



Jamee A. Pierson/Jasper County Tribune

A modern kitchen with a farmhouse feel gives guests everything they need during their stay.

Airbnb

Continued from Page 1

anything architectural I was like, 'Yes!' Nevils said. "We have to share her story, it is her roots. That is what is awesome."

The beautiful view is perfect year-round. From gorgeous fall leaves coloring the land, perfectly placed snowflakes blanketing the fields, bright spring flowers popping in the spring and warm summer breezes flowing through the growth.

"The bedroom is really romantic. It could be a honeymoon or a getaway," Christianson said. "Even in the fall and winter time, it overlooks the land and has really pretty views, people don't even think they are in Iowa. That is where I got the Hilltop Haven name."

Along with weekend stays, the space is available for short-term rentals. With everything available that a house would hold, the Airbnb could be

home while waiting for new home.

"It would be a good place to stay if you sold your house and you are waiting on your new one or if you're building and you are waiting for them to finish up," Christianson said.

The year-long process came to a finale with a ribbon cutting July 9. Dozens of friends and family came to the country location to congratulate the family and get a first look at the space.

"Everybody has been watching. You can see it when driving from the south," Christianson said. "We're excited. My dad bought this property is 1965, so having it change and evolve, people remember how it was."

And it will continue to change and evolve as the seasons go on.

"In the front I have a native prairie," Christianson said. "This is the first year and they say it takes three years but I did have one flower pop up"

Record

Continued from Page 1

They were not far off from each other. Still, Bartholmey told Newton News the final count got him past the 70,000 mark. But since the counters did not agree with each other, Bartholmey expects Guinness World Records will take the lowest of the two counts, which may put him "a hair under" 70,000.

Currently, the record for largest pencil collection is held by Emilio Arenas from Montevideo, Uruguay, at 24,026 pencils as of 2020.

Bartholmey's next step is to put all of his evidence together — the video recordings, his database, the photographs, etc. — and submit it to Guinness World Records. From there, the organization will determine if the evidence he provided is enough to prove he had broken the record.

In addition to showing off his col-

lection and the counting, Bartholmey's July 1 event also gave him an opportunity to display his other pencil-related memorabilia inside the Colfax Historical Society Museum & Community Center. Overall, it was an "exhausting-but-amazing" day.

"It was so much fun seeing all the people come and go through the collection," he said to Newton News a few days after the event took place. "(I enjoyed) the whole experience of getting the community together to see that and kind of share my quirky hobby with them."

Families enjoyed seeing the pencils and other antiques in his collection, as well as participate in activities and games organized by Bartholmey's wife, Allison.

Originally, the count was scheduled from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on July 1. Bartholmey said the counters stayed until about 9 p.m. that day, but they needed more time to finish counting the collection. They started up again at 7 a.m.

July 2, ending a little after 1 p.m.

Even though the numbers are not certified, Bartholmey was relieved when he saw his collection surpass the current world record.

"There was a little bit of celebration at that point, and then again on Sunday when we actually did hit the 70,000 mark," Bartholmey said. "I knew it was in my database, but it doesn't mean that the counters are going to get to that point. So it was really exciting when they did."

Bartholmey added it would take approximately 12 weeks to get a confirmation from Guinness World Records.

"It's been an amazing experience," he said. "The unexpected publicity from it was fun. I had all three of the Des Moines stations come out and film a news story. Hearing from all of these people in different points in my life reaching out and say, 'Hey, I saw you on the news!' has just been really cool!"

Test Course

Continued from Page 1

statement to the Newton News. "It is close to county offices, is centrally located and fits into the mission of Legacy Plaza by improving services to our communities."

In order to receive a motorcycle license, customers will have to first take the written permit test. If they pass, they can take the riding skills test, which requires proof of insurance and a motorcycle that is registered and street-legal. Customers would have to schedule their riding skills test with the county DMV.

Bishop said the riding skills test takes about 30 to 45 minutes. So far, only one staff member at the Jasper County DMV is certified to conduct the test. But the

county treasurer said there will be two other individuals — himself included — that will be certified within the next month.

"That way there should always be somebody there that is certified," he said. "So if somebody was to drop in and say, 'Hey, I got a chance this afternoon ... would it be possible to take a motorcycle skills test?' Between one or the three of us, we're hopefully going to be able to free up enough time to run across to that lot."

Any resident of the state of Iowa can utilize this test in Jasper County. Bishop anticipates customers from surrounding counties will take advantage of the returning service, noting that both driver's license stations in Marshalltown and Ankeny have a backlog of customers.

"They're going to put word out to folks that are calling in now to say, 'Hey, if one of the times we have doesn't work, feel free to reach out to Jasper County.' That does two things: That gets folks their motorcycle license much more quickly, and it also brings in revenue from outside the county to Jasper County," Bishop said.

The treasurer also noted the DMV can be an economic driver for the community, particularly when it comes to outside county traffic.

"It brings folks to Newton and then they spread a little economic dollars back here as well," Bishop said. "Every opportunity we have to not only spend some money but showcase our community in a positive manner, I think we

need to utilize every opportunity we can to do both of those."

Out-of-county customers have caught on to the speedy processes of the Jasper County DMV. More and more seem to be coming every day as the word gets out, Bishop said; a lot of people still do not realize they can renew their driver's license anywhere in the state of Iowa.

Where the county is seeing a larger uptick is in youth permits and driver's licenses. As soon as people from Bondurant or Altoona or Mitchellville figure out they can get their child's permit or driver's license, they tell other parents how easy and quick the process was.

Jasper County DMV is located at 315 W. Third St. N., suite 500, in Newton.

- NOW OPEN -

Main Street Markt

PELLA IOWA

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET & CAFÉ

503 Main Street, Pella

from the *Liberty Street Kitchen* team.

The World's Finest Specialty Foods and Grocery Products for Your Table.

MARKET

- Grab-and-Go Dishes
- Artisan Grocery Goods
- Specialty Wines & Cheeses
- South Union Bakery Breads
- Organic, Gluten-free, Dairy-free & Vegan Items

CAFÉ

- Chef-Crafted Cuisine
- Sandwiches & Soups
- Fresh Salads & Bowls
- Dine-In & Carryout
- Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Sizzlin' Saturdays

Join us every Saturday this summer for special seasonal features and events!



FREE SAMPLES
Enjoy featured products from across the market, all day long.

GRILLED SPECIALTIES
Grilled-to-order hot dogs and hamburgers, sides and more for purchase on our patio. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. (weather permitting)

BEVERAGE SPECIALS

MainStreetMarkt.com

The world is so much better with you. If you're having problems, let's talk.

We are here for you 24/7.



yourlifeiowa.org



SCAN ME

Breaking News & City Alerts sent directly to your phone with Text Alerts!

TextAlerts NEWTON DAILY NEWS

Scan the code above to get started today!