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The Northwood Anchor

20 Pages - 2 Sections | Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - No. 14 | Northwood, IA 50459

Briefs

Bolan hosts baked potato meal Sunday

Bolan Trinity UM Church will host a baked potato meal this Sunday, April 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Kittleson Brothers" potatoes, with a variety of toppings, homemade pies and coffee, milk or water will be available with a free will donation.

Meals are available for dine in or take out.

The church's address is 4214 Tulip Lane, Kensett. Those with questions may contact Linda Nydegger at 641-420-3048.

4-H'ers Share the Fun Sunday

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

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

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

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

Hippity-Hoppity

The Northwood Chamber of Commerce annual Easter Egg hunt took place Saturday at the Worth County Fairgrounds. Before the hunt began, young visitors had a chance to meet and take pictures with the Easter Bunny. There were 2,500 colorful Easter eggs hidden throughout the fairgrounds for different age groups. The Deer Creek Ribbon Takers and the Deer Creek Wohelos 4-H clubs helped place the eggs and assisted the bunny. Pictured at the left are the Easter Bunny and Bellamy Johnson, daughter of Tim and Alisha Johnson of Northwood.

Northwood/County law enforcement talks to continue

At their meeting on Monday, April 6, the Worth County supervisors revisited the possibility of continued law enforcement service with the City of Northwood.

Northwood mayor Doug Moehle and members of the city council attended the meeting. Moehle asked the supervisors to reconsider working on an agreement that would extend the Worth County Sheriff's Office as the provider for law enforcement needs in the city.

The supervisors signaled their willingness to look at a new agreement, with the acknowledgement that the price presented to the City would not be up for negotiation, but would reflect what it would cost for the County to provide the service.

City representatives at the meeting agreed that they would welcome a new proposal from the County to consider.

The supervisors

Law, see Page 2

Property taxes up 4.12% in Northwood budget

At the first meeting in April, the Northwood city council will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2027.

The budget reflects the total amount of money that the City plans to collect and spend in the coming fiscal year. This includes property taxes, utility bills, city fees and other incoming funds. It also reflects the money that the city will spend to maintain streets and infrastructure, to provide law enforcement, to administer housing programs and incentives, to run the City's water and sewer systems and all other services the City provides.

The City of Northwood's tax levy will decrease, as

City taxes, see Page 2

Property taxes to increase 10.48% in Northwood-Kensett budget

The Northwood-Kensett Board of Education will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on Thursday, April 16, to discuss the district's proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2027.

Property tax levies will decrease while property taxes to be collected will increase from the re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year.

Half of the equation used to determine property taxes is the property tax levy, which will decrease, according to the proposed district budget.

The proposed property tax rate for the coming fiscal year is $11.98561 per $1,000 of taxable valuation. That is a decrease of $0.0434 from the current year's tax levy of $12.02901.

The other half of the equation that determines the amount of property taxes the district will receive in the coming fiscal year is taxable valuations, which will increase.

The end result of the decreased levy and the increased valuations means an increase in taxes levied on property, from $3,800,221 for the current fiscal year, based on re-estimated figures. The budget for the coming fiscal year shows taxes levied on property totaling $4,198,651. That is an increase of $398,430, or 10.48%.

Total revenues and other sources of income for the

N-K taxes, see Page 2

YQCA trainings for fair exhibitors begin Saturday

Youth planning to show animals at the Worth County Fair can make sure they meet the requirements with YQCA training.

YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) certification is required for all 4-H and FFA members that plan to show animals at the Worth County Fair.

Worth County Extension will host instructor-led trainings on three dates, beginning this Saturday, April 11, at 1 p.m. Other trainings will take place on Tuesday, May 12, at 5 p.m. and on Wednesday, June 3, at 1 p.m.

The trainings will be held at the Worth County Fairgrounds Community

YQCA, see Page 2

MAYA JOHNSON
Career Investigation, Gold

NORA HANNA
Teach or Train, Bronze.

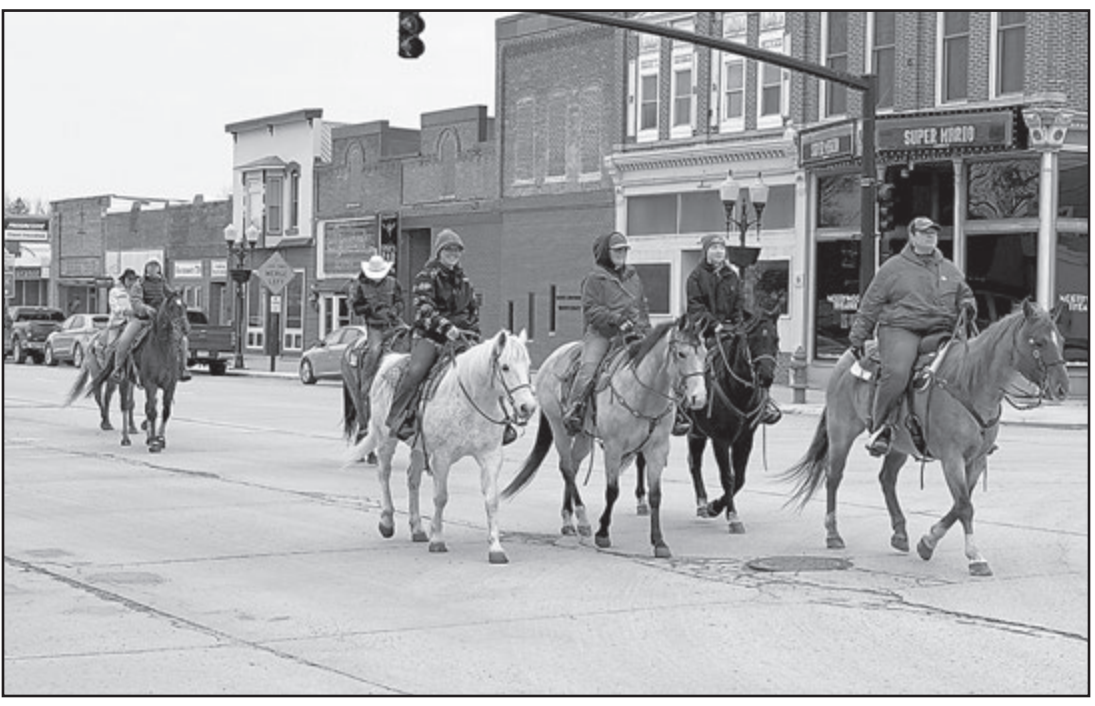
N-K FCCLA takes part in State Leadership Conference

Members of the Northwood-Kensett FCCLA chapter traveled to Cedar Rapids at the end of March to take part in the Iowa State Leadership Conference. Amongst the activities at the event were several events and competitions, and N-K students took home top spots in several. Maya Johnson, after winning gold in Career Investigation, qualified for the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in July. Quinn Schroeder (pictured holding the letter F above) earned a silver in Sports Nuntrition. Nora Hanna took a bronze in the Teach or Train. Olivia Urbatsch and Mia Helgeson took first place in Thematic Table Design, 1st place. Hadley Anderson and Kennedy Schoon took second place in Cake Decorating. Olivia Hodson placed third in Pride of Iowa, 3rd Place. Ivy Urbatsch took second place in Interior Design Sketch. See more results on page 2.

The Week's **WEATHER**
From National Weather Service information

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Mon. March 30	83	35	
Tues. March 31	59	38	
Wed. April 1	51	33	0.22
Thurs. April 2	40	34	0.61
Fri. April 3	38	32	0.76
Sat. April 4	41	33	0.01
Sun. April 5	58	30	0.01

Home Improvement — See Inside



A Good Friday for a good cause

The local Pony Express Riders group continued an annual Easter weekend tradition with their Good Friday morning ride. Departing from Northwood, the Pony Express riders traveled on horseback with donations they have collected over the year, along with donations collected on the way. Worth County Pony Express riders joined others throughout the state, ending up at Easter Seals Camp Sunnyside in Des Moines. The Camp provides summer camp experiences for people with disabilities and their families.

City Taxes
Cont. from Page 1

the amount budgeted for property tax revenue in the proposed budget increases, compared to re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year's budget.

In the proposed budget, the city will take in less than it will expend, decreasing the City's fund balance by June 30, 2026.

The City of Northwood's levy rate will decrease from $11.68248 per $1,000 of valuation during the current fiscal year to $11.27872 for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. That is a decrease of $0.40376 per $1,000 of taxable valuation.

The taxable valuation of property in the city, combined with the levy, determines the amount of property tax revenue the city receives in a fiscal year.

Re-estimated figures for the City's budget for the current fiscal year called for $805,480 in property taxes. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year includes property taxes levied of $838,639. That is an increase of $33,159, or 4.12%.

The largest source of revenue for the city comes in charges for fees and service. This includes water and sewer fees, along with garbage and transit charges. This category will increase $13,407, or 0.97% in the coming fiscal year, to $1,399,321.

When combined with other sources, the City of Northwood has budgeted for total revenue for the next fiscal year to be $4,659,311, which is a decrease of $113,423 or 2.38% over the current year's re-estimated budget revenues of $4,773,734.

The City's expenditures for the coming fiscal year are projected to increase, according to the proposed budget.

Expenditures in the proposed fiscal year budget will total $4,046,491, up $240,304 or 6.31% from $3,806,187 in the current fiscal year.

The City's proposed budget projects that at the start of the fiscal year, on July 1, 2026, the City of Northwood will have a beginning fund balance of $2,571,882. The budget shows an estimated ending fund balance on June 30, 2027, of $2,436,836. Over the course of the year, according to the coming fiscal year's proposed budget, the city will have a fund balance decrease of $135,046, or 5.25%.

The Northwood city council will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget at its regular meeting on Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m.

More on Northwood's proposed budget can be found in last week's Anchor. Budgets and other legal notices can also be found online at iowanotices.org.

N-K Taxes
Cont. from Page 1

district for the coming year will increase compared to total revenues for the current fiscal year.

Total revenues and other funding sources for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1 were budgeted at $12,254,229. Re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year show total revenues and other income of $11,677,041. That is a difference of $577,188, or 4.94%.

Total expenditures and other sources of spending will show an increase between the current and coming fiscal years.

The budget for the coming fiscal year includes total expenditures of $12,196,036. The re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year show total expenditures of $11,790,182. That is an increase of $405,854, or 3.44%.

The district's fund balance will decrease between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. The beginning fund balance for the coming fiscal year that begins on July 1, according to the proposed budget, will be $5,295,202 and the ending fund balance will be $4,889,248 on June 30, 2027. That is a decrease of $405,954, or 7.67%.

Re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year, which will end on June 30, 2026, show that the district's fund balance will have decreased from $5,865,703 on July 1, 2025, to the beginning fund balance mentioned above. That is a decrease of $570,501, or 9.73% over the course of the current fiscal year.

The public hearing for the coming fiscal year's budget will be held at the next regular meeting of the Northwood-Kensett Board of Education on Thursday, April 16, at 6 p.m.

More on N-K's proposed budget can be found in last week's Anchor. Budgets and other legal notices from local communities can be found online at iowanotices.org.

YQCA
Cont. from Page 1

Room.

Those taking the training can prepare with the pretest in the YQCA system. After training, young people log in to the post-test to receive a certificate of completion.

To register visit yqcaprogram.org.

Exhibitors showing horses, dogs and pets are not required to attend the training.

Those with questions or that need help registering for instructor-led or web-based YQCA trainings may contact the Worth County Extension office at 641-324-1531.

Swine weighed in

On Friday, March 6, the annual swine derby weigh-in was held. Youth in 4-H clubs and FFA chapters planning to show animals in the swine livestock show at the Worth County Fair brought in animals to be weighed and registered for the show. The weigh-in was held in the ag shop at Northwood-Kensett Middle/High School. A total of 34 animals were weighed.

FCCLA
Cont. from Page 1

Ivy Urbatsch - Interior Design Sketch, 2nd place

Olivia Hodson - Pride of Iowa, 3rd Place

Olivia Urbatsch and Mia Helgeson
Thematic Table Design, 1st place

Hadley Anderson and Kennedy Schoon
Cake Decorating, 2nd place

Law
Cont. from Page 1

planned to review figures and options with sheriff Jesse Luther, not only for Northwood's law enforcement coverage, but also for other Worth County communities. The goal is to make sure that the cities cover the costs of law enforcement, without the rest of the county covering any excess.

See more information in next week's issue.

April SPECIALS
Supreme Pizza for $18.99 in Kensett
We carry Premium 91 Octane Gas
16 pc. Chicken $30.80 in Northwood
Good through April 30, 2026
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ISU Extension and Outreach Week is April 6-11

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Week is April 6-11. With county extension offices, specialists and staff located in all 99 counties, ISU Extension and Outreach connects Iowans throughout the state with education and resources. This celebration thanks Iowans for their support.

County extension staff and extension council members will be showing their appreciation for the people who participate in local educational programs, as well as the many volunteers, community leaders, organizations, agencies and other partners who support extension work in their communities, said Andrea Welchans, assistant vice president for county services.

In Worth County, Extension programs and services are made possible by Teresa Butler, County Youth Coordinator; Emma Wagner, Office Manager; and Molly Benson, Clover Kids Program Coordinator. Amy Hunzelman is the regional director.

