthouse auditorium, the following officers were elected: E.N. Klove, president; E.A. Jacobson, vice president; Miss Eva Keller, sec.; A.L. Tenold, treas.; and trustee for three year term,

75 years ago

March 31, 1949

Directors of the Northwood Golf and Country club elected Clayton O. Christianson president for the coming year at their organization meeting.

Michael Hall, for 16 years manager of the Co-Op Service station at Hanlontown, has been named manager of the Co-Op Services, Inc., at Lake Mills.

More than half the taxes collected this year in Worth County will go towards supporting the public schools, it was revealed in a breakdown of 1948 levies released today

50 years ago

March 28, 1974

Jerry Gudmonson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gudmonson, Northwood, seems to have the energy situation solved with his unicycle. Jerry appears to ride the mount with the greatest of ease and says he has no storage problems. He is in the seventh grade at N-K schools and began riding the unicycle earlier this spring.

Mrs. Oscar Kelly awarded certificates and prizes to the winners of the VFW freedom writing contest at the N-K school. The winners were Debbie Hulshizer, Lori Curtis,

25 years ago

March 31, 1999

Northwood-Kensett High School sophomore Jennifer Woolm has been chosen to perform in the All-State Speech Festival in Cedar Falls in April. Woolm recently won an "excellent" rating in the acting competition at the State individual speech contest.

Contractors and city officials expect the construction of Northwood's new swimming pool to begin next week. "If weather cooperates and all goes as planned, we hope to be showing off the final product by early

10 years ago

March 26, 2014

As the old saying goes, March came in like a lion and went out like a lamb. Or at least that's how the saying would seem to apply this year. March entered with sub-zero temperatures and snowfall well above average. Fortunately the forecast for the coming week suggests that March will leave like a lamb, with temperatures near 50 degrees as April arrives.

Northwood-Kensett High School's annual induction ceremony for the Scholastic Duces Chapter of the Na-

by County Auditor C.R. Christiansen.

Half a bushel of corn brought \$58 in Northwood. It was a half bushel of Pioneer Hybrid seed corn donated by the company through Eddie Flatness, local representative and sold at auction at the Northwood High School auditorium during intermission of the Meltonville Community Club play, presented there that evening. Proceeds have gone to the Worth County Fair's junior club barn.

Funeral services are held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Ansgar, for Mrs. Herman Falk, 71, who died at her home there following a stroke two weeks before. Mrs. Falk was mother of S.H. Falk of Northwood, and also of L.A. Falk of St. Ansgar.

Sarah McHenry, Michele Gordon, Stacey Feuerhelm and Liza Stading.

A beehive of activity was evident at the First Lutheran Church parlors as Cub Scout Pack 33 held their annual Pinewood Derby. Champion was Andy Strobel and reserve champion was Jeff Powers.

Boys track begins with an indoor meet against six other schools at Mankato, according to coach Robert Weselmann. The first outdoor meet is scheduled at Northwood-Kensett on April 4 with a triangular against Rockwell-Swaledale and Riceville. The girls open their season by hosting North Central and Riceville on April 8, and travel to Clear Lake on April 10 to meet Forest City and Clear Lake. They will host the Girls Viking Relays

August," said general contractor Bud Kragenbrink of Northland Construction.

Northwood-Kensett sixth-grader Beth White, seen here rehearsing with N-K music instructor Elina Ozolins, auditioned in Chicago earlier this month for a chance to play in the Disney Young Musicians Orchestra in New York City this summer. A total of 85 finalists will receive scholarships to a 10-day music camp featuring one-on-one instruction by members of the New York Philharmonic. The winners will be notified April 15-20. Beth is the daughter of Dennis and Cherryl White of rural Northwood.

Northwood-Kensett senior Jack Johnson recently won "Iowa Class A Player of

tional Honor Society was held on March 18. Eleven students were inducted.

Each year students at Northwood-Kensett Junior High/High School celebrate a numerically significant date, March 14, or Pi Day. It is so named because the first three digits of pi are 3.14. With March 14 falling during spring break this year, Pi Day was celebrated instead on March 6 with an assembly dedicated to the school's academic extra-curricular activities. The N-K Math Club hosted the event, which also included a pie eating contest.

N-K's Hattie Davidson made her mark at the Wartburg Indoor Invitational. Davidson, just a sophomore, finished seventh in the 55

Rob Roy Cerney.

The second annual Farmers Institute held at Fertile on March 14, was a great success. The entries were better and the show was bigger in every way than last year's show. This year there was a division given over to mending, sewing and fancy work of different kinds in addition to the culinary department. A new feature on this program was the serving of a 15 cent lunch.

The agriculture class of the Northwood High School has made arrangements for a Corn Show to be held at the high school gymnasium on March 27 & 28. Entries will be open to anyone in Worth County. The object is to stimulate the interest in good seed corn by getting different samples together for comparison.

