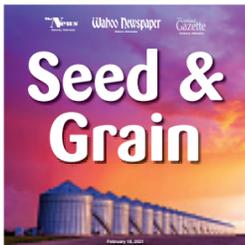


The Waverly News

Serving the communities of Waverly, Alvo, Ceresco, Davey, Eagle, Greenwood, Prairie Home, Raymond, Valparaiso and Walton



Seed & Grain
Special Section

newswaverly.com

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Vol. 49 No. 40

\$2.00

Village board tables library audit discussion

By Elsie Stormberg
elsie.stormberg@wahoonepaper.com

VALPARAISO – The Valparaiso Village Board of Trustees opted to table discussion on the pending Valparaiso Public Library audit and an ordinance regarding library board member selection, despite the library being closed since Jan. 27.

Village Board Chairman Jim Rezac received a phone call from the Nebraska Library Commission prior to the meeting informing him

that the village board is unable to discuss anything related to the library.

Renae Feilmeier of Bromm, Lindahl, Freeman-Caddy & Lausterer attended the meeting as a representative of the law firm that is contracted as the village attorney. Feilmeier said she does not believe that the state library commission would have any power over the village board in this nature.

“I have no knowledge that they would have any ability to tell the village board what they can and

cannot talk about,” Feilmeier said. “Certainly out of an abundance of caution you guys are welcome to table this and have a special meeting.”

Despite Village Clerk Cheryl Rieck telling The News via email that no action was taken, the board did agree to suspend the library’s operations pending an audit during an executive session at a special meeting on Jan. 27, according to the meeting minutes published in the newspaper.

A sign and padlock then ap-

peared on the door of the library informing the public that the library is temporarily closed due to a pending audit by the Nebraska State Auditor. The pending audit was on the Feb. 9 agenda along with the library board.

Feilmeier also suggested that the board could move forward with the proposal of an ordinance that will make amendments to how library board members are selected during this meeting.

“My best advice here and that is the Nebraska Library Commission

does not have authority over the village board of trustees,” Feilmeier said.

Village Board Member Mike Blazek said that this ordinance would alter the geographical standpoint of how board members are chosen by the village board.

“Currently it’s just in the city limits,” Blazek said. “If we are going to have trouble getting five members that we move it outside the city limits. You can’t be in an-

See Library on Page 3

Former teacher in court on porn charges

From Staff Reports

RAYMOND – No Raymond Central School District students were depicted in the pornographic images allegedly possessed by a former speech and drama teacher, Saunders County Attorney Joe Dobesh said.

Jeffrey Nelson is facing nine class 2A felony counts of possession of child pornography and one class 1D felony count of intent to distribute child pornography in Saunders County Court.



Jeffrey Nelson

Nelson was “removed from the classroom several weeks ago” according to school district officials.

Nelson’s internet protocol (IP) address was flagged by Nebraska Attorney General Investigator Edward Sexton because it had participated in the sharing of files that “depict children under the age of 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct,” according to an

See Charges on Page 3

Ash Hollow project bid accepted by city council

By Elsie Stormberg
elsie.stormberg@wahoonepaper.com

WAVERLY – The City of Waverly received and opened eight bids for the Ash Hollow drainage cleanout project on Feb. 5.

During the city council meeting on Feb. 9, the council accepted a bid for \$82,670 from H.R. Bookstrom Construction, Inc. for the project, which will ultimately remove silt and dirt that has washed into the ditch the past few years.

Accepting this bid means that H.R. Bookstrom will start construction on March 1. The dirt and silt will be moved to the adjacent field to the west of Ash Hollow and be kept by Commercial Plastics.

The council also approved a temporary construction easement with Commercial Plastics which allows the contractor right-of-way access for the project. City Administrator Stephanie Fisher said Commercial Plastics have been very accommodating in regards

See Project on Page 3

Soup-less Supper



TREAT TABLE: Theresa Delahoyde and Candice Batton man the dessert table as Stephanie Fowler decides which treat to take home at Waverly High School Saturday evening for the Waverly band fundraiser. (Staff Photos by Anna Boggs)



FILLED WITH DONATIONS: Malcolm Witte and Cecilia Witte bring out the Mr. Rohlfs piñata between performances to encourage people to stuff it with donations. The opportunity to make a donation was part of the Waverly band fundraiser held Saturday evening at Waverly High School.



TAKE AND BAKE: John Wilson picks up a pizza from Elaina Ferguson at Waverly High School Saturday evening at the annual Waverly band fundraiser. Normally a soup supper, the fundraiser was held as a take and bake pizza pick up due to social distancing and COVID-19 concerns.

School board reviews district objectives for equality, inclusivity

By Elsie Stormberg
elsie.stormberg@wahoonepaper.com

RAYMOND – A group of Raymond Central High School students approached the Raymond Central Board of Education during its meeting on Feb. 10 with a thorough review of six objectives related to equality and inclusivity within the walls of the district.

This presentation is a part of the Commitment to Action and Change Resolution the school board passed in light of the racial injustices highlighted through protests in 2020.

“The Dream Team,” as Superintendent Dr. Derrick Joel describes them, created several bullet points under each objective to expand what the objectives mean and what they would look like when practiced at school.

These goals include working toward a safe and nurturing environ-

“The next task will be to design a way to make all of these more than just words on paper and what it will truly look like and sound like for us as a district.”

- Dr. Derrick Joel, Raymond Central Superintendent

ment, promoting equity and equal opportunity for all, calling out racism and privilege, increasing knowledge on social justice, supporting diversity and inclusion and supporting culturally responsive training as needed, according to the school board agenda.

After attending a leadership summit in October, the team also decided on one phrase which encompasses all six of the objectives, Joel said. The equity vision statement says: “At Raymond Central Public Schools, we will strive to model equity opportunities for all.”

Now that the team has expanded what each goal means, Joel explained to the board what the future of this activity is.

“The next task will be to design a way to make all of these more than just words on paper and what it will truly look like and sound like for us as a district,” Joel said.

The school board did not have many questions for the students, but Board Member Brad Breitreutz shared his enthusiasm for the project.

“It’s something to be proud of,” Breitreutz said. “You guys did an

awesome job.”

In other business, Joel announced that staff members have begun to receive vaccinations. So far a total of 20 staff members have received the vaccine as of Feb. 10 and he expects to learn more information about who will get the vaccine next.

The board also celebrated National School Board Appreciation Week during the first week of February. At the board meeting, the school board members were presented with long-sleeved, grey Raymond Central t-shirts.

“It’s just like Christmas when you get clothes,” Joel said. “You have to wear it over your current clothes.”

Unfortunately, school board members did not sport the shirts after opening their gifts.

The school board will next meet on March 10.

Inside

- On The Record..... 2
- Church..... 4
- Community..... 3, 4, 8
- Legals..... 3
- Sports..... 6, 7
- Weather..... 8

Also online @
www.newswaverly.com

In Brief

Start planning fishing trips with 2021 Fishing Forecast

LINCOLN – Anglers can start planning fishing vacations or researching their strategies for the year with the 2021 Fishing Forecast, a publication available from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The publication contains fish sampling data, along with a forecast of where anglers may find large quantities and large sizes of certain fish in various waters across the state.

The 2021 Fishing Forecast may be found at OutdoorNebraska.org/fishingforecast at Game and Parks permitting offices, or wherever fishing permits are sold.