Serving on the Worth County Extension Council are chair Curt Schaub, Grafton; vice chair Sarah Hagen, Manly; secretary Jennifer Patterson, Northwood; treasurer Peter Julseth, Northwood; Brent Bjelland, Lake Mills; Chris Chodur, Northwood; Michelle Petznick, Northwood; Brenda Reicherts, Lake Mills; and Dennis Schipull, Northwood.

"ISU Extension and Outreach is here with you, in every county in the state, because learning happens where you are. You can find educational resources online and in your county – for you, your family, community, business or farm," Welchans said.

In FY25, 7,770 volunteers supported extension learning opportunities throughout the state, providing more than 241,000 volunteer hours, a $7.2 million benefit to Iowans.

Last year ISU Extension and Outreach held more than 10,000 educational events statewide and conducted more than 994,000 educational exchanges with Iowans through educational programming or by connecting them to ISU expertise and resources. In addition, participants in extension programs received more than 85,000 continuing education units or professional certifications.

More than 117,000 youth participated in 4-H youth development education during the September 2024 through August 2025 programming year.

In Worth County, according to an Extension Impact Report, in 2025, 573 youth were reached, there were at least 744 volunteer hours dedicated, with an estimated $22,275 in volunteer time.

ISU Extension and Outreach is part of the federal Cooperative Extension Service — a network of more than 100 land-grant institutions including Iowa State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, serving communities and counties across the United States. Every county in Iowa has an elected extension council that decides how to support ISU Extension and Outreach educational programs at the county level.

See extension's Real Impact 2025 Report to learn how ISU Extension and Outreach creates opportunity for Iowans. County impact reports also are available. The full Worth County impact report can be found online at https://www.extension.iastate.edu/worth/2025-worth-county-impact-report. For more information, visit the ISU Extension and Outreach website or contact a local ISU Extension and Outreach county office.

Representing Worth County Extension at the recent Family Fun Night in Grafton were (from left) 4-H'er Adylyn Peterson, County Youth Coordinator Teresa Butler and Clover Kids Program Coordinator Molly Benson.

French artist Vince Larue opens gallery in Northwood Friday

Vince Larue will unveil "Bare Dreams," a visionary new exhibition of pen and ink drawings, opening at Gallery 818 in downtown Northwood, this Friday, April 10, from 5-7 p.m.

Presented in partnership with Art Farm Iowa, the exhibition invites viewers to step into the surreal and sublime as Larue presents expressive figures, raw emotional textures and dreamstate narratives in his drawings.

Visiting Northwood from his home in Cherbourg, France, Larue has made numerous trips to the United States since 2012, resulting in his artwork being featured in graphic novels, on posters and in exhibitions.

It was during a trip to Phoenix that Vince met Steve Hanson of Art Farm Iowa, and the two have been friends ever since.

"Bare Dreams" explores vulnerability, longing and the thin veil between waking life and imagination, offering a personal encounter with the stories we hold beneath the surface. Larue's drawings are inspired by life and music.

"'Bare Dreams' is about stripping away the noise and confronting what remains," said Larue. "Working in black pen and ink is a discipline. It sharpens intention and leaves no room for hesitation."

This exhibition continues Art Farm Iowa's mission to cultivate contemporary artistic dialogue in rural communities.

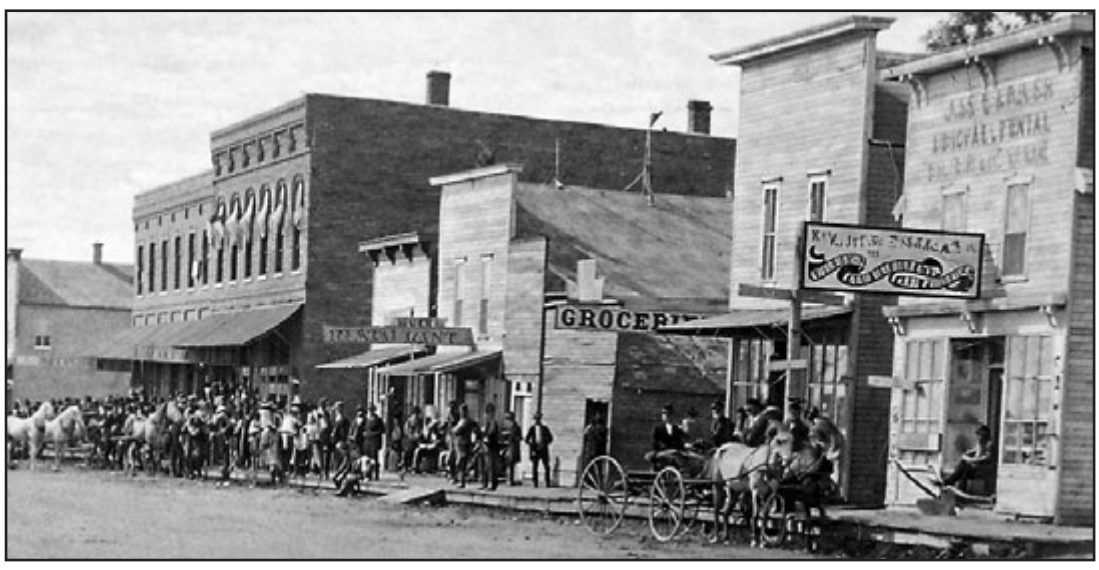
By supporting artists like Larue, Art Farm Iowa fosters access to cultural experiences in North Iowa and beyond.

An opening reception will be held at Gallery 818, welcoming the public to meet the artist and experience the exhibition firsthand.

"Bare Dreams" will be on view until May 31.

The opening reception will be held this Friday, April 10, from 5-7 p.m. at Gallery 818, 818 Central Avenue.

More information is available by contacting Steve Hanson at 602-430-7246 or Jane Podgorniak at 641-390-0003 or by visiting the Art Farm Iowa website.



Looking west

This picture was recently shared on the Worth County Iowa History and Interesting Tidbits, Pictures and Thoughts Facebook page. The image was taken from the south side of what is now Central Avenue, facing west. According to Tom Stevens, who shared the picture, the only of the buildings still standing is the one second from the right, which is the current Tequila's Mexican Bar & Grill. The brick buildings on the west end of the block burned in the 1870s and were replaced by the similar looking buildings, which remain in place today.

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Northwood City Clean Up Days
April 23-25
The City of Northwood will provide Dumpsters for Northwood Residents to Discard Unwanted Items at the Northwood City Yard
Located at 1611 Central Avenue
Open Thursday, April 23 from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Open Friday, April 24 from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
The City does NOT authorize the public to remove discarded items from the dumpsters.
RULES: Regular day-to-day garbage will not be accepted.
Following items will NOT be accepted: Computers & Accessories; Construction Debris; Tires; Batteries; Paint; Hazardous & Flammable Items; Fluorescent tubes/bulbs.
Appliances will be accepted with the purchase of a $20 sticker sold at City Hall.

Iowa's Low-Income Telephone & Broadband Assistance Programs
Programs are available in Iowa offering discounted phone and Broadband service if a subscriber or member of the subscriber's household meets certain qualifying criteria. This program is also called "Lifeline".
An application must be completed along with proof of participation in one of the qualifying programs and sent to Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association.
The Low-Income program offers discounts of up to $9.25 per month depending on the rate of your local phone company. See Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association for an application form.
Qualifying Criteria for Low-Income Program
An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:
• Federal Public Housing Assistance
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
• Medicaid
• Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
• Tribal Programs
• Veterans & Survivors Pension Benefit
In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. You may only receive low-income assistance from one wireline or wireless telephone, or one broadband service provider per household. See Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association at 704 East Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450 (800-592-6105) for Iowa guidelines.
WCTA
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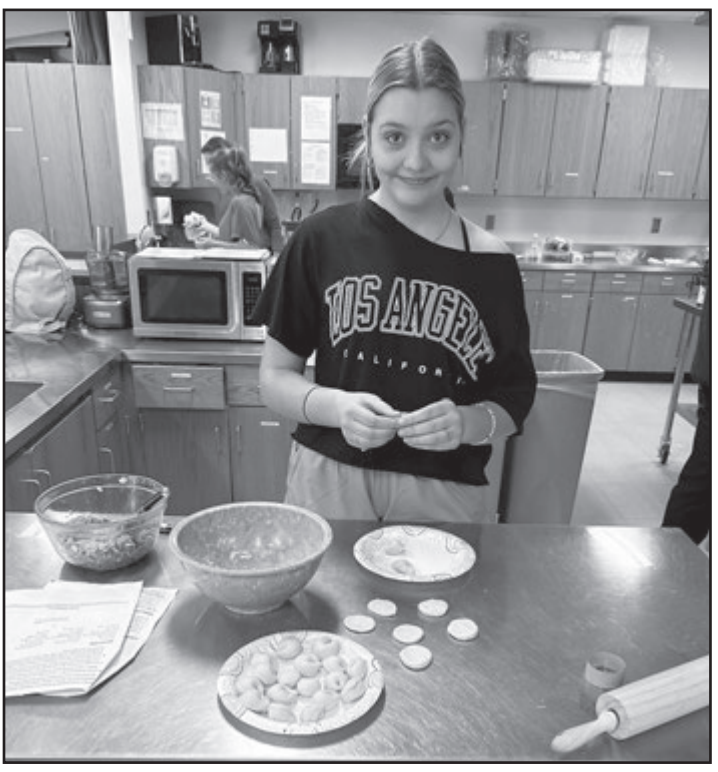
Northwood Anchor **Northwood**



News from N-K

Council represents, celebrates students

By Samantha Hunt, Student Council advisor

The Northwood-Kensett Student Council has been very busy throughout the school year!

Their job is to be representatives of the student body to continue improving the school culture. They do this by voicing student concerns and working together with administration to solve problems.

The Student Council also puts on events for the student body throughout the school year along with volunteering their time in local organizations.

Many of the activities they have been involved in this school year include the Homecoming coronation/parade/dance, Salvation Army Toys for Tots drive, Winter Formal dance/bingo, Easter Egg-Stravaganza, and the Feed My Starving Children event.

This April they will be attending a conference for Student Council members in our area to continue growing their leadership skills.

The Student Council members for the 2025-2026 school year include:

Seniors: Merrin Hanson, Lauren Petznick, Camryn Rheingans, Sophie Rye, Weston Willand

Juniors: Lexis McHenry, Landen Nelson, Ashlyn Skellenger, Kinley Stambaugh

Sophomores: True Hackenmiller, Maya Johnson, Mia Fierova, Maci Smith

Freshmen: Owen Binnebose, Henry Hanson, Kenly Solberg, Ivy Urbatsch

Advisor: Samantha Hunt

Foods from around the world

Students in the Foods class at Northwood-Kensett High School have continued learning, cooking and tasting foods from around the world. Recent stops on their culinary travels took them to Russia, making pelmeni, a dumpling dish. From Italy they learned about how to make their own noodles.

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People's Right to Know

Lake Mills School

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors
Lake Mills Community
School District
March 30, 2026

Public hearing number one for fiscal year 2027 proposed property tax levy:

President Ryan Joynt called the special meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. in the Library–Media Center at 102 South 4th Avenue East, Lake Mills, Iowa, and determined a quorum. The following board members were present: President Ryan Joynt, Jolene Helgeson, and Kristin Wempen. Vice President Kari Osheim and Jake Thompson were absent. Others present included Superintendent Chris Rogne, Board Secretary Drake Abbey, and a guest.

Agenda:

Wempen moved to approve the agenda. Helgeson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Opening statement:

Joynt made an opening statement and explained the purpose of the public hearing. This hearing meets the requirements of Iowa Code section 24.2A for the proposed 2026-2027 property tax levy. This is the hearing at which the board of directors shall receive oral or written testimony from any resident or property owner of the school district. The notice mailed to each property owner shows the maximum total property taxes that the district will adopt as part of its 2026-2027 certified budget.

Presentation of 2026-2027 proposed property tax levy:

Mr. Rogne presented information on the proposed property tax levy for 2026-2027. The proposal includes a total property tax levy of $3,995,308 with a levy rate of $11.44509 per $1,000 of taxable valuation. He answered questions from the guest in attendance with assistance from Mr. Abbey and members of the board. No one filed any written comments.

Adjournment:

Wempen moved to adjourn the meeting. Helgeson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 5:16 P.M.

Ryan Joynt, Board President
Drake Abbey, Board Secretary

Supervisors

March 30, 2026
Fourteenth 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 23, 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Loberg to approve spray bid submitted by TBB Spraying for 2026 for a total of $17,350. Aye – Stone, Loberg. Smeby abstained. Motion carried. B & W Control Specialists, Inc. was the other bidder at $22,450. Bids are available for review at the auditor's office.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve DD #72 work order submitted by Steven Rachut. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve claims in the amount of $9,985.64 per the following schedule. Motion carried.

Alliant Energy
Service-Eng 8,457.21
Black Hills Energy Inc
Service-Eng 1,490.16
Vestis, Service-Eng 13.77
Visa, Service-Phd 24.50
Grand Total 9,985.64

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve the Class C Retail Alcohol License renewal for Diamond Jo Worth LLC, D/B/A Diamond Jo Worth Casino. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to set the FY27 Proposed Budget Public Hearing date of April 20, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried.