Marvin P. Rusley was elected mayor of Manly in one of the largest turnouts for an election ever held in that city. Mr. Rusley received 301 of the 532 ballots cast. The present mayor, O.H. Lichtenstein, who has served eight years, did not return.

John S. Veenker, Northwood druggist and a past president of the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association, is sponsoring a new \$75 annual prize to be awarded an outstanding student in the college of pharmacy at the State University of Iowa. Dean R.A. Kuever of the college of pharmacy said the Veenker award will be given each year to "a deserving pharmaceutical student who has attained a high rank in all his junior subjects."

on April 16.

Don Pangburn accepts the Felco cash award from Northwood Co-op manager Larry Wright for his swine program.

Gary Hanson, senior, received the Star Swine Producer award and DeKalb award as the outstanding senior FFA member. Hanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hanson, has built an outstanding swine herd at the family farm.

Six students from Worth County have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Northern Iowa, it was announced this week by the UNI Office of Academic Affairs. Included were Mary Gordon, Danny Knudtson, Cheryl McMullen and Janelle Rupert, Northwood, and Media Ostlund and Cynthia Weingart, Manly.

the Year" honors from The Iowa High School Football Yearbook.

The Northwood-Kensett Community School board of directors will hold a public hearing on its proposed 1999-2000 school year budget at 8:30 p.m., on April 8, in the East Elementary boardroom. The proposed budget calls for total revenues of \$4,410,461. That figure includes a property tax asking of \$1,810,891 to be raised on a levy of \$14.93511 per \$1,000 valuation, down 3.46 cents from last year's levy. Other anticipated revenues include \$2,147,970 in state aid, including \$1,946,886 in state instructional support, and \$107,600 in federal funds.

meter dash, fourth in her heat of the 200 meter dash and placed seventh overall in the high jump.

N-K's winter sports banquet award winners include Chandler Capitani (MVP cheerleading), Coleby Bratrud (MVP wrestling), Kail Christianson (most improved, wrestling) and Hattie Davidson (newcomer cheerleading).

N-K's Brandon Brockman was a member of the 4x800 meter relay team that placed 10th in its heat last Tuesday afternoon at Wartburg. But the main reason the talented senior is one of the stats of the week, is for his commitment to the United States Armed Forces, congratulations Brandon.

Northwood AnchorObituaries

Duane Thompson

Duane R. Thompson, 81, of Northwood, passed away surrounded by family on Monday, March 18, 2024, at the Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at First Lutheran Church, 309 North Ninth Street, Northwood, Iowa, with Rev. Becky Sogge officiating. Inurnment was held at a later date.

Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024, at Conner Colonial Chapel, 1008 First Ave. North, Northwood, Iowa, and continued one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Military Honors were presented by the Edward Tosel American Legion Post 110 of Manly.

Duane Roger Thompson was born on May 26, 1942, in Forest City, the son of Olai and Burlette (Kettle-son) Thompson. He grew up on the family farm outside of Emmons, Minnesota, graduating from Lake Mills High School on his birthday in 1960. He entered the United States Army in April of 1964, serving his country until his honorable discharge in 1970. On June 11, 1965, he married Jan Gerdes in Woden and they were blessed with two sons: Roger and Bryan.

Duane worked road construction for many years before eventually venturing



DUANE THOMPSON

out on his own and contracting out with other businesses. He created Thompson Builders from the ground up, and by his 80th birthday he had built 30 homes in the Northwood-Kensett District, 24 hotels throughout the United States, four Sterling Houses in Kansas and throughout the Midwest, Fast Track Housing in Ft. Riley, Kansas, Terrace Oaks Estates in Spirit Lake, the Lutheran Retirement Home in Onalaska, Wisconsin, apartment complexes in Sioux City, Iowa, and Prior Lake, Minnesota, The Rose in Ames, three machine shed restaurants in Wisconsin and Kansas, a US Bank in Rochester, Minnesota, Kohls in Omaha, Nebraska, additions to the hospital in Britt, as well as many grain systems throughout Minnesota and Iowa. They all stand today as a testament to Duane's legacy.

When he wasn't dreaming up his next project and testing Jan's patience, he

Iowa landowners sought for new farmland education program

A unique group of specialists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is organizing a new program to help landowners incorporate soil health principles into their farmland. The program brings together specialists in agronomy, conservation, finance and law to assist landowners in making beneficial decisions for their land.

The Landowner Education Program is intended for Iowa landowners who want to learn about soil health practices, understand relevant financial and legal considerations, and build a supportive network of peers and experts.

Landowners can apply through April 19 to be part of the first cohort. Participants will be organized into small groups according to their awareness, motivations and challenges to conservation adoption.

