The Northwood Anchor

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Briefs

Easter egg hunt set for Saturday

The Northwood Area Chamber of Commerce will once again offer children in the area and those visiting for the holiday the chance to hunt for eggs at the Worth County Fairgrounds.

This Saturday, April 4, at 10 a.m., the Chamber, assisted by the Deer Creek Ribbon Takers 4-H Club and Deer Creek Wohelos 4-H Club, will open the Easter egg hunt for children in three age groups, ranging from 0 to 12 years old.

Those planning to join the hunt are encouraged to be there early, as the search goes quickly.

Clover Kids present Spring Fun Day

The Worth County Clover Kids will present a Spring Fun Day next Wednesday, April 8, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Worth County Extension Office.

The Spring Fun Day is a special event for kids, with games, laughter and sunshine.

Activities will include a community engagement project, creating seed libraries for local libraries. There will also be an outdoor activity and walk, story time and snacks and treats.

Those interested should register on 4-H Online.

4-H'ers Share the Fun April 12

Worth County 4-H will present its annual showcase of talented performances with the Share the Fun event on Sunday, April 12, starting at 3 p.m.

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PASTOR BECKY AND KIM THORSFELDT KATUTA

Pastor Becky visits Dayspring to learn with and from South African school

By JoAnn Lower

On January 23 Pastor Becky Sogge left for Dayspring Children's Village (DCV) near Johannesburg, South Africa.

"I went to offer my help, experience the culture and live life side by side with the kids," she said.

For over 40 years DCV has been a safe haven for children in need, providing education and life-changing support rooted in Christian values.

Part of Becky's decision to make the trip came from talking with Kim Thorsfeldt Katuta over the past couple of years. Kim grew up at First Lutheran Church in Northwood; she and her husband Elijah directs the school's program.

Africa, see Page 3



Citizens raise concerns about law enforcement at council meeting

At the regular meeting of the Northwood City Council on March 23, concerned residents asked questions and shared comments about the future of law enforcement in the city.

Over the course of the past several weeks, as the City of Northwood and Worth County have been working to set their budgets for the fiscal year that begins July 1, the governments have been discussing the terms and cost of the agreement that has had the Worth County Sheriff's Office providing law enforcement in Northwood.

Over the course of the meetings this year, the exact cost and terms of the agreement have been discusses.

Prior to March 9, a tentative one year extension of the agreement had been in the works. Then, at their regular meeting on March 9, the supervisors asked the county attorney to send the City of Northwood a letter notifying them that the County did not plan to

Citizens, see Page 2

County budget talks include sheriff's office wages, law enforcement agreements

The Worth County supervisors continued discussion of the County budget for the next fiscal year at a workshop held on March 26.

The discussion included the option for increased sheriff's office wages and potential considerations for law enforcement agreements with Manly and Northwood.

The biggest remaining question for county officials was how much to budget for potential wage increases for the Worth County Sheriff's Office staff.

As they have been discussing the budget this year, the supervisors have received advice and direc-

County, see Page 2

City of Northwood receives legal advice, opinions for law enforcement options

On March 9, the City of Northwood was notified that its current agreement with Worth County for law enforcement services would end and not be renewed on June 30. Since then Northwood officials have been looking for legal advice on its options and obligations.

With longtime city attorney John Greve retiring, the City recently hired Brick Gentry P.C. to provide legal advice and assistance.

Questions about the City's law enforcement future were sent to Brick Gentry, to help guide the City going forward.

A number of Northwood residents attended the council's regular meeting on March 23, and the City was still waiting on the answers before proceeding.

Later last week Matthew Brick, with Brick Gentry, responded with answers to the City's questions.

One of the chief questions was the obligation of the City to hire the four deputies currently serving in the city.

The City is required to hire the four deputies covering the city, according to the agreement. There is no detail about terms, leaving City officials to question

Northwood, see Page 4

N-K School board approves roof, solar projects

Northwood-Kensett officials recently received information on the cost and potential savings of installing solar panels along with the repairs to the elementary building roof.

The need for the roof repair and replacement was discovered last spring, in 2025, when heavy rains led to as many as 27 leaks in the elementary roof.

Since then the district has been working on repairs and replacements.

The exact needs of the district were assessed earlier this year, and it was discovered that there is extensive damage, including holes in the roof and water damage to the insulation underneath.

With the need for new roofing, the school board has also heard information on installing solar panels while the roof project is underway.

At their meeting on March 26, the school board heard from Scott Prohaska, with 1 Source Solar, a subcontractor that would be working on the solar panel project if approved.

Superintendent Tony Hiatt had shared questions and responses from Prohaska, about the solar project.

According to information

N-K, see Page 4



The Week's WEATHER
From National Weather Service information

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Mon. March 23	48	22	
Tues. March 24	54	29	
Wed. March 25	73	34	
Thurs. March 26	56	32	T
Fri. March 27	40	18	
Sat. March 28	57	13	
Sun. March 29	72	32	

Easter Services

Area Christian churches will hold special services this weekend to observe Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Following is a list of when area churches will hold Easter holiday celebrations this year:

First Lutheran in Northwood- Maundy Thursday at 6:15 p.m., Easter service at 9 a.m.

Deer Creek Valley Lutheran- Good Friday at 6:15 p.m., Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m.

Northwood United Methodist- Good Friday service at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise service at 7 a.m., with brunch to follow

Peace Lutheran- Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m. with communion, Good Friday Tenabrae service at 7 p.m., Easter service at 9 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran in Kensett- Easter service at 9 a.m.

Elk Creek Lutheran-Easter service- 10:30 a.m.

Silver Lake Lutheran- Easter Sunday worship at 9 a.m. at Lunder Lutheran Church

Trinity United Methodist in Bolan- Good Friday service at 7 p.m., Easter Sunday service at 9:15 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran in Manly- Easter worship at 9 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic in Manly- Good Friday communion service at 3 p.m., Easter Sunday mass at 10:30 a.m.

Bethel United

Church, see Page 2

Happy Easter!

Citizens
Cont. from Page 1

renew or extend the agreement.

That would leave the agreement ending on June 30, with Northwood left to establish its own police force, or reach a new agreement with the County.

A number of residents attended the March 23 council meeting to question the situation and share how they want the City and County to proceed.

Members of the council made it clear that they wanted to continue working with the County, and had no issues having law enforcement covered by the sheriff's office, but that the County supervisors had ended the process with their letter stating they would not renew the agreement.

Council member Dan Reeder said that the City would not be able to just start up a police department on a whim, in the just over three months before the current law enforcement agreement ends on June 30.

Reeder also said that the supervisors had not offered an agreement for limited law enforcement coverage, like in other Worth County towns. Those towns pay a per capita rate, set to be $38.25 in the coming fiscal year.

Katrina Neve, who serves as one of the deputies covering Northwood, was at the meeting in a personal capacity and not representing the sheriff's office.

Neve summarized the initial discussions between the council and supervisors.

The initial proposal for the next years of the agreement from the County would cover deputy salary increases of 4%, as would come with the current union agreement between the County and those deputies. Covering those increases and other expenses meant the next year of the agreement would be an increase of roughly 12%.

The City responded with lower numbers, based on previous agreements, which had been for 3-4% annual increases.

The County responded that $459,000 was the bare minimum needed to cover projected expenses. That was compared to the initial offer from the City for $403,000, more in line with the increases in previous agreements.

Neve said that the County's figures had been based on 6% and 8% increases in deputy wages in past years, falling behind the 3-4% increases in the agreement.

At a certain point the supervisors were done with the negotiations and on March 9 signaled they no longer wanted to continue the agreement.

Members of the council said they were not aware that the City's payments were not or would not cover County costs until a recent meeting.

Prior to the letter from the supervisors, the council had planned on a one year agreement for $459,000. That would allow the deputy union to negotiate again later this year or for the Supervisors to work to bring sheriff's employee wages up, following the intent of the Back the Blue Law.

The supervisors have discussed and planned to budget so that they could increase sheriff's employee wages up to 10% at some point after July 1.

Members of the Council said they didn't want to rush finding an alternative for law enforcement, but the timeline is putting them in that position.

Council member Dan Reeder said he has served on the council and as mayor off and on over the past 30 years. He said that Northwood attempting to have its own police force again would bring serious challenges, especially when Worth County and many neighboring communities are having trouble hiring and keeping deputies and police officers.

When asked if anyone from the City had reached out to the County, members of the council said that they were waiting for responses from newly hired legal consultants about the City's options and the obligations of the City and the County.

The council was asked if the City had to work with the supervisors, or if they could reach an agreement with the sheriff. Mayor Moehle said that the supervisors run the Sheriff's Office and so the agreement had to be reached with them.

The council was asked what they would do if the County's agreement changed and came at a higher cost, including covering up to 10% raises for deputies.

City administrator Amber Julseth noted that there was some limit to how much the City and County could increase taxes to cover an agreement.

The City had budgeted for $459,000 for law enforcement. That would apply towards a new agreement with the County or to funding a new police department.

Both the City and County had held hearings and set their maximum tax levies that day.

Julseth also noted that the City needs to be on the same page as sheriff Jesse Luther with any plan for working with Worth County. Luther was not able to attend the council meeting.

Julseth also mentioned another part of the County's proposal from earlier discussions. The County had suggested that the agreement would have an initial budgeted price, but that at the end of the fiscal year, after reviewing actual costs, the City or County could pay the other the difference.

City representatives noted the stakes, not only the lives and jobs of four deputies, but also the quality of life of the 2,000 residents of Northwood and those that work in and visit the city.

Mayor Doug Moehle said that it is the City's intent to provide the best law enforcement it can with the resources available.

Later in the meeting, when it came time for discussion with the sheriff's office, council member Dan Reeder asked Neve, in her role as a deputy, what kind of response is given in towns with or without per capita coverage.

Neve said that in Hanlontown, for example, they would patrol when in the area on a shift. If a call comes from Hanlontown, the closest available deputy would respond.

In Manly, which currently has no agreement with the sheriff's office, they would only respond to life threatening emergencies. She said that other incidents, like thefts or fender benders, would be left up to those involved and waiting for a response from the current police chief or other police officers, should Manly hire others.

Citizens and representatives of the City planned to attend a regular supervisors meeting to share their wishes for a continued agreement between the City and County.

That has tentatively been scheduled for the April 6 supervisors meeting.

WCSO reminds ATV/UTV drivers of road rules

With glimpses of warmer weather, the Worth County Sheriff's Office recently shared reminders of the laws for riding ATVs and UTVs on public roads.

Vehicles need proof of insurance, to be registered with the Iowa DNR with a sticker displayed on the rear of the vehicle.

Vehicles must have working horns, mirrors, headlights, tail lights and brake lights and a slow moving vehicle sign.

While driving on public roads, speeds cannot exceed 35 MPH.

Drivers must be 18 or older with a driver's license.

Headlights must be on at all times.

ATVs and UTVs can be ridden day or night.

The vehicles can be ridden on public roadways, with the exception of four lane roads and interstates.

State two lane roads and county highways can only be used on the most direct route to parks or trails, to the nearest county road, to city streets where allowed or to the driver's home.

Crossing multi-lane highways is only allowed at intersections with authorized roads.

There are exemptions for ag use on public roads. Vehicles used for ag purposes do not need DNR registration, do not need a license within 2 miles of a farm, and operation is only allowed between sunrise and sunset.

Also, recommendations for safe use include wearing a helmet, safety belt or harness if available and driving sober.

County
Cont. from Page 1

tion from the state that Worth is one of the counties that needs to work to increase compliance with Back the Blue laws.

The State Back the Blue law was implemented to increase wages for law enforcement officers in the state.

Specifically the law directs counties to increase the salaries of county sheriffs to be more in line with state law enforcement agencies and city police chiefs of similar populations.

The intent would also be to raise other sheriff's office staff along with the sheriff.

To work towards complying with the Back the Blue law, the supervisors have discussed raising sheriff office wages by up to 10% at some point in the fiscal year that begins on July 1, which is in the budgeting process.

At the March 26 workshop, the supervisors agreed to include up to 10% increases in the fiscal year.

Including those increases in the budget does not mean approval of the increases, but it does mean the wages are in the budget, should they be approved.

The supervisors approved a public hearing date for the budget at their meeting this past Monday. The budget hearing has been set for Monday, at 9 a.m. at April 20.

See the budget notice and more in next week's Northwood Anchor and Manly Signal.

The supervisors also discussed things that would need to be considered for new agreements to provide law enforcement support for the cities of Northwood and Manly.

Earlier in March, the supervisors had informed the City of Northwood that the current agreement for the sheriff's office to provide law enforcement in the city would not be renewed when it ends on June 30.

Since then the council has been looking at options for law enforcement. Northwood law enforcement is also on the supervisors agenda for their April 6 meeting.

The supervisors discussed things that would need to be considered for a new agreement.

That would include spreading some of the costs of software and hardware subscriptions used by the deputies serving in the city. That would also include a share of sheriff Jesse Luther's administrative duties, jail transport and expenses, IT director time and other costs associated with the use of deputies' time and with equipment owned by the County.

Also discussed was an earlier proposal from the County while the agreement was in discussion.

That would be for the City and County to reconcile the actual costs at the end of each year, instead of agreements for specific percentage increases over several years, as has been done with previous agreements.

The supervisors also discussed a potential agreement with the City of Manly.

They wanted to make sure that the County deputies would be available to respond to calls, but not to provide full coverage while Manly police are off duty, during weekend and otherwise.

The supervisors also suggested allowing the County or the City of Manly to end an agreement with 60 days notice.

Church
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Methodist in Manly- Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise service at 8 a.m., Easter service at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran in Hanlontown- Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., Easter service at 10:30 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran in Joice- Good Friday worship at 7 p.m., Easter sunrise worship at 7 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran in Grafton- Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m., Good Friday worship at 7 p.m., Easter breakfast from 8-9 a.m., Easter services at 9:30 a.m.

Fertile Lutheran Church- Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m., Good Friday Service, at 6 p.m., Easter Sunday Sunrise service at 7:30 a.m., with Easter breakfast following

Asbury United Methodist- Sacrificial Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. on Maundy Thursday, Easter brunch at 9 a.m., Easter worship at 10 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church in Lake Mills - Good Friday service at 4 p.m., Easter service at 8:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church, Lake Mills- Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., Good Friday at 7 p.m., Easter Worship at 9 a.m.

Winnebago Lutheran Church- Easter service at 10:30 a.m.

Briefs
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at the Northwood-Kensett Elementary School.

The Share the Fun show will include the talents of 4-H groups and individuals.

Interested 4-H'ers may contact Teresa Butler at 641-324-1531 or butlert@iastate.edu to be included on the line up for the Share the Fun show.

Private pesticide certification April 13

Worth County Extension will host two sessions for farmers and ag professionals to receive their private pesticide certifications on Monday, April 13.

Sessions will be held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on April 13.

Those interested may contact the Extension office at 641-324-1531.



Northwood Spring clean up set for April 23-25

The annual spring clean up begins in Northwood on Thursday, April 23, continuing through Saturday, April 25.

The City will offer a chance for residents to dispose of unwanted items as they do some spring cleaning.

Dumpsters will be provided for Northwood residents at the Northwood city yard, located on the east side of Northwood along Highway 105.

Clean up days are intended for discardable items that would not be picked up through normal garbage collection, meaning regular day-to-day garbage will not be accepted.

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Asset of the Month

Students in N-K's Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (ISTEP) program are highlighting the 40 Developmental Assets this school year. The Assets are ways to help create healthy, educated, ethical and productive citizens.

My name is Avery. My favorite food is chicken alfredo. If I had unlimited money, I would invest in a lot of softball gear.