Chairperson Loberg recessed the regular session at 9:00 A.M.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to open the Public Hearing and Contract Award (342nd/Fir Ave). Motion carried. County Engineer Rich Brumm explained the project. There was no public comment.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to close the public hearing at 9:04 A.M. Motion carried.

Chairperson Loberg reconvened the regular session at 9:04 A.M.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve Resolution No. 2026-09 Approval of the Fir Avenue Paving Project and County Engineer Authorization to Sign Contract Document in Doc Express. AYES – Smeby, Stone, Loberg. Motion carried. (Full text of resolution available in auditor's office).

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to adjourn at 9:06 A.M. Motion carried.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Enos Loberg, Chairperson

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

City of: LAKE MILLS

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: Lake Mills City Hall 200 N 1st Ave W Meeting Date: 4/20/2026 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 13.81857

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) 592-3251

City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME Diane Price

		Budget FY 2027	Re-estimated FY 2026	Actual FY 2025
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	657,512	675,358	748,434
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	657,512	675,358	748,434
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	1,202,865	1,060,864	1,075,557
Other City Taxes	6	300,989	281,127	280,276
Licenses & Permits	7	5,050	5,200	5,885
Use of Money and Property	8	773,000	860,000	912,532
Intergovernmental	9	365,817	377,460	393,771
Charges for Fees & Service	10	3,563,400	3,743,215	3,465,077
Special Assessments	11	0	0	58,071
Miscellaneous	12	65,747	82,914	384,329
Other Financing Sources	13	0	0	120,095
Transfers In	14	1,416,108	1,227,447	1,502,642
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	8,350,488	8,313,585	8,946,669
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	1,003,443	887,267	916,411
Public Works	17	636,785	783,985	532,413
Health and Social Services	18	0	0	0
Culture and Recreation	19	792,823	598,989	727,527
Community and Economic Development	20	177,794	102,768	160,327
General Government	21	134,445	141,377	144,218
Debt Service	22	0	0	0
Capital Projects	23	0	0	484,836
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	2,745,290	2,514,386	2,965,732
Business Type / Enterprises	25	8,355,174	8,199,176	3,788,222
Total ALL Expenditures	26	11,100,464	10,713,562	6,753,954
Transfers Out	27	1,416,108	1,227,447	1,502,642
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	12,516,572	11,941,009	8,256,596
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	-4,166,084	-3,627,424	690,073
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	15,151,289	18,778,713	18,088,640
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	10,985,205	15,151,289	18,778,713

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

City of: JOICE

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: Joice City Hall 102 N State Street Joice, IA 50446 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 11.71662

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) 583-2879

City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME Wendy Lunsing

		Budget FY 2027	Re-estimated FY 2026	Actual FY 2025
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	137,187	138,780	150,610
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	137,187	138,780	150,610
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	93,238	78,742	78,713
Other City Taxes	6	33,871	33,931	32,633
Licenses & Permits	7	100	100	50
Use of Money and Property	8	18,918	19,043	18,497
Intergovernmental	9	63,760	61,494	71,230
Charges for Fees & Service	10	123,462	121,608	116,623
Special Assessments	11	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	38,625	37,325	282,148
Other Financing Sources	13	0	0	0
Transfers In	14	93,238	72,901	196,912
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	602,399	563,924	947,416
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	9,572	9,156	13,186
Public Works	17	48,190	90,673	147,773
Health and Social Services	18	2,720	60	759
Culture and Recreation	19	82,170	82,158	100,413
Community and Economic Development	20	350	6,284	20,171
General Government	21	89,547	80,943	198,640
Debt Service	22	98,700	95,900	0
Capital Projects	23	0	0	0
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	331,249	365,174	480,942
Business Type / Enterprises	25	109,935	101,406	239,433
Total ALL Expenditures	26	441,184	466,580	720,375
Transfers Out	27	93,238	72,901	196,912
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	534,422	539,481	917,287
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	67,977	24,443	30,129
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	742,095	717,652	687,523
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	810,072	742,095	717,652

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET
Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027
County Name: WORTH COUNTY County Number: 98

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/20/2026 Meeting Time: 09:00 AM Meeting Location: Board of Supervisors' Room, Worth County Courthouse, 1000 Central Ave, Northwood
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 County Auditor. A copy of the supporting detail will be furnished upon request.
County budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals
Average annual percentage changes between "Actual" and "Budget" amounts for "Taxes Levied on Property", "Other County Taxes/ TIF Tax Revenues", and for each of the ten "Expenditure Classes" must be published. Expenditure classes proposing "Budget"amounts, but having no "Actual" amounts, are designated "NEW".

County Website (if available) worthcountyiowa.gov

County Telephone Number (641) 324-2316

		Budget 2026/2027	Re-Est 2025/2026	Actual 2024/2025	AVG Annual % CHG
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
Taxes Levied on Property	1	6,913,099	6,878,367	7,146,763	-1.65
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	54,033	50,676	54,033	
Less: Credits to Taxpayers	3	514,684	445,610	514,684	
Net Current Property Taxes	4	6,344,382	6,382,081	6,578,046	
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	5	6,327	1,322	6,327	
Penalties, Interest & Costs on Taxes	6	28,304	23,254	28,304	
Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues	7	4,911,143	4,802,156	4,700,116	2.22
Intergovernmental	8	4,819,546	4,662,794	4,694,633	
Licenses & Permits	9	54,689	39,912	54,689	
Charges for Service	10	362,457	320,421	362,457	
Use of Money & Property	11	1,423,627	788,669	1,423,627	
Miscellaneous	12	0	0	920,534	
Subtotal Revenues	13	17,950,475	17,020,609	18,768,733	
Other Financing Sources:					
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	14	0	4,825,000	0	
Operating Transfers In	15	2,436,583	2,028,847	3,272,146	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Sales	16	70,750	0	70,750	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	17	20,457,808	23,874,456	22,111,629	
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES					
Operating:					
Public Safety and Legal Services	18	3,223,643	3,005,106	2,777,249	7.74
Physical Health and Social Services	19	1,151,890	1,160,888	1,029,363	5.78
County Environment and Education	21	1,482,044	1,470,365	1,033,321	19.76
Roads & Transportation	22	5,525,171	5,574,573	4,569,178	9.96
Government Services to Residents	23	589,432	588,104	566,991	1.96
Administration	24	2,417,961	2,447,783	2,587,376	-3.33
Nonprogram Current	25	0	0	0	
Debt Service	26	3,352,650	860,450	862,500	97.16
Capital Projects	27	7,597,057	7,383,051	449,570	311.08
Subtotal Expenditures	28	25,339,848	22,490,320	13,875,548	
Other Financing Uses:					
Operating Transfers Out	29	2,436,583	2,028,847	3,272,146	
Refunded Debt/Payments to Escrow	30	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures & Other Uses	31	27,776,431	24,519,167	17,147,694	
Excess of Revenues & Other Sources					
over (under) Expenditures & Other Uses	32	-7,318,623	-644,711	4,963,935	
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1,	33	21,588,681	22,233,392	17,269,457	
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves (GAAP Budgeting)	34	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Nonspendable	35	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Restricted	36	10,531,623	13,257,870	17,211,326	
Fund Balance - Committed	37	2,087,787	1,469,025	757,308	
Fund Balance - Assigned	38	0	0	0	
Fund Balance - Unassigned	39	1,650,648	6,861,786	4,264,758	
Total Ending Fund Balance - June 30,	40	14,270,058	21,588,681	22,233,392	

Proposed property taxation by type:	Proposed tax rates per $1,000 taxable valuation:
Countywide Levies*: 5,101,996	Urban Areas: 6.25000
Rural Only Levies*: 1,811,103	Rural Areas: 9.02594
Special District Levies*: 0	Any special district tax rates not included.
TIF Tax Revenues: 3,064,099	
Utility Replacement Excise Tax: 161,084	

Explanation of any significant items in the budget or additional virtual meeting information:

Legal

Northwood Anchor

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

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

Family Fun Nights in Grafton and Joice

Worth County Public Health recently held two nights dedicated to information and recreation. That included two Family Fun Nights, one in Grafton on March 25 and in Joice last week on April 1. At each event, groups and organizations serving and providing resources for families shared information on the services they offered, as well as bringing games and giveaways. Local groups also offered activities and experiences at each location. More Family Fun Night events are planned for other Worth County communities.

Green Thumb Garden Club meets on Mar. 23

The Green Thumb Garden Club met on Monday, March 23 at Mary Reyerson-Low's home. Theresa Cooper, President, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and the conservation pledge.

Twelve members answered the roll call question "What's a plant you'd love to grow but haven't tried yet?" Theresa shared two miniature arrangements. Penny Robb, Secretary, read the February minutes. Julie Robb moved the minutes to be approved as read, Peter Julseth seconded and all approved. Julie Robb,Treasurer, provided the treasurers report.

The Horticulture committee provided more details on this year's fundraiser and club members signed up to bring door prizes, sweet treats, coffee, and work the event. The Fun in the Sun Plant and Treasures sale will be Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Floral Hall at the Worth County fairgrounds. Members will provide plants from their gardens and gently used treasures from their homes and gardens.

Mary and Karen Davidson provided the final updates to the flower show schedule.

Theresa shared details on co-hosting the District meeting on Friday, April 24. Club members signed up to bring coffee cake and will also donate items to the Ways and Means table. Also in April various club members have volunteered to help with the Fairy Garden workshops being hosted by the Extension Office on April 27 and 30th.

Jean VanVeldhuizen moved the meeting to be adjourned, Cheryl Nitcher seconded, all approved.

Mary had a program on daffodils, with many bouquets throughout her home. A delicious lunch with plenty of Easter references was enjoyed by everyone.

The next meeting is April 27 at 1:30 p.m. at Penny Robb's home. Penny will be the hostess, meditation or arrangement by Mary and program by Penny. If you would like to visit the April meeting please let Penny, 641-390-0895 know you will join us.

Penny Robb

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., Confirmation at Bethlehem, 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, Grace Clean-up Day starting at 9 a.m.; Sunday, Bethlehem Worship, 9 a.m., Bethlehem Sunday School, 10:15 a.m., Grace Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Bethlehem Council, 6:30 p.m.
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church/Elk Creek Lutheran
Thursday, Manna, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, B-Share Shoppe, 9 a.m. - Noon; Sunday, Elk Creek, 9 a.m., Bethany, 10:30 a.m.; Monday, Manna, 10 a.m. - Noon; Tuesday, Bethany Council, 9:30 a.m.
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

Trinity United Methodist, Bolan
Thursday, Set up for Baked Potato Luncheon, 9 a.m.; Sunday, Worship Services, 9:15 a.m., Baptism of Addison Elizabeth Kilbourn, Coffee Fellowship, 10 a.m., Baked Potato & Pie Luncheon, 11 a.m. - 1 p.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.; Sunday, Bethel Worship, 8 a.m., Trinity Worship, 9:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., Bethel Worship, 10:30 a.m., Potato Bake at Trinity, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Pastor at Care Center, 10 a.m., Ruby's Pantry

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, Confirmation, 4 p.m., Inspire, 6:15 p.m., Choir, SH Youth, 7 p.m.; Thursday, Quilting, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Group, 9 a.m., Cub Scouts, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Easter 2 Service, 9 a.m., DCV, 10:30 a.m., JH Youth, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Staff Meeting, 1 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

WORTH COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS
99 B 9th Street North • Northwood, Iowa
Tues. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Wed. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. / Thurs. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
641-324-0480
Please call to confirm that your Veterans Service Officer is available.
An effort will be made to accommodate your schedule.
Mark your calendar: ROLL CALL X Saturday, November 7, 2026
Bring your damaged or unserviceable flags to the Veterans Affairs office.
There will be a dignified disposal on Sunday, June 14 - Flag Day

WORTH Lumber Co
BUILDING SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS
Mon. - Fri.
7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat.
Closed
www.WorthLumber.com
info@Worth Lumber.com
706 8th St. North • Northwood • 641-324-0117

SHOP LOCALLY

Northwood Theatre
Show Times
Fri., Sat., Mon. 7 p.m.
Sun. 4 p.m.
SHOWING
April 10-13
"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie"
Rated PG
COMING
April 17-20
"Project Hail Mary"
Rated PG-13
740 Central Ave. • 324-0064
Adults $5
Students (18 & Under) $3
2 & Under Free
Monday Madness: Free popcorn when you bring your own container

Northwood Anchor
We can print your black & white or color copies.
Call for more details
324-1051

Signature's Supper Club
Only Open Friday Night!
Bacon Cheeseburger & Wedges
$9
Make your Reservations Now!
324-1052

Tequila's
Open for Dine-In
Daily Specials
Monday - Closed
Tuesday - Pollo Loco
Wednesday - Shrimp Burrito
Thursday
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Friday - Enchilada
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Wednesday: Tator Tot Casserole, Whole Wheat Bread, Lettuce/Romaine Salad, Fruit

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Visiting Graves

Last summer during a family reunion my parents, my brothers, and my sister and I, along with the children and in-laws, took a short excursion to the cemetery to visit some family gravesites. My parents grew up in the same small town, and all four of my grandparents' graves are there, as well as the plots of extended family. All of my grandparents, and all of their siblings (my great aunts and uncles), are now gone, and so there is no denying the fact that my parents' generation will be the next to "make the journey home," as it were. When my paternal grandfather died, I distinctly remember having the realization of how important it was for there to be an afterlife, because I really wanted to see him again. As we get older and lose more of our family we realize that we have family in two different realms, the here and the hereafter. None of us knows exactly what awaits us after death. That is just not part of the cosmic plan. Going to the family graves, especially in the company of your family, with all of the generations present, confirms that life does indeed go on, and provides hope and comfort that those who have gone before us await our homecoming. – Christopher Simon

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" – John 14:1-2

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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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

First Lutheran Church in Northwood, Iowa was established in 1859. It is still an active congregation in our small town of about 2,000 people. To celebrate the 125th anniversary the Friends of First Lutheran produced "Our Heritage Cookbook" (Anchor Publishing Co, Inc. Northwood, Iowa). I have a well-used copy of this book in my vintage collection. It has food splashed on the pages, corners turned down and a note now and then. It's was certainly loved by the former owner. The following recipes are all proudly signed by the contributors and we all know that people don't enter a bad recipe in a hometown cookbook!

