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DISTRICT TO PROVIDE MORE FEEDBACK

NCS D will host town hall meetings in August about master planning proposals



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

Jenny Mann speaks during an open forum about the Newton Community School District's master planning proposals at the July 10 school board meeting.

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Two town hall meetings have been scheduled by the Newton school board as a result of residents' responses from a community survey that say they need clearer information before the district makes any final decision on facility reconfiguration plans, which would ultimately close two elementary buildings.

The school district publicly announced its master planning timeline on June 28. At the same time, administrators sought input from residents in the

form of a Google survey, which resulted in about 119 responses, superintendent Tom Messinger said. To make sure all information is heard, he recommended town halls.

"So that way we could bring all the information together and then answer some questions and provide more information that was requested from some different folks and move the process forward that way," Messinger said to school board members, later noting FRK Architects + Engineers will be at the meetings.

FEEDBACK | 2A

Identity disclosure policy not required for district, superintendent says

Newton school board removed the policy from being added to the books

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Newton school board members removed the student disclosure of identity policy from a group of other approved policies on July 10 after receiving guidance from superintendent Tom Messinger, who said it is recommended or suggested to have the rule in place, but it is not required.

However, it is still state law for Iowa teachers to out LGBTQ students to their parents, or notify them when their child is referred to by a different gender, pronoun or nickname. School board member Travis Padget voted against the first reading of the identity disclosure policy, citing personal disagreements.

Padget, who is a gay man, told Newton News that he is "not OK with putting a policy on our books that leaves kids in harms way." Padget said the Newton Community School District should be a safe place to LGBTQ students who

POLICY | 3A

Newton man sentenced 35 years in prison for attempted murder, stalking

Tyrece Lewis pleaded guilty to stabbing ex-girlfriend at Dollar General

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Jessie Harvey is left with both physical and emotional scars after ex-boyfriend Tyrece Lewis tried to kill her. But in her victim impact statement to the court on July 10, before Lewis was sentenced to 35 years in prison, she assured her attacker, "You did not break me" and that "I'm stronger now than I've ever been."

In her statement, Harvey recounted how terrified she was of Lewis, who is also the father of her children, and recalled many instances of violence and gaslighting. Even when the two were separated, she said he would show up to her house unannounced and accused her of seeing other men.

When Lewis bonded from a stalking charge just three days prior, Harvey said he either followed her or used an app on her phone to track her to Dollar General in Newton. Harvey was buying diapers for her son when Lewis attacked her from behind and stabbed her in the back multiple times.

During the attack on March 6, Harvey said the knife blade broke from the handle and was stuck in her back. Lewis punched her a few more times before fleeing the scene and the town. Authorities would later find him in Florida. Harvey, supported by nearly two dozen loved ones in court, called Lewis an "evil person."

The entire attack, which took place around 12:54 p.m., was captured by video



Lewis

SENTENCING | 3A

Supervisors approve concrete repairs at courthouse

East landing and south entrance are the main priorities of the project

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Portions of the concrete pathways surrounding the Jasper County Courthouse on July 11 were approved for repairs by the board of supervisors.

Jasper County Maintenance Director Adam Sparks provided supervisors with three bids at their meeting this week. The low bid of \$32,800 received from Newton-based contractor Jeff Seals Construction puts the project well under Sparks' \$40,000 concrete work budget for this fiscal year.

There are 99 pieces of concrete outside the courthouse that need replaced, Sparks said. Altogether, Sparks estimated it is about 3,500 square feet of concrete. The two areas that need the most attention are the east landing and the south entrance coming up from the steps.

When replaced the concrete will be sprayed with a sealant for added protection against salt during the winter months. The county requested bidders to replace all sidewalk portions with six-inch thick concrete, except for the east landing which will be replaced with eight-inch thick concrete.

In addition to the low bid from Jeff Seals, the county received a



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

Jasper County Maintenance Director Adam Sparks provided officials with three bids for concrete work outside the courthouse during the July 11 board of supervisors meeting.

\$49,700 bid from Urbandale-based contractor Jordison Construction Inc. and a \$58,856 bid from Newton-based contractor Karl Peters Construction. Sparks said Jordison and Peters would be able to finish the job this summer.

"Seals is pretty backed up but

they are able to get us in this summer, as far as like a week or two," Sparks said. "If we chose them we'd have to allow them to do, I guess, as much as the project as they could this summer or

CONCRETE | 7A

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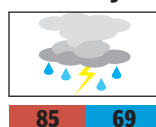
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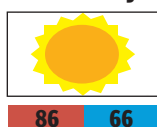
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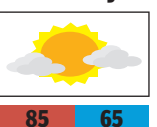
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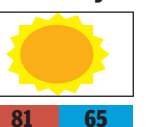
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Sunday



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Monday



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