Each cohort will have the opportunity to attend six, in-person educational events taught by ISU Extension and Outreach specialists, with the goal of showing how conservation practices can be made viable on the Iowa landscape.

"The program is grounded in the concept that people make decisions based on many complex motivators and that their time is valuable," said Catherine DeLong, water quality program manager with ISU Extension and Outreach. "In other words, not everyone is the same and in order to use their time effectively, we need to adapt how we talk about conservation based on who we're speaking to."

In Iowa, 58% of farmland is leased and landowners play a key role in conservation practice adoption. According to the 2018 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, 42% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they are less likely to use cover crops on rented land.



The program will help explain how landowners can work with tenants to provide mutually beneficial opportunities to implement conservation practices.

The first year of the program will target landowners whose land is primarily in row crops in central and north central Iowa, especially within the Des Moines River Watershed. All knowledge levels are welcome. Space is limited so applicants must apply before April 19.

"The program takes into account that there are many steps between interest and conservation practice imple-

enjoyed time spent by the water fishing. In his earlier years he loved hunting, passing on these adventures to his children and grandchildren. A love of travel was ignited at a young age; he and Jan traveled everywhere, whether just the two of them or accompanied by treasure friends and family. He was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church. But, most of all, Duane loved his family and friends, he did everything and anything he could for them.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 58 years, Jan, Northwood, Iowa; two sons, Roger (Kim) Thompson, Northfield, Minn., and Bryan (Marlene) Thompson, Slater, Iowa; grandchildren, Nicholas, Seth, Abigail, Zachery (Olivia) and Austin (girlfriend, Grace); great-granddaughter, Hallie Rose; sisters, Janice (Duane) Williams, Forest City, Iowa, Katherine Peterson, Clear Lake, Iowa, Ellen Molskness, Bricelyn, Minn., and Carol (Roy) Potter, Mason City, Iowa; sister-in-law, Denise Thein, Okoboji, Iowa; as well as many other close family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Olai and Burlette Thompson; and brothers-in-law, Darrel Jensen, Larry Peterson, Gerald Molskness, Gerry Thein and Duane Gerdes.

mentation," said Julia Baker, natural resources program specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "This can include discussing with family members or other land decision-makers, speaking with a lawyer to adapt or create a written lease, and discussing practices with a tenant including cost-share of any expenses, equipment needs, etc."

"We know landowners care about their land and value stewardship, but may need help navigating the financial, legal and relational aspects of transitioning to conservation land management," Baker continued.

More information is available online, including a short assessment to see if the program is a good fit for the landowner at naturalresources.extension.iastate.edu/programs/landowner-education.

For more information, contact Catherine DeLong at crdelong@iastate.edu or Julia Baker at jacllymer@iastate.edu.

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Makers Market meeting April 8

Makers Markets are planned for Thursdays this spring and summer, from 4-6 p.m., starting on May 2.

The market will include seeds, starter plants, outdoor plants, house plants, many types of handcrafted goods, home-

baked goods, vegetables and more.

Those interested in signing up may text Ruth at 641-512-8696.

A meeting for vendors and interested vendors will be held on April 8 at 6 p.m. in Swensrud Park.

Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY

CASE NO. ESPR009406
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ARLENE B. RODEGHERO, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Arlene B. Rodeghero, Deceased, who died on or about January 6, 2024:

You are hereby notified that on March 15, 2024, the Last Will and Testament of Arlene B. Rodeghero, deceased, bearing date of December 21, 2010, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Judith C. Palm was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside

the Will must be brought in the District Court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing 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 date of the second publica-

tion 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, 2024.

Judith C. Palm
7562 Stonedale Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Executor of Estate

John H. Greve
ICIS#: AT003086
Greve Law Office
736 Central Ave.
P.O. Box 167
Northwood, IA 50459
Attorney for Executor

Date of second publication the 3rd day of April, 2024.

13-2t

Notice

Public Notice IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN L. COATES, Deceased

Probate No. ESPR009394
NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of John L. Coates, Deceased, who died on or about October 27, 2023.

You are hereby notified that on the 16th day of January, 2024, the Last Will and Testament of John L. Coates, deceased, bearing date of the 14th day of May, 2006, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that John S.A. Coates was appoint-

ed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later

to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated this 21st day of March, 2024

John S.A. Coates
3478 Nettle Avenue
Manly, Iowa 50456
Executor of Estate

Katlyn B. Downs
ICIS Pin No. AT0015703
Laird Law Firm
11 Fourth Street NE
P.O. Box 1567
Mason City, IA 50402-1567
Attorneys for Executor

Date of second publication the 3rd day of April, 2024.

13-2t

Twenties Club meets on March 11

Ten members met on March 11, 2024 for Twenties Club at the Olson Community Building. Becky Hickman, president, called the meeting to order. She also gave the treasurer's report. Becky Tews, secretary, read the minutes from December and also roll call.

