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The Northwood Anchor

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Coach Troy Einertson, Ronan Penfold, Wes Ballantyne, Saxon Penfold, Ethan Franck, Charlotte Cooper, Maggie Rye, Hadley Anderson, Kaylee Franck, Maddie Christianson, Ivy Urbatsch, Olivia Urbatsch, Lola Cronbaugh and coach Jake Urbatsch

Northwood celebrates Halloween with parade, trick/treating, costume contest

Northwood will celebrate Halloween with several favorite holiday treats this Saturday, including a costume parade and trick or treating.

Trick or treating begins in Northwood at the Lutheran Retirement Home and Northwood Pines Assisted Living, from 4:40-5:30 p.m.

The Northwood Area Chamber of Commerce will once again sponsor the annual Halloween parade and costume contest for children up to 10 years old.

The parade begins at the City Hall parking lot at 5 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, October 31.

The costumed kids, and their accompanying adults, costumed or otherwise, will parade to the basketball courts in Central Park.

At the park, a costume contest will be held, with

Halloween, see Page 2

N-K cross country: What a week!

By Troy Einertson
Northwood-Kensett cross country coach

Last week I started my article with WOW! This week the word of choice is unbelievable!

After the girls won the conference XC crown on October 15, and Lola ran to a second place finish and the second fastest two mile XC time by a seventh graders ever in the state of Iowa, I really didn't think it could get much better. Well boy was I wrong!

The girls went to our State Qualifying Race on Thursday, October 22, to run on the campus of Luther College and brought home the team championship. WHAT A WEEK!

We had been talking about this race since the day we found out we were running at Luther and we knew we had a chance at getting second, but I just didn't think we could run with the girls from South Winn yet. We had ran against them twice earlier in the year, but each time we finished behind them, and I just didn't know if we could get them.

They were the defending state class 1A champions and are currently the fourth rated team in the state. Their girls are very well coached, and run in a pack, with their top seven girls all running under 23:00.

So I wrote plans for each of the girls to go after the girls from Wapsie Valley because they were the team we needed to beat for second. I did this because the top two teams from each qualifying site make it to state. We talked about the plans on Wednesday and the girls were ready to get after it on Thursday.

We got there a little early, and the team all walked the course, and for about the 75th time all I heard about from them was how bad the hill was going to be. Mr. Urbatsch and I that we had worked hills since early June, and they were ready to get after it. We talked one more time, and Lola and I left them to get to our quarter mile mark.

Once the starter got the race going it was a dead sprint from all the girls to get into position. This really stresses me out, because I like them to be conservative at the start, but I knew there was no holding them back, so I just hoped they would listen a little bit to me and just chill. Nope, they all came by just flying at the quarter mile mark. I said nothing to them, but told them for the 75th time

Cross Country, see Page 4

Supervisors approve bid for administrative building project

The Worth County supervisors approved a bid for the construction of a new administrative office building project at their October 19 meeting.

The project would build a new facility for County offices that are currently located in the courthouse, as well as the treasurer.

The administration building is planned to be built on the northeast corner of the courthouse property, from the open yard area, to the area currently occupied by the garages and engineering/secondary roads office structure in the courthouse parking lot. Those offices are being relocated to the new shared building located east of the railroad tracks in

Supervisors, see Page 2

Briefs



Clocks fall back Sunday

As an evening of trick or treating, or costumed revelry of any sort, winds down Saturday night, many area residents will no doubt be grateful for any extra time to recover from the Halloween festivities.

Fortunately for them Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1, at 2 a.m. The tradition of letting clocks "fall back" one hour as

Fall Back, see Page 2

First official enrollment down 7.75 in 2026 at N-K

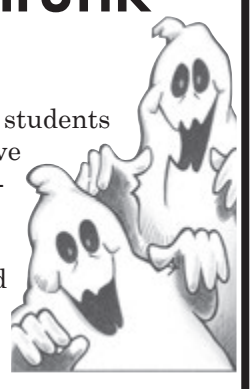
October official enrollment numbers showed decreases in both the official enrollment, as well as in the number of students attending classes at Northwood-Kensett schools this year.

The October official enrollment in this school year was 504.83, down 7.75 or 1.51%, from last year's official enrollment of 512.58 students. (Students that aren't in classes in the district, but that use N-K resources for their education, or that aren't enrolled full time but take some classes at N-K may account for the portions of a student in the total.)

The certified enrollment number is used by the State of Iowa to determine the amount of spending authority each Iowa school district has access to during a school year. Changes to the pro-

Enrollment, see Page 2

N-K FFA hosts trunk or treat Friday



Northwood-Kensett's FFA chapter will host a Halloween Trunk or Treat event this Friday, October 30, at 6 p.m.

Vehicles with decorated trunks will be in the N-K High School parking lot. Young people are invited to visit to trick or treat at the vehicles.

FFA students will have Halloween activities and prizes and hand out candy.

Election set for Tuesday

This Tuesday, November 3, voters will decide who will represent them in county, state and national elected offices.

In person absentee voting at the county auditor offices continues through this Monday, November 2.

The general election will be held this Tuesday, November 3, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County offices and candidates appearing on ballots will include District 1 Supervisor, Republican Marena Henkle and Amy Jorgensen; District 3 supervisor, Republican Mike Hanson; treasurer, Republican Jake Hanson; recorder, Republican Jolene Hickle; and attorney, Democrat Dexter Banks and Republican Jeffrey Greve.

Winnebago County offices appearing on ballots include Supervisor for District 1, Republican Terry Durby; District 3 supervisor, Republican Brent Swenson; county treasurer, Republican Julie Swenson; county recorder, Shanna Eastvold; and attorney, Kelsey Beenken.

Election, see Page 2



Evacuation education

Last week was National School Bus Safety Week. At Northwood-Kensett Elementary, students boarded buses that were parked in front of the school. Barry Wangsness, director of transportation, and bus driver Dave Capitani talked about how to stay safe while riding the bus, as well as what to do if they need to evacuate the bus. Then they pretended there was a fire at the front of the bus and the students used the rear emergency door to practice evacuating. Older students provided a helping hand or shoulder to assist the younger students.