Applesauce Chocolate Chip Cake
(Lillian Nystuen)

1/2 cup shortening
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
2 eggs, beaten
2 cups applesauce
2 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons cocoa
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon allspice
Icing:
1/2 cup chopped nuts
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 small package chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Cream together the shortening, eggs and sugar. Add the applesauce. Sift the dry ingredients together. In a large bowl, alternate add the applesauce mixture and the dry ingredients. Mix together the icing ingredients. Pour the batter into a sprayed 9x13-inch baking pan. Spread the icing ingredients over the top. Bake for 40 minutes or until it tests as done with a wooden toothpick.

Swedish Ham Balls in Brown Sauce
(Connie Estes)

1 pound ground ham
1 1/2 pounds ground pork
2 cups bread or cracker crumbs
2 well-beaten eggs
1 cup milk
Sauce:
1 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1/2 cup vinegar
1/2 cup water

Mix ham, pork, eggs and milk. Form into 40 medium balls. Put into a 9x13-inch baking pan. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Combine the sauce ingredients; stir until dissolved. Pour over the ham balls and bake for 1 hour. Baste if necessary while baking. SANDY'S NOTE: I think I would double the sauce recipe for 40 meatballs. That will provide enough sauce to top a starch (rice, noodles, potatoes) to go with the meat.

Egg Casserole
(Anne Stevens)

12 eggs
1/2 teaspoon dill weed
1/2 cup milk
8 oz. cream cheese, soft
1 teaspoon salt
1 can shrimp or crab meat
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup real butter
Paprika

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Heat the butter in an 9x8-inch baking pan. Beat the eggs, milk, salt, pepper and dill weed until fluffy. Stir in the crab or shrimp and cream cheese. Pour into the baking dish, sprinkle with paprika and bake for 20-25 minutes. Serves 8. SANDY'S NOTE: cream cheese often doesn't blend in well unless it's been softened and beaten first. Use Philly brand for best results; it's the creamiest. The soft type, in a tub rather than a block, is a good alternative as long as you have the full 8 ounces called for in this recipe. Since it already has air beaten into it, you might need an additional ounce or so.

Salmon Paddies
(Kathy Thrond)

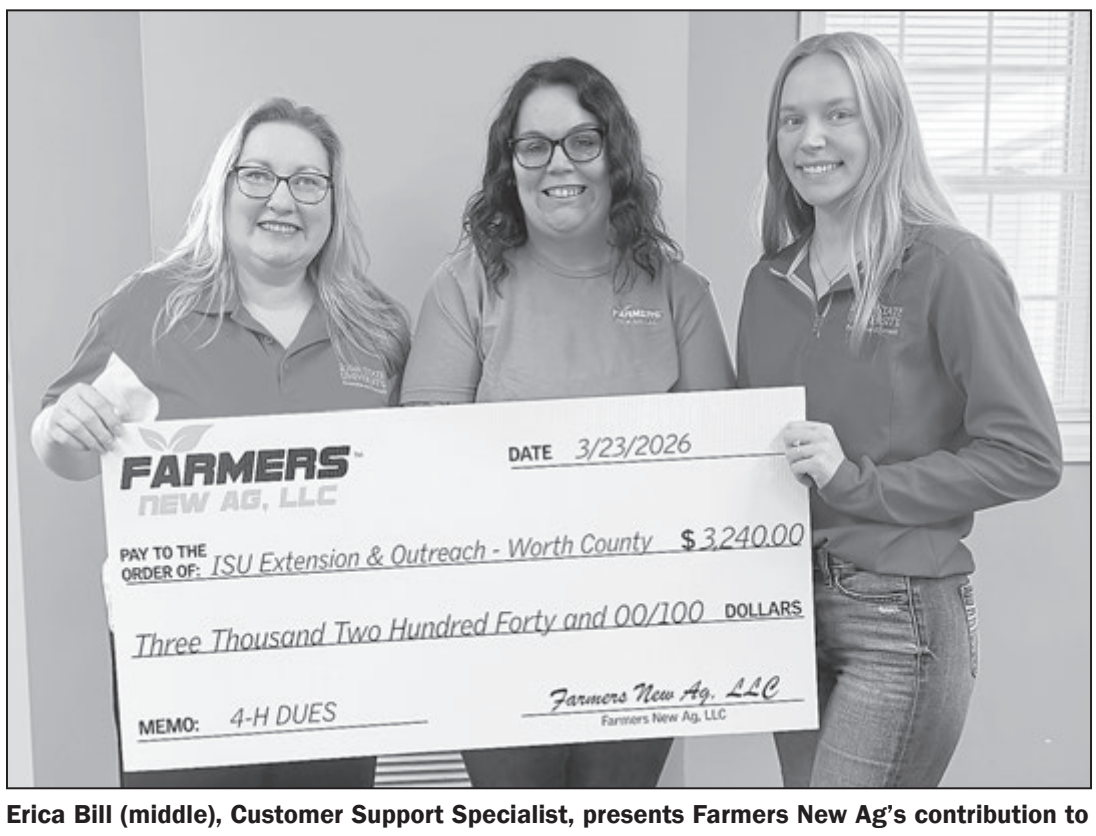
1 can salmon, chopped fine
2 eggs, beaten
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 cup milk
Mix all ingredients well and fry until brown on both sides.

I know I sound like a broken record (which few people under 30 will understand) but good cooking, delicious recipes and a groaning table will never go out of style. This cookbook from 1984 proves my point! And….that's all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society

Easter bunny visits LRH

The Lutheran Retirement Home welcomed a festive visitor recently, as the Easter Bunny stopped by. The Lutheran Retirement residents loved getting to say hello, share a few laughs and snap some photos with the fuzzy friend. "It was such a treat to have the bunny wandering the halls and bringing an extra dose of holiday cheer to everyone."



Erica Bill (middle), Customer Support Specialist, presents Farmers New Ag's contribution to decrease the cost of 4-H dues to Teresa Butler (left), Worth County Extension and Outreach Youth Coordinator, and Emma Wagner, Worth County Extension and Outreach Office Manager.

Farmers New Ag, LLC. donates to local 4-H Clubs

Farmers New Ag, LLC continued its commitment to supporting local 4-H youth, recently with a donation of $13,660 to four county Extension and Outreach offices, benefiting 683 individual 4-H members.

This contribution helps cover half of each member's 4-H dues within Farmers New Ag's trade territory, including Floyd, Howard, Mitchell and Worth counties.

"Farmers New Ag takes great pride in supporting youth through local 4-H programs," said Erica Bill, Customer Support Specialist. "We strongly believe 4-H plays a vital role in building the foundation for future leaders in our communities."

Statewide Hands-Free Traffic Enforcement Project

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and it's time to turn awareness into action.

The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) is partnering with the Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force (CITSTF), and law enforcement across the state April 6-10 to enforce Iowa's Hands-Free Driving Law. The goal of this project is to educate drivers about the importance of driving distraction-free and to help drivers comply with the law going forward.

Iowa's Hands-Free Driving Law went into effect with a warning period on July 1, 2025, and citations began being issued by law enforcement on January 1, 2026. Since January 1, 2026, over 2,400 citations and over 1,900 warnings have been issued.

The law prohibits the use of electronic devices beyond a single touch while driving unless they are used in a hands-free mode. The passing of this law is a key factor that contributed to the historic low number of traffic fatalities recorded in 2025.

With so many ways to go hands-free, there's a solution for every device and every vehicle. Some of the options to go hands-free include using voice commands, speaker phone, AUX cords, Bluetooth, or phone mounts.

Now a moving violation in Iowa, penalties for violating this law (Iowa Code 321.276) include a fine of $170.

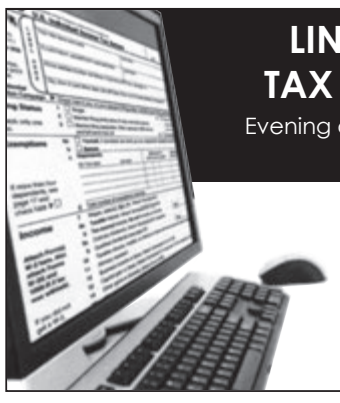
"By enforcing this law and bringing awareness to the dangers of distracted driving, we hope to save lives and increase safety on Iowa roads."

The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau works with city, county, state and local organizations to develop and implement strategies to reduce death and injury on Iowa roads using federally funded grants.

Bolan _____

Scott and Lori Willert hosted Easter dinner at their home on Sunday. Those able to come were Kelsie Willert and Reese Drenth of Ames, Joe and Linda Nydegger and Cole Willert.

On Sunday, April 12 keep in mind the Trinity UMC of Bolan hosting the Baked Potato Bar and Pie Lunch starting at 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. This is a "Dine In or Take Out" event. You are invited to attend the 9:15 a.m. Worship Service and coffee fellowship at 10 a.m.



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4214 Tulip Lane (Downtown Bolan), Kensett, IA
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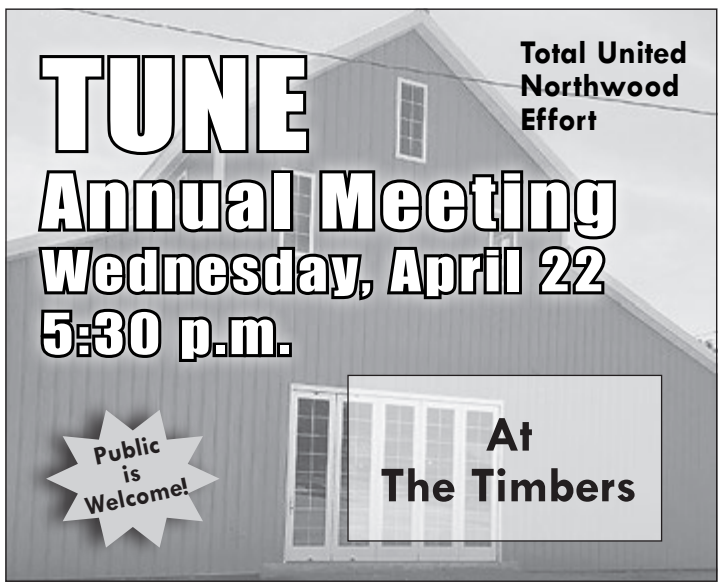
For questions call Linda Nydegger, 641-420-3048



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Northwood Anchor **Opinion**

Savvy Senior

Low-cost smartphone plans for budget-minded seniors

By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the absolute lowest-cost smartphone plans for seniors who mainly talk and text but need a little cellular data for email and occasional use? I'm currently paying $40 a month and hoping to cut that down.

--Looking to Save

Dear Looking,

You're asking a smart question. Many seniors pay far more for smartphone service than they actually use. If most of your phone activity is calls, texts, email, and light web browsing, there's usually no need to spend $40 or more a month. The good news: plenty of low-cost carriers now cater to light users who want reliable service without the extra cost.

The cheapest plans today mostly come from mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) – smaller carriers that lease coverage from major networks like T-Mobile, Verizon, and AT&T. Because they don't run their own towers, MVNOs can offer basic service for a fraction of the cost of major carriers, while still providing nationwide coverage. Here are some of the best options available now.

Cheapest Wireless Plans

According to Consumer Reports, one of the best overall values among low-cost smartphone plans is Mint Mobile. Mint offers a $15-per-month plan that includes unlimited talk and text plus 5 gigabytes (GB) of high-speed data each month. The catch is that you must pay for a full year upfront, which is $180 plus taxes and fees. For seniors who are comfortable paying annually, this can be an excellent way to lock in long-term savings. Mint runs on T-Mobile's network and works with most unlocked smartphones.

If that's more service or commitment than you want, the absolute cheapest wireless plan currently available is Ultra Mobile's PayGo plan. For just $3 per month, plus fees, it provides 100 minutes of talk, 100 text messages, and 100 megabytes (MB) of data. Additional usage costs 3 cents per minute or MB of data and 1 cent per text. This plan is best for very light users or those who primarily want a phone for emergencies. Ultra Mobile also uses T-Mobile's network.