There was no old business.

The new business was the planning of the senior tea which will be on Wednesday, April 17 at the Olson Community Building. Twenty-six invitations were sent to the senior girls for the Senior Tea.

The meeting was ad-

joined. Deanne Luedtke gave a program on her DIY projects which is making her own matts for framing. Members were also asked to bring or talk about any DIY

projects they have done.

The next meeting is on Monday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Olson Community Building.

Bolan

Pam Wirtjes was the hostess on Thursday, March 21, of the Bolan Trinity United Women in Faith. Final planning was done for Sunday's Baked Potato Bar.

The Bolan Trinity United Women in Faith spent a couple of mornings doing the set up and all the top-

pings for the Baked Potato Luncheon that was held on Sunday. But "Mother Nature" sent us some nasty weather which really cut down on the attendance. Despite that fact we had quite a few people braving the elements, and we considered the event a success.

COUNTY NAME: WORTH COUNTY	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	COUNTY NUMBER: 98
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The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/8/2024 Meeting Time: 10:00 AM Meeting Location: Worth County Board of Supervisors' Room
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.

County Website (if available)
worthcountyowa.gov

County Telephone Number
(641) 324-2316

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2023/2024	Budget Year Effective Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2024/2025
Taxable Valuations-General Services	685,109,250	743,963,139	743,963,139
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	4,316,188	4,316,188	5,078,448
Tax Rate-Countywide	6.30000	5.80162	6.82621
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	555,407,521	597,320,049	597,320,049
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	1,635,675	1,635,675	1,707,869
Tax Rate-Rural Additional	2.94500	2.73836	2.85922
Rural Total	9.24500	8.53998	9.68543
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2024/2025	Percent Change
Urban Taxpayer	344	316	-8.14
Rural Taxpayer	505	449	-11.09
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2024/2025	Percent Change
Urban Taxpayer	344	316	-8.14
Rural Taxpayer	505	449	-11.09

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
The tax increase is due to an increase of the General Supplemental Levy. An increase in employee benefits and a forecasted increase in tort liability insurance warranted the increase.

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THANKS

CARD OF THANKS: Thank you to everyone for their prayers and kindness shown our family with the passing of Jim. The support of family and friends with meals, goodies, cards, flowers, memorials and the sharing of their time. We are blessed with many memories and caring long time friendships from our home towns of Northwood and Kensett. Thank you to all.

God Bless

Sonya Dahle and Family*



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Opportunity to help track frog and toad populations in Iowa

It's 10 o'clock on a summer night along a gravel road anywhere in Iowa. In the farm pond next to the road, a raucous chorus of male frogs are making themselves heard as they vie for mates. A volunteer stands clipboard in hand, ear cocked, mentally sorting out each of the calling species which are using this seemingly ordinary pond.

All across the state of Iowa, community scientists are making enormous contributions to wildlife conservation. The volunteer was trained through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program (VWMP).

"With more than 1,000 wildlife species in the state, we just don't have enough staff in the DNR to adequately monitor all the vulnerable species that we need to," said Stephanie Shepherd, wildlife biologist and coordinator for the VWMP. "This is where community scientists play a crucial role."

So, what are these critical wildlife species?

Amphibians have been of concern to scientists all over the globe because these vul-

nerable critters appear to be declining. In Iowa's frog and toad call survey, volunteers are trained to listen to and recognize the 16 species of frogs and toads in Iowa based on their breeding calls. Over the 30 years the survey has covered, volunteers have collected data on over 2,000 wetland sites.

"The frog and toad surveys are particularly special because to perform the surveys they have to drive back country roads at night along a specified route with only their ears to collect data with," Shepherd says. "I think most feel that exploring the Iowa wilds at night is a unique experience and opportunity."

If you are interested in getting involved, volunteers must register for one training workshop. The workshop is most appropriate for adults and teens. The DNR and the Mitchell County Conservation Board are partnering to host a workshop at the Mitchell R. Owen Nature Center on April 10, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. There is a \$10 fee to participate. For more information about the survey and to register, go to <http://www.iowadnr.com/vwmp/>.



N-K Youth Wrestling Banquet

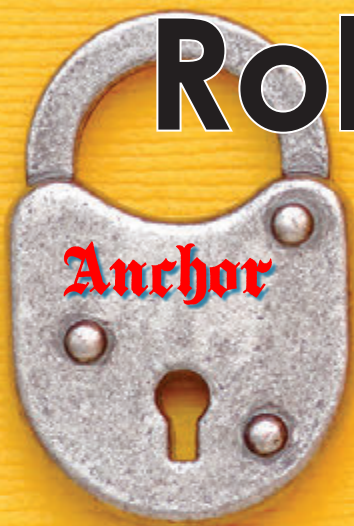
N-K Youth Wrestling held its End of Season Wrestling Awards banquet on Friday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW in Northwood. Food and drinks were served with a great turnout. Coach Paulson and coach Davis told the youth wrestlers that if someone placed first at state they could cut their beards off at the banquet. This year Sophia Hulshizer placed first at state so she got the honor of cutting off their beards with all her teammates cheering her on.

