



HAPPENING IN HULL

Community to celebrate Sesquicentennial as well as Summerfest. See ACCENT

THE N'WEST IOWA

REVIEW



VOL. 51 NO. 1

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023

www.nwestiowa.com

BY ELIJAH HELTON
EHELTON@NWESTIOWA.COM

TAKING

FLIGHT

SHELDON—A new aerial method for spraying crops is ready for liftoff. Drones, remote-controlled and unmanned, are on the threshold of taking over many of the pesticide and fertilizer jobs that aren't easy for traditional crop dusters or field sprayers. "We're keeping

an open mind and going down this great big adventure of agriculture in the 21st century," said AgState agronomist Brandon Fischer.

AgState demonstrated how a drone works to a group of a couple dozen farmers Wednesday morning at a cornfield northwest of Sheldon.

Tyson Kester is the co-op's agriculture technology services leader, which he said is just a fancy title for finding cool new stuff. He's been

interested in farming drones for a while, finally getting his hands on one in the spring.

"It won't replace planes, but we're already seeing people using drones in lots of places," Kester said.

The prime candidates for drone spraying are areas that farmers already know are tricky such as:

- Irregularly shaped fields.
- Neighboring tree lines and

See DRONES on page A11



DRONES MAY SOON BE SPRAYING CROPPFIELDS

Tyson Kester of AgState flies a drone Wednesday morning at a cornfield near Sheldon. He said many farms could make the switch from crop dusters and other applicators within a few years. Photo by Elijah Helton



U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) gets ready to roll a bowling ball at Locomotion Lanes in Sanborn during a visit to the community Tuesday afternoon. Photo by Eric Harrold

Ernst bowls through area, pins down business ideas

Tours Sanborn's downtown area

BY ERIC HARROLD
EHARROLD@NWESTIOWA.COM

SANBORN—U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) mixed pleasure with the business on her tour of Sanborn on Tuesday afternoon with a stop at Locomotion Lanes.

After greeting owner Bert Van Dam, Ernst signed a bowling pin for Van Dam's son, Jeremy.

And then the pressure was on as Jeremy handed

Ernst a pair of bowling shoes and a ball.

Her first attempt did not go so well as the ball rolled off into the gutter.

"Oh well," Ernst said, before promptly being handed another ball.

The second attempt had a vastly improved result as all, but two pins fell, and the gathering of about 40 people inside the bowling alley erupted with cheers.

Ernst earlier made her first stop at Sanborn's city

See ERNST on A15

INSIDE:

Church	B6
Classifieds	C7-10
Opinion	A12-13
People	B5
Sports	C1, C3-13
TV	B4

WEEKEND WEATHER:

SATURDAY	SUNDAY
HIGH: 83	HIGH: 88
LOW: 58	LOW: 65
CHANCE OF PREC: 10%	CHANCE OF PREC: 6%

E-mail us at: editor@iowainformation.com
www.nwestiowa.com
facebook.com/nwestiareview
712-324-5347



IN THE MARKET FOR EETEN GOOD

Farmers markets have become increasingly popular in N'West Iowa in the last decade, some of them adding new features like food trucks and live music. But it is the vendors who show up each week who are the market's beating heart. Here are the stories of three vendors selling different sorts of local goods at markets across the region.

Vendors offer unique mix of veggies, snacks

BY ALEISA SCHAT
ASCHAT@NWESTIOWA.COM

REGIONAL—Darla Eeten has been tending vegetables in the same plot of Iowa topsoil for more than 40 years.

"Ever since I was a little girl — I mean, I thought everybody grew

gardens," the 66-year-old said. "You didn't buy vegetables in the store — you just ate what you grew."

A single mother, she raised five children on her small historic farmstead north of Boyden, owned first by her great-grandfather when he retired and located three miles from where Eeten grew up.

"I raised five kids on garden

See VENDORS on page A5



Darla Eeten of Boyden pulls weeds in her four-acre garden patch at her farmstead in rural Boyden. GoodEetens Produce Farm produces chemical-free and naturally grown produce. Photo by Aleisa Schat

Catch your .zzzz back, with a **SLEEP STUDY**

CALL 712-476-8020
VISIT hegghc.org/services/sleep

SCAN TO LEARN HOW!

NEWS

Farmers get glimpse of drone frontier

DRONES

Continued from page A1

beekeepers' hives' locations.
 ■ Sites for windmills and other towers.
 ■ Parcels next to city limits.