Another solid budget-friendly choice is Tello, which allows you to customize a plan to fit your specific needs. Plans start at just $6 per month and include unlimited texting, 100 minutes of talk time, and 1 GB of high-speed data. If your usage changes, you can easily add more minutes or data in affordable $1 monthly increments. This flexibility makes Tello especially appealing to seniors who want control over their costs. Tello also operates on T-Mobile's network.

Other super low-cost plans for digital minimalists include US Mobile, which offers a light plan starting at $8 per month (when paid annually) for unlimited talk and text plus 2 GB of data. Tracfone is another long-standing option, offering very basic 30-minute talk, text and web plan, for $9 per month with auto-refill.

Lifeline Program

If your budget is especially tight, be sure to check into the federal Lifeline Assistance Program. Lifeline provides a $9.25 monthly discount on phone or internet service.

You may qualify if you receive benefits such as Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), public housing assistance, or Veterans Pension. You may also qualify based on income alone if your household income is below 135 percent of the federal poverty level – currently $21,546 for one person or $29,214 for two.

To learn more or apply, visit lifelinesupport.org. If approved, you can choose from participating providers in your area, and in some cases even apply the discount to service you already have, if your provider participates.

Before switching plans, make sure your phone is unlocked and compatible with the new carrier's network. A quick compatibility check on the provider's website can help ensure a smooth transition and keep your savings on track.

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

Grandpa, can you make the sound of a frog?

I could do that, but why?

Because Mom says when you croak, we're going to Disney World.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It was 43°. At least it wasn't 42°. It was so nice that another neighbor had stopped swearing at the weather report. I was driving down the highway, moving at the speed limit, yet traveling faster than most people in history had ever traveled.

I led tours to Costa Rica. We ate beans and rice for most meals. That's not completely true. Sometimes we ate rice and beans. I washed it down with fruit. Pineapple gives every meal a shine.

I spoke at the Michigan Bluebird Society's Spring Bluebird Festival in Ann Arbor recently. I met with a long-time friend from Ohio for breakfast at a Bob Evans restaurant. The eatery had a comfortable red-barn vibe and a value menu. We had no beans or rice. The food was great and the company was better.

I watched a man on a moving sidewalk in the Detroit airport hold hands with a woman walking on the stationary floor alongside the conveyor system. He took few steps while she took many on the shared journey. He exited the travelator in a sweet synchronization with her walk. They continued holding hands as they proceeded to the next walk. I don't know the backstory, but I'll bet it was a dandy.

I've learned

Dick Van Dyke, the legendary actor and comedian, turned 100 on December 13. The beloved performer credits his remarkable longevity to his positive outlook and never getting angry.

The Yankees' Aaron Judge became the first reigning MLB Most Valuable Player to strike out four times in an Opening Day game. I hope he maintained a positive attitude and avoided anger.

I talked early in my life. My first word was charcuterie, but nobody knew what that meant.

My Very Elegant Mother Just Sat Upon Nine Porcupines. That phrase was a classic mnemonic device used to remember the order of the planets (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) from the Sun. The first letter of each word corresponded to the first letter of a planet. Then Pluto was demoted. Now it's My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles.

WalletHub compared the 50 states across 40 key indicators of stress that ranged from average hours worked per week to the personal bankruptcy rate to the share of adults getting adequate sleep. Louisiana, Kentucky and New Mexico are the most stressed. The least stressed states are South Dakota, Utah and Minnesota. Iowa is the 41st most stressed state. https://wallethub.com/edu/most-stressful-states/32218

Bad jokes department

What do you call an elephant the circus no longer needs? Irrelephant.

I was proud of my cultural heritage until I found out that my great-grandfather was from Transylvania. Now I can't even look at myself in the mirror.

I'm frightened by random letters.

UR?

Stop it!

IC.

Nature notes

I saw oak and ironwood trees clinging to their dead, brown leaves. This retention of dead plant matter is called marcescence. The new spring growth eventually dislodges these dead leaves.

I watched a wild turkey tom strut around, trying to impress hens. He thought he was all that because he had a bourbon named after him. Wild Turkey is a brand of Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey produced in, oddly enough, Kentucky. The tom shook his fanned tail because he was a mover and a shaker. A wild turkey can run up to 25 mph and fly 55 mph. How smart is a turkey? It depends on who is giving the test. Their algebra skills are lacking.

I love hearing the chickadee call its name. That's an onomatopoeic name. Other birds that do that include the killdeer, eastern phoebe, eastern wood-peewee, eastern whip-poor-will, Chuck-will's-widow and northern bob-white. An imagination like one used to name the constellations is helpful in hearing what words a bird is saying, even if it doesn't know it's speaking our language. The blue jay calls "jay" and some human ears insist a crow says "crow" instead of "caw."

Rooster pheasants might be heard crowing throughout the day all year round, but mostly at dawn and dusk in spring and summer. A rapid beating of the wings often follows a rooster's loud crow. Roosters tend to cackle when they fly. It seems to me they crow more frequently when the skies are clear, and there's little or no wind.

Meeting adjourned

Make life easier for others. Be kind.

©Al Batt 2026

Fit to print...

When Chuck Norris got a Waterloo soldier to reenlist in Iraq

'Walker: Texas Ranger' star showed up to get 'Ironman' soldier to sign papers

By Patrick Kinney
Iowa Writer's Collaborative
Linking Iowa readers and writers

Chuck Norris passed away at age 86 on March 19, 2026. There's a group of Iowa National Guard soldiers who won't forget him — and not just because they may have liked his movies and his hit TV series "Walker: Texas Ranger."

Twenty years ago, the TV and movie star and martial arts expert personally helped boost the spirits of those soldiers on a grueling deployment.

In 2006, when our Waterloo-headquartered Iowa National Guard battalion — the 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry regiment — was on deployment to Iraq, soldier Tyce Oesterle, a graduate of Waterloo West High School who lived in Denver north of Waterloo, said he would only reenlist if Chuck Norris showed up and twisted one arm behind his back.

Chuck Norris did just that. He happened to be on a goodwill tour with the troops in Iraq at the time. He heard about Tyce's "dare" and gladly obliged.

Tyce's mom called me about it and I did a story about it in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier. The original story is linked here. Col. Greg Hapgood, then public affairs officer with the Iowa Guard, helped lined up a phone conversation with Tyce from Iraq and provided a photo of the event.

The actor's gesture was well received and a big hit with our soldiers on deployment — the soldiers of the 1/133rd and the entire 34th National Guard "Red Bull" Infantry Division, part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which included soldiers from Iowa and Minnesota.

It provided a light moment in a very tough 22-month deployment from 2005-07 in which the 1/133rd, dubbed the "Ironman Battalion" for its consecutive days in combat in Italy during World War II, saw its first combat since then.

The modern-day successors of those World War II soldiers served 17 months in country in Iraq; their deployment had been extended as part of President George W. Bush's "surge" initiative. The battalion has served multiple deployments since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S., in addition to flood and tornado relief at home.

Hard to believe that was 20 years ago. "Chuck Norris Facts" was a series of humorous memes and jokes about the actor that began circulating online at about that time. Well, here's a "Chuck Norris fact:" The star of "Walker: Texas Ranger" served as a military policeman in the U.S. Air Force.

Actor Chuck Norris puts a fake arm bar on Iowa National Guard soldier Tyce Oesterle of Denver and Waterloo as he reenlists during a deployment to Iraq in 2006. (Iowa National Guard photo)

Hats off to our "Ironman" soldiers and their families for their service and to Mr. Norris for his service and support.

Patrick Kinney

Pat Kinney is a former longtime Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reporter and editor. He still writes freelance and works at the Grout Museum District in Waterloo. His blog, View from the Cedar Valley, is on Substack.

Northwood Anchor

Early Files

100 years ago

April 1, 1926

Mayor E.M. Sabin was elected to succeed himself in the municipal election Monday. C.H. Dwelle, candidate for treasurer to succeed himself, was elected without opposition. K.O. Vold was re-elected assessor and councilmen J.K. Ofsthus, A.O. Rye, L.J. Thompson, E.N. Love and F.W. Johnson were re-elected also.

Another early settler and long time resident, has gone to her reward in the death of Mrs. Marie Levorson of Bristol Township. Mr. and Mrs. Levorson came to Bristol Township in 1857 where she had resided ever since.

If you need a windmill this year let me put in an Aermotor, the kind that is proving its worth on many Worth County farms. Carl J. Anderson, Adv.

Sidney A. Swensrud, son of Ed Swensrud, northeast of town, and a graduate student in the Harvard School of Business Administration, has lately been honored by an appointment to the board of editors of the Harvard Business Review. The sole criterion of membership on the board is scholastic standing. Mr. Swensrud is a graduate of Minnesota State University and was connected with the Washburn-Crosby company for a time before entering Harvard.

Sixty-four years of wedded companionship is a record that few live to achieve, but such is the happy case with Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Whitcomb. March 27 was the anniversary of the date of their marriage, which was solemnized in Westfield, Vermont, in the year 1862. On account of the frail health of Mrs. Whitcomb, the 64th milestone was not marked by any social event.

It looks now that we may change the style of our car when we change the style of our clothes. Enclosed cars for cold weather and open ones for the balmy summer days.

75 years ago

April 5, 1951

The Maid Rite Cafe on West Central Avenue was sold this week by Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Wettlaufer to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Feuerhelm, Albert Lea. Mr. and Mrs. James Kuchera, son-in-law and daughter of the Feuerhelms, took over operation of the cafe.

Gaylord Noorlin of west of Northwood is the only Worth County man reported as enlisting in the armed forces in the last week, by the local draft board. Noorlin, 19, enlisted March 26 at Des Moines.

Many Worth County roads are soft because of melting snow and the frost going out according to John Berry, county engineer. Worst roads are those not graded up and from which snow was not removed earlier. On many roads shoulders are soft.

Russell Will, who has finished his Navy basic training at Great Lakes, Ill., and who has been home on a 14-day leave, left Monday for San Francisco for further assignment. He made his headquarters here with his grandmother, Mrs. N.A. Bliton.

Editorial: Nowhere else in the world should it be easier to live brotherhood than in the nation that is found not the essence of it. At a time in the world's history when freedom and democracy are challenged by the denial and the slavery of totalitarianism, it behooves every American to stand up and be counted in the living of brotherhood she preaches. Lake View Resort.

Russell T. Lund, son of Ole Lund, Northwood, will become operations manager of a new 10 million dollar carbide plant at Calvert City, Ky., it was announced this week by the National Carbide Company. Mr. Lund, a 1930 graduate of Northwood High School, graduated from St. Olaf College and attended the University of Minnesota for a year before entering the employ of the carbide company at Minneapolis 15 years ago.

50 years ago

April 1, 1976

Mrs. Carl (Gay) Schneider, Manly, has been named 4-H Aide of Worth County. Mrs. Schneider will assist the Extension staff in developing and carrying out the 4-H program in the county.

Sgt. Jim Dahle returned home recently following a tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Dahle and two sons left for Ft. Knox, Ky., where he is now stationed. Mrs. Dahle is the former Sonya Pacey.

Named "Outstanding Athletes" of the winter sports season were Jeff Geerlings, wresting; Julie Hagen, girls basketball; John Midtgaard, boys basketball; and Teresa Hanson, cheerleading. The honors were given at the winter athletic banquet.

Crestwood of Cresco won the Viking sponsored indoor track meet at Mankato State University with 88.2 points; the N-K Vikings came in second with 58.5; Osage third with 57.5; North Central fourth with 53.7 and Lake Mills fifth with 21.2. Riceville had 15.2; Rockford 11, Buffalo Center 2.7 and St. Ansgar 2. The Vikings won the meet in 1974 with 91 points and in 1975 with 94 points.

Grand champion racer of the Cub Scout Pinewood Derby held Monday night at First Lutheran Church was John Last. Danny George was second and Craig Woldruff third. Den winners were Bobby Weisert, Craig Woldruff, Jeff Baker, Krister Fallgatter, Danny George and John Last, and Danny George Received the top award for best designed racer. A large group of parents and friends attended the annual event.

Tony Madson, a sixth grader in the N-K elementary school, was the overall winner in the VFW Auxiliary sponsored "I Love America" essay contest. Mrs. Oscar Kelly was chairman of the project. Fourth grade winners were Melissa Gudmonson, second; fifth grade, Kaaren Sue Tenold, first and Arnel Citurs, second and sixth grade, Tony Madson, first and Doreen Hengesteg, second.

25 years ago

April 4, 2001

Worth County Public Health nurse Nancy Faber and Northwood-Kensett fourth-graders Trent Midtgaard and Michael Steiff take a good look at a T-shirt bearing Steiff's winning anti-smoking slogan during the closing ceremony at last Thursday's Worth County Parenting Fair here at the West Elementary auditorium. Steiff's slogan "Gnu Idea: Don't Smoke," was printed on enough T-shirts to outfit the entire N-K fourth grade, and will go up on the billboard just south of Kensett for one month later this year. Midtgaard finished second in the slogan contest and classmate Sydney Harris finished third.

A grand total of 49.3 inches of snow fell in Worth County during the winter of 2000-2001, as the city received 2.6 inches in November, 27.4 inches in December, 6.9 inches in January, 5.3 inches in February and 7.1 inches in March.