N-K marketing class tours Target Center

On Friday, March 22, N-K's Sports Marketing class toured the Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they got a behind the scenes look at media production trailers, luxury boxes and suites, talked with guest services employees and took in a game. The day was a success with a Timberwolves win, Naz Reid beach towels and Arby's Beef 'N Cheddars. Those who attended were (from left) Bowan Behne, Hayzin Jacobson, Colby Eskildsen, Evan Lorenzen, Ariana Heiken, Alec Ducommun, Kyler Varner, Noah Woltzen, Linca Scarlett, Quinton Butler, Mr. Davidson, Kaeden Malli and Mr. Love.



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Worth County 4-H returns to D.C.

Over the week of spring break, a group of 50 4-H'ers, leaders, parents and chaperones boarded a brand new passenger bus and set off to visit the sites in and around the Nation's Capital.

Counting this year's D.C. travelers, over 1,000 Worth County youth and families have made the trip. Since 1992, Dennis Johnson and the Extension staff have made the educational trip every other spring break possible.

This year's group included several parents that had taken the trip when they were 4-H'ers, or who were joining the trip again with their younger children.

The group left on the morning of March 9 from Northwood. On Sunday morning, March 10 they arrived in Gettysburg.

They visited the Gettysburg Cyclorama, a large oil painting, which was a popular form of entertainment in the 1800s. The Cyclorama circles a room and is brought to life with lights and sounds as the Battle of Gettysburg is depicted.

A visit to the Gettysburg museum was followed by a guided tour of the battle fields with stops at significant memorials and scenes of the battle.

Monday morning, March 11, took the group to the Iwo Jima memorial.

Next they traveled to the Washington monument. They planned to travel to the top, but gusty winds had closed the monument.

The group moved just down the street and took a look at exhibits in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. They viewed examples of American history, fashion, music, entertainment and much more.

That afternoon the group traveled down the road to the home of George Washington, Mt. Vernon in Alexandria, Virginia.

They had a chance to see where and how the first American president lived and died, and the estate that he and his family called home.

The next stop was the Washington National Cathedral, where they took part in an Evensong service. The worship was made up nearly entirely of music performed by the church's choir along

with supporting music from other singers.

After the service, the group began an evening guided tour of monuments and memorials.

That began at the World War II Memorial, and a look at Iowa's pillar there.

Next was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Three Servicemen Statue and Vietnam Women's Memorial. The group took in the names inscribed in the wall, including at least one family with a family member's name on the wall, and with other family that served in the war.

Next on the evening tour, the group arrived at the Lincoln Memorial.

The next destination was the Korean War Veterans Memorial, featuring statues of servicemen and a wall depicting many faces of those that fought in the war, leading to walls of names of veterans.

The last stop of the evening took the group to the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial. It featured a statue of King and many of his most memorable and powerful quotes.

Tuesday morning started with a visit outside the White House for some photos by and through the fence.

Ford's Theatre was next. With a play in rehearsal, the Worth County group had a chance to see the theatre, but missed out on the regular presentation and information on what happened in Ford's Theatre. A museum in the basement shared that context instead.

The group next returned to the National Cathedral for a tour and history of that church.

The day ended at the Kennedy Center, where the group saw the musical "Company."

On Wednesday morning the group travel to the U.S. Capitol building, where they gathered with other Iowans that were visiting Washington, D.C. Senators Charles Grassley and Joni Ernst welcomed Iowans at a reception.

Ernst gathered with the Worth County 4-H'ers, where she recognized Worth Extension Education Specialist Dennis Johnson for 43 years of service to the county. It was also Johnson's birthday, so Ernst and the rest of the Iowans sang him

"Happy Birthday."

Following the Iowa gathering, the Worth County group took part in a tour of the Capitol, learning about the history, artwork and architecture of the building.

The next historic destination was the U.S. Supreme Court building. They sat in the Supreme Court chambers to learn more about the justices and how the court operates.

The afternoon ended as the sobering history of the Holocaust was brought to life in the Holocaust Museum.

Wednesday evening brought the next night tour. That started at the Jefferson Memorial. The night ended at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, where park ranger Mike Balis provided context and history of Roosevelt's life and the features of the memorial.

The group's final day of D.C. site- and sightseeing started with a make up day at the Washington Monument, with the 4-H delegation making their way to the top for a unique view of the Capital around them.

