



PEOPLE IN BUSINESS

Checkout the People in Business special C-section that features local business people working through a pandemic.

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DAILY NEWS: WWW.WADENAPJ.COM

5 Hwy 10 businesses share their construction progress



Rebecca Mitchell/Pioneer Journal

With blocked entrances from the Hwy 10 construction, customers have had a hard time getting to John's Car Care but truck drivers are enjoying the additional space by the new diesel pumps after several buildings were demolished in April.

By Rebecca Mitchell
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If you take a look beyond the Hwy 10 construction, you'll find an abundance of remodeling and new buildings along the highway. The projects will continue into the fall though owners are glad to see their new projects become a reality.

John's Car Care

Owners Tony and Jacqueline Wegscheid added a turn around space for truck drivers, which Tony said drivers are "really happy" with the addition as there is three to four times the amount of space. The new

diesel pumps are placed at an angle for truck drivers to easily exit onto the road heading west. The space is also coordinated for parking and the car wash line.

Though not part of the original plan, the old diesel pumps were closed for about a month in June while being removed, according to Wegscheid.

"I'm ready for the road to be done so we can finish up what we need to do and kind of get things back to normal," Wegscheid said.

After the sidewalk is complete, projects like filling in concrete will be finished.

"We're just trying to get things up to snuff and get it to where we can kind of not have to worry about it for awhile again," Wegscheid said.

Lunde Auto Sales

On the corner of Hwy 10 and SW Second St., the new building for Lunde Auto Sales is under construction with a hope to open in the fall, according to Mark Lunde. The project is about two weeks behind due to material delays. While Nicole Lunde purchased the old Carter Oil building and received a Fix-

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ACHIEVEMENT DAY



Photo courtesy of Grace Ruckheim/Wadena County 4-H Extension Intern

Colton Johnson holds up his chicken as a part of the poultry show on Aug. 8. For more information and photos from Achievement Day, turn to page A2.

W-DC shares in-person reopening school plan

By Rebecca Mitchell
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At the special school board meeting, Thursday, Aug. 6, to discuss Wadena-Deer Creek's reopening plans for the fall, the board approved the option of in-person learning and will approve the back to school plan at the regular school board meeting on Aug. 17.

"Certainly will not be a normal year but I think everybody is committed and excited for having students back in the building, and I think it's going to be a good thing," said Superintendent Lee Westrum.

The draft version of the plan includes seven main sections. The following are as outlined by Westrum:

► Transportation: Buses will have 50% capacity with students loaded from back to front along with students having assigned seats. Family groups can

sit together without social distancing. Students will wear masks on the bus and either complete a health screening at home or by a paraprofessional on the bus. Bus drivers will contact guardians about who will be riding the bus this year, including the winter.

► Food service: There will be no self serve food items for breakfast or lunch. Students at the middle high school will pick up their breakfast and eat in their classroom, and at lunch time students will sit at tables in the cafeteria and gym at 50% capacity. At the elementary school, students will have breakfast delivered to their classrooms and for lunch will rotate between eating in the cafeteria and their classrooms. Plexi-glass may be installed on the cafeteria tables. The district is hoping to use a

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Rebecca Mitchell/Pioneer Journal

The Wadena-Deer Creek school board members approved the in-person learning option for the fall at a special board meeting on Aug. 6.

'Vendorpalooza' fundraiser to benefit Relay for Life

By Michael Johnson
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Instead of the annual Relay for Life for the Wadena area typically hosted in Sunnybrook Park this month, an online event is seeking ways to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

That event, Vendorpalooza, is happening from Aug. 14 - 28,

14 days of online shopping with a portion of the funds going to Wadena County Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. The online event included 18 vendors on Wednesday, Aug. 5, and is expected to grow. Those vendors are from the local area and abroad with products ranging from home decor, clothing, seasonings, cleaning products,

pottery, scents, dog and cat items and more.

Organizer for the vendor event is Amy Kine. Kine said she is passionate about the event and its purpose.

"My dad passed away two and a half years ago from lung cancer," Kine said. "He always loved and helped me and I miss him dearly!"

Kine saw that she could do this in memory of her dad and as a way to give back to the teams. Kine had one criteria for vendors — that they have been touched by cancer in some way. Many of the vendors have begun sharing stories about their products and how they have been impacted by cancer on the Facebook page for the

event. Kine said she got the idea for the event from a friend in California who was hosting a similar event in place of the in-person relay event. The fundraising part of the event comes from the vendors offering up their commissions to the cause.

