

CARDS SWEEP EAGLES

Newton bowling teams cruise past Pella Christian / 9A

NEWTON NEWS



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SHAKING THINGS UP



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

Darian Morrison, of Newton, showcases a shake and a tea from 1st Ave Nutrition. At 19 years old, Morrison is considered to be the youngest brick-and-mortar business owner in Newton.

19-year-old Newton graduate is the youngest brick-and-mortar business owner in town

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Darian Morrison, of Newton, always envisioned herself pursuing a career that allowed her to help people on a daily basis. She was working towards that goal by studying radiology at Mercy College of Health Sciences when another opportunity fell into her lap: owning a business in her hometown.

The 19-year-old officially claimed ownership of 1st Ave Nutrition, 109 First Ave. W., at the start of January 2023. Shortly after the New Year, Morrison made the announcement on a Facebook post that garnered more than 300 interactions. The community was ready to welcome and support her new journey.

Morrison had been almost exclusively working alone in the health food

shop since August 2022. She was hired as an employee in September 2021, about a month after the shop opened its doors. At that time she had no idea she would one day own the business, located just south of the Newton town square.

“This opened in my hometown and I kind of popped in to see what it was, and he (the previous

SHAKES | 2A

ONCE A COFFEE SHOP, ALWAYS A COFFEE SHOP

West Side Java maintains customers' comfort coffee spot while also exploring newer additions to menu

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Customers were heartbroken when one of their favorite coffee shops closed its doors in summer 2022, but the speed in which a new caffeine-focused business filled the vacant storefront mended those emotional wounds and in some cases convinced regulars the downtown Newton hotspot had never left.

Juli Stanford, owner of West Side Java, said there were a number of customers who did not realize the former Bridge-

house Coffee Co. had closed. They figured it was just a name change and a few renovations. But Stanford knows all too well that was not the case, though the renovation was clear for all to see.

Prior to West Side Java opening in October 2022, the storefront had to be completely restored after succumbing to latent structural damage caused by the 2020 derecho. In a past interview, Stanford said the storm shifted and loosened a

JAVA | 3A



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

Juli Stanford, owner of West Side Java Co., opened the downtown Newton coffee shop in October 2022. The building was previously occupied by Bridgehouse Coffee Co.

Newton WaterWorks now accepting online payments

Customers can access their accounts and pay bills through web portal

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Paying water bills in Newton just got a little bit easier. Residents can now pay

their monthly water bills using the online utility payment portal at www.newtongov.org/utilitypayment. The portal allows customers to check their bills and pay

electronically with a credit or debit card. Account history is also available, giving customers detailed data on billing, payment and usage.

With the new system in

place, customers can receive bill notifications through email. In order for residents to use online payment methods, they must sign up at the portal and need to provide their account number and the last billed amount. This information can be obtained by calling the billing office at

641-792-2003.

According to the city's website, customers can pay their water bills by auto-debit or by delivering a cash, check or money order to the billing office or one of the drop locations. Danielle

PAYMENT | 2A

Prairie City Public Library gets \$5K in matching funds from Jasper County

If the library is awarded a CAT grant, it could provide a \$170K return for new facility

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Prairie City Public Library was authorized on Jan. 3 to receive \$5,000 in matching funds from the Jasper County Board of Supervisors, which would go toward an Iowa Economic Development Authority Community Attraction and Tourism Grant application that could net the library an extra \$170,000 for

a new facility.

Sue Ponder, director of the Prairie City Public Library, said the library has been fundraising for the expansion and renovation of an empty building in the town square to serve as its new location. The new library would be adjacent to the Prairie City City Hall and less than a half block from the Red Rock Prairie Trail.

PC LIBRARY | 3A

Jasper County lawmakers will attend legislative gatherings

League of Women Voters to host the events in January, February and March

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Elected officials representing Jasper County at the Iowa Legislature are participating in the League of Women Voters of Jasper County's legislative gatherings in January, February and March, making themselves available for questions and deeper discussions about statehouse affairs.

Bonnie Pitz, president of the League of Women Voters of Jasper County, said Sen. Ken



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

Bonnie Pitz, state board member of the League of Women Voters of Iowa, shows off a pin from the organization. The league will be hosting legislative gatherings in January, February and March.

GATHERINGS | 3A

SHAW MEDIA

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