Jake Walgenbach farms outside Granville. He knew nothing about drones coming into Wednesday, but he immediately could see where it could be useful on his land.

"That would be a good thing for my alfalfa application. I got a couple small fields surrounding a tower," Walgenbach said.

His son, Merrick, has been into drones as a hobby for years and came along to the demonstration. He graduated this year from Gehlen Catholic High School in Le Mars and already had an idea to get certified for commercial drones.

"They got these sensors on them where they can go around obstacles and stuff," Merrick said.

Obstacle detection and avoidance was another selling point Kester mentioned. Pilots can chart the course beforehand, and the drone will automate most of the steering itself.

"They're pretty much completely autonomous," Kester said. "There's nothing we really have to do besides the landing and the takeoff. They pretty much follow the path."

Some of the spectating farmers jested about the sci-fi-esque technology as being out of this world.

One aspect that is not quite ready for the Space Age, at least for now, is the certification process. The AgState presenters said the regulating bodies in charge such as the Federal Aviation Administration are backlogged for months on applications.



Tyson Kester of AgState shows how his drone controller works to rural Granville farmers Jake and Merrick Walgenbach on Wednesday outside Sheldon. AgState hosted the morning demonstration to showcase how drones can spray fields, which the co-op predicts will become a major trend in coming years. Photo by Elijah Helton

Even Kester wasn't yet certified to drone-spray farm chemicals, which is why the demo only applied water.

Without the red tape and with background knowledge in pesticide, fungicide and fertilizer, Kester said a farmer could be ready to fly with about 40 hours of training. Most of the lessons he learned were from videos online.

Farmer Kevin Mars said he does not think he would fly a drone himself but would be interested in hiring someone to do it for him. He owns a tree-lined pasture south of Pautonia where crop dusters don't want to fly.

"It's definitely cool. I haven't seen anything like this before," Mars said. "That's what we were just talking about, which fields it would be practical on and which fields it

wouldn't be practical on that I farm. I can see the practicality of it on weird-shaped fields like this."

Ross Cox has land north of Sheldon and also was impressed and sees a future where drones are the go-to for a lot of farmers like him.

"It's one of those things like when auto-steer came out. I don't know if I need it now, but you've got to keep up. Things change. There's precision planting, and now you have precision spraying," Cox said.

Kester said drones will not supersede planes or field sprayers any time soon. A plane can cover about 2,000 acres in a day and top-of-the-line drones can do about 800 acres.

The model on show Wednesday was the Agrab T40, built by Chinese company DJI, priced at about \$20,000. It takes up a 10-by-10-foot

space and is about 2.5 feet high. It weighs 110 pounds without a payload.

The T40 can spray a 30-foot radius of either wet or dry chemicals.

Like other up-and-coming electric vehicles, one big hump to get over is battery life. Kester said the technology has made major strides in just the past few years, but there still is a lot of recharging and reloading in current models.

Fischer told his AgState members that drone spraying is set to take off and become a common site within a couple years. The only question for him is where and how the robots will be useful.

"If we're not trying stuff, we're falling behind," Fischer said. "This is a good opportunity to try things, see what sticks and what doesn't."

LAW & ORDER

UNRESPONSIVE DRIVER TO JAIL ON OWI CHARGE IN ROCK VALLEY

ROCK VALLEY—A 23-year-old Rock Valley man was arrested about 12:35 p.m. Wednesday, June 21, on charges of first-offense operating while under the influence and driving while his license was denied or revoked.

The arrest of **Edwar Edalgo Castro** stemmed from a report of an unresponsive male in a running 2002 Toyota Highlander at 920 18th Ave., according to the Rock Valley Police Department.

Rock Valley Ambulance personnel entered the vehicle to check on the welfare of the driver, Edalgo Castro.

When Edalgo Castro regained consciousness, he was assessed by ambulance personnel and a doctor who responded to the scene.

Edalgo Castro refused medical treatment. He had bloodshot/watery eyes, impaired balance, slurred speech and the odor of an alcoholic beverage.

Edalgo Castro admitted to consuming tequila and feeling the effects of the alcohol he had consumed, according to the incident report.