Asset:

Positive family communication— Young person and their parents communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents

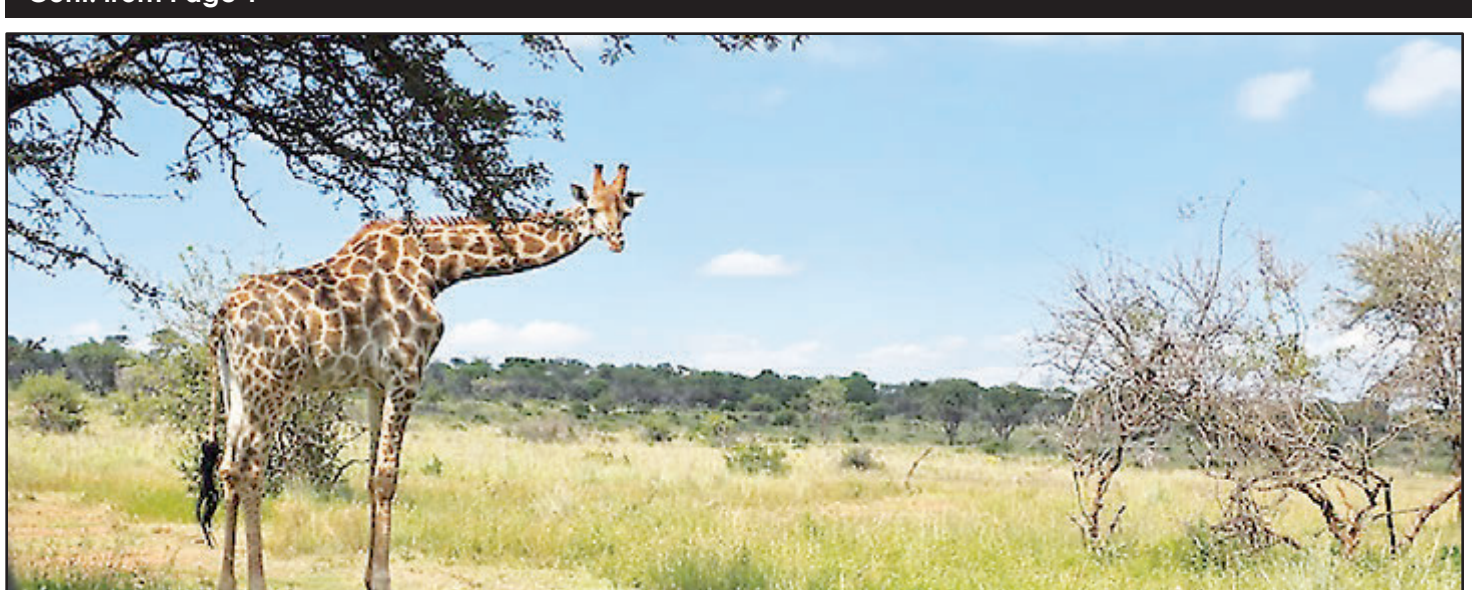
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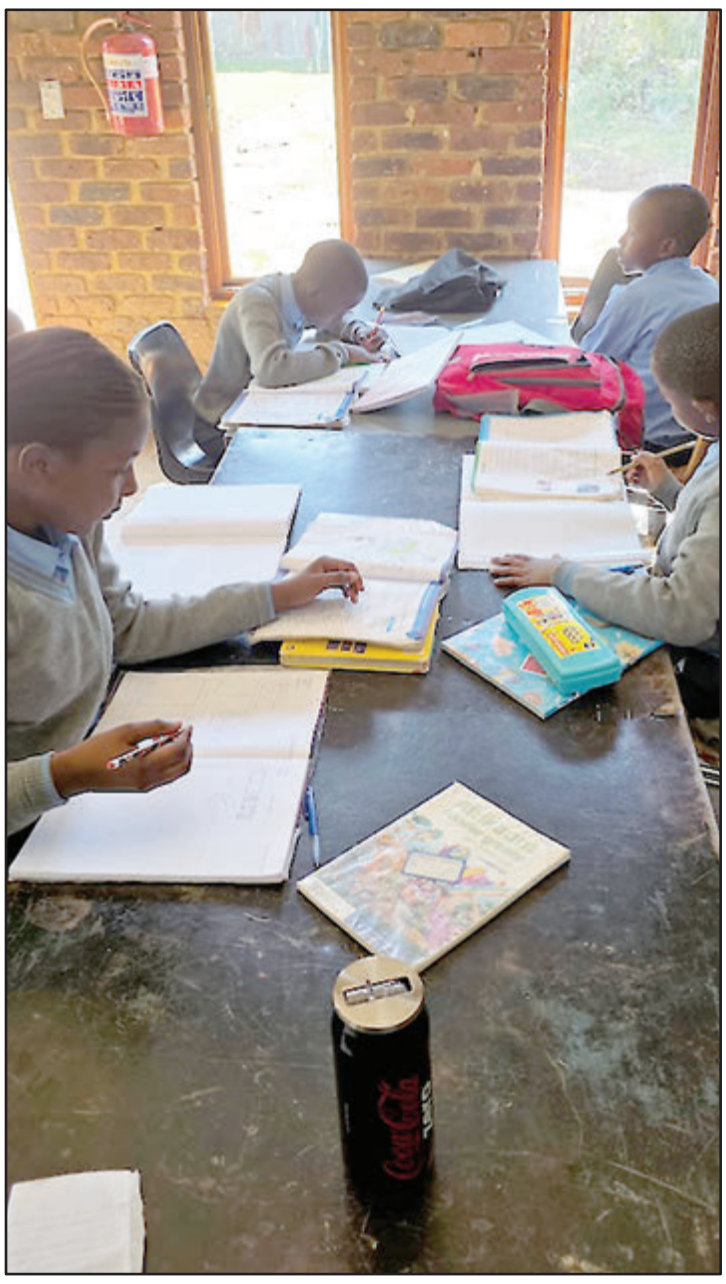
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Africa
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"School had just started when I arrived. Every afternoon I worked with two fourth grade boys helping them get used to doing homework and getting their homework completed. I was also involved with small-task projects – sorting out school uniforms and helping with refurbishing picnic tables."

"Dayspring is a boarding school. The kids arrive in a large van on Monday morning and are taken back home on Friday afternoon. They love school. They eat three meals a day, the largest at noon. Supper might be just a piece of bread."

On weekends, when a group of about 10 students stayed at the school, Becky joined them in doing crafts and singing Christian music.

"My goal was just to experience their life. I learned so much from them. We are more alike than different."

"There are 12 different languages spoken in South Africa, so kindergarteners already speak in their native tribal tongue as well as learning England's English."

"With the government cutting funding, the children do with less and less. They don't have laptops or Chromebooks. The books they're using have been used for many years now; the pages taped together. Poverty is widespread, power outages are everyday occurrences and unemployment is quite high in South Africa. The boarding school provides a safe place, as well as food and shelter."

The town closest to DCV is Magaliesberg. One of the roads to get there goes through Pilanesberg National Safari Park, the other through Plumari Private Reserve.

"I love animals and loved watching for elephants, zebras and giraffes – especially the giraffes."

It's obvious that Pastor Becky has a heart for getting out there and doing different things.

"The boys asking me to come back has really peaked my desire go back and do life with them again."

Pastor Becky returned on February 15 to her two churches – First Lutheran and Deer Creek Valley.

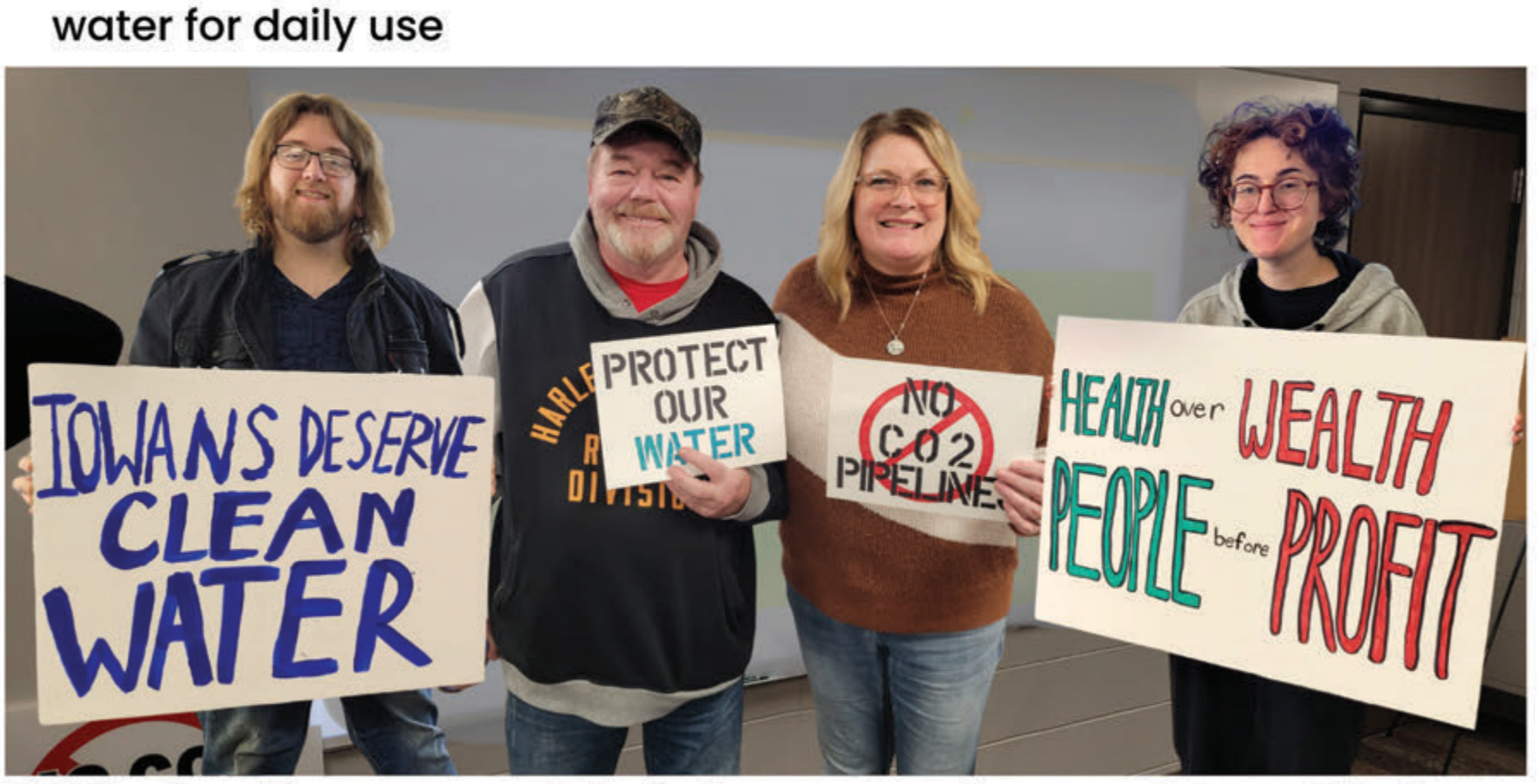
"I now have the desire to live as simply as I can. The money I would spend buying napkins and other disposables could be set aside to help these wonderful kids. The school would greatly benefit from our financial support."

"We live sheltered lives here. It's very easy for all of us to take things for granted. Now, when it's suppertime and I can't think of anything else to eat, I know that a piece of bread would be just fine."

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Northwood
Cont. from Page 1

how they can proceed.

According to Brick, the agreement does not require the City to match salaries, benefits or any other terms of employment that the deputies currently have with Worth County.

The City also questioned whether they could ask the County to no longer hire additional deputies should any of the four Northwood deputies leave.

Brick suggested that the City has no authority to require that, but that they could try to reach an agreement with Worth County officials towards that end.

The City asked what the obligations are for the County after the agreement ends.

Brick advised that, under Iowa law, the sheriff's office retains baseline county duties, including responding to crimes and emergencies, investigating criminal activity and general law enforcement presence. However the sheriff's office can choose how to prioritize deputies' time and County resources in its duties.

Also asked was if the County could treat cities in its borders differently. This was in reference to the cost and response for agreements with other Worth County towns. With the exception of Manly, the others receive law enforcement response and occasional patrols for a per capita rate. Brick suggested that the County would not have to offer the same services or the same rate to Northwood.

Brick also said that dispatch services are also not automatically guaranteed in the City, if it has its own police presence.

The City would generally rely on the County's jail arrangement with Mitchell County.

Brick said, in regards to the current requirement for Northwood employees to live within five miles of city limits, that the City could amend the policy, grant waivers or strictly enforce it.

This would apply to the deputies living outside the five miles, should the City assume their employment.

Asked about the union agreement that the deputies have with the County, Brick said that the union terms and agreement would not apply if they were hired by the City.

Brick also suggested that terms for a new agreement would be reasonable, including altering service levels and reaching an agreement where the County and City would reconcile actual expenses.

Brick noted that based on the County's notification that the agreement was ending, the City should begin planning for the possibility of City-operated police services, begin working with the County on the terms of transition and prepare employment offers for the deputies.

Brick also offered to help draft documents, agreements and communication strategies with the County.

The next step for the City is discussion with the Worth County supervisors at their regular meeting this Monday, April 6.

N-K
Cont. from Page 1

shared by Prohaska, the district spent $65,731.71 on electricity at the elementary in 2025.

The full cost of the solar energy infrastructure would be $479,986. The district would be eligible for up to 30% in federal incentives. That would save the district $143,996 if the federal government approves the funding.

To qualify the solar project would have to be under contract and have a portion of the construction project underway by July 3, and completion within four years.

According to Prohaska's figures the federal incentives and savings generated through the use of solar energy would mean the district would recoup its investment within seven years.

Prohaska's information estimated a total savings of roughly $1.7 million over the course of 30 years, with between $49,000 and $84,000 in solar energy production annually.

Mark Kroemer, with Atura Architecture, the engineering firm guiding the district on the roofing project, said that even without the federal incentive, the solar system would pay for itself within nine years.

Prohaska also suggested that the company may have access to components made in the U.S., which would cost roughly 2.5% more, but would bring the district an additional 10% payback in federal incentives.

Should that option become available, the district would look at approving a change order in the project.

On the agenda at the March 26 school board meeting, was consideration of the roof project base bid, which would include the repairs necessary to the roof, as well as two alternates.

One alternate would add a roof coating. At the meeting, Prohaska and Kroemer said that option would be unnecessary and would not contribute towards the solar effectiveness.

The second alternate would be for the installation of the solar energy infrastructure.

The low bid for the base construction was from Midwest Roofing, at a cost of $329,350. That would include repairs and replacement for the elementary roof.

The solar portion would be done by 1 Source Solar as a subcontractor, for $479,986.

If the district receives the federal funding, the total eventual cost would be reduced to $335,990 for the solar project.

The district will receive $200,000 from a portion of WCDA education dollars pooled between the districts with Worth County students in attendance.

The district has also set aside $200,000 from its regular annual WCDA education funding.

With the $400,000 in WCDA funds and the federal solar incentive, the total cost of the roofing project to the district would be $265,340.

The district would pay for that using its PPEL (phyisical plant and equipment levy) dollars.

The school board approved the base bid and solar energy alternate.

Construction is expected to take place over the summer, when school is out of session.

Kensett Public Library

By Lisa Lestrud
Library Director

Greetings from the Kensett Public Library. March sure was full of weather surprises but as true Iowans we survived. April will hopefully bring sunshine and warmer days. We have quite a few new books. Come find something good to read or if you're in the mood for a movie check those out too.

Kids are invited to come into the library on Saturday, April 4, and get a bag of Easter treats from 9 a.m. - 12 noon On Saturday, April 11, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. we will celebrate "National Pet Day" with the movie "Bolt," rated PG. We will have a snack and a small craft. Everyone is welcome.

I am excited for our event on Saturday, April 25, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. It is "National Arbor Day," with special guest Owen Burrack, who works with Worth County Conservation as the naturalist. He will do a program about trees and the importance of planting them. Everyone is welcome to come for this, it will be a fun learning experience. We will also have refreshments.

Looking ahead we have lots of fun things planned at the library so stay tuned through our local newspaper, social media, event flyers and word of mouth or just stop in and see us.

See you at the library.





