

New Newfolden business opens

Paws Hoofs Claws caters to pets and livestock

Paws Hoofs Claws, a new business in Newfolden, is providing in-home visits for small animals.

Even at a young age, Karen A. Busch had a deep love of animals, but with a D in ninth grade algebra, she steered away from veterinary school and instead obtained English education degrees from Bemidji State University.

Two years ago, Busch ended her 25-year teaching career to care for her elderly parents in Mentor. While there her interest in animals was rekindled and she developed a business plan following two workshops at Northland Community and

Technical College in Thief River Falls, and weekly meetings with retired business owners participating in the national SCORE program in Grand Forks, N.D. SCORE is a network of volunteer, expert business mentors.

At its core, Paws Hoofs Claws provides in-home visits for small animals. For her recent clients, she visits 30 minutes or an hour once, twice or three times per day for one day or weekends or vacations. At the client's home, Busch provides basic care and exercise, like playing fetch, walking, running and snuggling. For large animals, Busch provides

help with seasonal animal work and daily animal chores for farmers in need of her assistance. Busch can be trained in for vacations and emergencies.

For both branches of her business, Busch has an orientation/training meeting with her client so she can meet the animals and their humans. Busch and the animal owners discuss the work order and the contract, and they find common ground with the charges.

Her services includes texted photos of their animals during her visits so their owners can relax on a vacation or at work or in the hospital.

Busch said her clients like the service, and have responded with texts like, "They are having fun," or "I finally don't have to worry," or "They look so happy."

Busch plans to turn to FFA girls and boys to get additional help to cover clients as the business grows. Paws Hoofs Claws has hired one FFA girl, and Busch said she is an excellent choice.

For more information, contact Busch at 218-464-2154, or email her at karen@pawshoofsclaws.com, through her website at www.pawshoofsclaws.com, or on Facebook.