SANBORN MOTORIST JAILED FOR OWI AFTER STOP IN SHELDON

SHELDON—A 53-year-old Sanborn woman was arrested about 11:35 p.m. Friday, June 16, in Sheldon on a charge of first-offense operating while under the influence.

The arrest of **Marie Caroline Rohrs** stemmed from the stop of a 2011 Buick Lucerne for erratic driving and speeding on Highway 18 near the Highway 60 expressway overpass, according to the Sheldon Police Department.

Rohrs had bloodshot/watery eyes, dilated pupils, impaired balance and failed field sobriety tests.

She admitted to using methamphetamine earlier in the day, according to the incident report.

A drug recognition expert evaluated Rohrs and determined she was impaired.

WOMAN IN ALTON ARRESTED ON CHARGE FOR DOMESTIC ASSAULT

ALTON—A 21-year-old Alton woman was arrested about 3:20 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, on a charge of first-offense domestic abuse assault.

The arrest of **Chloe Akea Peters** stemmed from a report of a disturbance at a residence at 1011 Sixth Ave. in Alton, according to the Orange City Police Department.

Officers determined Peters assaulted another household member, according to the incident report.

O'Brien County supervisors OK insurance premium increases

Construction costs provided as reason

BY ERIC HARROLD
 EHARROLD@N'WESTIOWA.COM

PRIMGHAR—O'Brien County will spend more than \$58,000 more for property and liability insurance for the 2023-24 fiscal year than it did in 2022-23.

The option the county board of supervisors approved during its June 20 meeting was \$432,994 compared to last year's figure of \$374,810. The figure reflects a rate increase of roughly 4 percent from last year. The removal of a margin clause and the supervisors' decision to increase the replacement cost of the courthouse from \$16.6 million to \$24.6 million added \$7,723 to the total.

The option also included an increase in blanket coverage from about \$30.8 million to \$49.4 million.

Tom Fuoss, an agent repre-

OTHER BUSINESS:

The O'Brien County Board of Supervisors on June 20 also approved:

■ Temporarily closing Vine Avenue from 500th Street to 510th Street, four miles south of Sutherland, for patchwork.

■ A pay rate increase for food service worker Karen Postma from \$20 to \$22.36 per hour, and for part-time communications operator Samantha Kooker from \$24.50 to \$27.54, effective July 1.

senting Perspective Insurance in Sheldon, appeared before the supervisors to present the coverage options offered by EMC Insurance in Fairmont, MN.

Fuoss said the increase in property and liability coverage reflected rising construction costs coupled with increasing property values. He said costs associated with building including materials, equipment and labor costs have all gone up.

Supervisor Dan Friedrichsen, who is employed

with Neal Chase Lumber in Primghar said, "Yes," when Fuoss nodded at him and said those rising building costs were largely the cause of increasing premiums.

Increases in exposures, including property values and workers' compensation experience, were the other major factors. The county's property value increased by about \$11 million over last year's figure.

Fuoss said it would be a challenge to rebuild the courthouse for \$24 million.

"Public buildings are hard



Tom Fuoss with Perspective Insurance in Sheldon appears before the O'Brien County Board of Supervisors on June 20 in Primghar to present property and liability insurance coverage options for the county for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Premiums increased again. Photo by Eric Harrold

to build," he said. "You can't build this building like it is."

The major threats to county property discussed were catastrophic weather, fire and vandalism. Friedrichsen said for an event like a massive tornado, the Federal Emergency Management Agency would

be coming in.

"I don't even want to think about what it would take to come to that amount," he said. "It would be horrible in this country."

Fuoss said the hits taken by reinsurance companies has forced companies like EMC to

increase their costs for protection. Reinsurance companies are a third party that pays part of an insurance companies claims beyond amount, providing stability to the insurance market and making coverage more affordable and accessible.

FIREWORKS

CITY OF SHELDON • NOTICE

Fireworks may be used in accordance with our City Code:

- (1) A person shall not use or explode consumer fireworks on days other than July 1 through July 4.
- (2) Usage allowed only between the hours of noon and 10 p.m., except they can be used between the hours of noon and 11 p.m. on July 3. Fireworks must not be used after 10 p.m. on July 4.
- (3) A person shall not use or explode consumer fireworks on real property other than that person's real property or on the real property of a person who has consented to the use of consumer fireworks on that property.
- (4) A person who is less than 18 years of age may only use or explode consumer fireworks if that minor child is under the direct supervision of his or her parent or guardian during such use or explosion of consumer fireworks.
- (5) A person shall not possess, use, or explode consumer fireworks while appearing or determined to be under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance.
- (6) A person shall not possess, use, or explode consumer fireworks in a reckless manner or a manner that is likely to cause death, injury, or property damage.