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Ben's Special Price $23,744
31,841 miles, EcoBoost 1.5L Turbo, Auto, 4WD/AWD
2022 Ford F150 Crew Cab
Ben's Special Price $40,999
40,647 miles, 3.5L V6 DOHC 24V, Auto, 4WD/AWD
2021 Chevrolet 2500 Crew Cab
Ben's Special Price $57,694
35,641 miles, 8 Cyl. - 6.6L, Auto, 4WD/AWD
2021 Buick Enclave
Ben's Special Price 28,499
52,064 miles, 3.6L V6 310hp 266ft., Auto, 4WD/AWD
745 Hwy. 69 N.
Forest City
641-585-5555
www.forestcityford.com

Iowa State University Extension
Worth County Office 641-324-1531
Calendar of Events for April 2026

- Wednesday, April 1–Family Fun Night, 5–7 p.m. at the Joice Community Center
- Friday, April 3–Office closed for Good Friday
- April 6-10–Extension Week!
- Tuesday, April 7–Office Closed for Professional Development
- Tuesday, April 7–Busy Bees Clover Kids, 3:30 p.m. at Worth County Community Room
- Wednesday, April 8–Perk Up with Extension, 7-10:30 a.m. at Carpenter Coffee Co.
- Wednesday, April 8–Clover Kids Spring Fun Day, 1:30 p.m. at the Worth County Community Room
- Saturday, April 11–YQCA Training, 1 p.m. at the Worth County Community Room
- Sunday, April 12–Share the Fun, 3–5 p.m. at the N-K Elementary Auditorium
- Monday, April 13–Private Pesticide Last Chance, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Worth County Extension Office (Call to register)
- Wednesday, April 15–4-H Foundation Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office
- Saturday, April 18–Sheep Weigh-In, 9–11 a.m. at the Worth County Fairgrounds
- Saturday, April 18–Kensett Creators Clover Kids, 10–11 a.m. at the Kensett Town Hall
- Sunday, April 19–Worth County Leash Leaders Training, 5–6:30 p.m. at the Worth County Show Arena
- Tuesday, April 21–Go Getters Clover Kids, 3:30–4:30 p.m. at the Extension Office
- Tuesday, April 21–Sew and Style Club, 6:30–8 p.m. at the Extension Office
- Thursday, April 23–Extension Council Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Extension Office
- Sunday, April 26–Worth County Leash Leaders Training, 5–6:30 p.m. at the Worth County Show Arena
- Monday, April 27–Fairy Garden Workshop, 6–8 p.m. at the Extension Office
- Tuesday, April 28–Fair 101 Meeting, 6–8 p.m. at the Extension Office
- Thursday, April 30–Fairy Garden Workshop, 6–8 p.m. at the Extension Office

Calendar Sponsored By:
StateFarm®
88 8th St. North • Northwood, Iowa
114 N. Clark St. • Forest City, Iowa
(641) 324-2141
Dave Osborne, Agent

Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY

CASE NO. ESPR009506

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY LOWELL SMITH, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Gary Lowell Smith, Deceased, who died on or about January 29, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on March 26, the last will and testament of Gary Lowell Smith, deceased, bearing date of October 29, 2013, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Rhonda J. Bruxvoort was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated March 26, 2026.

Rhonda J. Bruxvoort
Executor for the estate
4523 160th Street
Urbandale, IA 50323

Scott S. Riemenschneider,
ICIS#: AT0006626
Attorney for the executor
Wilson Deege Despotovich Riemenschneider
& Rittgers, PLC
4200 University Ave,
Suite 424
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266-5945

Date of second publication the 8th day of April, 2026.

13-2t

Supervisors

March 26, 2026
Special Meeting

The Worth County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with A.J. Stone, Enos Loberg and Mark Smeby, present. Jesse Luther, sheriff; Jacki Backhaus, auditor; and Kris Kenison, Northwood Anchor were also present.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve today's agenda. Motion carried.

The following budget items were discussed: sheirff's budget and salaries, potential change to PTO and set date to discuss Northwood 28E Agreement for April 6.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to adjourn at 11:07 A.M. Motion carried.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Enos Loberg, Chairperson

Supervisors

March 23, 2026
Special Session

The Worth County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with Mark Smeby, A.J. Stone and Enos Loberg, present. Also present: Jacki Backhaus, Worth County Auditor and one Worth County Landowner.

Meeting called to order by Loberg at 10:00 A.M.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve today's agenda. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to open Public Hearing – Proposed FY27 Property Tax Levy at 10:00 AM. Roll call vote: Smeby – Aye; Stone – Aye; Loberg – Aye. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to close the public hearing at 10:01 A.M. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 A.M. Motion carried.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Enos Loberg, Chairperson

Supervisors

March 23, 2026
Thirteenth Day

The Worth County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with Mark Smeby, A.J. Stone and Enos Loberg, present. All members voting "AYE" unless noted.

Meeting called to order by Loberg, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve today's agenda and March 16, 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve the utility permit application for ITCMW as presented by Rich Brumm, County Engineer. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve the quote for new above ground tanks, equipment and fuel management system by Dick's Petroleum Company in the amount of $188,319.91. Motion carried. Second bid was received from Acterra Group in the amount of $225,150.00.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to move forward to order new plow trucks as presented by Rich Brumm, County Engineer. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to set DD #14 Completion Hearing date on May 4 at 9:30 A.M. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve work order for DD #13/L-3 as submitted by Brandon Diedrich, tenant/Edward Bott & Donna Bott, landowners. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve claims in the amount of $97,618.60 per the following schedule. Motion carried.

Agvantage Fs Inc
Fuel-Eng 4,886.26
Alliant Energy
Service-Con 1,934.15
Astrup Drug, Inc.
Supplies-Shf 16.00
At&T Mobility, Service-911 ..... 41.77
Bauer Built Tire Inc
Service-Eng 2,392.50
Bolton & Menk Inc
Service-Con 6,545.00
Centurylink, Service-Eng 182.33
Certified Laboratories
Supplies-Eng 1,968.55
Cindy Thompson
Reimb-Asr 29.00
Cintas Corporation
Supplies-Eng 347.70
City Of Kensett
Service-Eng 34.27
City Of Manly, Service-Eng 66.67
D & L Equipment
Parts-Eng 925.38
Don Kibsgaard
Service-Gsr 200.00
Electronic Engineering
Service-Eng 490.00
Eurofins Test America
Service-San 328.00
Falkstone Llc
Supplies-Eng 395.56
Fallgatter's Market Inc
Supplies-Con 9.45
Freeborn County Coop Oil
Fuel-Eng 5,858.74
Grafton Welding
Service-Eng & Con 281.00
Groe Enterprises, Inc., Tile And Supplies, Supplies-Eng 208.68
Huber Supply Co Inc
Supplies-Con 150.00
Ia County Atty's Assoc
Dues-Aty 343.00
Ia County Recorders Assn
Edu-Rec 250.00
Ia Dept Of Public Safety
Service-Shf 1,609.50
Ia Law Enforcement Academy
Edu-Shf 200.00
Iceoo, Edu-Eng 30.00
Iowa Communications Network
Service-Dap 678.00
Iowa Emergency Management Association, Edu-Ema 155.00
Ip Pathways
Service-Dap 908.71
Isaca, Dues-Aud 250.00
Iscta, Edu-Trs 175.00
Jacki Backhaus
Reimb-Aud 610.63
Jj's Hardware
Supplies-Con 690.73
John Deere Financial
Supplies 521.52
Jolene Hickle, Reimb-Rec 664.08
Kaycee Kruger, Cvr, Csr
Service-Juj 7.50
Lake Mills Lumber Co
Supplies-Eng 180.00
Larsen Plumbing & Heating Inc
Service-Wat 4,038.50
Laura R. Fulton, Csr, Rpr
Service-Aty 265.50
Lawson Products Inc
Supplies-Eng 1,032.02
Major Erickson Funeral Home
Service-Mex 530.00
Manly Junction Signal
Service-Sup 372.48
Marcus Majerczyk
Safety-Eng 150.00
Mediacom, Service-Gsr 294.90
Mercyone Medical Center-North Ia, Service-Chm 631.00
Mercyone North Iowa Occupational Health
Service-Shf 199.00
Metal Culverts Inc
Supplies-Eng 20,948.72
Mitchell Co Sheriff
Service-Shf 2,080.00
Napa Auto Parts
Supplies-Eng 135.91
No Ia Mercy Clinics
Service-Chm 156.00
Northwood Anchor Inc
Service-Asr 822.48
Northwood Sanitation Llc
Service-Eng 230.00
Owen Burrack
Reimb-Con 160.75
Plunkett's Pest Control Inc
Service-Ema 37.91
Powerplan, Service-Eng 2,132.79
R80 Llc, Fuel-Sdp 64.04
Reserve Account
Postage-Asr 250.00
Sharrow Lifting Products
Service-Eng 2,105.35
Shell Rock Cemetery Assn
Service-Vaf 486.00
Shred Right
Service-Phd 155.15
State Hygienic Laboratory
Service-Con 53.50
State Line Works Llc
Service-Eng 175.00
Steven R. Hutzel
Service-Wat & Gsr 3,683.41
Trading Post, Service-Eng 378.46
Trojan Technologies Corp
Supplies-Wwt 1,319.30
Truck Center Companies
Parts-Eng 1,627.79
Vanguard Appraisals Inc
Service-Asr 262.50
Verizon Wireless
Service-It/Gis & Eng 193.93
Vestis, Service-Eng 78.20
Visa, Service-Con 2,285.34
Waste Management Of Iowa Inc
Service-Sdp 1,816.25
Watson & Ryan, Plc
Service-Asr 2,095.83
Worth County P H Petty Cash
Reimb-Phd 254.07
Worth Lumber Co
Supplies-Eng 102.75
Worth Solutions Llc
Service-Gsr 652.50
Ziegler Inc, Parts-Eng 10,796.59
Grand Total 97,618.60

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve annual review of the Worth County Safety Manual as presented by Mark Tomlinson, EMA Director. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Loberg to approve the repair of the pumping station at the Welcome Center. Ayes – Smeby, Loberg. Abstain – Stone. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to accept bid by Hovey Lawn and Garden LLC to mow the wastewater plant and the water tower grounds for the 2026 season. Motion carried. Second bidder was Worth Solutions. Bids can be reviewed at the auditor's office.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to adjourn at 9:05 A.M. Motion carried.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Enos Loberg, Chairperson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET
Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

City of: NORTHWOOD

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: City Hall Meeting Date: 4/13/2026 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of , any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the City Clerk and County Auditor.
City budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult https://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals.

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below. Copies of the the detailed proposed Budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.

The estimated Total tax levy rate per $1000 valuation on regular property 11.27872

The estimated tax levy rate per $1000 valuation on Agricultural property is 3.00375

At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.

Phone Number (641) 324-1075 — City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME: Amber Julseth

		Budget FY 2027	Re-estimated FY 2026	Actual FY 2025
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	838,639	805,480	830,227
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	838,639	805,480	830,227
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	225,000	225,000	228,866
Other City Taxes	6	353,610	320,000	326,960
Licenses & Permits	7	30,000	29,500	24,616
Use of Money and Property	8	59,200	47,520	88,523
Intergovernmental	9	331,350	329,948	452,523
Charges for Fees & Service	10	1,399,321	1,385,914	1,258,894
Special Assessments	11	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	674,325	594,372	481,174
Other Financing Sources	13	0	0	0
Transfers In	14	747,866	1,035,000	875,000
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	4,659,311	4,772,734	4,566,783
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	474,996	474,933	410,865
Public Works	17	916,204	904,864	772,520
Health and Social Services	18	23,625	21,455	13,239
Culture and Recreation	19	446,019	366,841	414,688
Community and Economic Development	20	243,497	175,000	684,399
General Government	21	338,350	319,120	282,139
Debt Service	22	223,840	224,460	225,020
Capital Projects	23	0	0	0
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	2,666,531	2,486,673	2,802,870
Business Type / Enterprises	25	1,379,960	1,319,514	1,151,993
Total ALL Expenditures	26	4,046,491	3,806,187	3,954,863
Transfers Out	27	747,866	1,035,000	875,000
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	4,794,357	4,841,187	4,829,863
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	-135,046	-68,453	-263,080
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	2,571,882	2,640,335	2,903,415
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	2,436,836	2,571,882	2,640,335

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET
Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

City of: FERTILE

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: Fertile Community Center 3494 Eagle Avenue Fertile, IA 50434 Meeting Date: 4/21/2026 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of , any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the City Clerk and County Auditor.
City budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult https://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals.

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below. Copies of the the detailed proposed Budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.

The estimated Total tax levy rate per $1000 valuation on regular property 13.69743

The estimated tax levy rate per $1000 valuation on Agricultural property is 3.00375

At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.

Phone Number (641) 797-2121 — City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME: Wendy Lunning

		Budget FY 2027	Re-estimated FY 2026	Actual FY 2025
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	128,802	115,609	119,405
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	128,802	115,609	119,405
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6	47,071	45,895	45,512
Licenses & Permits	7	485	485	470
Use of Money and Property	8	4,247	3,797	4,584
Intergovernmental	9	66,950	64,653	66,703
Charges for Fees & Service	10	195,461	185,482	182,578
Special Assessments	11	600	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	94,387	95,051	189,431
Other Financing Sources	13	0	0	0
Transfers In	14	66,138	62,394	86,668
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	604,141	573,366	695,351
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	89,932	79,841	142,629
Public Works	17	68,834	71,445	59,292
Health and Social Services	18	1,725	1,725	1,725
Culture and Recreation	19	103,781	98,087	130,314
Community and Economic Development	20	20,030	21,550	43,247
General Government	21	105,834	69,834	64,615
Debt Service	22	0	0	0
Capital Projects	23	0	0	0
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	390,136	342,482	441,822
Business Type / Enterprises	25	82,992	98,262	107,761
Total ALL Expenditures	26	473,128	440,744	549,583
Transfers Out	27	66,138	62,394	86,668
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	539,266	503,138	636,251
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	64,875	70,228	59,100
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	891,680	821,452	762,352
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	956,555	891,680	821,452

CITY NAME: KENSETT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF KENSETT - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY
Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027

CITY #: 98-945

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/6/2026 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM Meeting Location: City Hall
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available)

City Telephone Number (641) 903-6495

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2025 - 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2026 - 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2026 - 2027
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	7,124,300	7,719,250	7,719,250
Consolidated General Fund	63,675	63,675	66,984
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	21,584	21,584	21,613
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	7,456	7,456	7,643
Other Employee Benefits	0	0	0
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	7,124,300	7,719,250	7,719,250
Debt Service	0	0	0
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX	92,715	92,715	96,240
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE	13.01394	12.01088	12.46749
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	691,274	765,084	765,084
Ag Land	2,076	2,076	2,295
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE	3.00315	2.71343	2.99967
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of $100,000/$110,000	Current Year Certified 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed 2026/2027	Percent Change
City Regular Residential	617	611	-0.97
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of $300,000/$330,000	Current Year Certified 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed 2026/2027	Percent Change
City Regular Commercial	2,683	2,853	6.34

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and commercial properties have the same rollback percentage through $150,000 of actual/assessed valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
The increase comes from city increases and raise in city insurance throughout the year.

Legal Northwood Anchor

Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR WORTH COUNTY

CASE NO. ESPR009505

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LYDIA JUANITA MITTAG Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Lydia Juanita Mittag, Deceased, who died on or about February 12, 2026:

You are hereby notified that on March 16, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Lydia Juanita Mittag, deceased, bearing date of March 28, 2021, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Raymond W. Mittag was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated March 17, 2026.

Raymond W. Mittag,
Executor of Estate
84557 120th Street
Glenville, MN 56036

Douglas A. Krull,
ICIS#: AT0004489
Attorney for Executor
Krull Law Office
714 Central Avenue
Northwood, IA 50459-0200

Date of second publication the 1st day of April, 2026.