N-KHS has claimed the Eastern Iowa Envirothon championship for the third year in a row. N-K's total ranks as the seventh highest regional score turned in by the 16 teams that qualified for the State Envirothon at Springbook State Park near Guthrie Center.

The N-KHS team of freshman Lee Nelson, junior Sam Hanson, senior Ashley Direnfeld and sophomore Beth Hanson finished second in the N-K Quiz Bowl here last Monday night, losing by one question to Riceville. The team is coached by N-K TAG-CHIP instructor Deb Nagle.

Freshman Theresa Stotts was one of three Wartburg College women to earn "athlete of the meet" honors for their recent performances in track and field. Stotts, a 2000 graduate of Northwood-Kensett High School, won the honor by placing fifth in the shot put last week at the Augustana Early Spring Opener. Stotts, the daughter of Rick and Rosie Stotts of Northwood, was a two-year State track qualifier for N-K High.

10 years ago

April 6, 2016

At a meeting of TAG (talented and gifted) teachers working with Area Education Agency 267, two instructors were honored for their years of service to their schools and at AEA events, as they are set to retire at the end of the school year, Northwood-Kensett TAG teacher Deb Nagle and Linda Wolff, TAG teacher at West Fork schools.

Last week, the purchase of the Hotel Northwood was made official as Northwood attorney Doug Krull oversaw the transfer of ownership from Arlys Reeder to Mary Reyerson, representing the Waking Miss Winifred group. The group plans to raise funds to renovate and operate the building as a boutique hotel.

Recently, Representative Josh Byrnes welcomed Jane Bloomingdale, of Northwood, to the Iowa House of Representatives. Bloomingdalge, who is running for Iowa House, was at the Capitol to visit with the Representative Byrnes and see the legislative process in action.

Randy Lyle Low, 60, Northwood, died on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at the Lutheran Retirement Home in Northwood. A funeral service for Randy was held Monday, April 4, 2016, at the First Lutheran Church, in Northwood, with Pastor Ron Stein.

Senior Tom Yezek, last year's school record holder and state championship in the discus, picked right up where he left off last season at Tuesday night's West Fork Early Bird; Yezek took home first place medals in the shot and the discus, rewriting the record books once again with a new school record of 179 feet, 0 1/2 inches, a throw that secured him a spot in the Drake Relays, the third of his career.

Northwood Anchor

Obituaries

Mary Kamish

Mary M. (McNally) Kamish "Muggs," 72, of Mason City, passed away on Monday, March 30, 2026, at the I.O.O.F Home in Mason City.

Mary was born on December 11, 1953, in Muscatine, Iowa, to Earl F. McNally and Rosanna E. (Pietersen) McNally. She attended grade school at Louisa Muscatine Elementary until the family moved to Manly, Iowa, where she completed her education.

On June 20, 1970, she was united in marriage to Robert Kamish at Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Manly. To this union, two children were born. While they later divorced, they remained lifelong friends.

A few of Mary's greatest accomplishments were her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom held a special place in her heart.

Mary held multiple part-time jobs throughout her life, but one in which she achieved great success was working as a waitress at Country Kitchen of Albert Lea for many years. A major achievement for Mary came at age 30, when she became Manly's first female firefighter.

MARY KAMISH

Mary enjoyed having an abundance of beautiful flowers around her apartment and loved decorating for every holiday season with lights and bold decor.

She enjoyed spending time with friends playing cards and bingo, attended every possible family event and never missed the opportunity to root for her Iowa Hawkeyes and Minnesota Vikings.

Left to cherish her memory are her former husband, Robert Kamish of Albert Lea; son, Scott (Nikki) Kamish of Roseau; daughter, Kara (Chad) of Alden; grandchildren, Tony (Melissa) Kamish, Samantha (Bryce) Adams, Alex Kamish, Logan (Hannah) Kamish and Landon Kamish, and Kaleb (Krista) Bendickson and Kaetlin (Ben Trio) Bendickson; great-grandchildren, Romeo, Lavinniah, Roman Kamish and Riley Benson-Kamish; siblings, Carolyn Lane Smith, Kay Yezek, Pat (Cindy) McNally and Michael McNally; and many special nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Richard; two sisters-in-law; seven brothers-in-law; and a nephew.

The family will host a Celebration of Life for Mary's family and close friends on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 2-5 p.m. at the Bendickson family home. The family is so truly grateful to the staff at the Mason City I.O.O.F Home, who also kept Mom on her toes.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to consider planting your favorite flowers in your own garden to remember Mary each spring.

ISU Extension offers Parkinson's Disease educational series

Being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease brings challenges not only to individuals but also to their families and caregivers. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offers "A Journey through Parkinson's Disease" to help Iowans navigate the complexities of a diagnosis with confidence and research-based support.

The three-part educational series is designed for those diagnosed with Parkinson's, their caregivers and partners, and healthcare professionals looking for community-based resources. The next round of in-person workshops begins in April; however, workshops are offered in-person and virtually throughout the year.

"April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month and calls attention to this second most common neurodegenerative disease in the world. Nearly 90,000 Americans are diagnosed each year," said Kimberly Cavalier, co-lead for the extension state team working on the educational series. "We want Iowans to know that while the Parkinson's journey is challenging, they don't have to walk it alone."

"The workshops can help people impacted by Parkinson's to gain a better understanding of their symptoms and the treatments available to delay progression of the disease. Being part of a class with others offers support to both the person with Parkinson's and their caregiver," said Cathy Drost, who co-leads the program with Cavalier.

Elizabeth Stegemoller is a professor in kinesiology at Iowa State University researching how music therapy, specifically singing, improves motor skills, swallowing and breathing for people with Parkinson's. She partners with ISU Extension and Outreach to provide community-based music, movement and educational programs and serves as the state specialist for the educational series.

"A Journey through Parkinsons's Disease" was initially launched in 2018, and thanks to a grant from the American Parkinson's Disease Association, Stegemoller and the team will be able to update the program to include a Spanish language translation and new videos.

"Given there is no cure for Parkinson's, it is increasingly important to continue with research and education to ensure people with the disease live a full and happy life," Stegemoller stated.

Throughout the year, those interested in learning more about Parkinson's will be able to join one of the virtual sessions at no cost thanks to a Herb Howell grant through Excellence in Extension. Since 1989, Excellence in Extension has been funded solely by contributions from ISU Extension and Outreach professionals. The Excellence in Extension Fund is designed to improve and enrich the quality of educational programs offered by ISU Extension and Outreach. The next virtual series will be held online starting Tuesday, June 16, at 6 p.m.

To learn more about the educational series or to register for an upcoming virtual or in-person workshop, visit "A Journey through Parkinson's Disease" on the Health and Human Sciences Extension and Outreach website.

OBITUARIES

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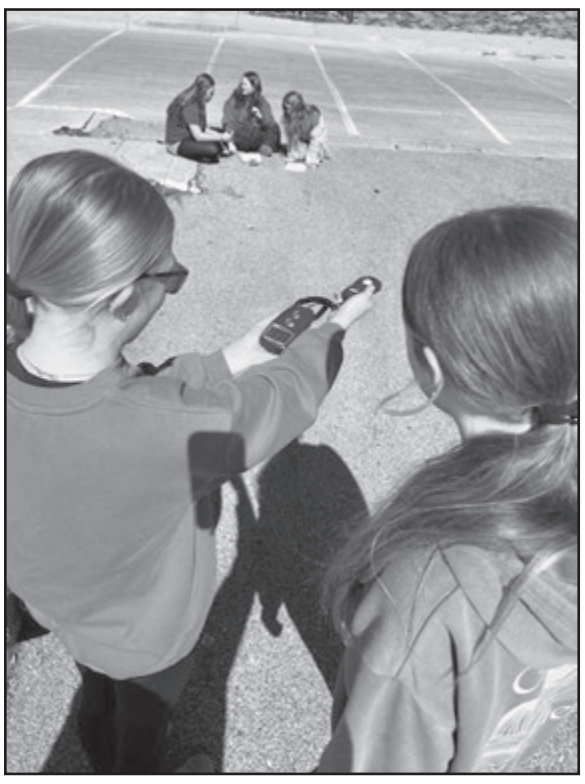
Lake Mills News

LMFD visits LMPL

The Lake Mills Library kicked off a month of learning about those that serve their community last week. The first visitors as a part of Community Helpers Month in April came from the Lake Mills Fire Department. They talked about fire safety, firefighter clothing and equipment and not being afraid of firefighters in their gear. They also got to explore inside and outside of a fire truck.



Solar studies

During one of the warmer days as spring approached, student scientists in Lake Mills sixth grade classes studied how sunlight interacts with and changes the temperature of different surfaces. They used thermometers and light meters to collect data on the warming effects around the school grounds.

Property taxes down 2.64% in Lake Mills budget

At their meeting on April 20, the Lake Mills city council will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2027.

The budget reflects the total amount of money that the City plans to collect and spend in the coming fiscal year. This includes property taxes, utility bills, city fees and other incoming funds. It also reflects the money that the city will spend to maintain streets and infrastructure, to provide law enforcement, to administer programs, to run the City's water and sewer systems and all other services the City provides.

The amount budgeted for property tax revenue in Lake Mills in the proposed budget, compared to re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year's budget, will decrease. The amount budgeted for TIF, or tax increment financing, will increase. TIF refers to the process of collecting property taxes to borrow against future projects.

In the proposed budget, the City of Lake Mills will take in less than it will expend, decreasing the City's fund balance by June 30, 2027.

The City of Lake Mills' levy rate will be $13.81857 in the fiscal year that begins on July 1.

The taxable valuation of property in the city, combined with the levy, determines the amount of property tax revenue the city receives in a fiscal year.

Re-estimated figures for the City's budget for the current fiscal year called for $675,358 in property taxes. The proposed budget for the next fiscal year includes property taxes levied of $657,512. That is a decrease of $17,846, or 2.64%.

TIF revenues will increase from $1,060,864 based on re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year to $1,202,865 in the proposed budget. That is an increase of $142,001 or 13.39%.

The largest source of revenue for the city comes in charges for fees and service. This includes water and sewer fees, along with other charges for city services. This category will decrease $179,815, or 4.80% in the coming fiscal year, to $3,563,400.

When combined with other sources, the City of Lake Mills has budgeted for total revenue for the next fiscal year to be $8,350,488, which is an increase of $36,903 or 0.44% over the current year's re-estimated budget revenues of $8,313,585.

The City's expenditures for the coming fiscal year are projected to increase, according to the proposed budget.

Expenditures in the proposed fiscal year budget will total $11,100,464, up $386,902 or 3.61% from $10,713,562 in the current fiscal year.

The City's proposed budget projects that at the start of the fiscal year, on July 1, 2026, the City of Northwood will have a beginning fund balance of $15,151,289. The budget shows an estimated ending fund balance on June 30, 2027, of $10,985,205. Over the course of the year, according to the coming fiscal year's proposed budget, the city will have a fund balance decrease of $4,166,084. That is a decrease of 27.50%.

The Lake Mills city council will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget at its regular meeting on Monday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

More on Lake Mills' proposed budget can be found in this week's Anchor. Budgets and other legal notices can also be found online at iowanotices.org.

Property taxes to increase 6.01% in Lake Mills schools budget

The Lake Mills Board of Education will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on Monday, April 13, to discuss the district's proposed budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2027.

Property taxes levied in the district will increase from the re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year.

Half of the equation used to determine property taxes is the property tax levy.

The proposed property tax rate for the coming fiscal year is $11.40433 per $1,000 of taxable valuation.

The other half of the equation that determines the amount of property taxes the district will receive in the coming fiscal year is taxable valuations, which will increase.

The end result of the levy and the increased valuations means an increase in taxes levied on property, from $3,758,919 for the current fiscal year, based on re-estimated figures. The budget for the coming fiscal year shows taxes levied on property totaling $3,984,994. That is an increase of $226,075, or 6.01%.

Total revenues and other sources of income for the district for the coming year will increase compared to total revenues for the current fiscal year.

Total revenues and other funding sources for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1 were budgeted at $11,334,160. Re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year show total revenues and other income of $11,138,898. That is a difference of $195,262, or 1.75%.

Total expenditures and other sources of spending will show an increase between the current and coming fiscal years.

The budget for the coming fiscal year includes total expenditures of $12,222,190. The re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year show total expenditures of $11,987,752. That is an increase of $234,438, or 1.92%.

The district's fund balance will decrease between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027. The beginning fund balance for the coming fiscal year that begins on July 1, according to the proposed budget, will be $3,348,821 and the ending fund balance will be $2,383,091 on June 30, 2027. That is a decrease of $965,730, or 28.84%.

Re-estimated figures for the current fiscal year, which will end on June 30, 2026, show that the district's fund balance will have decreased from $4,274,675 on July 1, 2025, to the beginning fund balance mentioned above. That is a decrease of $925,854, or 21.66% over the course of the current fiscal year.

The public hearing for the coming fiscal year's budget will be held at the regular meeting of the Lake Mills Board of Education on Monday, April 13, at 5 p.m.

More on Lake Mills' proposed budget can be found in last week's Anchor. Budgets and other legal notices from local communities can be found online at iowanotices.org.

Briefs

LMHS presents 'Annie' this weekend

The Lake Mills High Schools music department will present "Annie" this weekend, on Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, in the Lake Mills Auditorium.