The Week's WEATHER

From National Weather Service information

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Mon. Oct. 19	68	38	
Tues. Oct. 20	70	38	
Wed. Oct. 21	70	37	
Thurs. Oct. 22	76	42	
Fri. Oct. 23	79	42	
Sat. Oct. 24	78	51	
Sun. Oct. 25	79	51	



Halloween home decor

As Halloween has approached, many homes throughout the area have welcomed a variety of creepy characters and costumed creatures, amongst other decorations for the spooky season.

Celebrating family farms — See Pages 10-11



A plush party

Students in Mr. Urbatsch's second grade class at Northwood-Kensett Elementary recently welcomed some plush pals for the school day. The students are pictured above with the stuffed animals that they brought to school that day.

Enrollment
Cont. from Page 1

cess this year mean that those figures are the first of two dates that will be used to calculate official enrollment. The official enrollment will be counted again in January and the average of the two counts will be used to determine the final official enrollment.

The change is causing concerns amongst N-K and other area school districts.

According to N-K and St. Ansgar superintendent Tony Hiatt, "The change to this averaging system accelerates revenue losses for Iowa public school districts facing declining enrollment, which is most, nearly all, districts in our area and across the state due to lower birthrates and student mobility. It also will cause heightened reliance on Iowa's 101% budget guarantee, which is a state-legislated safety net ensuring that a school district's regular program budget increases by at least 1% over the previous year, even if its student enrollment declines."

While school districts receives funds for each student they educate, the amount of money it can spend is influenced by the official enrollment number, which reflects the numbers of students living in the district.

The official enrollment figures are composed of two student populations, those living in the district and attending district schools and those that live in the district that are educated elsewhere.

The number of resident students that attend classes in the N-K district accounted for an decrease of 11, down 2.33%, from 471.2 in 2025 to 460.2 in the current school year.

The other portion of the official enrollment count is the amount of students that live in the district, but who are educated in other school districts, and for which the N-K district forwards funding. That includes students who open enroll out of the district into other Iowa districts and students who attend alternative schools in Iowa.

Students living in the district, but attending classes at other schools totaled 44 this year, up 3, or 7.32% from the 2025 total of 41.

When it comes to the incoming student population, those who open enroll from another district into N-K schools, the total showed a decrease of 5, or 14.71% over the previous year. The number of students open enrolled into N-K schools this year decreased from 34 in 2025 to 29 this year.

Iowa students actually educated at N-K schools includes the combination of those students living in and educated in the district and those enrolled into the district. That total has decreased, from 505.58 in 2025 to 489.83 in 2026, a decrease of 15.75 students, or 3.12%.

The official enrollment figures only include students living in Iowa, not those attending N-K schools who live in Minnesota.

While the Glenville-Emmons school distriended an agreement that allowed students in its district to attend classes at N-K, those Minnesota students that were previously attending N-K classes, or who had siblings that were already attending N-K before GE ended the arrangement, will be able to finish their education in Iowa.

The number of Minnesota students attending school at N-K this year is 3, down from 6 in 2025.

Excluding those students open enrolled out, and including those students open enrolled in, as well as students from Minnesota, the total number of K-12 students being educated in the N-K school district this year was down 18.75, or 3.67%, to 492.83, from 511.58 in 2025.

Also adding to this year's total of students for whom the district will receive funding, are those that are enrolled in the district's four-year-old preschool classes.

The district receives 0.5 credits for each qualifying preschool student. This year the school district will receive funds for 16.5 students, accounting for 33 actual N-K preschoolers. This number is up from last year's total of 15 credits for 30 preschool students.

The number on official enrollment figures does not reflect the actual total of children in N-K preschools. The district only receives preschool credit based on the age of the student and how many times they have attended preschool.

Including the resident students, those open enrolled into the district and the credit for its preschool, the district will receive Iowa state aid for 506.33 students, down 14 from 520.58 students in 2025. The district will also receive funds from the State of Minnesota for the students attending N-K from across the border.

Supervisors
Cont. from Page 1

Northwood.

The new building will house the offices of the county assessor, auditor, recorder and treasurer. It will also include more space for IT needs and a larger supervisors meeting space, in addition to expanded space and storage needs.

The Worth County Sheriff's Office and the court system, including courtrooms and clerk of court offices, will remain where they are currently located in the existing courthouse.

The estimated construction cost of the new administrative building project was $4.99 million.

At the October 19 meeting, the supervisors discussed construction bids for the project. The lowest of the bids came from Cresco Building Service, for $4,448,550. The supervisors approved the bid.

The bid does not included engineering, design and other related costs.

At their previous meeting, on October 12, the supervisors took action to seek bonds of up to $6 million for the full costs of the project.

The supervisors have discussed using TIF, borrowing against future tax revenue on wind turbines previously built in the county to pay for the project.

With plans to secure and approve bonds in November, the current construction schedule would have the administrative office building complete in May 2028.

Election
Cont. from Page 1

Other county offices appearing on ballots will include Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner seats and positions on County Agricultural Extension Councils, as well as various township trustees and clerks.

State offices appearing on ballots include House District 30 in Worth, with Democrat Alexander Schmidt and Republican Dani Ollenburg on ballots.

State offices representing Winnebago County on ballots include District 5 Senator, Republican Dave Rowley and Rachel Gravert; and House District 9, Republican Henry Stone.

Other state offices on ballots will include Governor/Lt. Governor, Democrats Rob Sand/Dave Muhlbauer and Republicans Zach Lahn/Derek Wulf; Secretary of State, Republican Paul D. Pate and Democrat Ryan Peterman; Auditor of State, Republican Chris Cournoyer and Democrat Taylor Wettach; Treasurer of State, Republican Roby Smith and Democrat John Norwood; Secretary of Agriculture, Republican Mike Naig and Democrat Chris Jones; and Attorney General, Republican Brenna Bird and Democrat Nate Willems.

An amendment to Iowa's constitution will also appear on ballots. The amendment would increase the Congressional approval needed to increase income taxes by the State. If approved, income tax rates could only be increased if approved by a 2/3 majority in the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate.

Federal offices appearing on ballots statewide will include U.S. Senator, with Republican Ashley Hinson, Democratic Josh Turek and Libertarian Thomas Laehn on ballots.

In Worth County, voters will choose District 2 U.S. Representative, with Democrat Lindsay James, Republican Joe Mitchell, Libertarian Rick Stewart and Dave Bushaw appearing on ballots.

