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## NEWTON RAGBRAI ROUTE FINALIZED

Cyclists will be traveling through 1st Avenue as opposed to 4th Avenue



Christopher Braunschweig/Daily News

The RAGBRAI route for July 27 was approved by the Newton City Council at its May 15 meeting. The route takes cyclists all the way through First Avenue. Newton served as an overnight town in 2018, but this year the community will be a meeting town for support vehicles.

**By Christopher Braunschweig**  
Newton Daily News

It's official: RAGBRAI riders will be touring through town on Newton's main artery. The Newton City Council on May 15 approved the RAGBRAI route, the entry point of which will be Highway F-48 West/First Avenue West and the exit point

will be Highway 6/First Avenue East. Council members were given a choice between two different route options, which were debated at a past meeting. • Route A would have cyclists leave the downtown on North Second Avenue East to East Seventh Street North, then to North Fourth Avenue East, then to Highway T-12 North and then

onto Highway 6. • Route B would have cyclists leaving downtown on East Third Street North to First Avenue East, then travel the length of First Avenue all the way to Highway 6. Council members were all in agreement that Route B would be the best choice. Staff did not

RAGBRAI | 3A

## Newton man accused of stabbing his ex pleads guilty to attempted murder

Suspect who fled scene and was found in Florida also admits to stalking in plea hearing

**By Christopher Braunschweig**  
Newton Daily News

Tyrece Lewis, the 38-year-old Newton man accused by law enforcement of stabbing his ex-girlfriend and was later found by authorities in Florida, pleaded guilty on May 15 for attempted murder and stalking-third or subsequent offense, which are both considered felonies in the state of Iowa.

During an afternoon plea hearing presided by District Court Judge Charles Sinnard, Lewis withdrew his initial plea of not guilty to guilty, waiving his right to a jury trial. As part of the plea, the state — represented by Jasper County Attorney Scott Nicholson — agreed to dismiss a number of other charges.

Sentencing will take place at a later date, but it is believed at this point that the sentences will run concurrently. Attempted murder is a Class B felony and has a maximum sentence of 25



Lewis

MURDER | 3A

## Aerial applicator company pledges \$400K investment to airport

Improvements will come at no cost to the City of Newton

**By Christopher Braunschweig**  
Newton Daily News

City council members were very quick to approve a request from a local aerial applicator whose parent company has proposed to invest more than \$400,000 in improvements to the leased facilities and surrounding pavement at the Newton Municipal Airport, and it would be at zero cost to the city and taxpayers.

“It seems like a no-brainer,” council member Vicki Wade said. In return, the city would have to approve a new and extended lease agreement with Midwest Custom Ag Aviation, Inc. (MCAA) for use of the Community Hangar, formerly known as the Maytag Hangar. The lease agreement between the city and the local aerial applicator was set to expire May 31, 2025. The Community Hangar has been

leased by aerial applicators since 2011. Ethan Nasalroad, manager of the Newton Municipal Airport, said with the new taxiway coming through MCAA lost about one-third of its ramp space. The company needs a lot of ramp space to load aircrafts and park airplanes during peak seasons in the summertime. “They’ve known about this for a while, and this is a great opportunity to help that,” Nasalroad said at the May 15 council meeting. “And they’re not asking the city to do anything with space we took from them previously. We’re all for this. They are a great cus-

tomers and they’ve been very good to work with.” Obviously, the company is showing it is willing to stick around by making a large investment into the airport. Although it will be MCAA’s ramp space, Nasalroad said the designs will be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. It should be a nice addition to the airport, he added. According to city documents, MCAA’s parent company Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC of Collierville, Tenn., has proposed to include a

AIRPORT | 2A

## Professional services secured for construction of new Jordan Well

After current well was struck by lightning, staff want a backup for added redundancy

**By Christopher Braunschweig**  
Newton Daily News

Lightning struck the Jordan Well, Newton's main water source, in late February, and at that time WaterWorks staff were able to temporarily repair the damages and get the well back to working order; but util-

ities director Jody Rhone also knew the addition of a second Jordan Well was a likely project in years to come. During the May 15 city council meeting, the professional services for the construction of a new Jordan Well was unanimously approved. Fox/Strand Engineering of Ames will be providing the services for more than \$518,000, and includes design, bidding, funding assistance and construction related services. According to city documents, the project will be bid in

WELL | 2A

## Public improvements approved for second addition of Arbor Estates

City council supports street, utility connections of 23-lot subdivision

**By Christopher Braunschweig**  
Newton Daily News

Newton City Council on May 15 approved the preliminary work for the second addition to the Arbor Estates subdivision, which includes the construction of street and utility connections for 23 new residential lots. When the work is completed, council will review the final plat to start lot construction. The second addition is located between North 11th Avenue East and North Eighth Avenue

ARBOR ESTATES | 2A



Christopher Braunschweig/Daily News

Contractors work on building homes at Arbor Estates in Newton. The city council on May 15 approved the preliminary work for the second addition of Arbor Estates that is expected to have 23 residential lots, which are zoned R-1, R-2 and R3, offering a wide variety of potential home structures.

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**WHERE IT'S AT**

Calendar.....5A  
Classifieds.....6A  
Comics.....9A

Puzzles.....6A  
Local Sports.....7A  
Obituaries.....5A

Opinion.....4A  
Community News.....5A

| Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|--------|----------|--------|--------|
|        |          |        |        |
| 67 52  | 71 46    | 77 50  | 76 55  |

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