The April 9 show at 1 p.m. is for elementary students and senior citizens.

The main performance will take place this Friday, April 10, at 7 p.m.

Tickets are $5 per person, and free for children 5 and under.

LMHS hosts prom festivities Saturday

This Saturday, April 11, Lake Mills High School students will take part in prom festivities.

Doors open at 5 p.m. The grand march begins at 6 p.m. The dance will begin at 7 p.m.

Post prom festivities will include prizes before traveling to Lake Pin & Play in Clear Lake for bowling, golf simulators, pizza and snacks.

Party Palooza set for April 2

The Winnebago County Attorney's Office will hold the third annual Party Palooza, held in support of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, on April 16.

The family-friendly event is free, and includes a meal, inflatables, games, giveaways, raffles, information on community resources and a chance to meet law enforcement and first responders.

The Lake Mills Party Palooza will be held on Tuesday, April 21, from 4-7 p.m. at the Lake Mills High School Gym.

LM garage sales May 1-2

The Lake Mills Chamber Development Corporation is inviting residents to take part in City Wide Garage Sales on Friday and Saturday, May 1-2.

Those that would like to be included on the official map should register with the LMCDC by April 28.

Maps will be shared on the LMCDC Facebook page and on flyers at downtown businesses.

More information, and a link to register sales can be found on the Lake Mills website, at www.lakemillsia.org.

Those that would like to advertise their garage sale in the Northwood Anchor classified section may contact the Anchor at 641-324-1051 or anchor1@nwdanchor.com.

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Week Twelve

Jane Bloomingdale
Iowa House
District 60

As we continue through the legislative session, bills are moving through the process, from House to Senate and Senate to House. Some are amended, some are defeated, and others successfully pass both chambers as is, and go to the Governor's desk for her signature.

Healthcare access ranked as one of the top concerns in a recent survey I sent out across the district. The federal "One Big Beautiful Bill" included a five-year investment in rural health care and Iowa is expected to receive over $1 billion dollars. With that in mind, the House has passed House File 2743, a key piece of legislation focused on ensuring these funds are used effectively and transparently.

House File 2743 establishes the Rural Health Transformation Fund to responsibly manage the federal investment Iowa has received. The bill ensures transparency and accountability by requiring the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to submit quarterly reports to the legislature, detailing which cities and healthcare facilities are receiving funds. Iowa is the first state in the nation to deploy these funds, receiving $209 million in year one of the five-year grant program. These dollars are being invested through the state's "Healthy Hometowns" initiative to improve access, quality, and outcomes in rural healthcare.

• $66 million is being distributed to rural hospitals to buy advanced medical technology that was previously unavailable in rural communities. Mercy One North Iowa Foundation in Mason City received a grant.

• $12.6 million is dedicated to workforce recruitment, supporting bonuses and relocation assistance fro medical professionals including Family Medicine Physicians, OB-GYNs, Psychiatrist's, and Specialized Nursing roles. Mercy One North Iowa Foundation in Mason City and Northwood, Mitchell County Hospital, and Floyd County Medical Center received grants for personnel.

• A sizable portion of the remaining funds is focused on reducing Iowa's cancer rates and early detection, including:

• Expanded radon testing and mitigation

• Coverage for mammograms and follow-up breast MRIs

• Increased access to FIT tests and colonoscopies in rural communities

This legislation helps ensure that every dollar of this federal investment is used effectively to strengthen rural healthcare systems, improve access to care, and deliver better outcomes for Iowans. Grants are still available and a full list of grant recipients to date can be found at https://hhs.gov.iowa

It was another busy week at the Capitol with several visitors, a dinner, and a couple of breakfasts. I had the opportunity to visit with area bankers and discuss the importance of our small-town banks and the role they play in supporting local communities and economies. I also met with Heather Englin from the American Cancer Society during Iowa Health Initiative Day to discuss the proposed cigarette tax increase, along with their efforts to help smokers quit and prevent others from starting. Additionally, I met with Jessica Reinert and discussed issues and legislation of interest to Iowa architects.

The week included attending the Iowa Ag Leaders Dinner on Monday evening and concluded with the Thursday morning Prayer Breakfast. Grateful for the opportunity to meet with so many individuals and gain insight and perspective on various bills.

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

Keeping the streets clean
Before the recent wetter weather, the City of Northwood's street cleaning equipment was in use. The equipment helped clean the streets after the winter.

To The Point

Doug Campbell
State Senator
District 30

We just finished the twelfth week of a fourteen week session.

This week we had the 65th annual Iowa Prayer Breakfast with featured speaker Alistair Begg, which was a well attended and timely message on the love and kindness of the Lord.

House File 2514 was passed unanimously in the Senate on Monday! This bill codifies the state Child Care Assistance (CCA) pilot program that permits eligibility for child care workforce regardless of income. As we work to improve access to affordable child care in the state, this policy is one way we can build on the successes of a pilot program passed several years ago. Under this bill, a parent, guardian, or custodian must be employed at a child care facility or home located in Iowa. They must average at least 32 hours a week in a position where the primary duty is providing child care directly to children and are regularly counted in the child-to-staff ratio.

House File 2564 was passed—This bill is regarding a pregnant minor seeking maternal health care but is unable to do so without parental consent. This policy works to balance the safety and health of a minor to ensure care is available to both the baby and the mother but still involves the parents in the decision-making process. In Mason City we have the Caring Pregnancy Center which is an excellent facility and resource, please visit them to understand their ministry and service to Cerro Gordo County. Their address is 830 15th St. SW Suite 1, Mason City, Iowa 50401 and their phone number is 641-424-2237. Email: caring@cpcmasoncity.org

House File 2543— Subacute Mental Health Care Facilities Reforms-This is an intermediate service between acute care and obtaining a sustainable lifestyle.

Senate File 2470—Event Driven Contracts (Prediction Market). The broader scope of this legislation is to regulate online betting in all categories. Your senator was the only one to vote no.

SF 2464 passed the senate which raises taxes on Medicaid, although I voted no.

Senate Republicans release budget target for FY27 (Fiscal Year 2027). Senate Republicans have set their target at $9.623 billion. FY27 will be the second full year of the historic 3.8 percent flat income tax, saving Iowa taxpayers billions of dollars. The tax savings from this reduction has not yet appeared in our local Iowa economies. Buy local.

A $9.623 billion budget target would leave the state budget with a projected total of $4.8 billion in ending balance, the Taxpayer Relief Fund, and the rainy day funds at the end of FY27. A target of $9.623 billion includes the nearly $100 million in new money for K-12 education passed in earlier in the session and a total increase of $114 million in new spending for the next fiscal year.

Less government, less taxes. We cannot continue to increase both endlessly.

Have a blessed and Happy Easter!

Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2026 URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Notice is given that on April 20, 2026 at 7:00 o'clock p.m., at the Lake Mills City Hall, 200 N 1st Ave West, Lake Mills, Iowa, the City Council of the City of Lake Mills, Iowa, will hold a public hearing on the question of amending the Urban Renewal Plan for the Lake Mills Urban Renewal Area (the "Area"). The amendment will facilitate the undertaking of new urban renewal projects in the Area consisting of using tax increment financing to 1) make improvements to city buildings including the Family Center at 712 N. Lake St., the wastewater plant at 400 S. 4th Ave. W, and the electric plant at 201 S. Mill St., 2) make improvements to the municipal swimming pool, 3) make improvements to the sanitary sewer system, 4) make stormwater improvements, 5) make street repairs, 6) repair concrete at the Sports Complex at 303 S. Summer St and at the lot shed at 308 S. 4th Ave. W. and 7) provide funds for Urban Renewal Plan administration.

A copy of the amendment is on file for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

At said hearing any interested person may file written objections or comments and may be heard orally with respect to the subject matter of the hearing.

Diane Price, City Clerk

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Mike & Angie Wilkins*

CARD OF THANKS: I would like to thank the Joice Fire Department for the fire blanket that I won at Family Fun Night in Joice at the Community Center. What a great time!

Thank you, Dawn Batton

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If you have any questions regarding the company's services and rates/charges, please contact us by visiting Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association, 704 E. Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450, or by calling 800-592-6105.

*In the Ledyard, Manly, Northwood, Mason City, Britt, Garner, and Forest City Urban exchanges, the rates may vary from the listed rate.

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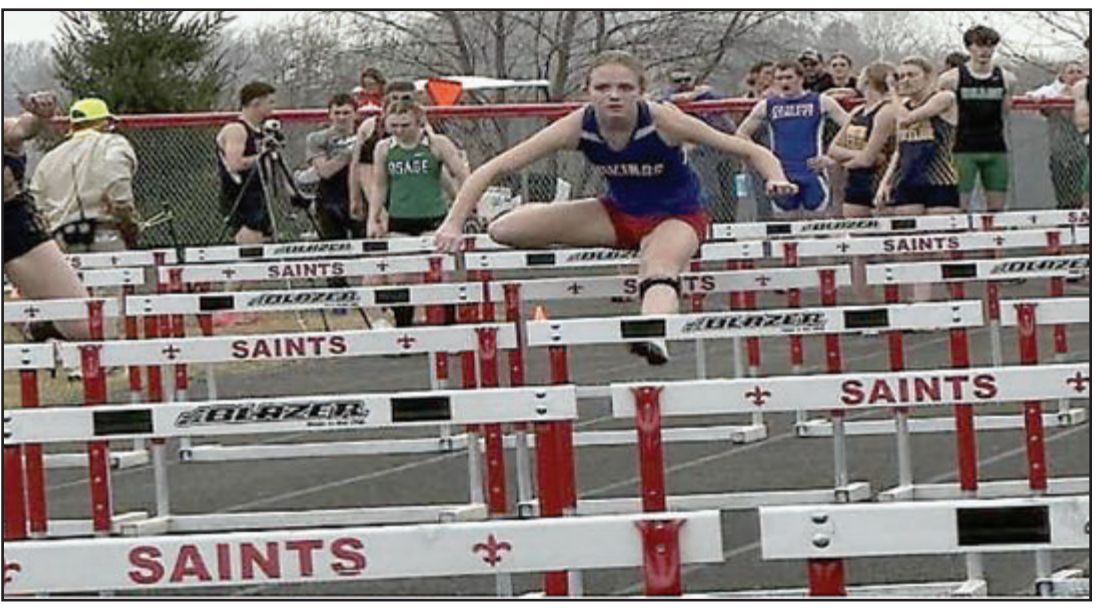

True Hackenmiller in the shuttle hurdle

True Hackenmiller and Maddie Christianson in the sprint medley

N-K girls track

By Troy Einertson
Northwood-Kensett Girls Track Coach

Our outdoor season got started a day earlier than it was supposed to when St. Ansgar moved their track meet up a day because of the weather. We have run this meet before when it was in the 40s with high winds and sleet hitting us in our face, so this was kind of a shock to me that they moved it.

As anyone that was there would tell you though, it was packed, it is a lot nicer watching kids run around a track when it is nice out! So I am not complaining one bit, and the meet was probably one of the best run meets that we have ever been to. Kudos to Clev, Keely, Mr. Reindl and everyone at St. Ansgar for everything!

As for the meet itself, our girls ran, threw and jumped extremely well. One of the mantras we have taken up this year is "I AM SOMEBODY." "I AM SOMEBODY" is a quote by Steve Prefontaine: "No matter how hard you train, Somebody will train harder. No matter how hard you run, Somebody will run harder. No matter how much you want it, Somebody will want it more. I am Somebody."

The girls have been working very hard, and this meet was just the start of the process that I hope will lead to big things in May!

There were a lot of stand out performances from this meet, but our two mid distance kids shined very bright on this day. Ivy Urbatsch and Merrin Hanson both had very successful XC seasons, and they have both carried it over to the track this spring. Ivy anchored our sprint med team to a fourth place finish and along with True Hackenmiller, Mia Fierova and Maddie Christianson ran our fastest time in over four years!

Ivy also placed fourth in the 1500 with a blazing time of 5:07. She finished behind three very accomplished runners, two seniors and another freshman, and it is going to be fun watching them compete against each other all year. Finally she again anchored the distance med team to a second place finish. True, Maddie, Mia and Ivy finished in another extremely fast time of 4:37! Ivy got the stick in sixth place, and made up about 40 meters on the leaders passing everyone except for the team from St. Ansgar. She ran side by side with Ava Witt until right at the finish when Ava out leaned her. It was just a solid race from True, Maddie, Mia and Ivy and man was it fun to watch!

As for Merrin, she continued her early season success with two PRs! One in the 1500 with a time of 6:03, and another as part of the 4x800 team where she ran a split of 2:57 leading the team of Anna Block, Maggie Rye and Rylee Schoon to a sixth place finish. With all the early season success Merrin and Ivy have shown so far this season, and the growth of Maddie and Maggie as runners, it just goes to show how important running XC in the fall really is.

Other highlights from St. Ansgar were our throwers and jumpers.

Harley Logeman and Casey Gentz threw for the first time and both of them did an amazing job. Coach Cronbaugh and Martin deserve all the credit for this. Harley threw 28'5" in the shot, and 70'9" in the disc. Casey went 18'6 and 42'9 respectively.

Having 23 amazing runners and jumpers, and trying to help four wonderful throwers is a task in itself, and I am extremely grateful for Coach Cronbaugh and Martin volunteering their time to help out!