In Winnebago County, voters will choose the District 4 U.S. Representative, between Republican Chris McGowan and Democrat Dave Dawson.

More information on Worth County elections can be found at the Worth County Auditor's office or online at elections.worthcountyiowa.gov.

More information on Winnebago County elections can be found online at www.winnebagocountyiowa.gov/auditor/elections.

Halloween
Cont. from Page 1

prizes going to winners in three age groups, children three and under, 4-6 and 7-10.

All kids under the age of 10 taking part will receive a bag of candy, while supplies last.

Following the parade, from 5-8 p.m., children will be trick or treating throughout Northwood.

Those handing out candy are asked to turn on their porch lights to signal that they are welcoming trick or treaters.

Fall back
Cont. from Page 1

"Standard Time" resumes will allow an extra hour of sleep, or candy-consumption, whatever the case may be.

Relay hosts Boos, Booze & Bingo Saturday

The Relay For Life of Worth County will hold its annual Boos, Booze & Bingo event on Halloween, this Saturday, October 31, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nordic Lanes in Northwood.

The event will include games of bingo with cash and other special donated prizes; as well as a bloody Mary bar, bake sale, costume contest, raffle, burger or chicken strip baskets and silent auction.

Those that have donations for prizes or auction items may contact Kris Woltzen at Olson Insurance.

Funds raised support the Relay For Life of Worth County.

Winifred hosts murder mystery dinner Saturday

Waking Miss Winifred will hold a murder mystery dinner this Saturday, October 31, in the Beehive Ballroom above Worth Brewing.

The theme will be "The Will to Kill." The interactive show will feature a murder mystery set in a 1970s supper club.

Those taking part are encouraged to come in costume.

Tickets are $60 per person or $300 for a table of six.

Those interested may call 641-390-0003 or go online to www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/W47PYHR3EBH8C.

Funds raised will go towards Hotel Winifred improvements.

Have a Safe Halloween

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Worth family farms amongst Heritage/ Century recognition

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation President Brent Johnson honored 514 Iowa farm families with Century or Heritage Farm designations during ceremonies at the 2026 Iowa State Fair. The annual recognition celebrates families who have owned their farms for 100 and 150 years, respectively.

This year, 274 Century Farms and a record 240 Heritage Farms were recognized in the historic Livestock Pavilion. That included four farms in Worth County, including the Heritage farms of the Throndfamily, Flaaten family and Rugland families and the Century Farm of the Follmuth family.

The 2026 ceremonies added significance as Iowa celebrated America250, the 50th anniversary of the Century Farm Program and the 20th anniversary of the Heritage Farm Program.

"As we celebrated America's 250th birthday, we are reminded that the story of American agriculture runs straight through the story of our country," said Secretary Naig. "For generations, farm families have helped feed, fuel, defend and sustain this nation. The values that built America, including hard work and personal responsibility, private property and ownership, perseverance and the determination to leave something better for the next generation, are reflected in each of these Century and Heritage Farm families. There is an intense sense of pride that comes with keeping a farm in the family for 100 or 150 years, and these families represent an incredible legacy of sacrifice, stewardship and progress. As we look ahead to America's next 250 years, agriculture will remain fundamental to our nation's success because of families like these who continue to carry that proud tradition forward."

The Century Farm Program has a special connection to America's milestone celebrations. The program was established by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation in 1976 as part of the Nation's Bicentennial Celebration. Fifty years later, Iowa once again celebrated a major American milestone while recognizing the farm families whose dedication and perseverance have helped shape the state and nation.

"Iowa's Century and Heritage Farms have been foundational in the growth and prosperity of our great state, and it's an honor to recognize and celebrate their family farm legacies," said Brent Johnson, Iowa Farm Bureau President. "Celebrating this special achievement is a testament to the deep roots and generations of hardworking farm families who continue to move Iowa forward."

The Heritage Farm Program was established in 2006 to recognize the extraordinary achievement of families who have maintained ownership of their farms for at least 150 years. This year's record 240 Heritage Farm recipients comes as the program celebrates its 20th anniversary. Since the programs began, more than 21,000 Century Farms and more than 2,400 Heritage Farms have been recognized across Iowa.

America250 was also incorporated throughout this year's recognition ceremonies. Each 2026 Century and Heritage Farm family received a certificate and farm sign featuring the America250 seal and was photographed in front of a special America250 backdrop.

Visit IowaAgriculture.gov to search the database of Century and Heritage Farm recipients.

See more on the Flaaten, Follmuth and Throndfamily farms on pages 10 and 11 of this week's Northwood Anchor. The Rugland family farm was featured in the September 30 issue of the Northwood Anchor.









Burgeoning butterflies

Second graders at Northwood-Kensett have witnessed the beginning lifespan of monarch butterflies in their classroom. Owen Burrack, Worth County naturalist, brought monarch eggs to the classroom in September. Since then, the students have observed as the eggs have developed into caterpillars, chrysalises and eventually butterflies. Last week, Burrack was back in the classroom to help the students tag and release the Monarchs. The tags will help track the butterflies' progress south for the winter, as those finding the butterflies report on their path.

ISU Extension and Outreach Resource helps maple syrup makers prepare for the season

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has released a publication designed to help beginning and experienced producers prepare for the syrup season ahead. The four-page guide, "Maple Syrup Production," is available for download from the ISU Extension Store.

Making maple syrup is labor-intensive, and success often depends on decisions made well before the first sap flows. Iowa's season runs from mid-February through early March. Newcomers can use the fall to identify maple trees large enough to tap and begin gathering equipment, while experienced producers typically start preparing their gear in January.

Guidance from tree selection to bottling

The guide walks readers through each stage of the process. Key points include:

Choosing the right trees: Sugar and black maples produce sweeter sap than silver maples or boxelders, which can mean far less time boiling.

Tapping with care: Learn how many taps a tree can handle based on its size and how to place them from year to year.

Boiling sap into syrup: Become familiar with how hobby producers can get started with a flat pan over a hearth of concrete blocks, as well as how modern evaporators work.

Handling sap and finished syrup: Sap is perishable and best processed within 24 to 48 hours and involves filtering and bottling the finished product.