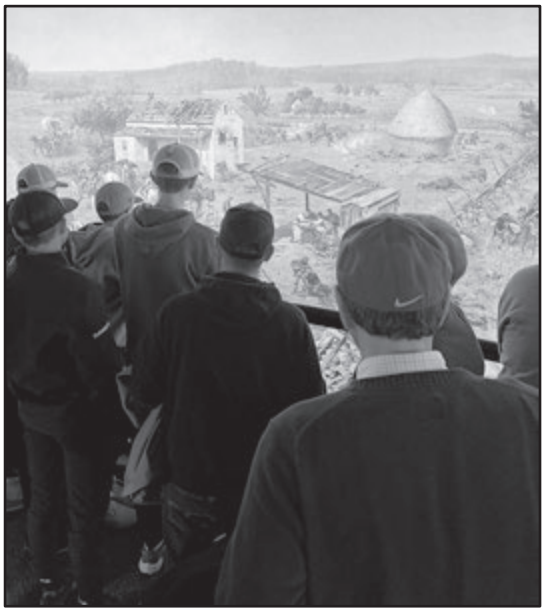
Visits to the Smithsonian gardens and museums followed.

That afternoon the group visited Arlington National Cemetery. They toured the area before watching the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Worth County once again placed a wreath as a part of the ceremony.

Prior to the trip, 4-H'ers had made presentations, with the chance to be chosen as the four to place a wreath. Aiden Woodside, Breck Lutz, Ivy Urbatsch and Kelsi Liddle were chosen and joined the guard in placing the wreath on behalf of Worth County 4-H.

The night and the D.C. trip ended with a return to the Kennedy Center for the comedy murder mystery "Shear Madness."

On Friday, the group boarded a bus to return home. They made one more stop on the way, at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. The museum featured a number of unique and historic aircraft, the space shuttle Discovery and other spacecraft.

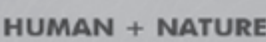


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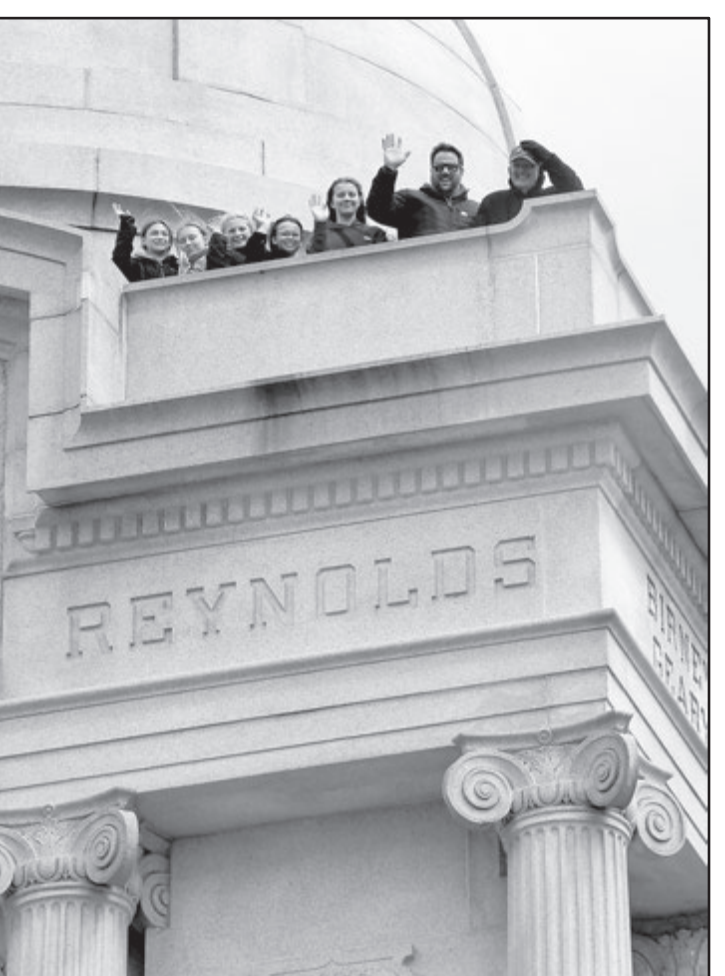

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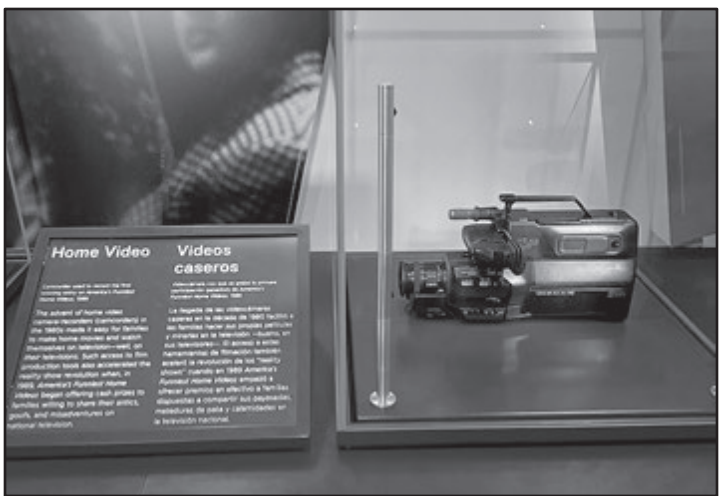




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The 4-H group spent two nights touring monuments and memorials. The first night took them to the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Memorial and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.



WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL



FORD'S THEATRE



VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL



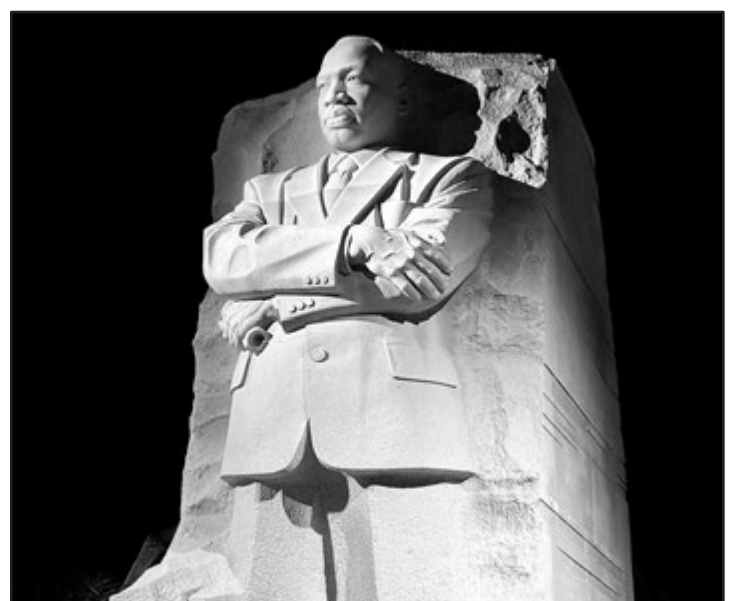
WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



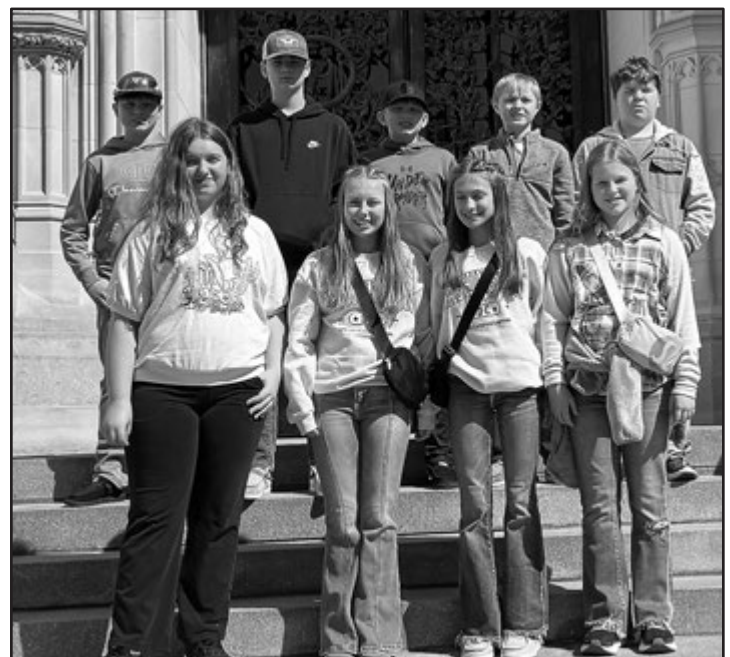
Jesse, Breck and Beau Lutz are pictured at the Three Servicemen Statue, a part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Members of the Lutz family served in the Vietnam War, and are remembered on the memorial wall.



