



# NEWTON NEWS

TUESDAY, FEB. 14, 2023 • WHERE TO GO WHEN YOU NEED TO KNOW

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## LAWSUIT & COUNTERSUIT

### Newton man sues police for false arrest, officers countersue for defamation

By Christopher Braunschweig  
Newton News

Five months after the arrest of a college student caused an uproar in the Newton community and spurred furious online discussions, the police department is now being sued over

the traffic stop for false arrest and civil rights violations, among other allegations; in turn, the officers are countersuing for defamation.

Filings from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa Central Division on Feb. 2 show Tayvin Galanakis, 19, and his Des Moines-

based attorneys Mathew Boles and Adam Witosky, are suing the City of Newton, police chief Rob Burdess, officer Nathan Winters and lieutenant Christopher Wing.

Shortly after Galanakis filed his suit, the city filed counterclaims alleging he made defamatory statements, intentionally inflicted emotional distress, invaded the privacy and filed false complaints against Winters and Wing, whose legal counsel is represented by

the city's law firm Brick Gentry, P.C.

In the suit, Galanakis alleges the officers had "no reasonable suspicion" to administer field sobriety tests when they pulled him over for using his high beams in town shortly after midnight on Aug. 28, 2022, nor did they have probable cause to place him under arrest or believe a criminal offense had been committed.

LAWSUIT | 2A

## Domestic livestock ordinance in Newton not likely to change

### While staff can review the code, council is not certain push is strong enough from citizens

By Christopher Braunschweig  
Newton News

In response to a comment made last month by council member Vicki Wade about a citizen's request to allow chickens on residential parcels in Newton smaller than one acre, staff provided officials with a presentation about the city's ordinance regarding domestic livestock within city limits.

Egg prices at grocery stores is what prompted the request. In an effort to save money in the long run, Wade suggested the resident thought about purchasing chickens for her property. But according to city code, she said, the resident could only have livestock on the property if it is one acre or larger in size.

Erin Chambers, director of community development for the City of Newton, led the presentation near the end of the Feb. 6 council meeting and confirmed what the resident learned is correct. For every one acre of land,



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

High egg prices prompted a Newton citizen to research the city's rules on keeping chickens within city limits and make a request to a city council member. After a presentation from city staff, it became clear the push from citizens was likely not strong enough to warrant a change in the city code.

residents are allowed four sheep, goats, swine, alpacas or chickens, or two horses or two cattle.

"We all know when we go to the grocery store right now eggs are extremely expensive," Chambers said.

Currently, the average price of eggs in Iowa is about \$3.25. While that number is higher than normal, it is lower than the national median cost of eggs. According

LIVESTOCK | 3A

## Newton teachers awarded for their impact on students

### NCEF honors winners of Excellence in Education Awards

By Christopher Braunschweig  
Newton News

Eight teachers in the Newton Community School District were honored last week for their work in the classrooms and their impact on students.

Members of the Newton Community Educational Foundation (NCEF) surprised those teachers in the middle of class on Feb. 8 and 9 with Excellence in Education Awards, sweet treats for all the kids and a \$500 check for educators to spend on their classrooms. The teachers awarded include:

- Lea Kunkel, a kindergarten teacher at Aurora Heights Elementary
- Trey Vanderlaan, a second grade teacher at Emerson Hough Elementary
- Lucas Warner, a special education teacher at Woodrow Wilson Elementary
- Will Edgar, a vocal music teacher at Berg Middle School
- Donny Fitzgerald, a social studies teacher at Berg Middle School

AWARDS | 3A

## Newton Pacesetters dance the night away

### The gym was rocking Saturday during the dance team's Winter Show



Jamee A. Pierson/Newton News

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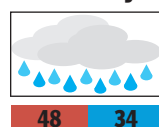
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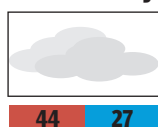
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