"Whether someone is interested in tapping a few maple trees in their backyard or exploring maple syrup production as a business opportunity, this guide offers the information needed to get started," said Emma Kerns, forestry field specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "Beyond the finished product, tapping trees and making syrup gives Iowans a chance to spend time outdoors, learn more about their woodlands and experience one of the unique benefits our forests have to offer."

More information is available by downloading the publication or contacting Billy Beck at wjbeck@iastate.edu, Emma Kerns at erkerns@iastate.edu or Julia Baker at jaclymer@iastate.edu.

CLEAN WATER.
STRONG FAMILY FARMS.
BOTH MATTER.

Iowans shouldn't have to choose between clean water and strong family farms. Family farmers are leading the way on practical water-quality solutions. We need more investments in conservation and greater accountability for large corporations.

Since 1915, the Iowa Farmers Union has worked to strengthen independent family farms and rural communities.

Iowa Farmers Union

Learn more and become a member at iowafarmersunion.org

Amazing Fall Sales

KIOTI
$46,600 with 0% for 72 months or $39,600 with Cash Discount
New Kioti DK5320SEHC
50Hp Diesel, Cab AC/Heat, 3 Range Hydro, MFWD, R14 Tires, Radio, Front and Rear Wiper, Cat 1 3pt, 1 rear hyd remote, KL5521 loader 72" bucket

$15,800
WOODS
New Woods BW10.30
10ft Cutting Width, 540 pto, Chain Shield, Used Aircraft Tires, 1.5" Cutting Capacity, Cutting Height 2-12", 25-60hp

KIOTI
$39,600 with 0% for 72 months or $35,000 with Free Loader Discount & 2.99% for 72 months
New Kioti CK3540SEHC
35hp, MFWD, 3 Range Hydro, Cab AC/Heat, Radio, Block Heater, Cat 1 3pt, 2 sets rear hyd remotes, R14 Tires, KL4040 loader w/66" quick attach bucket

$3,800
WOODS
New Woods BB72.30
6ft rough cut mower, Cat 1 3pt, 540 pto, belt guard, 30-65hp, 2" diameter cutting capacity

$4,400
CL FABRICATION
New CLFab Dominator TreePuller
Jaws open 60" wide, 2 Cylinders, 1" Thick jaws, with Removable bolt on Root Rippers, 31" Tall Guard 3/8" thick

$75,000 with 0% for 48 months or $68,000 with Cash Discount
New Wacker Neuson EZ53
44hp Perkins, Cab AC/Heat, Hyd coupler, Hyd Angle Dozer Blade, 13,000 lbs machine, max digging depth 12ft

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Cross Country
Cont. from Page 1

said a little to Lola, and we took off for the mile mark.

Now running with Lola is fun, but I am not in the same shape as she is in, and she about did pass me in getting to the mile mark! She was as amped as the girls running were! We got there just in time to see the first group of girls come through. They were flying.

Ivy and Olivia were up towards the front and they came through in around 5:40ish! Charlotte wasn't far back, and Maddie came through in her fastest mile ever! Hadley, Maggie and Kaylee were also just slaying it, and even though I wanted to slow them all down, I didn't. All the other teams were flying as well, and I was just hoping our girls could hold on and that I had put them in a place where they could.

At mile two we were still flying. We were ahead of where we needed to be, and all of the girls were running with, or ahead of who they needed to be with. I sent Lola to the finish, and worked my way with the girls to keep them going.

I got to the point where the girls only had a half mile left just in time to see Liv chasing the girl in first, and Ivy working hard with two girls for third. Ivy knew what she needed to do, and took off!. Ava Witt from St. Ansgar was with her, and we knew we needed to beat her!

Not far behind this group was Charlotte. Charlotte had put herself in a perfect position and was running stride for stride with the three South Winn runners we needed to beat, and I sent her after it as well!

Maddie came through next, and she was spent! She had gone out so hard that she didn't have a lot to give. She was well up on her group of kids she needed to beat, and not far behind her was Hadley. Maddie saw me, gave me some encouraging words (not really), and kept going! I told her Hadley was coming, and she then started to go.

Once Hadley came by, I told her to get Maddie and help her out!

Maggie came through next, and she was still running strong, and Kaylee wasn't far behind!

I took off to the so-called Worst Hill in the World to try and catch them before they finished. I didn't get there in time to see the first six girls. I did run into Mr. Urbatsch though, and he was pumped. I was trying not to pass out from the run I had just made, and all I could get was WE WON.

I didn't really comprehend it, because I still had Kaylee coming down the hill, so I needed to get her to the finish line. She came through, took off and finished strong.

Once I got to the mob of people at the finish line the word had got out. WE HAD WON THE STATE QUALIFYING RACE! I didn't have time to talk, but did get a chance to talk to Ivy, and all I could say was, keep the girls together, and get a cool down in. "What the heck Troy!"

I needed to say more, but I had to get to the start for the boys. I did, and we went over our plans for the race. It was going to be Ronan's last race, and he wanted to PR! Wes also had plans of running a PR, and Saxon's plan was to beat Ronan! I took off again, and just got to my spot when it was game on once again! The boys came through a lot better and more on pace then the girls, so I was a lot less stressed.

Lola was back with the girls celebrating, so I could run my own pace to the mile mark, and although I missed running with her, I didn't have to worry the whole way about passing out!

The boys came through right on pace, and I was smiling from ear to ear. I knew they had a lot left, and they were all going to get what they had planned on!

Saxon came through the 2.5 mile marker first, in great shape, Ronan was a little behind and Wes came through shortly after Ronan. I only gave Wes instructions, and I told him I would see him at the HILL. Well Wes took what I had to say to heart, and I didn't get to the HILL in time, so I switched it around, and I went to the bottom of the hill instead. Wes came down the hill way ahead of where I left him, and he turned the corner to the finish and took off.

I made it to the end just in time, and when I checked the results on the screen, the boys had just done exactly what they wanted! Saxon beat his brother, and Wes and Ronan both ran their best times ever on a super hard course! Unbelievable! I was a little spent, but once I saw Wes, Ronan and Saxon I forgot how worn out I was.

Wes just slayed the course, and he had his head on his mom's shoulder and he was more spent than I was. He looked at me, and all I could say to him was how proud of him I was. Wes just ran the race of his life, put everything on the table and gave everything he could! This is what IT is all about!