12-2t

PROFESSIONAL CARD
Business Announcements

VETERINARIAN
WORTH COUNTY VETERINARY SERVICE
Michael E. Dierenfeld, D.V.M.
Clinic: 324-1084
Home: 324-1147

PHYSICIANS
MERCYONE
803 9th Avenue North
Northwood, IA 50459
641-324-1221

NORTHWOOD INSURANCE AGENCY
John Midtgaard, Agent
91 9th St. S., Northwood, IA
Office 641-324-9844 Fax 641-324-9844

Alcoholics Anonymous Alanon
Regular meeting each Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Beginners/12 Step meeting 7:30 p.m. Thursday
First Lutheran Church
For more information call 324-3070

Congregate Meals
MEALS ON WHEELS
324-1244

NORTHWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Monday & Friday 1-5 p.m.
Tues. - Thurs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Open Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
641-324-1340

Northwood Dental
DAVID PENFOLD, DDS
Mon. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tues. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Wed. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,Thurs. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fri. 8 a.m. - Noon
641-324-1364
www.northwooddentistry.com
802 9th Ave. North
Northwood, Iowa 50459







Feeding starving children

Last week an event was held to assemble bags of food to be sent children in need. Hosted locally by First Lutheran and Deer Creek Valley Lutheran churches, the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack event had volunteers taking part in assembly lines, measuring a combination of nutritious components into bags, boxes and pallets, which will go to starving children somewhere in the world. Over the course of two days, the 233 volunteers filled 14,256 food bags, which equals 85,536 meals for starving children, enough to feed 234 children for a whole year.

To The Point



Doug Campbell

State Senator
District 30

We just completed the eleventh week of session, at this point much of our time is spent on floor debate and finalizing bills to be debated by the Senate.

Unanimously passes was House File 2232, helping protect Iowans against financial exploitation, specifically relating to life insurance. The bill sets up a framework to delay disbursements when suspected abuse or fraud is occurring of a vulnerable adult. We see news headlines all the time of new scams targeting Iowans and older adults, and this bill would be one tool to help protect against these kinds of scams.

SSB 3181 (Ways and Means): This bill sets up a new program through Iowa Economic Development to help establish and maintain the nuclear engineering program offered at Iowa's Regents institutions. These programs will be designed to educate and train future employees who will meet the employment needs of specific industries.

House File 2227 establishes mandatory land restoration standards for electric transmission lines.

House File 2583 requires electric transmission owners to file emergency response plans with the Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC).

House File 2515 — Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, this bill prohibits a deferred or suspended sentence for Sexual Exploitation of a Minor 728.12

One bill you may have heard about in the legislature is House File 2379. There has been a lot of misinformation about what this bill does and fearmongering its opponents. In reality, this bill passed for a number of reasons to protect the interests of Iowa taxpayers. House File 2379 eliminates taxes on tips and overtime, invests over $500 million in health care and rural hospitals through Medicaid, and continues the responsible budget practices enacted by Republicans over the last several years.

We have three scheduled weeks left. HF2104 that pertains to eminent domain and private property rights has been moved to unfinished business.

Blessings,
Doug Campbell

Week Eleven



Jane Bloomingdale

Iowa House
District 60

It was a slower week at the Capitol, with just a handful of bills debated on Monday and Tuesday—most of which passed with strong bipartisan support. On Wednesday, we held our Pioneer Lawmaker Ceremony, recognizing legislators, lobbyists, and staff for their years of service. That evening, a memorial service was held to honor those who passed away over the past year. A couple of bills that passed unanimously off the floor included:

HF 2601 – Prohibits foreign nationals from eight identified countries from donating to ballot issue campaigns.

SF 2086 – Allows schools to offer a junior firefighter program for 11th and 12th grade students. Upon completion, students may sit for the Firefighter I certification exam. This is a strong step toward recruiting the next generation of firefighters in Iowa.

Work continues on key priorities, including property tax reform, protecting private property rights, and keeping a responsible state budget. As of today, discussions are ongoing and details and compromises are still being worked out.

Good News for Iowans — Iowa is #1 in Affordability

Iowans have felt the impact of inflation, but when it comes to affordability, we are leading the nation. A recent report from the nonpartisan Common Sense Institute ranked Iowa as the #1 state for affordability, comparing incomes to essential costs like housing, groceries, and childcare. While expenses have risen by about $9,000 since 2019, that is well below the national average increase of $15,400. At the same time, incomes in Iowa have grown faster than expenses—30% versus 22%—giving families more purchasing power. In fact, Iowans are keeping about 4% more of their paycheck after covering basic needs. The report also notes Iowa has the fourth lowest childcare costs relative to income. This is what responsible leadership looks like—smart budgeting and policies that keep Iowa affordable, and a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Visitors at the Capitol this week

This week we celebrated Gifts to Iowa's Future, recognizing landowners and families who have generously donated conservation land, including the Bokelmann family from the Clear Lake area and Judith Bechtum from Riceville. I also had the opportunity to meet with county conservation leaders, including Jim Hanson (Worth County), Neil Shaffer and Riley Wilson (Howard County), Dave Hoffman (Cerro Gordo County), and Adam Shirley, CEO of Iowa's County Conservation System. We had a productive discussion on water quality initiatives in Iowa.

In addition, Melissa Michaelis with WinWorthBetco, along with several area economic development directors, visited the Capitol. We had great conversations about economic development and even made the climb to the top of the dome. Chad Kuhlers, CEO of Golden Grain, also stopped by to discuss ethanol and the future of agriculture in Iowa.

It is an honor to represent you in the Iowa Legislature and as always, please reach out with any questions or concerns. Jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov.

Northwood Anchor Church

Fertile Lutheran Church
Sunday, Worship Service, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation, 10:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran, Manly
Wednesday, WAGS, 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, Maundy Thursday Service at Grace, 7 p.m.; Friday, Good Friday Service at Bethlehem, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Grace Sonrise Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Elk Creek Worship Breakfast Follows, 8 a.m., Bethlehem Worship Coffee Follows, 9:30 a.m., Bethany Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Lydia Circle, 1:30 p.m., Martha Circle, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Manly Care Center Worship, 10 a.m.
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church/ Elk Creek Lutheran
Wednesday, EC Dorcus, Leah/Rachel Circles at R80, 11 a.m.; Thursday, Manna, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, Elk Creek, 8 a.m., Breakfast Communion, 9 a.m., Bethany Communion, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Manna, 10 a.m. - Noon, EC Rebecca Circle at Joan Dierenfeld's; Tuesday, Elk Creek Council, 6:30 p.m.
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Trinity United Methodist, Bolan
Friday, Good Friday Services, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Easter Worship Services, 9:15 a.m., Coffee Fellowship, 10 a.m.
Pastor Cory Allard

Bethel United Methodist Church
Wednesday, Diner, 8:30 a.m., WOW Mini Choir, 4:30 p.m., Mini Bells, 5 p.m., Meal, 5:15, Worship, 5:50 p.m., Activities, 6:05 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m., JuBELLee Ringers, 6:15 p.m., Adult Choir, 7 p.m., JH/HS Youth Group, 7:15 p.m.; Thursday, Girl Scouts, Service at Bethel, 7 p.m.; Friday, Good Friday Service at Trinity, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Bethel Worship, 8 a.m., Breakfast, 8:30 a.m., Trinity Worship, 9:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., Bethel Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Northwood United Methodist Church
Friday, Pizza with the Pastor, 6 p.m.; Sunday, Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Fellowship, 11:45 a.m.; Tuesday, Pastor Fellowship Grothe's Diner, 10 a.m.
Rev. Rob Lanphere

One In Christ Lutheran Parish
Sunday, Worship Services 10:30 a.m. available online at "One in Christ Lutheran Parish" Facebook Page and YouTube under "One in Christ Lutheran Parish." Sunday Worship Services, 9 a.m., Silver Lake, 705 Silver Lake Rd., Northwood, 641-293-5556; 9 a.m., Bethany, 201 Franke St., Joice, 641-588-3366; 9 a.m., Lunder, 14982 735th Ave., Albert Lea; 10:30 a.m., Winnebago, 40029 210th Ave., Lake Mills.

First Lutheran Church, Northwood
Wednesday, Choir, SH Youth, 7 p.m.; Thursday, Maundy Thursday, Quilting, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Group, 9 a.m., Service/First Communion, 6:15 p.m., Cub Scouts, 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Service at DCV, 6:15 p.m.; Sunday, Easter Service DCV, 7 a.m., Easter Service FLC, 9 a.m., JH Youth, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Worship Comm, 6 p.m., AA-Al-Anon, 7 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, Northwood
Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion at 9 a.m., Adult Bible Study and Children's Sunday School following service.
Rev. Barbara M. Wills, Pastor

Sacred Heart Church, Manly
Mass Wednesday, 8 a.m.; Mass Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Fr. Dave O'Connor, Pastor
Fr. Ben Valentine, Associate Pastor
www.sacredheartmanly.org

Faith Lutheran Church, London
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, 9:30 a.m. (Fall through Spring); Sunday, Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Kent Otterman

First Shell Rock Lutheran Church, Northwood
Sunday, Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Theodore Gullixson

Sion Lutheran Church, Lake Mills
Sunday, Worship Service, 9 a.m. Sunday School and fellowship following
Pastor Mark Decker

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Time is a Spring



Every day is a new day! Each day is literally a new creation, the unfolding of something divine. The sun rises and sets with only slight variations every day, just as the seasons return at their appointed time each year. Time literally pulses or oscillates, like a perpetual spring. Even the longer periods of time appear to have this characteristic oscillation. The universe is expanding, and will eventually reach the point of maximum expansion and start contracting, only to contract back to the point of a giant cosmic implosion, which will set the universe expanding again. But, time is also like a spring from which life-giving water flows. That is, time is a never-ending source of being. It continually flows and all beings arise within the fabric of time. Only the ultimate Being, God, is outside of time. As finite, temporal beings we cannot wrap our minds around the nature of time, and we might feel a bit like Einstein when he remarked that "the only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." Presumably for God all things are experienced simultaneously, but we can only imagine what that might be like. Time is truly a spring, a never-ending source of wonder. – Christopher Simon

"Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account." – Ecclesiastes 3:15

The Sponsors of this feature do so with the hope that more people will attend the church of their choice on a weekly basis

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Wednesday: Pulled Pork Sandwich on WW Bun, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Fruit

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Cook Bookin'

We may live without poetry, music and art; We may live without conscience and live without heart; We may live without friends; we may live without books; But a civilized man cannot live without cooks.
Bulwer Lytton, Edward Robert



by Sandy Olson

To contact Sandy Olson for comments or suggestions, please email her at: midwestfoodie@gmail.com

Cluck, Cluck! More recipes to tide us over until we can actually grill chicken outdoors. For now, we'll be happy inside for a few more weeks. One of the Pillsbury Classic Cookbook series, featured at grocery store check-out counters or through the mail by subscription, was "All-American Chicken" (1997, The Pillsbury Co, Minneapolis). There is a chapter titled "Spring Celebration." It seems to fill the bill for late March so these recipes were adapted from that collection.

Chicken Breasts with Dijon Sauce

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup half & half
1/2 teaspoon lemon pepper
1 tablespoon flour
2 tablespoons real butter
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/2 cup chicken broth
1 teaspoon honey
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon peel, optional

Sprinkle the chicken with salt and lemon pepper seasoning. Melt the butter in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat. Add the chicken and cook 5 minutes on each side. Reduce the heat and cook about 7 minutes longer on each side, until the chicken is fork-tender and the juices run clear. Place on a serving platter and cover with foil to keep warm. In a small jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine the broth, half & half, flour, mustard and honey. Shake very well. Pour into the skillet and cook over medium heat until the mixture is smooth and bubbly, stirring constantly. Stir in the lemon peel if using it. Spoon part of this sauce over the chicken, serving the rest at the table.

Herb Cheese-Stuffed Chicken Breasts

2 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
1/4 cup crumbled Feta cheese
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
2 tablespoons sliced ripe olives
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 can (14.5 oz.) Italian-style diced tomatoes, undrained

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Using a sharp knife, cut a 3-inch slit in the meaty side of each chicken breast half to form a pocket. Be careful not to slice all the way through. In a small bowl, combine the Feta cheese, parsley, oregano and olive oil. Mix well. Gently spoon half of this mixture into each pocket, pressing it in with the back of a spoon. Place the chicken in an ungreased 8-inch square baking dish. In a separate small bowl, combine the tomatoes with their juice, the olives and the cornstarch. Mix well and pour over the chicken. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until the chicken is fork-tender and the juices run clear. Internal temperature should be 160 degrees F. Let it sit for a few minutes before serving with cooked pasta and a salad. Makes two servings.

Spicy Chicken Drumettes (for the people who think chicken breast is too dry!)

SANDY'S NOTE: Drumettes are the meaty part of the chicken wing and are sometimes hard to find by themselves in the grocery store. Wings are usually sold with both parts, the flat and the "little drumstick" together. If you can't find just drumettes, cut the wings apart, freeze the flats for another use such as homemade chicken broth, and proceed with the drumettes.

24 chicken drumettes
2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce
1/3 cup chicken broth
2 tablespoons honey
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon paprika

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Place the drumettes in an ungreased 9x13-inch baking pan. Combine the remaining ingredients to make a sauce, mixing well. Pour this over the drumettes. Bake for 30 minutes. Turn the pieces over and bake an additional 30 minutes or until tender and no longer pink. Serve with blue cheese dip or ranch dressing dip. NOTE: there was a little hint that if you spray your measuring spoon with cooking spray before measuring the honey, it will slide right out with no waste!

Almost everyone (with the exception of my very picky brother-in-law, Ron Clayton) enjoys chicken in some form. It has a neutral flavor profile that you can dress up or down so the recipes are almost endless. Dust off the grill; it won't be long now! And…that's all she wrote.

Northwood Public Library

By Emily Tufte
Library director

Spring is here and Summer is around the corner! We're getting things ready for the Summer Reading Program to start in June. Our theme for the year is "Plant a Seed, Read!" As we finish getting everything in the calendar, we'll be sending out those donation letters, so be on the lookout for those!

The Northwood Public Library has two Friday Story Times planned for April on the 10th and 17th, starting at 10 a.m. Story Time is geared for toddler and preschool age, but babies are welcome too! It's a fun time for kids to socialize together, learn about sitting quietly for a short story or two, have some fun coloring and playing with the library toys. Parents and caregivers can enjoy some chit chat too! Please watch the library's Facebook page for more information.

The library has two different book clubs that participate in a monthly reading and discussion. If this is anything that sounds interesting to you, don't hesitate to reach out at the library for more information!

Here are new books coming to the library sometime during the month of December:

Adult Fiction books: "The Book Witch" by Meg Shaffer, "A Cruise to Die For" by Heather Graham, "Happy Ending" by Chloe Liese, "Harmless Women" by Rebecca Sharpe, "Mad Mabel" by Sally Hepworth, "The Mountains We Call Home" by Kim Michelle Richardson, "Last One Out" by Jane Harper, "The Name Game" by Beth O'Leary, and lots more.

Large Print Fiction: "Northargyle Abbie" by Janelle Leonard, "Love in the Castle Library" by Ann Swindell, "When They Met Again" by Leslie Gould, "The Good Fortune of Miss Robbins" by Melanie Dickerson, "All Booked Up" by Melody Carlson, "Daughter of Egypt" by Marie Benedict, "A Woman's Place" by Danielle Steel, "The Mother-Daughter Book Club" by Susan Patterson, and more.

I've been posting some pictures of the new books to the Northwood Public Library's Facebook page, so don't forget to "Like" the page to be notified when we put more new books out throughout the month.

Something new to note, the library has a new email address, so if you're one to email me your book recommendations or wishlist for InterLibrary Loan books, please write down the new email address. It is librarian@northwoodia.org. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have or call us at 324-1340. We hope you will check us out soon!

Northwood Anchor Society



Fevold returns for reunion of former athletes

Larry Fevold, former Northwood-Kensett wrestling/football coach, returned to Northwood for a reunion with the guys on Saturday, March 14n at the VFW. Fevold started coaching in the 1973-74 school year, which was the first year N-K had ever beaten Manly Schools and they compiled an 11-1 dual meet record. In 1977 Paul Geerlings, Mark Stevens, Dave Stevens and Wayne Madsen made it to the state tournament. They finished third place as a team in the state Class 1A tourney, which was Fevold's last year coaching at N-K. The team also placed second in the conference for the first time ahead of Britt and Osage. Those attending the reunion were (front row, from left) Mike Kuhlmann, Larry Fevold, (back row) Dave Stevens, Luane Odden, Mark Stevens, Cary VanVeldhuizen, Dan Charlson, Mike Hanson, Jon Vrieze, Craig Erdman, Randy Bratrud, Rod Alne, Scott Alne, Paul Geerlings and Scott Madsen.