Consumer Fireworks consist of any fireworks which can be purchased at an Iowa consumer fireworks' stand (per Iowa Code 727.2).

Violations subject to \$250 fine

Sheldon

LEGAL

PAULLINA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES 06/19/2023

The Paullina City Council met in regular session on June 19, 2023 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 127 S. Main St., Paullina, Iowa. Mayor Brenda Ebel Kruse called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call. Council Members present: Steve Heewen, Jay Jones, Jean Utraz, Carol Hankamp, Lexy Murphy. Mayor Ebel Kruse declared a quorum.

Also present: Police Chief Nathan Bremer, Fire Chief Ryan Harper, Superintendent Kelly Top, Deputy Clerk Michelle Wilson, Assistant Clerk Alex Griggs, Guests: Glenda Heitkus, Martin Sparak, Abby Hansen, Kiti & Jason Wilber, John Iles, Rona Kaender & Mwanira Ngelwa (arrived 6:15 p.m.). Pasa: Katie.

Motion by Hankamp, second by Utraz to approve agenda with revisions. All eyes. Motion carried. Motion by Utraz, second by Murphy to approve minutes from 6/5/23 regular meeting. All eyes. Motion carried. Motion by Utraz, second by Hankamp to approve payment of claims. All eyes. Motion carried.

Motion by Murphy, second by Hankamp to approve renewal of cigarette permit for Prairie Market. All eyes. Motion carried. Motion by Murphy, second by Utraz to approve renewal of all tobacco products permit for Casey's #3730. All eyes. Motion carried. Motion by Utraz, second by Hankamp to approve renewal of cigarette/tobacco permit for Dolter General #20191. All eyes. Motion carried.

After each discussion & comments from Abby Hansen, motion by Jones, second by Utraz to table the amended Ho Parking Zones Ordinance.

Brief discussion of renewed agenda items related to food truck permits & animal control. Will be included in a future meeting.

Motion by Heewen, second by Utraz to approve resolution authorizing wage payment for City employees for PY24. Roll call vote: Ayes: Heewen, Hankamp, Jones, Murphy, Utraz. Resolution approved.

Motion by Utraz, second by Murphy to approve resolution hiring outside laborer candidate at \$18/hour. Tyler Wilbur will start Tuesday.

Brief discussion on library procedural proposals that will be included at a future meeting.

Motion by Jones, second by Utraz to approve resolution to designate the official City of Paullina websites as citypaullinaiowa.com & paullinaiowagov. All other sites are unofficial & rest be discontinued immediately. Roll call Ayes: Heewen, Hankamp, Jones, Murphy, Utraz. Resolution approved.

Motion by Utraz, second by Hankamp to table appointment of TCA Alliance Board Member until a future meeting. All eyes. Motion carried. After discussion, motion by Utraz, second by Hankamp to table appointing new Programming Committee member until a future meeting. All eyes. Motion carried.

Motion by Murphy, second by Heewen for resolution to approve the indemnification & hold harmless agreement between City & Janet L. Lange for laptop/desktop access. Ayes: Heewen, Hankamp, Jones, Murphy, Utraz. Resolution approved.

Mayor Ebel Kruse stated that the 14th Annual Paullina GenBacon will be this weekend. Utility Superintendent Top reported on activities of his crew, including drainage issue by Carbocheck. Fire Chief Harper stated about the air cockpit competition & a July 15 golf tournament. He also announced that they received the O'Brien County Community Foundation grant of \$7,500 for specialized software & ice rescue equipment. Police Chief Bremer had no report.

Council Comments: Jones noted a large number of charges on the licensed attorney bill that are tied to a certain person & will further investigate. Dismissal of City's next steps for the E Broadway property determined that an onsite breakdown is not advised due to proximity of transmission lines so it will need to be cleared & taken to the dump to safely burn these.