After I left Wes, I saw Saxon and congratulated him on a great race. He too was tired, and like Wes, he ran a great race. Saxon doesn't say much about his runs, but I knew by the look on his face he was happy.

Finally I caught up to Ronan. He too put it all out there on this day. He has dealt with so much in the past three years with his legs, and for him to come through the way he did was just UNBELEVABLE! Coaching Ronan these past four years has been an amazing adventure. He has taught me so much in this short time, and I am going to miss him immensely next year!

After I talked with the boys I went to look for the girls. They were all together, and we huddled and I told them how proud of them I was. More importantly though Merrin Hanson was there and she wanted to say a couple things to the girls. I left them to talk, and just took a step back and watched.

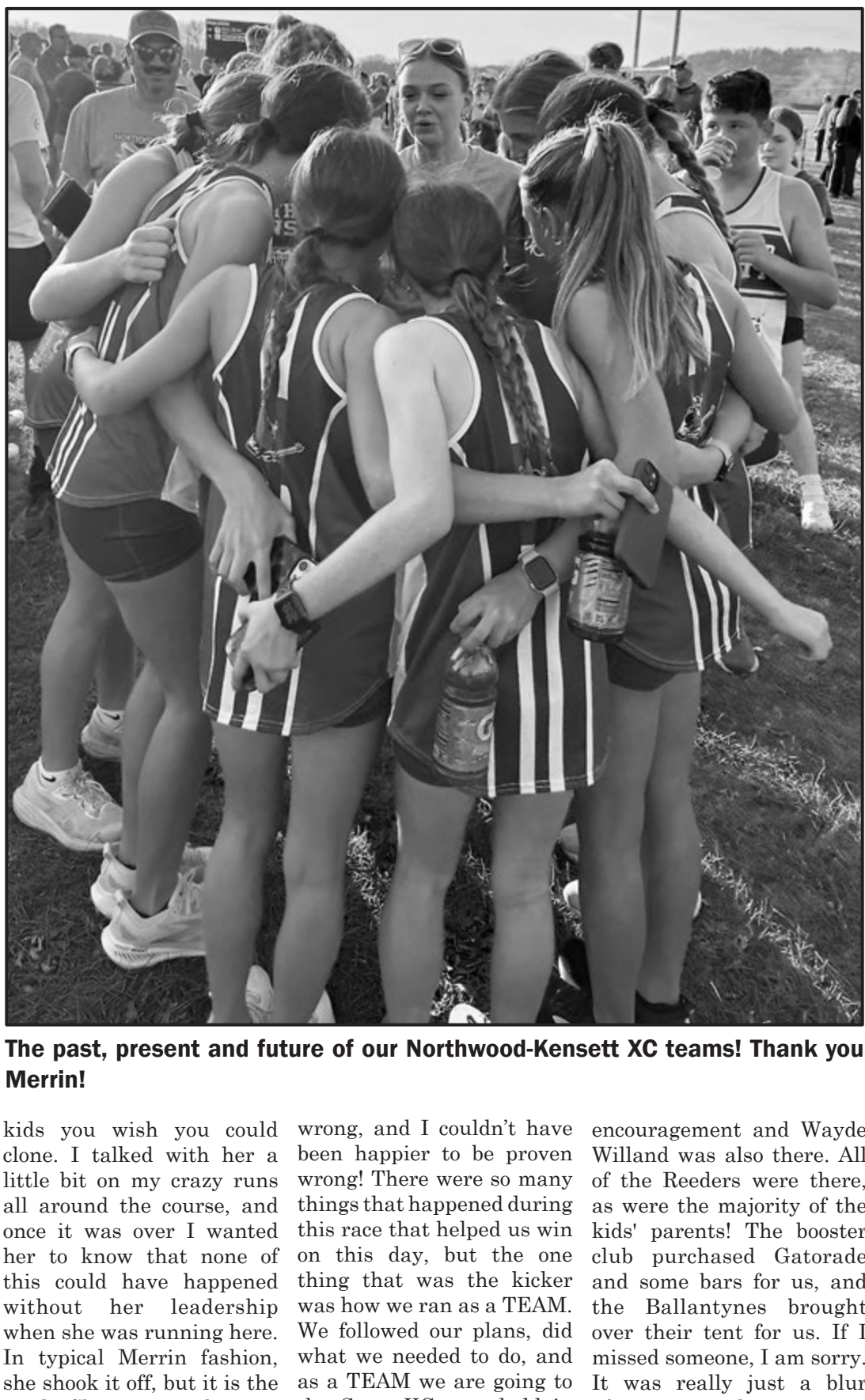
Merrin is one of those kids you wish you could clone. I talked with her a little bit on my crazy runs all around the course, and once it was over I wanted her to know that none of this could have happened without her leadership when she was running here. In typical Merrin fashion, she shook it off, but it is the truth. She may not be running with us anymore, but Ivy, Maddie and Maggie all learned a ton from her, and they are following in her footsteps! She visited with them for a bit, and then the awards ceremony started.

Olivia, Ivy and Charlotte finished in the top 10! UNBELIEVABLE! The team won with a score of 62! UNBELIEVABLE South Winn was only 2 points behind us with 64!

The girls had proven me wrong, and I couldn't have been happier to be proven wrong! There were so many things that happened during this race that helped us win on this day, but the one thing that was the kicker was how we ran as a TEAM. We followed our plans, did what we needed to do, and as a TEAM we are going to the State XC race held in Fort Dodge on Friday, October 30! UNBELEIVABE!

The last thing I need to say is thank you once again. One of the things I wanted to do was take a picture with all of my kids with everyone who was there to support them. All of them made this great day even better. Mr. Hiatt was there cheering on all of the kids, Jim and Merrin Hanson made the trek over to offer encouragement and Wayde Willand was also there. All of the Reeders were there, as were the majority of the kids' parents! The booster club purchased Gatorade and some bars for us, and the Ballantynes brought over their tent for us. If I missed someone, I am sorry. It was really just a blur after we were done.

Now we are on to our next biggest race of the year! The girls will toe the line at 10:30 a.m. on Friday with 15 other teams and over 120 other girls. They have already made history, but my words of wisdom to them this week will be let's send it one more time! I will never underestimate them ever again, and let's keep it rolling! Enjoy your week!