Banking in the treasurer's office

This picture was recently shared on the "Worth County Iowa and Interesting Tidbits, Pictures, and Thoughts" Facebook page. The image of a lobby of tellers and bankers at windows. The image comes from 119 years ago, in the building that today houses the Worth County treasurer's office.

Baked Potato Lunch fundraiser at Bolan UMC set for April 12

Trinity United Methodist Church of Bolan, Iowa, will be hosting a "Baked Potato Lunch" fundraiser on Sunday, April 12, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

"Come in and sit in the updated dining hall of the church, or come to make and take home."

The menu includes a "Kittleson Brothers" baked potato, a variety of toppings, homemade pie, coffee and milk, for a free-will donation.

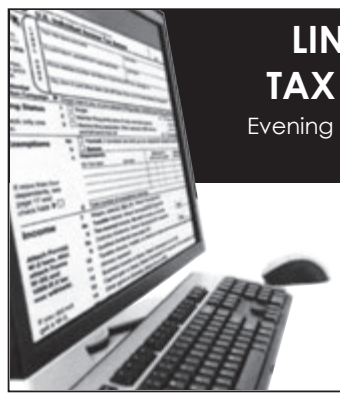
Trinity holds traditional worship services with Pastor Cory Allard every Sunday at 9:15 a.m., followed by a coffee fellowship time.

Bolan

Coming up next in Bolan will be the Baked Potato Luncheon at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 12. It will be a "Dine In" or "Take Out" event from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. It will feature baked potatoes with various toppings, homemade pies, coffee, milk or water for a free will donation. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Nydegger at 641-420-3048.

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Registration is for *NEW* students only.
Students attending preschool this year should have already signed up
Any questions call 641-324-1127 ext.208

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Northwood Anchor

Opinion

Savvy Senior

Where to get help with Medicare decisions

Dear Savvy Senior,

I'll be 65 in a few months and could sure use some help sorting through all the confusing Medicare options that are available to me. Where can I get help with my Medicare decisions?

--Baffled Bob

Dear Bob,

With around 11,400 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day in 2026, you're asking a very timely question.

Many people approaching Medicare are confused by all the choices available today. In addition to original Medicare (Part A and B) that has been around for more than 60 years, you also have the option of enrolling in a Part D prescription drug plan, and a supplemental (Medigap) policy – both of which are sold by private insurance companies.

Another option is a Medicare Advantage plan. These plans, also offered by private insurers, bundle hospital coverage, medical care, prescription drugs, and often extra benefits like vision, dental, and hearing into one policy. Most operate as HMOs or PPOs and require you to receive care within a defined network of providers in your area.

Medicare Advantage plans have also faced increased scrutiny in recent years over prior-authorization requirements that can delay or deny certain services.

To help you determine which path makes the most sense for your situation, there are several reliable resources available, depending on how much assistance you need.

Tools and Resources

A good starting point is the "Medicare & You" handbook, which provides a clear overview of the program and your options. You can download a copy at medicare.gov/medicare-and-you, and you should receive a printed version in the mail about a month before your 65th birthday.

The Medicare website also features a helpful "Find a Medicare Plan" tool at medicare.gov/plan-compare that allows you to compare health plans, prescription drug coverage, and supplemental policies available in your area. If you prefer to speak with someone directly, call Medicare at 800-633-4227, and a representative can walk you through your options over the phone.

Another excellent free resource is your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides unbiased Medicare counseling either in person or by phone. To locate your local SHIP office, visit shiphelp.org or call 877-839-2675.

You can also contact the Medicare Rights Center (medicarerights.org) at 800-333-4114 for help with specific questions.

In addition, HealthMetrix Research publishes a free Cost Share Report at medicarenewswatch.com that compares Medicare Advantage plans by area based on cost-sharing and health status.

Get Help

If you'd like more hands-on help, you can work with a Medicare insurance agent.

Keep in mind that agents are paid commissions by insurance companies, so it's important to choose an independent agent who represents multiple insurers – not just one. That gives you access to a broader range of options.

Also understand that commissions are typically higher for Medicare Advantage plans than for Medigap and Part D policies used with Original Medicare. As a result, some agents may have a financial incentive to recommend Advantage coverage. That doesn't mean the advice is wrong, but it's wise to ask questions and understand all your choices before enrolling.

You can search for licensed agents through nabip.org, the website of the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals.

Taking the time now to compare your options carefully can help you avoid costly mistakes and give you confidence in the coverage you choose.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

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Ponderings from the Batt Cave

By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

All the crows that used to hang around the parking lot have disappeared.

I wonder why they left?

I don't know. I haven't found the caws.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was in an ice cream parlor, waiting in line to get an ice cream cone. It was one of those shops offering many flavors and samples. The guy just ahead of me asked the clerk, "Can I try the vanilla?" He tried the free sample, then bought a mint chocolate chip cone.

I walked outside to eat my butter pecan ice cream cone. The weather was perfect for tackling that task—not too cold for ice cream and not hot enough to rush melting. I was enjoying the moment when the mint-chocolate-chip-ice-cream-cone guy, who had been just ahead of me in line, dropped his cone onto the sidewalk. House sparrows gathered nearby. They were birds experienced in the delight of a fallen and found ice cream cone. They might have been wearing bibs.

The man uttered a discouraging word. That didn't help, so he tossed out a second and a third curse word. That tapestry of obscenities reminded me of a late friend who could cuss with the best of them or the worst of them—depending on your perspective. He had retired early on the money he had put into the swear jar. When people mentioned they hadn't seen him for a while and asked where he'd been, he told them he'd been living under a rock. Since the rock was in Minnesota, it must have been winterized.

I've learned

A rabbit's sock is extremely good luck. Rodin's sculpture "The Thinker" was thinking of a number between one and 10.

My audiologist whispers.

Dance like everyone is looking at their phones because they are.

Researchers at Legacy Healing Center https://www.legacyhealing.com analyzed four key healthcare access indicators across all 50 states: the share of adults unable to see a doctor due to cost, emergency room wait times, the number of primary care shortage areas, and the number of practitioners needed to eliminate those shortages. Each factor was weighted to produce a score identifying where accessing care is most difficult. Texas was the state where seeing a doctor was the hardest. Minnesota was the 40th hardest and Iowa was 46th. Hawaii was the easiest.

Bad jokes department

Where does a lizard go after it has lost its tail? The retail store.

If you enjoy politically incorrect jokes, here's one: Benjamin Franklin was a great American president.

Peruvian owls always hunt in pairs. That's because they're Inca hoots.

Nature notes

Why do geese fly in a V-formation? It's because the lead goose is a veteran female named Verna, Velma or Virginia. Occasionally, a male named Virgil gets to fly at the front just to shut him up. Scientists have determined that the V-shaped formation conserves energy. Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front of it, resulting in a reduction of wind resistance. The birds take turns being at the front, falling back when they tire from acting as a windbreak. This allows the geese to fly long distances before they must stop to rest. A V-formation aids communication and coordination within the group. Fighter pilots often fly in a V-formation for aerodynamic efficiency and tactical advantages. This configuration allows maneuverability, enhanced visibility, and a potential for reduced fuel consumption. Plus, it looks cool.

A murmuration of starlings is a shapeshifting cloud of swirling birds that alternately grows larger and shrinks. An elegant movement of a flock of starlings invites contemplation and creates stunning art in the sky. The movement of the flock is choreographed collectively by all members of that flock. The fluidity of motion results when one starling changes direction or speed, and each of the other birds in the flock responds to the change nearly simultaneously, as the group responds as one. I reckon the collective noun "murmuration," derives from the sounds made by the wingbeats of many birds in flight. I've had a flock of starlings swoop low over my head with a loud whoosh before twirling away. The wing song made me duck. Maybe it should be called a whoosh of starlings?

Meeting adjourned

The Lakota Tech players wore warm-up shirts during the South Dakota State Girls Basketball Tournament that read, "Be good to people." The shirts were worn to honor the late Tiny Decory who said, "Be good to people, we are struggling and that smile, words of encouragement and kindness are something we can all use."

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Fit to print...

Fun facts about April Fools Day

Following is some interesting information about April Fools Day. It is a holiday that really turns things upside down.



• Another theory surrounding April Fools' Day origins involves the ancient Roman festival of Hilaria. This festival involved masquerades and jesting to celebrate the rebirth of the god Attis.

• The origins of April Fools' Day are something of a mystery, but historians believe the day started in France during the sixteenth century. History.com offers the popular theory that when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, moving the New Year from the end of March to January 1, some received the news later than others. As a result, some people continued to celebrate the New Year in the spring, and were thus referred to as "April fools."

• In some countries, such as Australia, Canada and parts of the United Kingdom, April Fools' Day pranks must be completed by noon; if not, the prankster becomes the fool. Those in the United States, Germany and Japan engage in pranks the entire day. In Scotland, the fun stretches into April 2, which is known as "Tailly Day," and involve pranks exclusive to the posterior region of the body.

• April Fools' Day gradually spread around the world due to European influence and colonization during the eighteenth century.

• April Fools' Day is an opportunity for people to embrace their creative side. Even the media and businesses sometimes get in on the action.

April Fools' Day is an entertaining opportunity to get one over on an unsuspecting person. However, it's important to prank responsibly and avoid jokes that can cause panic or emergency situations.

Fake stories and sneaky endeavors can create wild tales that spread. In 1957, the BBC broadcast a story about a spaghetti harvest that took place in Switzerland. In 1974, a local logger named Oliver Bickar created a hoax where he made it seem the dormant volcano Mount Edgecumbe in Alaska was about to erupt. He deposited 70 tires into the volcano by helicopter and lit them on fire. Another prank insinuated that Taco Bell purchased the Liberty Bell and renamed it the "Taco Liberty Bell."

• Google often engages in April Fools' Day jokes. The company has fooled people with everything from a search engine for smells to "Google Tulip," which ostensibly enabled users to communicate with plants.

• The famous comic strip "Peanuts" actually featured a character named April Fool, who would play pranks on his friends.

Northwood Anchor Early Files

100 years ago

March 25, 1926

Twenty-four fiddlers of old-time music met in a friendly contest Wednesday night in the Dwelle and Odd Fellow halls in Northwood to pick the best old-time fiddler in this section and to compete for more than $200 in cash and other prizes. The contest was sponsored by the Wm. T. Smith Post of the American Legion. The contestants were awarded their placings by a vote of the audience and dancers, each person having one vote by means of a detachable stub on the admission ticket. The playing of Albert E. Roppe, of near Gordonsville, won the popular approval of the crowd for first place and a cash prize of $25 and an Atwater Kent loudspeaker.

When plans, which have already begun development, have been carried to completion, Northwood will have a practically new telephone system, involving an investment of more than $16,000 in material and labor this spring. The present plant was built by the Independent Telephone Company in 1899, and the company was acquired by the Western Electric Company nine years ago. Manager Knudt Lund and his operators have given excellent satisfaction in their service to the community, and Mr. Lund looks forward with enthusiasm with the perfection of the plant.

E.E. Isaac, of Ames, was chosen as the new county agricultural agent of Worth County at the meeting of the Farm Bureau board of directors. Mr. Isaac is a graduate of the Kansas Agricultural College.

Northwood Markets: hogs, (top), $12.30; new corn, 40 cents; oats, 31 1/3 cents; creamery butter, 46 cents; eggs, 24 cents.

Emil A. Anderson, of north of Carpenter, was in Northwood Tuesday transacting business. He drove in with a team because he feared the roads were not in condition for the use of a car, but was sorry that he had not used a faster means transportation for the roads were in good shape.

75 years ago

March 29, 1951

March 1951 will long be remembered for its big snow. The drifts in front of the L&H Drug Store is almost 20 feet high and this wasn't the biggest drift in Northwood or the surrounding territory but is typical.

John S. Veenker, local druggist, is scheduled to address students at the Drake University College of pharmacy in Des Moines next Thursday as part of the university's annual career day program. Mr. Veenker, who is president of the college's recently organized alumni association, will tell the students about various aspects of the retail pharmacy business. He is also scheduled to preside at the alumni association reunion at Des Moines on April 18.

William Imlau, former assistant state secretary of agriculture, was principal speaker at the annual parent son banquet of the Northwood Future Farmers of America Monday night. The banquet was held at the First Luther Church with a large crowd of parents and agriculture students in attendance.

The Worth County supervisors last week purchased a GMC suburban station wagon from Holstad Motor Sales, Northwood, for $1,700. The new vehicle is to be used by survey crews in the county engineer's office.

Don Janssen, a freshman at Northwood High School, brought home a gold medal and the first place award in the judging contest at the Minnesota State Spring Barrow Show at Albert Lea.

Frederick Davidson, 23, son of Mrs. David Davidson of Deer Creek, has completed a series of special examinations at Minneapolis and is to leave for Des Moines this Thursday for physical tests and enlistment in the Army counterintelligence corps. He expects to take basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and advanced work at Fort Meade, MD.

50 years ago

March 25, 1976

Florence Borcherding, clerk at the Soil Conservation District office in Northwood since 1957, was honored Monday night as "Friend of Conservation." Oren Igou, assistant district commissioner, admired the award. Arvid Thompson, rural Emmons, received the Conservation Achievement Award. He has 825 acres under the conservation plan, has installed over 100,000 feet of tile and 7,000 feet of terrace with 13 intakes. Norman Still, representing the Farmers Grain Dealers Association, was the featured speaker.

The town clock on Central Avenue in Northwood is back in its accustomed place and everyone who walks or drives by feels a little better about things in general for a moment. It's as if some wrong has been righted, and that disconcerting feeling of looking for something that isn't there is gone.

John Krull, rural Northwood, was host to a group of Northwood businessmen, Monday, in observance of Iowa Agriculture Day. Krull led a tour of his farm and explained his hog operation. He is past president and publicity director of the Worth County Pork Production and is chairman of the NIACC Agriculture Council.

The 1976 N-K Viking Track squad began practice March 8 with 42 students practicing. Coach is Bob Weselmann and Dean Berkas will coach the discus, shot and high jumpers. Craig Lease is currently working for two weeks with some of the distance men. Judging by early season work the strength of this squad will be in the fine middle distance group Weselmann said.

Mark Davidson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvid Davidson, rural Northwood, received a certificate of completion in the winter quarter farm operation course at Iowa State University. Davidson attended North Iowa Area Community College last year.

25 years ago

March 28, 2001

Kent Ahnemann has joined NSB Bank as assistant vice-president and loan officer. Ahneman comes in NSB from Community State Bank in Indianola, where he served as agricultural and commercial loan officer. His 13 years in banking include real estate and consumer lending experience.

The Worth County Sheriff's Reserve officers show off the bullet-proof vests they purchased with the proceeds from last year's soup and chili supper. The organization will hold this year's soup and chili benefit next Saturday, April 7, from 5-8 p.m. at the Kensett Community Center.

Doug Fallgatter, Northwood, a member of the Iowa Grocery Industry Association met Representative Dennis May and Senator Merlin Bartz, February 13 and presented each with a donation for the local food bank. Over 200 grocers from Iowa participated as part of "Grocers Care Day."

Lutheran Retirement Home resident Pauline Miller looks on as LRH employees Kandie Shupe and Lois Meyer displayed two of the baptismal gowns featured last Wednesday afternoon during a special program in the retirement home chapel. Shupe, in fact, is holding her own baptismal gown, which was sewn by her godmother Martha Bassett, who is now a resident at LRH.

The numbers may be a little on the low side, but the Northwood-Kensett girls track team's effort has been all that head coach Mike Reindl could ask for so far. Reindl has 17 N-K High girls working toward the season-opening meet in Hampton next Friday. But he expects to field a strong shuttle hurdle relay team and feels distance events could be a team strength before the season is done.