In the jumps, Sophie Rye went 4'2" again, while Lexi McHenry jumped 13'10".25 for a fourth place finish in the long jump and Hixton Krambeer went 13'5".

Our shuttle hurdle team also had a great night placing second to a state veteran team from North Butler with a time of 1:14. True, Mia, Maddie and Ariah Bode continue to improve everyday, and they are going to be a force as the season goes on.

Lastly, our 4x200 team of Chloe Woods, Kenly Solberg, Ariah and Sophie also picked up fourth place finish in a time of 2:08.

Finally, when you are sitting in the stands and just watching the kids compete there are always some little things you pick up. Now, some are good, but there are also things we need to work on as a team. One of the things I noticed was how St. Ansgar is always working together as a team even during the track meet. Whether it be getting warmed up, or just cheering their teammates on. We are getting better at this, but if we really want to BE SOMEBODY this is the next step we need to take. I talk with the kids about this all the time, and even though we are getting better, we need to continue to grow as a team and get better at this. With leaders like Ashlyn, Sophie, Kenly, True, Maddie, Mia and Lexi, there is no doubt in my mind we will get there. I hope everyone has a great week, and if you have a chance, we are in Hampton on Thursday, weather permitting, if you want to watch the kids compete!

Remember, BE SOMEBODY everyone!

Pictures were taken by Janis Hackenmiller

Viking boys run at St. Ansgar

By Julie Salisbury

The Northwood-Kensett Vikings boys track team traveled to St. Ansgar on Monday, March 30, for the Saints Coed Relays and finished in eighth place with 16 points.

In the 100 meter dash, Keenan Davisdon-Jacobs was 15th with a time of 13.47 and Kale Bode was 16th with a time of 14.76.

Weston Heims was seventh in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 18.68 and Brody Tufte was eighth with a time of 18.86.

In the 200 meter dash, Hayzin Jacobson was 11th with a time of 26.22 and Tucker Duvall was 15th with a time of 28.66.

Gabe Aleman was ninth in the 400 meter run with a time of 59.62 and Ayden Schutz was 12th with a time of 1:04.49.

Kolton Robinson placed sixth in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:03.98.

Dagen Peterson placed sixth in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:20.90 and Carson Tufte was eighth with a time of 2:21.73.

In the 1600 meter run, Zach Heiken finished seventh with a time of 5:23.02.

In the 1600 medley relay, the team of Jacobson, Ethan Franck, Alec Ducommun and Henry Hanson placed fourth with a time of 4:13.85.

The 4x100 relay team of Kaden Davidson-Jacobs, Schutz, Duvall and Heims finished 11th with a time of 51.85.

The shuttle hurdle relay team of Hanson, Peterson, Ducommun and Landen Nelson placed fourth with a time of 1:11.25.

The 4x800 relay team of C. Tufte, Peterson, Heiken and Nelson placed fourth with a time of 9:14.97.

In the field events, Alex Tiedemann placed sixth in the shotput with a throw of 36' 09.00" and max Johnson was 15th with a throw of 28' 11.00". Johnson was ninth in the discus with a distance of 104' 09.00" and Tiedemann was 13th with a distance of 89' 07.00". Hanson finished ninth in the long jump with a distance of 17' 05.00" and Jacobson was 11th with a jump of 17' 03.75".

Improving speed and agility

Student athletes at Northwood-Kensett have been improving their abilities with special training sessions. Over 60 middle and high school students took part in the speed and agility training on March 25 at the Viking Activity Center, and at other sessions this year.

From a Viking to a Blue Devil

Bowan Behne recently signed his letter of intent to play baseball following his time as a Viking. Behne signed on to join the Riverland Community College Blue Devils. Behne is pictured above with parents Terezia and Jay Behne.

Cyclone star coaches Viking Basketball Club

Last Friday, with the day off of classes, students in the Viking Basketball Club spent time with Ashley Joens, a star player with the Iowa State Cyclones, and recently announced as the new coach for the Ankey High School's women's basketball team. Joens led the players through a variety of skills training and technique drills.

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Spring HOME Improvement

The Northwood Anchor

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

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How trees and plants can change the look of a landscape

Spring is home renovation season, and no area of a home is off limits. That includes home exteriors, particularly in regard to landscaping.

Lawn and garden centers draw crowds on spring weekends, as homeowners are anxious to get out in the yard after spending more time indoors over the winter. Plants and trees provide a simple way to transform the look and feel of a property. As homeowners can consider these benefits of incorporating new plants and trees into their properties.

• Add some pops of color. There's no shortage of colorful plants to add to a property. Azaleas, lilacs, pansies, and, of course, rose bushes can add a wide range of colors to a landscape, providing undeniable and awe-inspiring curb appeal when the plants bloom.

• Native plants won't compromise their neighbors. When choosing plants for a landscape, it's important to pick those accustomed to the local climate. A non-native plant might be able to withstand local conditions, but it also might compromise other trees and plants on a property.

• Trees can add considerable privacy. Homeowners who don't want fencing, or those whose towns or homeowners' associations won't allow fencing, may look to trees to add the privacy typically provided by fences. The growth rates of trees vary by species, so homeowners who want instant privacy should look for trees that are already tall and/or fast-growing. Needlepoint holly (which reach an average height of 10 to 15 feet) and sweet viburnum (25 to 30 feet at maturity) are fast-growing species to consider when planting for privacy. Green giant arborvitae are a popular privacy tree, as they can reach significant heights and widths within a few years of being planted. And while it's always good to consult a lawn and garden center for advice on the compatability of a given tree with the local climate, green giant arborvitae are known to thrive in U.S. Department of Agriculture hardiness zones five through eight, which cover a significant portion of the United States.

• Evergreens keep a property green throughout the year. Homeowners who lament the loss of color each fall when their existing trees shed their leaves can keep a property green throughout the winter by choosing evergreen trees for landscapes. The New Jersey Conservation Foundation notes that evergreen trees excel at conserving moisture, which allows them to keep their leaves and maintain that distinct and appealing green color throughout the winter.

A guide to survive lengthy home renovations

Renovations can transform homes into spaces that mirror homeowners' dreams. Regardless of the scope of a project, a home renovation will involve some level of disruption to residents' daily lives. Lengthy, more involved projects may impact daily life considerably.

- Choose your timing
- Plan accordingly
- Store items out of harm's way
- Designate a safe zone
- Lower your standards

Remodeling projects can be disruptive and stressful, but certain strategies can make it easier to get through projects without too much disruption.

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Electrical safety strategies in the home

Many electrical fires are preventable. Various preventive measures can be taken to reduce the risk and safeguard a home's residents should fires occur.

- Audit your home electrical system.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of the home.
- Consider electrical upgrades.
- Routinely inspect fire warning systems.
- Adhere to manufacturer instructions in relation to lighting fixtures.
- Childproof a home to avoid electrical accidents.
- Reduce reliance on extension cords.
- Avoid overloading outlets.

Electrical fires can be deadly. But many can be prevented with some simple safety strategies.

Tips to take care of wood flooring

Natural wood flooring is a stunning feature of millions of homes. Wood floors are appreciated for their durability and aesthetic appeal, each of which is bolstered when floors are properly maintained.

A host of variables can affect how long wood flooring lasts and how its appearance holds up over time. Homeowners who want to protect their wood floors and ensure they maintain their aesthetic appeal for the long haul can consider the following maintenance tips, courtesy of the National Wood Flooring Association.

• Sweep, dust or mop each day. Such cleaning can prevent damage that can compromise the aesthetic appeal of the floors.

• Clean spills immediately. Spills are inevitable, especially in homes where young children live. Though spills might not be preventable, the damage they can cause can be avoided with a prompt response. Cleaning spills immediately with a dry or slightly damp cloth can ensure the floors do not soak up the spilled liquids.

• Vacuum once per week on the bare floor setting. Utilizing a vacuum is less taxing on wood floors than sweeping so long as the vacuum is on the bare floor setting. Sweeping is best avoided to prevent small particles from being dragged across the floor

• Apply wood flooring cleaner once per month. Wood flooring cleaners specific to a given floor's finish are important because these products are specialized and formulated with both cleaning and protection of the floor itself in mind.

• Recoat floors if they start to look dull. The NWFA notes that recoating with wood floor finish every three to five years can renew the appearance.

Well-maintained wood floors add much to a home's interiors. Some simple maintenance can ensure wood floors remain durable and aesthetically appealing for decades.

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A rundown on roofing projects

No two home renovation projects are the same. Some projects are highly detailed undertakings that take months if not years from start to finish, while others can be tackled by skilled do-it-yourselfers over the course of a single weekend. Though each project is different, categorizing renovations as needs or wants can help homeowners determine when the time is right to go forward.

Roof replacement projects typically fall into the "need" category. A decaying roof can jeopardize the safety and security of a home and lead to additional issues, like water damage. It's unwise to delay roof replacement projects when signs of a decaying roof start to appear. Homeowners who are starting to see such indicators can look to this rundown of roof replacement projects as they begin the process of replacing their roof.

Roof replacement costs vary considerably depending on a host of variables. Materials, location and the cost of labor, dimensions of the roof, and even choice of contractor all affect the cost of the project. The home renovation experts at Angi indicate the average roof replacement project costs $9,500. Asphalt is among the more affordable roofing materials. Slate roofs will be more expensive.

Homeowners may blanch at the cost of a roof replacement project, particularly if they choose a more expensive material. However, it's important to keep life expectancy in mind when receiving roof estimates. Many homeowners never replace a roof twice, making this a potentially costly but ultimately one-time expense. Though slate roofs are expensive, various roofing resources indicate slate roofs come with a life expectancy ranging from 50 to 200 years. By contrast, Nerdwallet estimates an asphalt roof lasts around 10 to 20 years, while others suggest such roofs can last as long as 30 years.

Choice of materials is arguably the most significant decision homeowners will make when replacing a roof. The experts at This Old House report that materials typically account for 55 to 65 percent of the overall cost of a roof replacement project. Decisions regarding roof materials will be affected by budget, local climate (certain materials are better suited to particular climates than others), aesthetic appeal, and required maintenance. It's also important that homeowners consider the material warranty of each roofing product.

A roof replacement project is not a renovation that can be delayed when signs the roof is fading start to appear.

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Things to know when replacing windows

Windows are durable, but they do not last forever. The experts at This Old House say the life span of home windows is between 15 and 50 years, with most reaching the upper limits of their life expectancy at around 20 years. Once they reach this age, the seals begin to weaken or fail, and windows become susceptible to drafts and water seepage.

Replacing windows can be a good investment.

• Know the window types. Double hung windows are classic and have operable upper and lower sashes. Lowering the upper sash allows warm air near the ceiling to escape and cooler air can to flow in through the bottom. Single hung windows only have an operable lower sash. Sliding windows have one or more panels that move horizontally, and picture windows are fixed models designed to offer wide, unobstructed views and lots of light.

• Repair or replace windows. Existing windows might just need to be repaired.

• Identify the differences between replacement windows and construction windows. Replacement windows are sometimes called pocket windows. They fit inside an existing window frame. Construction windows require the removal of the entire old window, including the frame, sill and trim.

• Familiarize yourself with window frame materials. Vinyl is a common material that's low-maintenance and affordable. Aluminum and aluminum clad windows can be economical options, and they are corrosion-resistant and require little maintenance. Wood also is popular for the interior parts of a window, and offer a traditional look.

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The basics of three popular siding materials

As homeowners begin to consider siding replacement projects, they might be surprised to learn their options in relation to materials are so numerous. Though it's great to have options, it also can be difficult to pick a material when there are so many products to choose from. Vinyl, fiber cement and wood are three popular siding materials, and understanding the characteristics of each can help homeowners make more informed decisions.

Vinyl siding has long been among the most popular siding materials. The National Association of Home Builders notes that popularity has declined in recent years, with the market share of vinyl siding dropping 5 percent over the last decade and nearly 13 percent over the last 20 years. Despite that declining popularity, vinyl remains a strong option for many homeowners due to its affordability and minimal maintenance requirements. Consumer Reports also notes that vinyl siding is impervious to insects and water, an attribute that's highly appealing to many homeowners.

Consumer Reports notes that fiber cement siding blends cement, sand and cellulose. Many homeowners like fiber cement siding because of its aesthetic appeal, as it looks like real wood without the vulnerabilities associated with wood (see below). The home renovation experts at This Old House report that fiber cement siding has exceptional durability and offers great resistance to environmental factors like harsh weather, UV rays and moisture. Fiber cement siding also is a low-maintenance, insect-resistant option that won't warp or rot. Fiber cement siding is not easily installed, which contributes to a higher overall cost.

Siding materials don't get much more traditional than wood. It shouldn't surprise homeowners to learn that wood siding can warp or rot, and anything made from wood can be vulnerable to insects. However, well-maintained wood siding can be very durable and certain types are less vulnerable to rot than others. Local climate will affect which wood siding options are best for a given area. Many see wood siding as characteristic of a high-end home, making the somewhat higher price tag compared to vinyl siding easier to justify.

There's no right or wrong decision when choosing siding materials for a home. Homeowners are urged to do their homework, including studying cost and the local climate, before choosing a material for their home.

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