The past, present and future of our Northwood-Kensett XC teams! Thank you Merrin!

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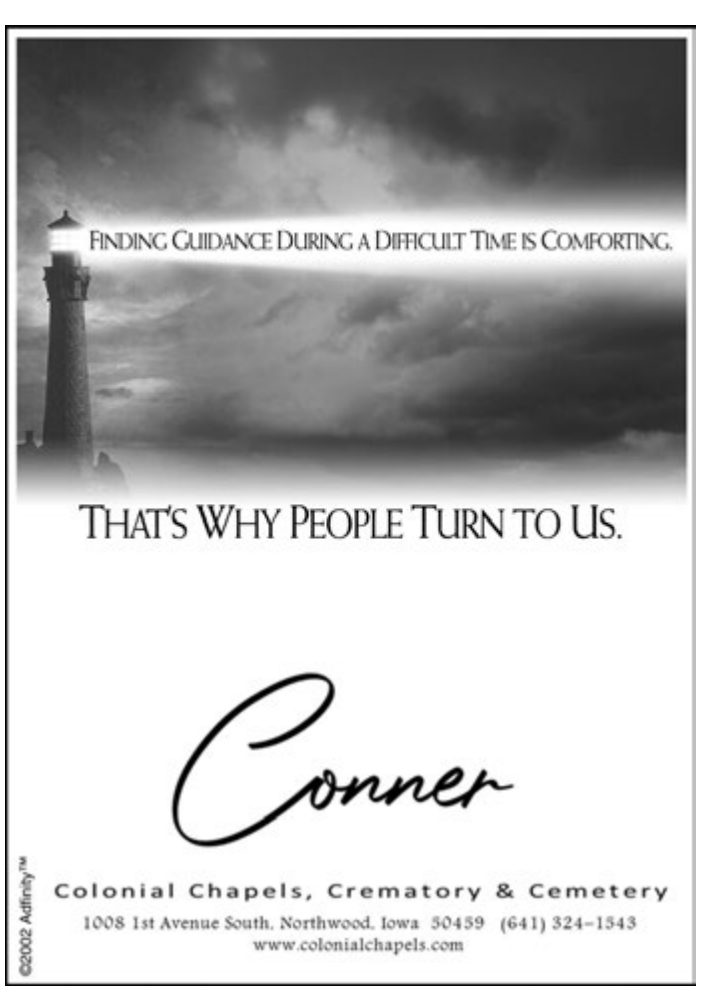
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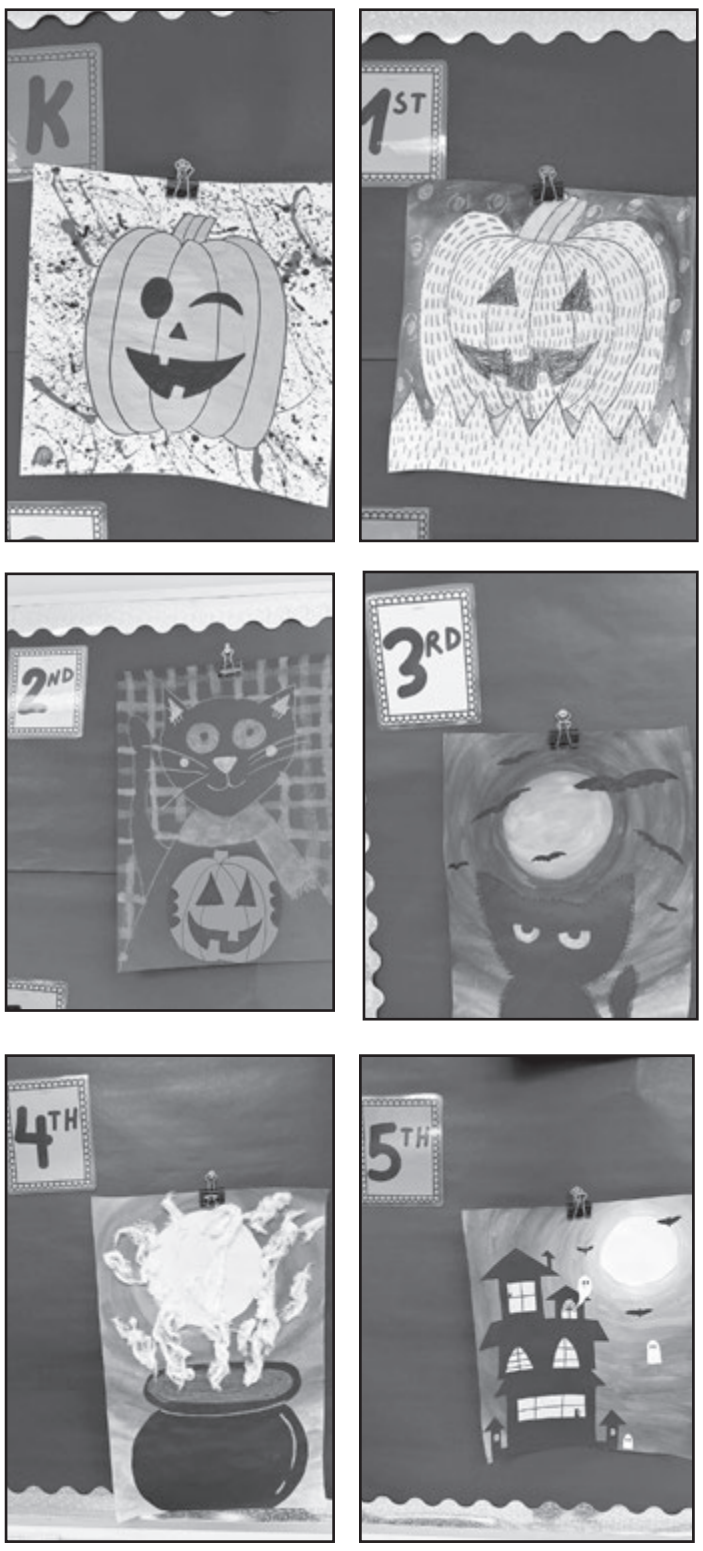
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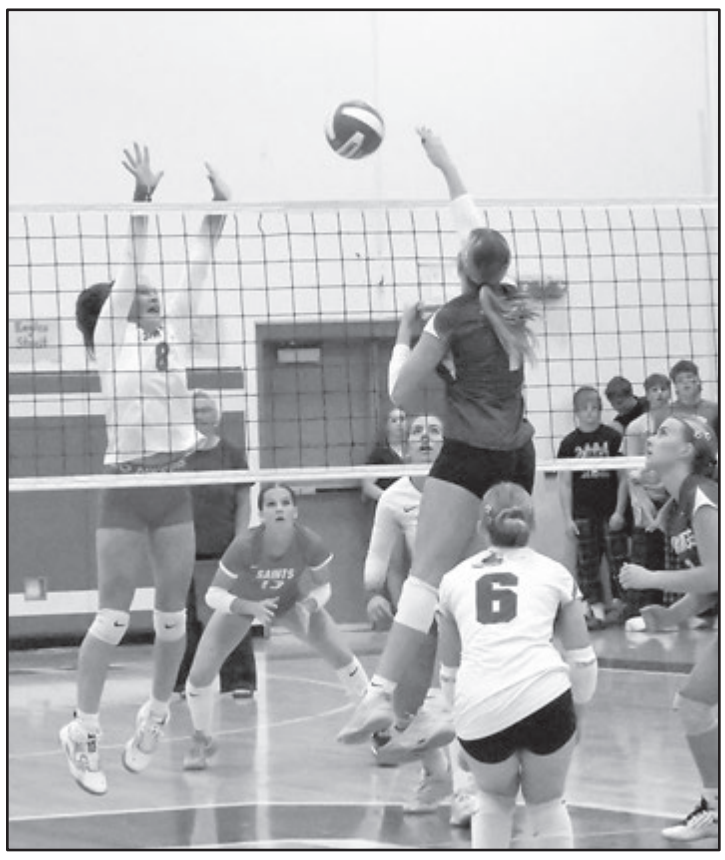
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'Spooktacular creations'

