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A TOUCH OF MUSICALITY

West Lyon jazz choir prepares for state vocal jazz championships

Tristan Taylor | Staff Writer
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Following a competition season full of victories, the West Lyon Wildcat Jazz Choir has been selected for the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships and will compete with the top jazz choirs March 28 in Spirit Lake. Director Jacob Ven Huizen said he's proud of his students' work, even through winter weather that has plagued their rehearsal times this year.

"The kids have been working really hard, given all those bumps in the road and have been producing a really good product all this season," he said.

Ven Huizen, currently in his fifth year of teaching at West Lyon, has been preparing his students for the championships. "They've been having a really good sea-



IN TUNE FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pictured are members of the West Lyon Wildcat Jazz Choir. The group will compete March 28 in the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships. Front row, left to right: Jana TerWee, Anne Hoogenboom, Kiann Blomgren, Hayley Newburn, Justina Bruggeman, Sophia Niemeyer, Ella Leuthold. Back row, left to right: Madalyn Van Roekel, Anthony Vargas, Cooper Carolan, Jackson Doorneweerd, Landon Pottebaum, Brad Balster, Sam Meester. (Photo/Submitted)



OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Jana TerWee performs at the Emmetsburg Extravaganza. The vocalist received the Outstanding Female Soloist award. (Photo/Submitted)

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NEWS BRIEFS

Taking Applications

Applications are now available for the 2023 Health Care of Tomorrow Scholarships and the Heart of the Community Wellness Grants from Canton-Inwood Area Health Foundation. The application deadline is March 24. Visit <https://cantoninwoodfoundation.org/> for more information.

Mini-Grant Applications

The Lyon County Riverboat Foundation is currently accepting applications for the 2023 mini-grant program. Details and application can be found on the Foundation's website at ww.lyoncountyriverboatfoundation.org. Applications are due March 29 and grants will be awarded on April 24.

Ice Cream Social

The Inwood Museum will host an ice cream social Saturday, March 25 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Inwood beginning at 1 p.m. with a display of memorabilia followed by a presentation by Lowell Knobloch on his travels to Europe to visit the World War II battle sites.

Fish Fry

The Knights of Columbus will host a weekly all-you-can-eat fish fry through March. Serving will be from 5-7 p.m. The fish fry for Friday, March 24 will be drive thru at Holy Name Catholic Church in Rock Rapids.

Inwood Fire Dept. Pancake Day

The Inwood Fire Department's annual pancake day will be Saturday, March 25 with pancakes, French toast, sausage and eggs served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Inwood Fire and Rescue Building. Delivery is available.

Diabetes Education

Register by March 31 for a free diabetes education class Tuesday, April 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Forster Community Building in Rock Rapids. Health care professionals from Health Services of Lyon County and Sanford Rock Rapids will present the information. See registration details in the ad on page 2 of this edition.

Smell of baked goods to fill Main Street this week

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The newest business to join Larchwood's Main Street, My Favorite Baked Goods, is excited to finally announce its opening dates. My Favorite Baked Goods will officially open for business Tuesday, March 28. Store hours will be Tuesday-Saturday from 6 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The grand opening celebration is being planned for a few weeks later, April 14-16.

Owners, Shelly Weideman and Kelly Lynch, are excited to begin serving the community of Larchwood with star items such as sweet potato cinnamon rolls, Oreo brownies and loaded scones. There will be rotating weekly specials featuring flavor combinations Weideman has been designing for the menu.

For the first month or so, the two sisters plan to focus solely on getting their bakery off the ground and getting into a rhythm. However, Lynch said they have many exciting plans they hope to implement throughout the coming months.

The first of these plans will be a



READY FOR THE GOODIES

The main seating area of My Favorite Baked Goods in Larchwood is pictured and ready for guests. Owners Shelly Weideman and Kelly Lynch hope for it to become a new gathering place for the community. (Photo/Submitted Kelly Lynch)

Sunday brunch twice a month on the first and third Sundays. "Typically on Sunday brunches we'll have an egg souffle type egg bake, bacon, sausage, some kind of potatoes, usually carved ham and roast, fried chicken, French toast or pancakes and probably our sweet potato cinnamon rolls for dessert," said Lynch.