Open opportunity to address the Council. Jason & Kiti Wilber of JW's spoke about their frustrations from the complexity of the food truck permit process & asked if it be simplified like other towns, especially when they already run a restaurant here in town. Glenda Heitkus mentioned that speeding tickets have been given on South Maple & suggested a finer to inform residents of major decisions to be discussed. Abby Hansen asked if affected residents could be contacted in order to specific ordinance amendments. John Iles stated he has served 4 years on the programming committee. Mwanira Ngelwa addressed his multiple residences at 313 E Broadway that he's owned for a decade or more. He wants more time (30 days) to relocate the moving truck & so far he leaves parked there. It was suggested he consider listing the property for sale if he can no longer afford to repair or renovate it to be habitable.

Motion by Murphy, second by Utraz to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. All eyes. Motion carried.

Brenda Ebel Kruse, Mayor

LEGAL

6-19-23 CLAIMS REPORT

VENDOR	REFERENCE	AMOUNT
A & M LAUNDRY	MOP/MATS/TOWELS	110.49
AT&T MOBILITY	MAY BILL	41.27
BROADWAY MARKET PLACE	FLOWER BASKETS	375.27
CENTURY BUSINESS LEASING	COPIER LEASE	336.41
CHEROKEE REG. MED. CENTER	PARA ASSIST	175
CITY OF PAULLINA	MAY BILL	1,259.86
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CO.	NIGHTSTICK	1,170.00
BRENDA EBEL KRUSE	WEBCAM SPEAKERS	182.29
G & H REPAIR AND SALES	AMB OIL CHANGE	366.89
GRANVILLE AMBULANCE SERVICE	PARA ASSIST	600
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	MAYOR ASSOC FEES	30
METRO-BALLING SERVICES	CLAIMS	48
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	MAY BILL	108.57
MODULIF	WEBSITE	180
ORANGE CITY HEALTH SYSTEM	FRX DEBIT	1,850.06
PAULLINA BUILDING CENTER	STAKES, TAMPER	102.99
PAULLINA FIRE DEPARTMENT	FIRE CAUS	2,787.00
PRIMEWAY BANK INC.	POSTAGE PNF	105.6
SOUTH O BREEN INSURANCE	AVIATION LIABILITY INS	3,180.00
THE COMMUNITY AGENCY	MAY BILL	323.36
THE TEAM COMPANY	CLOTHING	930
TOWN AND COUNTRY DISPOSAL	MAY BILL	6,580.25
TR-STATE READY MIX	CONCRETE	1,173.00
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE	BOX FEE	146
	901 GENERAL TOTAL	22,257.11
	12-1 THRU 5-31	550
UMB BANK, N.A.	200 DEBT SERVICES FUND TOTAL	550
CITY OF PAULLINA	MAY BILL	173.95
	310 IOWA STATE BANK/CAP PROJ FUND TOTAL	173.95
AT&T MOBILITY	UTILITY IPAD	184.53
CITY OF PAULLINA	MAY BILL	700.68
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	MEMBER DUES	308.67
MID AMERICAN ENERGY	MAY BILL	494.35
MODULIF	WEBSITE	180
THE COMMUNITY AGENCY	MAY BILL	3787
UTILITY EQUIPMENT COMPANY	CONCRETE, SEGUE BIAD	4,634.48
	800 WATER UTILITY FUND TOTAL	6,540.58
	SLUDGE REDUCER	7,475.60
AQUAFIX, INC.	UTILITY IPAD	184.53
AT&T MOBILITY	MAY BILL	1,502.46
CITY OF PAULLINA	TESTING	434
FOUNDATION ANALYTICAL LAB.	MEMBER DUES	308.67
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	WEBSITE	180
MODULIF	610 SEWER UTILITY FUND TOTAL	10,085.26
	MOP/MATS/TOWELS	89.94
A & M LAUNDRY	UTILITY IPAD	184.54
AT&T MOBILITY	MAY BILL	256.36
CITY OF PAULLINA	SUBSTATION	270
DGR ENGINEERING	MEMBER DUES	308.66
IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES	MAY BILL	31,119.97
MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES	WEBSITE	180
MODULIF	POIES	1,077.06
NORTHWEST REC	TRANSFORMER PAD	2,183.49
RESCO	MAY BILL	79.69
THE COMMUNITY AGENCY	PRINTNG	174.24
TRIPLE R, INC.	DRUG TEST	42
UNITY POINT-CLINIC	630 ELECTRIC UTILITY FUND TOTAL	36,866.96
	Access Payable Total	76,473.86

(#241662)