With Halloween on the way, Northwood-Kensett Elementary students have been using their artistic skills with techniques shared in art classes with new art teacher Ms. Heneman.



Viking Hallie Hanson gets a spike through the block attempt on Monday night in St. Ansgar.



Viking True Hackenmiller gets her hands on a kill attempt during quarterfinal play against the Saints.



Viking libero Kenly Solberg lays out to attempt to keep the ball alive during post-season play against St. Ansgar.



Viking senior Ashlyn Skellenger serves the ball during quarterfinal action in St. Ansgar on Monday evening.

Vikings volleyball season ends

By Julie Salisbury

The Vikings volleyball season came to an end on Monday, October 19, with a loss on the road to St. Ansgar in a Class 1A quarterfinal game. The Vikings were defeated 25-18, 25-12 and 25-11.

Hallie Hanson had two kills, three digs, one block and was 4-4 serving, and True Hackenmiller had two kills, two assists, five digs and was 9-9 serving. Mia Fierova had two kills and one dig, and Avarie Skellenger had two kills, one dig and was 3-4 serving. Lilly Strand had one kill, three digs and was 2-4 serving, and Ashlyn Skellenger had four assists, five digs and was 7-8 serving. Lexi McHenry had three digs, Chloe Woods had six digs, seven digs and was 12-12 serving, and Kenly Solberg had record of 5-19.

The Vikings as a team tallied nine kills, six assists, one block, 34 digs and were 37-41 serving.

Northwood ends their season with an overall

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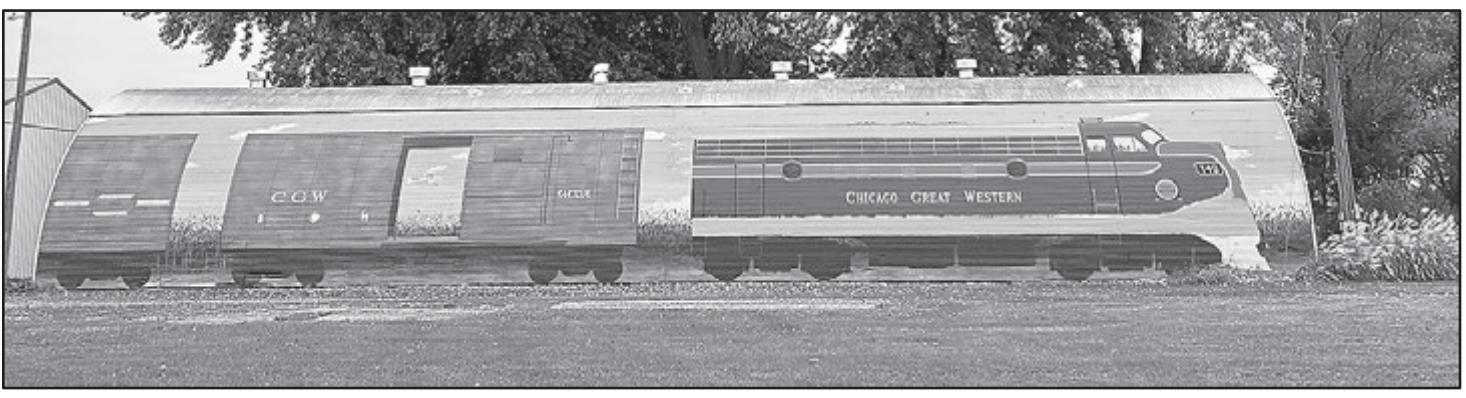
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Bolan's railroad heritage celebrated with train mural

In the past several weeks, work has been nearing completion on Bolan's newest project, a mural with connection's to the small town's railroad history.

Artist Lucretia Torva has been in Bolan as she has worked on a mural of a railroad scene. The 120 foot steel quonset building in Bolan has served as the canvass for Torva's artwork.

A letter seeking support for the project detailed the mural's connection to the community.