10 years ago

March 30, 2016

The Northwood-Kensett School Board met on Thursday, March 17, for its regular monthly meeting. The main topic of discussion was the budget for the 2016-2017 school year. Michael Crozier, N-K superintendent, told the board that school finances are in good shape. In addition, the nutritional fund is growing. He added that the alternate meal plan is working well and serving an average 100 meals a day and not as much food is being thrown in the trash.

Logan Davidson, a new resident of Northwood, recently opened a longer quilting business out of her home. The purpose of the business is to serve quilters in North Iowa and southern Minnesota in a quilt finishing process called long-arm quilting, also known as machine quilting.

The Worth County Fairgrounds got a bit of color this past Saturday as the Northwood Chamber of Commerce and Northwood-Kensett cheerleaders held the annual Easter egg hunt there. With an early Easter this year, and a snowstorm just days beforehand, the snow on the ground provided a bit of extra cover for the hundred of candy-filled eggs that were hunted that morning.

This play, put on by elementary school age members of the Hartland Achievers 4-H group, leaders, parents, volunteers and attendees of Prince & Princess Tea, was held at the Northwood Community Center on Saturday, March 19.

Senior Shelby Low competes in the 55-meter hurdles at the Wartburg Indoor Invitational. Low is also the Lady Vikings' top scorer from last season, where she picked up 203 points for her team.

One of the Vikings' most powerful athletes this season will be senior Hunter Julson, who placed fourth in the shot put at the Wartburg Indoor Invitational with a throw of 44 and one inch.

Northwood Anchor Obituaries

Tharon Steinmetz

Tharon Helen Steinmetz, was born the seventh child of 15 to George and Bertha (Hanna) Albertson in Forest City, Iowa, on September 28, 1922. Tharon Helen Steinmetz passed peacefully on March 7, 2026, at the Lutheran Retirement Home in Northwood.



THARON STEINMETZ

She attended Forest City Public School through eighth grade and when old enough, helped care for her younger siblings. Growing up during the "Depression" she developed a work ethic that was hard to match. If there was something that needed doing, it was done with no questions asked and was done her way.

On November 17, 1940, she married Merle C. Steinmetz at the Forest City Methodist Church and became a farm wife, living with her mother and father in-laws, who were renting a farm six miles east of Forest City. On January 23, 1943, son Terry was born, sharing his grandmother's birthday, and on November 11, 1944, daughter Paulette was born. That living arrangement continued for 17 years until C.B. Steinmetz purchased and remodeled an unused schoolhouse into a house that sat on the corner of the farm. Renting the 160-acre farm on a 50-50 basis necessitated some off farm income and when the children were old enough Tharon worked for the Palace of Sweets making caramel apples in the fall, followed by peanut brittle and English Toffee for Christmas. Even though she worked off the farm she was a mother first and foremost and made sure Terry and Paulette were raised properly with love and affection. That applied as well for grandchildren when they came along, but she didn't hesitate to spoil them. When Paulina, her mother-in-law, passed away the family moved into the remodeled schoolhouse with her father-in-law, C.B. That was the first house she lived in that had an indoor toilet.

When Terry and Paulette flew the nest, she pursued full time employment at Stitch Craft in Forest City, which later became part of Winnebago Industries, and worked there until her retirement. When Merle retired from the Forest City School and she retired from Stitch Craft they bought a camper trailer and camped with friends and spent winters in Texas. In the early seventies they bought a house in Forest City near the house where she grew up. When Merle passed in February 2001, she wanted to sell the house they had remodeled and move into an apartment. She convinced Terry and Paulette she should do this when at 80 years of age she was on the roof cleaning leaves out of the gutters. She lived in Anderson apartments until Paulette and Les retired and began spending winters in Texas. She then moved into Maple Court in Northwood and spent her days baking cakes, pies, cookies, and Norwegian pastries and distributing them to her neighbors. Angel food cake was her specialty. She spent the last 15 months of her life in the Lutheran Retirement Home following a fall in December of 2024.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Merle; grandson, Wade Torkelson; son-in-law, Les Torkelson; her parents; 14 siblings; and 10 of her 37 nieces and nephews.

Left to cherish Tharon's memory are her son, Terry (Joanne) Steinmetz; and his four children, Dale (Joan) Steinmetz, Beth (Mark) Heller, Laurel (Isaac) Willig and Sara (Benjamin) Baringer; Tharon's daughter, Paulette Torkelson; Paulette's daughter, Valerie (Steve) Malchow; Paulette's daughter-in-law, Dana Torkelson; nine great-grandchildren; two step-great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren; plus many nieces and nephews and extended family.

A celebration of life for Tharon took place from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at United Methodist Church in Forest City, Iowa. Inurnment was in Madison Township Cemetery. Hoff Celebrations - Champion Chapel of Osage assisted the family with arrangements.

Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT OF WORTH COUNTY
EQUITY NO: EQCV013053
ORIGINAL NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
April M. Shanks; Bradley D. Shanks; United States of America, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Parties in Possession, et al.
Defendants.

You are notified that a petition has been filed in the office of this court naming you as a defendant in this action. The petition was filed on December 30, 2025, and prays for foreclosure of Plaintiffs Mortgage in favor of the Plaintiff on the property described in this notice and judgment for the unpaid principal amount of $85,763.14, with 5.75% per annum interest thereon from May 1, 2025, together with late charges, advances and the costs of the action including (but not limited to) title costs and reasonable attorney's fees, as well as a request that said sums be declared a lien upon the following described premises from July 21, 2023, located in Worth county, Iowa:

That part of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼) of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Twenty-Eight (28), Township Ninety-Eight (98) North, Range Twenty (20) West of the 5th P.M., Worth County, lowa, described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner (SE Cor) of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of said Section Twenty-Eight (28); thence North 00°00'00" East, 984.32 feet along the East line of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of said Section Twenty-Eight (28), thence North 89°58'04" West Thirty-Three (33) feet to a point on the West line of South Broadway and the point of beginning; thence continuing North 89°58'04" West 150 feet; thence 00°00'00" East 103 feet parallel with the East line of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of said Section Twenty-Eight (28) to a point on the Westerly Extension of the South line of Lots Eleven (11) of Meldrim's 2nd Subdivision in the Town of Manly, lowa; thence South 89°58'04" East One Hundred Fifty (150) feet along the South line of said Lot Eleven (11) and the westerly extension thereof to a point on the West line of said South Broadway; thence South 00°00'00" West One Hundred Three (103) feet along the West line of said South Broadway to the point of beginning, containing 0.35 acres. NOTE: The East line of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 28-98-20 is assumed to bear North 00°00'00" East, commonly known as 720 S Broadway St, Manly, IA 50456 (the "Property")

The petition further prays that the Mortgage on the above described real estate be foreclosed, that a special execution issue for the sale of as much of the mortgaged premises as is necessary to satisfy the judgment and for other relief as the Court deems just and equitable. For further details, please review the petition on file in the clerk's office. The Plaintiffs attorney is Arlet Costilla, of SouthLaw, P.C.; whose address is 4601 Westown Pkwy, Suite 250, West Des Moines, IA 50266.

NOTICE

The plaintiff has elected foreclosure without redemption. This means that the sale of the mortgaged property will occur promptly after entry of judgment unless you file a written demand with the court to delay the sale. If you file a written demand, the sale will be delayed until six months (or three months if the petition includes a waiver of deficiency judgment) from the entry of judgment if the mortgaged property is your residence and is a one-family or two-family dwelling or until two months from entry of judgment if the mortgaged property is not your residence or is your residence but not a one-family or two-family dwelling. You will have no right of redemption after the sale. The purchaser at the sale will be entitled to immediate possession of the mortgaged property. You may purchase at the sale.

You must serve a motion or answer on or before May 5, 2026, and within a reasonable time thereafter, you must file your motion or answer with the Clerk of Court for Worth County, at the county courthouse in Northwood, Iowa. If you fail to respond, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

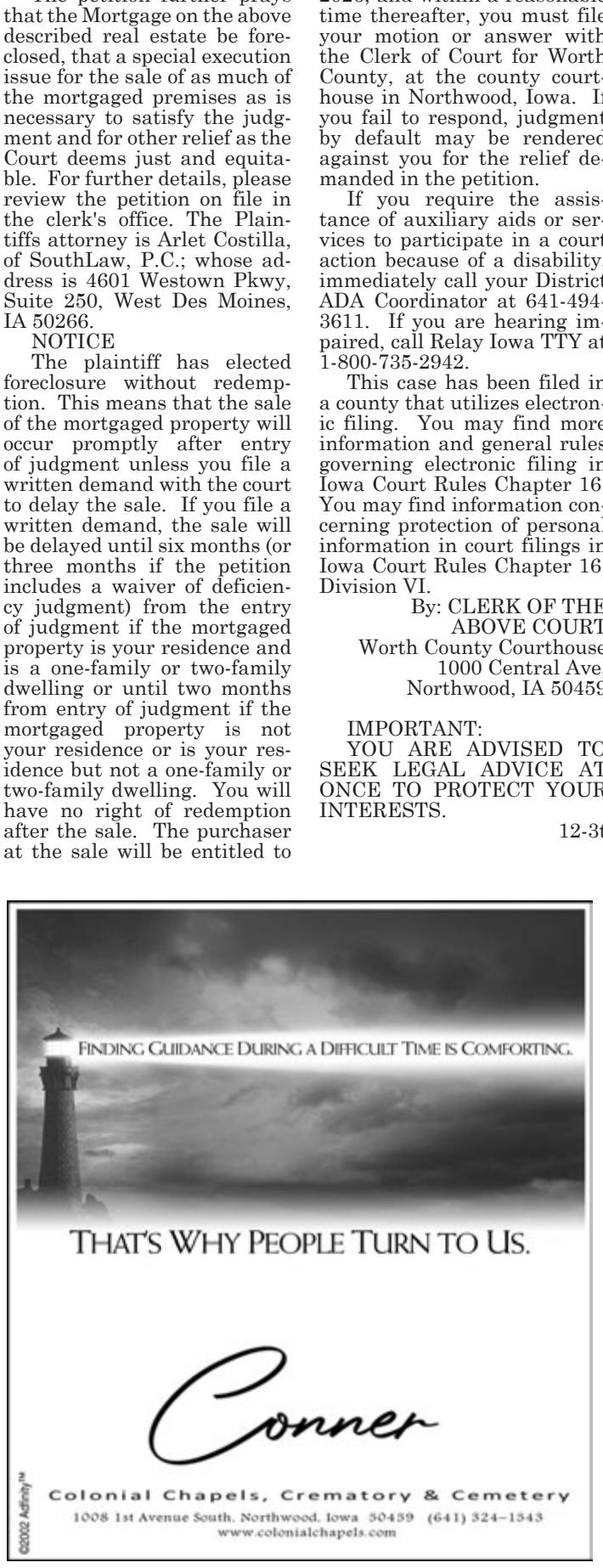
If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in a court action because of a disability, immediately call your District ADA Coordinator at 641-494-3611. If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942.

This case has been filed in a county that utilizes electronic filing. You may find more information and general rules governing electronic filing in Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16. You may find information concerning protection of personal information in court filings in Iowa Court Rules Chapter 16, Division VI.

By: CLERK OF THE ABOVE COURT
Worth County Courthouse
1000 Central Ave,
Northwood, IA 50459

IMPORTANT:
YOU ARE ADVISED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AT ONCE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS.

12-3t



Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
2026 Asphalt Street Improvement Project
City of Northwood
Northwood, IA

Time and Place for Filing Sealed Proposals. Sealed bids for Asphalt Overlay Street Improvements as stated below must be filed before 9:00 A.M. on April 23, 2026 in the office of the City Clerk, City of Northwood, 627 Central Avenue, Northwood, IA. Time and Place Sealed Proposals Will be Opened and Considered. Sealed proposals will be opened and bids tabulated at 9:00 A.M. on April 23, 2026, in the office of the City Clerk, City of Northwood, for consideration by the City of Northwood to consider bids at its meeting at 6:00 P.M. on April 27, 2026. Time for Commencement and Completion of Work. All work under the Contract must be substantially complete on or before October 1, 2026. Contract Documents, Plans, specifications and proposal forms for the work may be seen and may be secured at the office of the City Clerk. Public Hearing on Proposed Contract Documents and Estimated Costs for Improvement. A public hearing will be held by the City of Northwood on the proposed contract documents (plans, specifications and form of contract) and estimated cost for the improvement at its meeting at 6:00 P.M. on April 27, 2026, at 627 Central Avenue, Northwood, IA. Preference of Products and Labor. By virtue of statutory authority, preference will be given to products and provisions grown and coal produced within the State of Iowa, and to Iowa domestic labor, to the extent lawfully required under Iowa Statutes; provided, however, the award of the Contract will be made to the lowest responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid, which shall be determined without regard to state or local law whereby preference is given on factors other than the amount of the bid Sales Tax Exemption Certificates. The bidder shall not include sales tax in the bid. The City of Northwood will distribute tax exemption certificates and authorization letters to the Contractor and all subcontractors who are identified. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Asphalt overlay of city streets according to plans & specs on proposal. Owner's Rights Reserved. The City hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informality and irregularities as it may deem to be in the best interests of the City. City may also reject the Bid of any Bidder if City believes that it would not be in the best interest of the Project to make an award to that Bidder whether because the bid is not responsive or the Bidder is unqualified or of doubtful financial ability, or unfavorable past experience working for the City, or fails to meet any other pertinent standard, or criteria established by the City.

This Notice is given by
authority of the
City of Northwood
/S/ Amber Julseth
City Administrator/Clerk

City Council

The Council of the City of Northwood held a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy for FY27 at City Hall on Monday March 23, 2026 at 5:30 pm with Mayor Moehle presiding and the following council members present: George-Zenz, Bode, Peterson, Schreiber, Reeder.

The Council of the City of Northwood met in regular session at City Hall on March 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm with Mayor Moehle presiding and the following council members present:

George-Zenz, Bode, Peterson, Schreiber, Reeder.

Motion by Peterson to approve the agenda. Unam.

Motion to approve the following under Consent Agenda: Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026; Special Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026; Set FY 27 Budget Public Hearing for Monday April 13, 2026 at 6 pm. Unam.

Heard comments & concerns from citizens regarding law enforcement services.

Motion to contract with Rieley Gordon for cleaning services at the Library/Olson Room and City Hall. Unam.

Motion to adjourn. Unam.

Doug Moehle, Mayor
Amber Julseth
City Administrator/Clerk

City of Lake Mills

LAKE MILLS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2026

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, Iowa, was held in the Council Chambers at the Lake Mills City Hall on March 23, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bruce Helgeson, Council Members: Rob Hughes, Kristin Peters, Mark Peterson, Bob Storby, City Clerk Diane Price and Police Chief Matt Levine.

Absent: Nathan Ostrander

Notice of the meeting was posted at the Lake Mills City Hall on March 20, 2026. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Helgeson called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was declared.

Motion made by Peterson, seconded by Storby to approve the agenda as written. There being no further discussion, roll call: Ayes: Peterson, Storby, Hughes, Peters. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Public Forum: None

Storby introduced and Hughes seconded to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda included: Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2026, and Resolution No. 26-13 – a resolution to fix the compensation of a Library Assistant. After due consideration thereof by the Council, and roll being called, the following named Council Members voted: Ayes: Storby, Hughes, Peters, Peterson. Nays: None. The motion was declared duly carried and the consent agenda adopted.

A motion was made by Storby, seconded by Peterson to set the public hearing date for April 20, 2026, at 7:00 pm for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Adoption. There being no further discussion, Roll Call vote: Ayes: Storby, Peterson, Hughes, Peters. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on Rules of Procedure.

Motion made by Storby seconded by Peters to approve the secure signature feature for ERP Pro 10 software. Roll call: Ayes: Peters, Peterson, Storby, Hughes. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Storby seconded by Hughes to adjourn said meeting at 5:46 pm. There being no further discussion, roll call: Ayes: Storby, Hughes, Peters, Peterson. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Bruce Helgeson, Mayor
ATTEST
Diane Price, City Clerk
SEAL

I, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, Iowa hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of proceedings had and done by the Mayor and City Council on March 23, 2026; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at

least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting, that the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten business days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body.