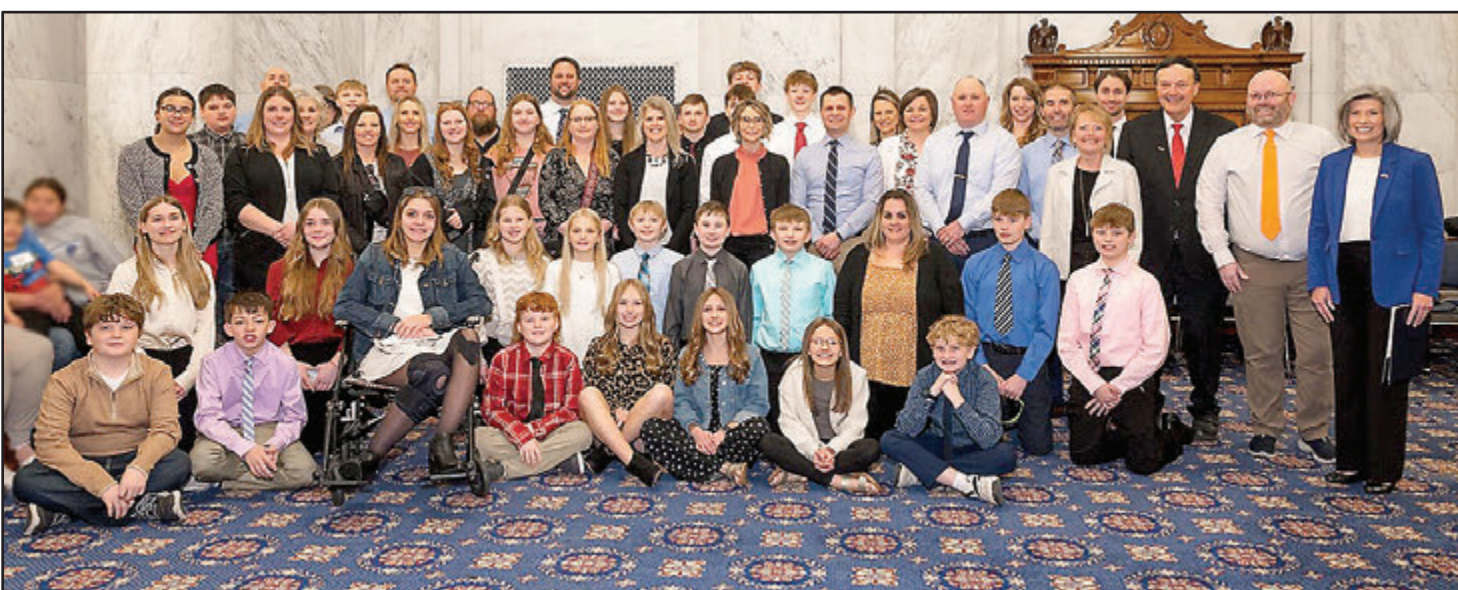
THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL



Worth County Extension and 4-H would like to thank the supporters that made the Worth County 4-H Washington, D.C., an educational, enjoyable and memorable trip:
The Worth County Community Foundation
Lacey and the Extension Office staff, Janelle Johnson, Northwood-Kensett and Central Springs schools, Worth County Farm Bureau, and the parents, families and 4-H members that took part.



Worth County 4-H made it's biennial trip to Washington, D.C., over spring break. While there they had the opportunity to meet and greet with Iowa's Senators Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley at a special reception on Capitol Hill. The group also visited all of the sites in Washington, D.C., including all of the monuments, memorials, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Museums, Holocaust Museum, Ford's Theatre, two Kennedy Center performances, Gettysburg battlefields, Washington National Cathedral, Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol tour, Washington Monument and participated in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Worth County 4-H'ers pictured with Senator Ernst are (front row, from left) Kris Quam, Aiden Woodside, Max Rugland, Kenley Solberg, Ivy Urbatsch, Olivia Urbatsch, Silas Waller. (kneeling and seated) Kelsie Liddle, Lexis McHenry, Ivy Toresdahl, Amaya Rugland, Mia Helgeson, Tyce Helgeson, Beau Lutz, Tucker Duvall, Lacey Waller, Lane Knudson, Owen Binnebose, (third row) Layla Scarlett, Ashley Duvall, Jessica Paulsen, Amber Helgeson, Jessika Ausborn, Sara Wubben, Rebecca Wubben, Addie Rugland, Anneke Urbatsch, Jake Urbatsch, Jessica Lutz, Jess Lutz, Jeremy Solberg, Gina Solberg, Dennis Johnson, Kris Kenison, Senator Ernst, (back row) Martin Girouard, Chris Chodur, Kathy Woodside, Iver Girouard, Caden Helgeson, Andy Helgeson, Fred Girourard, Mitch Hanson, Hallie Hanson, Janelle Johnson, Breck Lutz, Henry Hanson, Caysen Chodur, Cole Hagen, Nichole Knudson, Paige McClure and Kevin McClure.



OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE



AT THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL



AT THE BASE OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT



AT THE TOP OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT



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RIDING THE ELEVATOR AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Worth County Extension Education Specialist Dennis Johnson was recognized by Senator Joni Ernst for his 43 years of service to Worth County. It was also Johnson's birthday and Ernst sang along with the group to wish him a happy birthday.



SMITHSONIAN CASTLE GARDENS



Worth County 4-H members placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery while on their trip to Washington, D.C. Those members taking part in the ceremony were (from left) Aiden Woodside, Breck Lutz, Ivy Urbatsch, Kelsi Liddle, pictured with trip coordinator Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist, whose wife Janelle coordinated the wreath laying and making of the Worth County 4-H wreath.