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Primary protection

For the primary election, Tuesday, Aug. 11, voters and staff alike followed safety and health precautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff said they expect the day to be slow with the high number of absentee ballots and for the simple fact that it is a primary. The full results for the primary will be delayed a few days to a week due to the absentee ballots that take longer to process, not because of problems, according to Secretary of State Steve Simon in an Aug. 7 news release.

For up-to-date election results, check out wadenapj.com.

Rebecca Mitchell/Pioneer Journal



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HIGHWAY 10

From Page A1

Up Loan for the building's exterior, contractors said the foundation was not usable, according to Mark. The building is now a shed for another community member.

"We had hoped to keep that (Carter Oil building), that was our goal but after many contractors looked at it they just said the foundation was too bad, literally it was tipping over from not just one side but the back side and the west side were both caving in," Mark said.

The new construction replaces that building with a new shop, signs and lighting. The \$15,000 Fix-Up Loan was still able to be used.

The main sale lot will also be at this location though the smaller size will be a challenge, Mark said.

"One of the real things for me of buying that location was I consider the main drag of Wadena, the Hwy 10 of Wadena to be a spot that we should be proud of and ... (that corner) didn't look favorably upon the city," Mark said.

The plans are not finalized for where the second car lot will be and what will happen with their current location at 218 NW Ash Ave., according to Mark. Lunde Auto Sales has been at their current location for about four years.

McDonald's

In the beginning stages of their remodel project, McDonald's has started on the exterior and parking lot with the interior projects including the entire lobby and front counter area, according to supervisor Diane Lee. The drive-thru will remain open.

This location has been here for about 24 years with minor remodel projects like replacing wallpaper and a bigger addition of the beverage cell about 12 years ago, according to Lee. Lee said the current project will modernize the space.



At the corner of SW Second St. and Hwy 10, a new Lunde Auto Sales shop and sale lot is being constructed. They originally planned to use the former Carter Oil building but the foundation was not usable.

Photos by Rebecca Mitchell/Pioneer Journal

"Just for it to be done," Lee said about what she is looking forward to with the project. "Remodels get a little hectic trying to work around all the construction people and you know but it's definitely worth it."

The project will be completed in September though the lobby will not open right away due to the COVID-19 measures in place, Lee said.

Moore Sensational Looks

"Things are going really well," said owner Kelsey Moore.

After a fire in February deemed the old building a total loss, Moore Sensational Looks and Comfort Care Massage will be returning to their new building by the end of August, according to Moore. The new building will be slightly bigger than the previous with an additional room for the massage business and a third salon station.

"This is where I've been for six years so to be back in that location will be great," Moore said.

The exterior of the building is complete with new siding and brick and the interior has new flooring, cabinets, doors and trim being added over the

next week. With their current location in the Wadena Family Dental building, the business hours will not be impacted, according to Moore.

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative

With a new headquarters project at their current location, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative President and CEO Dan Carlisle said the project is on schedule and on budget. Since beginning in April, the headquarters is framed up with the roof shingled, concrete poured, heating tubes installed and windows and doors coming in the next week.

"It's very exciting to see the dream and the planning come to reality and we can see some light at

the end of the tunnel," Carlisle said.

Carlisle said the "perfect storm" of the pandemic and construction have included some issues with members being able to call in since member services and finance staff members have been working remotely. Throughout the pandemic, their remote answering service Cooperative Response Center based in Texas and southern Minnesota was used. Starting the week of Aug. 3, TWEC receptionists are answering phones in-person. The operations staff members have worked on site besides a few weeks at the beginning of the pandemic, according to



While McDonald's is remodeling outside and inside the drive-thru will remain open until the project is completed in September.



The new Moore Sensational Looks and Comfort Care Massage building will open by the end of August with another massage room and a third salon station. The business has been located in the upper portion of the Wadena Family Dental building after the salon's previous building was destroyed by a fire in February.

Carlisle.

"We're trying to limit the exposure especially with losing the shop that was demolished ... to make room for the new building and that's where our line crews headquartered so with that shop going down

and going away, they've now moved in with us and in order to maintain social distancing and the like we're very crowded right now," Carlisle said.

The staff is expected to move into the new headquarters in November.

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