Diane Price, City Clerk

City of Lake Mills

LAKE MILLS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2026

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, Iowa, was held in the Council Chambers at the Lake Mills City Hall on March 23, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bruce Helgeson, Council Members: Rob Hughes, Kristin Peters (arrived at 5:01pm), Mark Peterson, Bob Storby, City Clerk Diane Price and Police Chief Matt Levine.

Absent: Nathan Ostrander

Notice of the meeting was posted at the Lake Mills City Hall on March 20, 2026. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Helgeson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared.

Mayor Helgeson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Storby, seconded by Hughes to approve the agenda as written. There being no further discussion, roll call: Ayes: Storby, Hughes, Peterson. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Mayor Helgeson announced that this is the time and place as published in the Northwood Anchor on March 11, 2026, for a public hearing for the Fiscal Year 27 Proposed Tax Levy.

Motion made by Storby, seconded by Hughes to open the Public Hearing. There being no further discussion, roll call: Ayes: Storby, Hughes, Peterson. Nays: 0 Motion carried.

City Clerk Price noted that no written or oral objections had been received. No audience participation.

Motion was made by Storby, seconded by Peterson to close the Public Hearing. There being no further discussion, roll call: Ayes: Storby, Peterson, Hughes, Peters. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Motion made by Storby, seconded by Hughes to adjourn said meeting at 5:02 p.m. There being no further discussion, roll call: Ayes: Storby, Hughes, Peters, Peterson. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Bruce Helgeson, Mayor
ATTEST
Diane Price, City Clerk
SEAL

I, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, Iowa hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of proceedings had and done by the Mayor and City Council on March 23, 2026; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at

least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting, the said minutes from which the foregoing proceedings have been extracted were in written form and available for public inspection within ten business days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body.

Diane Price, City Clerk

N-K School

The Northwood-Kensett Board of Directors met in a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026 in the Administrative Office at 5:30 pm

Members present: Cindy Byrne, Jamie Nelson, Naomi Gudmonson, Shana Brunsvold

Absent: Bradley Christianson

Also present: Superintendent Tony Hiatt; Board Secretary Kim Hengesteg

(4-0) approve the Agenda for Thursday, March 5, 2026

Recognition of Visitors/Public Comments: Mark Kroemer from Atura Architecture

New Business

Discussion with Mark Kroemer from Atura Architecture regarding sealed bids for the Elementary roof project. This was conducted as an informational meeting regarding the 3 bids that were received. There was a Base Bid along with alternate #1 and alternate #2. Base Bid was replacing the Elementary roof. Alternate #1 was sealing the roof with a silicone product and Alternate #2 was the entire solar panel package.

(4-0) to approve the Public Hearing for the proposed contract for the Northwood-Kensett CSD Elementary Roof Replacement project at the Administrative Building; 1496 480th St., Northwood, IA at 6:02 pm on March 26, 2026

(4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm

The Northwood-Kensett Board of Directors met in a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026 in the Administrative Office at 5:30 pm

Members present: Bradley Christianson, Cindy Byrne, Jamie Nelson and Naomi Gudmonson

Absent: Shana Brunsvold

Also present: Superintendent Tony Hiatt and Board Secretary Kim Hengesteg

(4-0) approve the Agenda for Thursday, March 26, 2026

Recognition of Visitors/Public Comments: None

2026-2027 Tax Levy Public Hearing

President Christianson opened the public hearing at 5:31 pm

Comments: No written or verbal comments

Public Hearing closed at 5:35 pm

(4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 pm

The Northwood-Kensett Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at the Administrative office at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Bradley Christianson, Cindy Byrne, Jamie Nelson and Naomi Gudmonson

Absent: Shana Brunsvold

Also present: Superintendent Tony Hiatt; Board Secretary Kim Hengesteg; Elementary Principal Brian Costello; Secondary Principal Keith Fritz and Kris Kenison Northwood Anchor

(4-0) approve the Agenda for Thursday March 26, 2026

Recognition of Visitors/Public Comments: Mark Kroemer from Atura and Scott Prohaska from 1 Source Solar

Public Hearing for Elementary Roof Replacement

Public hearing opened at 6:02 pm

Comments: no written or in-person comments received

Public Hearing closed at 6:23 pm

Reports:

Elementary Principal: 1) 92% attendance at parent/student / teacher conferences on March 3rd and 5th 2) Iowa assessments at elementary to begin on March 31st 3) Thank you to Teresa Stehn for classroom chicks 4) Incoming Kindergarten learning night to be held on April 16th 5) Preschool pre-registration to be held on April 15th

Secondary Principal: 1) 54% attendance at parent-teacher conference attendance 2) ISASP test preparation is underway with goal setting meetings having occurred between students and teachers 3) District Career and Academic Development Plan 4) April 17th at 8:30 a.m. Mark Vrba Head Athletic Trainer/Strength & Conditioning Coordinator at NIACC will talk with students about distracted driving

Superintendent: 1) Bus Update 2) Negotiation's update 3) School calendar will remain the same for the remainder of the school year, last student day is May 22.

School Board: Next Regular School Board meeting scheduled for April 16th at 6:00 p.m. to meet the required publication requirements for our second public hearing.

Consent Agenda

(3-0) (Bradley Christianson abstained from vote) approve the Consent Action Items which include the following:

- Minutes from the February 12, 2026 Regular Board Meeting and March 5, 2026 Special Board Meeting
- March Bills for payment
- February 2026 Financial Report
- Approve Beth Butler & Morgan Johnson shared JH Boys Track Coaches
- Approve Clif Davis 5/8th Industrial Arts Teacher for 2026-27 $31,250
- Approve Kennedy Schwiesow – 4th Grade Elem Teacher @ $50,000
- Approve Clif Davis – Girls HS Wrestling Coach 2026-27
- Approve Clif Davis – Assistant Varsity Football Coach 2026-27
- Approve Haley Jacobsen – Jr/Sr High Special Education Teacher @ $54,500
- Approve Nichol Williamson – Secondary Associate @ $16.25
- Accept Christian Miller resignation as Varsity Girls Wrestling Coach
- Accept Dustin Patterson resignation JH/HS Special Ed Teacher
- Accept Shelby Stumo resignation Secondary Associate
- Accept Jeff Yezek resignation Girl's Assistant Wrestling Coach

Old Business:

None

New Business:

(4-0) approve Business Manager and District office assistance position. Approve pay for VAC custodial and summer workers to $15.25/hour

(4-0) approve Elementary Roof Bid by Midwest Roofing in the amount of $329,350, denying alternate #1 and approving Alternate #2 for solar in the amount of $479,986

(4-0) approve Audit Extension as presented in the board packet

(4-0) approve standard policy review 800, 801.1, 801.2, 801.3, 801.4, 802.1, 802.2, 802.3, 802.4, 802.4R1, 802.4R2, 802.5, 802.6, 802.7

Policy Primer: 102, 102R1, 102E1, 102E2, 102E3, 102E4, 102E5, 102E6, 710.1R1, 710.1E1, 710.1E2

(4-0) approve student teaching agreement with Morningside University

(4-0) approve NKCSD District Career and Academic Plan as presented

(4-0) approve Iowa Local Government Risk Pool Commission Program Participation agreement for Natural Gas

(4-0) approve AEA Purchasing Agreement 2026-27

(4-0) approve publication, certification and second public hearing for the 2026-27 budget on April 16, 2026 at 6:01 pm in the Northwood-Kensett School District Office, 1496 480th St., Northwood, Iowa

(4-0) approve the resolution for a Budget Guarantee for Fiscal Year 2027, that the Board of Directors for the Northwood-Kensett Community School District will levy property taxes for the fiscal year 2026-2027 for the regular program adjustment as slowed under section 257.14 Cod of Iowa

(4-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm

Northwood-Kensett Community School District

Vendor Name, Amount
43 North Iowa, service 279.84
AGiRepair, Inc, parts 5,780.00
AGVANTAGE FS, INC
propane 1,781.52
AHLERS & COONEY, P.C.
legal services 992.67
ALLIANT ENERGY
ELECTRICITY 20,855.51
ALPHA WIRELESS
tech support 323.63
Amazon Capital Services
SUPPLIES 1,885.60
APPLE, INC., SUPPLIES . 499.00
Aviben LLC, fee 125.00
Bice Electric LLC, service .. 262.60
BLAZEK ELECTRIC
service 416.56
BLICK ART MATERIALS LLC
SUPPLIES 139.99
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS
SUPPLIES 196.19
Central Rivers Area Education
Agency, services 15,273.00
CITY OF NORTHWOOD
water/sewer 903.97
Clayton Ridge CSD
open enrollment 10,147.71
Crisis Prevention Institute
training 2,374.05
D & L Equipment, repairs . 147.08
Dave Syverson Truck Center
supplies 167.76
ECA Science Kit Services
supplies 33.60
EILERTSON REPAIR
Auto Repair Shop 712.68
ELECTRONIC SPECIALTIES,
INC, cloud access 300.60
FALLGATTER'S MARKET
SUPPLIES 449.08
H2I GROUP, service 750.00
HAL LEONARD LLC
license 209.55
Hanson, Jacob
Reimb parking 52.00
Hiatt, Tony, reimb travel ... 191.10
IMAGINE LEARNING LLC
software 99.00
IOWA ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BOARDS
conference 350.00
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
medicaid 2,538.06
IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES
furniture 1,471.20
Iowa Water Management Company, boiler service 235.50
J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC.
supplies 504.33
Jim & Dude's, service 20.45
JJ's Hardware, supplies 76.34
JOSTENS, INC., supplies .. 554.20
Knudtson Automotive Services
transportation services . 1,066.27
Krampitz, Marty, supplies . 235.00
LEA MOBILE GLASS, INC.
glass service 854.00
MARTIN BROTHERS
supplies 394.37
Mason City High School
Pinecrest 2,957.13
MENARDS, SUPPLIES 41.97
NORTH IOWA AREA COMM.
COLLEGE, CPR classes 119.00
NORTHWOOD ANCHOR
PUBLICATION 206.57
NORTHWOOD SANITATION
garbage 650.00
One Source Background Check
Company
background checks 73.50
ORIENTAL TRADING COMPANY, supplies 56.34
OVERHEAD DOOR CO. OF
MASON CITY
service 891.00
PERMA BOUND BOOKS
BOOKS 82.16
PLUMB SUPPLY COMPANY
SUPPLIES 218.10
RelayHub, LLC
Medicaid Billing 276.09
SCHILLING SUPPLY COMPANY, supplies 861.15
School Bus Sales
school bus 223.56
SCHUMACHER ELEVATOR
COMPANY, inspection 780.00
Security & Communication Professionals
security services 1,650.00
Southern Lock & Glass
lock services 969.75
St Ansgar Electric & Refrigeration, repairs 110.00
Staples Business Credit
supplies 639.53
Thofson Plumbing & Heating
repairs 80.00
TRADING POST, supplies 196.99
Trane US Inc, repairs 9,724.25
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
educational services 692.00
UPH St. Luke's Drug and Alcohol Testing, supplies 42.00
VISA, supplies 2,892.32
WINNEBAGO COOPERATIVE TELECOM ASSN
phone/internet service 854.46
WORTH COUNTY ENGINEER
diesel/gas 2,528.72
WORTH COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH, transit 18.00
Worth Lumber Company
supplies 1,132.25
Amazon Capital Services
SUPPLIES 457.12
Northwest Fitness
supplies 168.00
Checking Account ID 1 103,240.97
Amazon Capital Services
SUPPLIES 265.08
Amundson, Chelsea
reimbursement supplies 16.25
BSN Sports, uniforms 1,496.36
CLEAR LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, fee 150.00
DECKER SPORTING GOODS
supplies 728.00
Decorah High School, fee ... 100.00
Forest City Middle School
fee 10.00
HUSSKE, ANDREW
supplies 4,134.00
IOWA FCCLA, fee 55.00
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOC, fee 145.00
IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION, fee 106.00
IOWA STATE PEDAL PULL ASSOCIATION, fee 135.00
J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC.
supplies 65.69
JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS, INC, SUPPLIES 76.50
JJ's Hardware, supplies 158.55
Johnson, Alisha
reimbursement supplies .. 311.61
JOSTENS, INC.
supplies 2,778.47
Mason City High School
fee 175.00
N-K COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION
reimbursement 1,000.00
N-K GENERAL FUND
officials 414.44
Northwood Country Club
fee 500.00
Smalley, Jordan
reimb supplies 141.49
Sports Attack LLC
supplies 250.00
Travel Train, supplies 68.00
VISA, supplies 2,085.52
Checking Account ID 2 . 15,365.96
ACCESS SYSTEMS INC
copier lease 2,693.94
BusRight Inc, software . 14,700.00
Knudtson Automotive Services
transportation services . 6,921.59
NCI North Central International
Repairs 28,106.55
Checking Account ID 4 . 52,422.08
ANDERSON ERICKSON DAIRY
MILK 3,429.90
GlacierGrid Inc, monitor 13.21
GOODWIN TUCKER GROUP
repairs 363.45
MARTIN BROTHERS
Food/supplies 16,756.43
N-K GENERAL FUND
computer repair 402.00
PAN-O-GOLD BAKING CO
BREAD 724.60
VISA, registration 350.00
Checking Account ID 6 . 22,039.59

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed LAKE MILLS School Budget Summary
Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027

Location of Public Hearing: Library-Media Center, Lake Mills Community School District, 102 S 4th Ave E, Lake Mills, IA 50450	Date of Hearing: 04/13/2026	Time of Hearing: 05:00 PM

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 26/27 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Budget 2027	Re-est. 2026	Actual 2025	Avg % 25-27
Taxes Levied on Property	1	3,984,994	3,758,919	3,596,396	% 5.3
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	51,988	52,476	52,209	% -0.2
Income Surtaxes	3	228,054	64,208	36,070	% 151.4
Tuition\Transportation Received	4	613,000	754,000	601,313	
Earnings on Investments	5	85,725	146,500	179,309	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	161,000	157,571	155,483	
Student Activities and Sales	7	147,230	145,500	184,746	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	210,522	262,742	371,605	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	0	
State Foundation Aid	10	4,114,549	4,045,629	3,964,095	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	11,773	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	962,500	992,700	940,819	
Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement	13	62,125	62,125	60,481	
Title 1 Grants	14	85,000	85,500	79,300	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	534,000	530,028	462,931	
Total Revenues	16	11,252,460	11,057,898	10,684,757	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	0	0	
Transfers In	18	77,700	77,000	131,508	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	4,000	4,000	146,351	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	72,956	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	11,334,160	11,138,898	11,035,572	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	3,348,821	4,274,675	4,742,121	
Total Resources	23	14,682,981	15,413,573	15,777,693	
***Instruction**	24	6,908,000	6,717,500	6,480,440	% 3.2
Student Support Services	25	276,000	260,000	250,525	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	132,000	113,000	132,856	
General Administration	27	394,000	393,500	336,057	
School Administration	28	440,000	439,500	422,487	
Business & Central Administration	29	244,000	244,610	374,107	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	1,118,000	1,031,100	1,026,295	
Student Transportation	31	787,000	708,000	512,169	
***Total Support Services (lines 25-31)**	31A	3,391,000	3,189,710	3,054,496	% 5.4
***Noninstructional Programs**	32	550,000	530,859	458,892	% 9.5
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	33	1,073,000	1,278,000	1,020,233	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	34	77,700	77,000	116,888	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	35	222,490	194,683	240,303	
***Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)**	35A	1,373,190	1,549,683	1,377,424	% -0.2
Total Expenditures	36	12,222,190	11,987,752	11,371,252	
Transfers Out	37	77,700	77,000	131,508	
Other Uses	38	0	0	258	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	39	12,299,890	12,064,752	11,503,018	
Ending Fund Balance	40	2,383,091	3,348,821	4,274,675	
Total Requirements	41	14,682,981	15,413,573	15,777,693	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per $1,000 taxable valuation)		11.40433			