Doughnut lovers out there will be excited for Saturdays in the near future. "Saturday is the custom doughnut day," said Lynch. "If you're like me, you like filled donuts, but I'm very

particular about the filling. There are certain fillings I don't like. What our idea is on Saturdays we'll have four to five different flavors of fillings," she explained. "Some of them will be fairly normal, like there may be raspberry or there may be amaretto almond or mocha coffee, or a mix of fruit and cream filling and you get to pick. You can get custom-filled donuts."

In the summer, plans include a yogurt bar available for people to make their own morning yogurt cups, as well as to give kids a healthy treat. In

the fall, they plan on serving soups and sandwiches during the day, as well as doing a themed, multi-course dinner one night.

One other idea Lynch jokingly described as a, "blatant rip-off of the old Pizza Hut promotion."

The My Favorite Baked Goods version includes a small area in the bakery with children's books based around baked goods, such as "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie." Lynch explained the idea. "What we're planning to do is to start a kids' club after we get going. If the kids read, they can get something once a month. If they read "Mr. Cupcake Has the Sprinkles," we check them off and they get a mini cupcake."

As they plan for the future, the sisters are still holding to their original vision for the bakery. "Our idea is it's a community place, a community gathering area," said Lynch. "So if card groups want to come in and have card parties. We will also be offering it for events, so if you have a party or a shower or something like that, contact us and we'll be happy to set something up."

Committee looking for community center feedback

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A new committee has been formed in Inwood to help city leaders decide how to move forward with the community center after the eastern portion of the building's roof collapsed in January. The community center building committee is being led by Inwood city council members, Becca Bixler and Chad Evans, along with volunteer members from the community.

Bixler says that Mayor Gerald Brands selected Evans and herself to spearhead the committee. To gauge interest and get opinions, Bixler and Evans created an anonymous survey that collected people's opinions on how to move forward with the community center.

After getting the results from the anonymous survey, the two moved forward and

put out the call for people to join the committee if they were interested. Bixler says they looked for people who had a good understanding of the center's previous uses and possible future needs.

"The committee's primary objective is to review the survey results, discuss ideas and courses of action, and then provide a short list of viable recommendations to the city council for its deliberation and endorsement," Bixler explained. "Once the course of action is determined, the committee will be asked to support follow-up efforts if needed which could include grant writing, fundraising, etc."

The committee had its first meeting March 6 and discussed what future plans could hold for the community center. No plans have moved forward yet as the city council collects bids for demolition and removal.

Inwood Kiwanis to sponsor community fair

Families, community invited to event to help with summer plans

Jessica Jensen | Managing Editor
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The Inwood Kiwanis Club will be sponsoring a Community Fair Tuesday, March 28, from 5:30-7 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Inwood. The group is looking for other groups, clubs or organizations to participate by having a booth in the church fellowship hall to recruit new members, provide signups for classes or lessons or just get the word out about the group's involvement in the community. Groups, clubs or organizations can provide brochures or information, give-away items, etc.

"Just like Kiwanis, so many of our community groups are struggling to maintain their memberships, which in turn makes it difficult to keep them going. Kiwanians want to get the word out that Inwood has a lot to offer and many areas where volunteers could be utilized," said Laurel Reinke, public relations chairperson for Inwood Kiwanis. "Kiwanis' main focus is children.

Inwood is an older community, but we are seeing more and more new faces. This is also the time of year when families are making summer plans."

Information on Inwood Summer Rec activities, including the new Kids Club program, the Inwood Aquatic Center and West Lyon vacation Bible school will be available.

The Inwood Summer Rec committee will provide a free-will donation supper during the event. The Inwood Kiwanis Club will also be presenting the Volunteer of the Year award at 7 p.m. rather than having a separate volunteer banquet. Every year, Kiwanis awards a community volunteer an award for that person's hard work, participation and dedication to Inwood.

(Information provided by Laurel Reinke, public relations chairperson for Inwood Kiwanis, and Becky Berentschot, chairperson of the children and youth services committee of the Inwood Kiwanis, contributed to this story.)



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