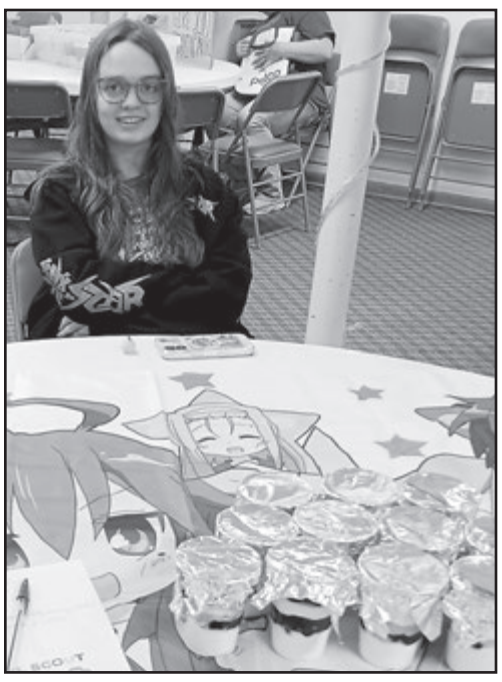
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed NORTHWOOD-KENSETT School Budget Summary
Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027

Location of Public Hearing: Administrative Office: 1496 480th St., Northwood, IA	Date of Hearing: 04/16/2026	Time of Hearing: 06:01 PM

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 26/27 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Budget 2027	Re-est. 2026	Actual 2025	Avg % 25-27
Taxes Levied on Property	1	4,198,651	3,800,221	3,714,976	% 6.3
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	71,048	72,008	20,261	% 87.3
Income Surtaxes	3	29,215	145,389	144,078	% -55.0
Tuition\Transportation Received	4	458,991	453,645	443,851	
Earnings on Investments	5	161,251	181,979	179,569	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	178,550	176,099	173,685	
Student Activities and Sales	7	141,410	140,852	140,303	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	1,190,351	1,385,489	961,726	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	0	
State Foundation Aid	10	3,883,224	3,402,385	3,662,631	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	10,786	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	784,143	782,540	760,711	
Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement	13	102,021	102,021	102,558	
Title 1 Grants	14	98,831	98,831	98,831	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	471,579	468,125	463,222	
Total Revenues	16	11,780,051	11,209,584	10,866,402	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	0	0	
Transfers In	18	455,716	449,213	442,807	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	3,708	3,708	3,708	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	14,754	14,536	14,321	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	12,254,229	11,677,041	11,327,238	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	5,295,202	5,865,703	6,048,646	
Total Resources	23	17,549,431	17,542,744	17,375,884	
***Instruction**	24	5,839,364	5,457,301	5,240,529	% 5.6
Student Support Services	25	280,590	257,818	246,705	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	731,838	696,049	541,858	
General Administration	27	381,071	360,288	347,679	
School Administration	28	550,762	502,409	476,275	
Business & Central Administration	29	271,042	253,873	242,843	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	977,336	944,629	920,911	
Student Transportation	31	514,621	502,397	487,236	
***Total Support Services (lines 25-31)**	31A	3,707,260	3,517,463	3,263,507	% 6.6
***Noninstructional Programs**	32	512,909	506,571	416,326	% 11.0
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	33	1,122,064	1,324,876	520,540	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	34	809,128	807,088	1,398,988	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	35	205,311	176,883	219,689	
***Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)**	35A	2,136,503	2,308,847	2,139,217	% -0.1
Total Expenditures	36	12,196,036	11,790,182	11,059,579	
Transfers Out	37	456,190	449,448	442,807	
Other Uses	38	7,957	7,912	7,795	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	39	12,660,183	12,247,542	11,510,181	
Ending Fund Balance	40	4,889,248	5,295,202	5,865,703	
Total Requirements	41	17,549,431	17,542,744	17,375,884	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per $1,000 taxable valuation)		11.58561			

















Cookie cooking competition

A unique baking competition was held on Sunday. Area Girl Scouts were invited to use Girl Scout Cookies in recipes. Winners of the competition included: Brownies- first place chocolate and fan favorite- Deidre R. and Juniors - first place chocolate and fan favorite- Clare W. In the Cadetters/Senior/Ambassadors competition, in Chocolate - first Place tie- Kaedyn C. and Sidney W., second place tie- Ava B. and Jenna S.; and third place Tie- Ali T.; Non-Chocolate - first Place- Teyla V., second place- Ava B., Jenna S. and Kaedyn C. and third place- Jenna S.; and Drinkable - first place - Teyla V., and second place- Ava B. Fan favorites included Sidney W. and Teyla V., first; Ava B. and Kaedyn C., second; and Jenna S. and Ali T.

Lake Mills Public Library

Lake Mills Public Library calendar of events for April.

• April 1 - Little Learners, 10:30 - 11 a.m.

• Community Helpers Month

April 1 - LM Fire Dept

April 8 - LMCS School Bus

April 15 - LM Police Dept.

April 22 - Jennie Knudtson, NP

April 29 - LM Ambulance

• April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - ATLAS, 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

• April 6 - Planes, Rockets & Drones ISU Extension Youth Program, 3:30 - 5 p.m.

• April 14, 28 - Book Delivery for Homebound

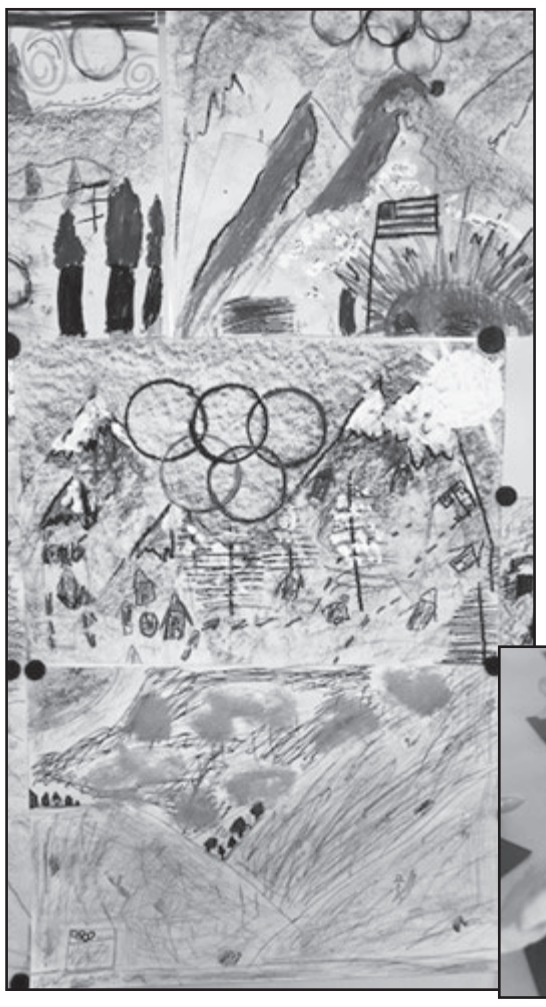
• April 16 - Silent Book Club, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

• April 19-25 - National Library Week

• April 21 - Party Palooza at LM Community Schools, 4-7 p.m.

• April 24 - Learn & Learn, Iowa Legal Aid Josh Gaul, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contact us at 102 S., Lake Mills, Iowa 50450, 641-592-0092 or email kim.brackey@lakemillsiowa.gov. Follow us on Facebook. Join us at the library!

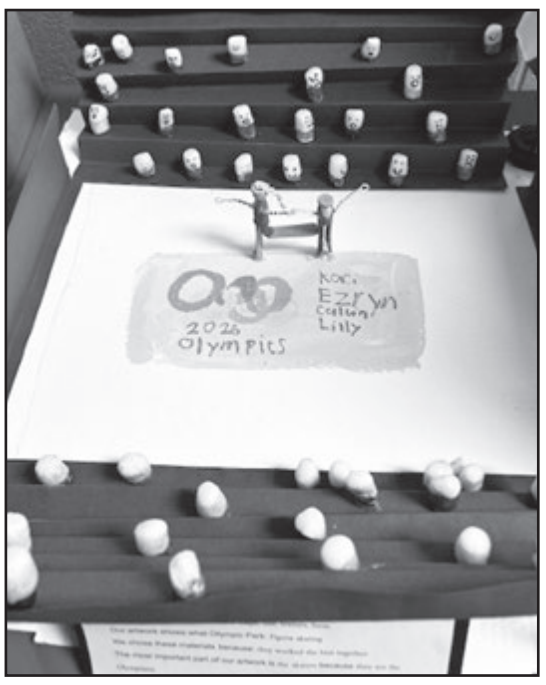












Gold medal art

An open house was held recently. On display in the new art room at Lake Mills schools were a number of artistic creations inspired by the recent Olympics. That included colored pencil scenes, recreations of the Olympic mascots, Olympic torches, gold medals and dioramas recreating Olympic events.

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THANK YOU

CARD OF THANKS: My 90th birthday celebration was amazing. Thank you to the friends and family who came with smiles, hugs and happy wishes. The many cards arriving in my mailbox are so appreciated. I am so grateful to my four wonderful daughters for having the party for me. It was a perfect beginning to another God-given year.

Leila Gangstad*

CARD OF THANKS: I would like to thank all of the guys who brought me back to Northwood to reminisce about all the wrestling and football memories.

Larry Fevold*

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Miscellaneous
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The Northwood Anchor

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2025 Mazda CX-50 Preferred AWD, 37k	$25,900
2023 Buick Encore GX AWD, 5k	$25,900
2023 Nissan Murano SV, 53k	$23,900
2022 Ford Edge SEL AWD, 60k	$22,900
2020 Chrysler Voyager LXI, 93k	$15,900
2019 Buick Envision Essence AWD, 47k	$20,900
2019 Chevy 1500 Reg. Cab RWD, 101k	$15,900
2018 Chrysler Pacifica Touring L, 87k	$17,900
2017 Buick Lacrosse Essence, 50k	$21,900
2017 Chrysler Pacifica, 65k	$15,900
2017 Buick Encore FWD, 72k	$12,900
2017 Chevy Impala LT, 191k	$7,995
2016 Toyota Prius V, 77k	$16,900
2016 GMC Terrain SLT AWD, 87k	$15,900
2015 Honda Odyssey EX-L, 104k	$16,900
2015 Subaru Outback Limited AWD, 118k	$12,900
2014 Buick Encore Leather AWD, 91k	$10,900
2014 GMC Terrain SLT-2 AWD, 90k	$10,900
2014 Buick Lacrosse Leather, 107k	$9,995
2014 Subaru Forester, 106k	$10,900
2013 Lexus RX 350 AWD, 135k	$15,900
2013 Lexus RX 350 AWD, 101k	$16,900
2013 Buick Lacrosse Leather, 100k	$9,995
2012 Nissan Altima 2.5 S, 113k	$5,500
2011 Chevy Impala LT, 101k	9,995
2011 Buick Regal CXL, 99k	$8,995
2008 Honda Odyssey EX-L, 119k	$11,900
2008 Honda CRV EX-L AWD, 113k	$11,900
2007 Buick Lucerne CXL, 78k	$9,995
2006 Toyota Avalon, 84k	$8,995
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Viking Ashlyn Skellenger races towards the finish line during Thursday's indoor meet in Clear Lake.



Viking Mia Fierova clears a hurdle at the North Iowa Indoor Championships held in Clear Lake on Thursday, March 26.

N-K girls track runs at Clear Lake

By Troy Einertson, Northwood-Kensett girls track coach

It is that time of the year again that I get to start writing for our wonderful Northwood Anchor! A big Thank You to Kris, Becky and Dawn for all that they do, and for letting me write these articles!

As you all probably know, track season is my favorite time of the year. XC is gaining momentum a little bit, but there still is nothing better than sitting at a track meet watching all of your kids compete after all of the hard work they have put in during practice. This year we have 23 girls running, jumping and throwing for us, and they have all put in a lot of hard work, not only in track practice, but in our new Speed/Agility work we have been doing in the morning.

The girls finally got to show how all of the work has paid off when we competed at the North Iowa Indoor Championships held in Clear Lake on March 26.

Competing against schools from Algona, Waverly-Shellrock, Clear Lake, Osage, St. Ansgar and others the girls more than held their own against some very tough competition.

Sophie Rye became my first high jumper to get a mark in the high jump by clearing 4'2". Because of the weather, we haven't been able to get over the bar much in practice, but she finally got some work in and after a whopping two days of work, she cleared the height on her third try! Sophie is one of the most coachable kids I have ever had, and after every jump we made some adjustments, and clearing the bar on her last jump was a testament to what a great kid she is!

Our shuttle hurdle team had our highest placement of the meet, placing third in a time of 42.83. Our team of True Hackenmiller, Ariah Bode, Mia Fierova and Maddie Christianson have been hitting the hurdles hard to start the season, and all of this work showed! This time is only two seconds off of the time our State Championship team ran at the State Indoor Meet two years ago, so it looks very promising for the future!

Our distance medley team also had a strong placing by finishing fourth. True, Mia and Maddie were joined by Ivy Urbatsch in running a very solid 4:40 to finish 4th. They ran the race by themselves for the final three legs, and I know if we would have had someone to run with, our time would have been extremely faster!

Ashlyn Skellenger, Lexi McHenry and Anna Block ran extremely well as well. All three of them have shown great leadership in the early part of the season, and they are setting a great example for all of our younger kids.

Other highlights were all of our freshmen stepping on the track for the first time.

Kenly Solbeg, Casey Gentz, Hixton Krambeer, Maggie Rye, Rylee Schoon, Lilly Strand and Chloe Woods joined Ivy and Maddie as my biggest freshmen class ever to run for me.

Bria Kluver and Miley White also ran their first high school race.

Every one of them did a tremendous job representing themselves and their school and it is going to be fun watching them all grow this year and years to come!

With every first there comes a last as well. Merrin Hanson has been running for me for five years now, and watching her grow as a runner is one of the highlights of my coaching career. She has endured a lot, worked extremely hard, and has become a very outstanding runner for our team. Merrin ran the open 400, and open 800 and ran a PR in the open 8. She exemplifies what is so good about running XC and track and field. Hard worker, great teammate and someone who never gives up no matter how hard it may be. This was her last indoor meet at Northwood-Kensett, but she will have plenty of others in years to come running at Upper Iowa!

All in all I would consider our indoor season a huge success. We learned a lot about ourselves, and it is going to be fun watching the kids hit the track for our outdoor season!

We are in St. Ansgar this week, and travel to West Hancock and Hampton the following week.



The third place shuttle hurdle team of True Hackenmiller, Maddie Christianson, Mia Fierova and Ariah Bode.



Viking Carson Tufte waits for the starter pistol during the Riverhawk Invitational in Mason City.



Viking Zach Heiken takes the baton from Henry Hanson a recent indoor meet in Mason City.



N-K All Star cheerleaders

Northwood-Kensett cheerleaders True Hackenmiller and Camryn Rheingans were recently recognized on the 2026 All-Star Games All-Tournament Cheer Squad, for their performance during the 2026 All Star Games. Hackenmiller (left) and Rheingans (right) are pictured with coach Cindy Byrne.

Vikings run at Decorah

By Julie Salisbury

The Northwood-Kensett Vikings boys track team traveled to Decorah on Friday, March 27, for an indoor meet.

In the field events, Alex Tiedemann placed fifth in the shotput with a throw of 45' 01.50". Max Johnson was 16th with a throw of 36' 06.25", Josh Leerar was 33rd with a throw of 25' 08.75" and Weston Helms was 34th with a throw of 25' 08.00. In the long jump, Hayzin Jacobson was 17th with a distance of 16' 06.75" and Henry Hanson was 21st with a distance of 16' 02.50".

In the 200 meter dash, Caden Davidson-Jacobs was 16th with a time of 28.71 and Tucker Duvall was 18th with a time of 29.75.

Aydan Schutz was ninth in the 400 meter run with a time of 1:04.53.

The 4x400 relay team placed fifth with a time of 4:00.00, no names were provided.

Zachary Heiken finished seventh in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:39.93 and was seventh in the 3200 meter with a time of 12:45.33.

The sprint medley team (no names provided) placed fourth with a time of 4:08.06.



Viking Gabe Aleman races towards the finishline during the Riverhawk Indoor Invitational.