"The unincorporated town was named for Matt Bolan, Chicago Great Western Railroad Roadmaster in 1886. Construction began in 1884 of a line south from St. Paul. By the end of the decade, under the leadership of St. Paul businessman A.B. Stickney, it had established routes west to Omaha, Nebraska, south to St. Joseph, Missouri, and east to Chicago, Illinois. It was nicknamed the 'Corn Belt Route' because of operating in the Midwestern United States, also the 'Lucky Strike Road' because of the similarity in the logo design used for Lucky Strike cigarettes. An 1897 map refers the Chicago Great Western Railway as the 'Maple Leaf Route.' Trains hauled passengers, mail, grain, lumber, tractors and livestock. Bolan built an impressive depot and elevator, water tower for steam engines, livestock yards, creamery, general store, post office and church. During WWII, trains were loaded with military goods. Diesel locomotives replaced steam engines. In 1968, the CGW merged with Chicago and North Western. At the time of the merger, it operated a 1470 mile system transporting largely food and agricultural products, lumber and chemicals. Empty boxcars lined the tracks until sometime in the 1980s then the cars, rails and ties left Bolan."

That rail history was the inspiration for the mural, which depicts a Chicago Great Western engine hauling two cars.

According to community organizer Lori Willert, the idea to have a mural painted in Bolan first began around three years ago, when she met Torva at Northwood's Art Farm Iowa.

The train-themed mural continues a theme of other endeavors in the community.

There is a train-themed park that local high school industrial arts students from four neighboring school districts have built and installed for visitors to enjoy.

Torva arrived in Bolan in late August, and has stayed at the Bolan Postal Cottage, painting the mural as weather has allowed and painting between rains.

The mural can now be viewed by Bolan visitors.







Confirmation at First Lutheran

First Lutheran Church in Northwood had confirmation services on Sunday, October 25. After weekly classes throughout their seventh and eighth grade years, completing sermon notes and taking part in other church events and activities, these youth confirmed their baptism in front of their sponsors, families and congregation. Pictured are (front row, from left) Piper Brunsvold, Brianna Perkins, Logan Trenhaile, Lily Varner, (back row) Wesley Ballantyne, Caleb Johnson, Makayla Reyerson and Pastor Becky Sogge.

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, Men's Group at Bethlehem, 8 a.m.; Sunday, Grace Worship, 9 a.m., Sunday School at Bethlehem, 10:15 a.m., Bethlehem Worship, 10:30 a.m., Sunday School at Bethlehem, 10:15 a.m.
Linda Johnson Prestholt, Pastor

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

Trinity United Methodist, Bolan
Sunday, Worship Services, Communion, All Saints Sunday Observance, 9:15 a.m., Coffee Fellowship, 10 a.m.
Pastor Cory Allard

Bethel United Methodist Church
Wednesday, Diner, 8:30 a.m., Bible Study, 10 a.m., Mini Choir, 4:30 p.m., Mini Bells, 5 p.m., Meal, 5:15 p.m., Worship, 5:50 p.m., JuBELLee Ringers/ Confirmation, 6:15 p.m., Chancel Choir, JH/HS Youth Group, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Bethel Worship, 8 a.m., Trinity Worship, Sunday School & Adult Sunday School - B, 9:15 a.m., Bethel Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Northwood United Methodist Church
Sunday, Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Fellowship, 11:45 a.m.; Tuesday, Pastor Fellowship Time 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, 10:30 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, 7th Confirmation, 3:50 p.m., 8th Confirmation, 5 p.m., Inspire, 6:15 p.m., Choir, SH Youth, 7 p.m.; Thursday, Quilting, 8:30 a.m., Prayer Group, 9 a.m.; Sunday, Service, 9 a.m., Sunday School, 10:10 a.m., DCV, 10:30 a.m., JH Youth, 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Through the Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., AA-Al-Anon, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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Wednesday: Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Fruit

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Enduring Suffering



One can endure almost anything, so long as it isn't meaningless. By the very nature of our finite existence, we are going to suffer. All God's creatures will suffer sickness or injury, and ultimately death, but that does not make life meaningless. Suffering can be made sacred by identifying our suffering with the suffering and death of Christ, which gives our suffering cosmic significance. Another way in which one can make one's suffering meaningful is by envisioning it as a trial. It may be a cliché to say that suffering produces character, but that doesn't make it less true. We all must find our own way to make our suffering meaningful. Sometimes the suffering is just the tedium of our jobs, and even mind-numbing boredom can be an opportunity to find meaning via mindfulness. Other times the suffering is physical pain or discomfort, and the challenge is to figure out how to view our pain or discomfort in such a way that it can be handled with equanimity. Perhaps the hardest suffering to endure is mental or emotional suffering. Anxiety and depression can literally be too much for many people to endure, and so it is vital to ask for help, and sometimes that is the meaning in suffering: that we are finite, limited creatures who are quite often helpless in the face of horrible pain and that we must be ready and willing to reach out for help. —Christopher Simon

"Hasten, O God, to save me; come quickly, LORD, to help me."
- Psalm 70: 1

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

Craft & Garden Lassies was a very active club for many years in Northwood. In 1981 they compiled a book of recipes and craft ideas, published by Anchor Publishing Co, Inc. I was pleased to be gifted this book by my friend, Gloria Fallgatter, who said it had also belonged to her mother, Maurine Osheim. This is the type of family treasure that needs to be handed-down through generations so when I have enjoyed it, I will pass it along to Gloria's daughter, Angie. Before that, however, we can enjoy some of the tasty dishes of the '80s. Readers will recognize the names attached to the recipes!

Dilly Bread
(Dee Bloomingdale; Mavis Stevens)

1 package dry yeast
1 tablespoon margarine
¼ cup lukewarm water
2 teaspoons dill seed
1 cup creamed cottage cheese
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons sugar
¼ teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon instant minced onion
1 egg, unbeaten
2 ½ cups flour

Combine the yeast and water and allow the yeast to rise 10 minutes. Heat the cottage cheese to lukewarm and combine with all the other ingredients except the flour. Add the yeast mixture and the flour. Mix well and knead and place in a greased ring mold or loaf pan. Allow to rise one hour. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. and bake for approximately one hour.

Fancy Baked Pork Chops
(Sandy Hyde)

6 pork chops
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 medium onion, sliced
3 tablespoons ketchup
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Trim fat from the chops; salt and pepper them to taste. Coat with flour and brown. Arrange chops in a baking dish and cover with sliced onions. Combine the other ingredients and pour over the chops. Cover with a lid or foil and bake for 1 hour. You can use two cans of soup for more sauce.

Escalloped Chicken
(Anne Stevens)

1 whole chicken, 4-5 pounds
2 cans mushroom soup
2 cups diced celery
1 green pepper, diced
1 can diced pimento
Potato Chips
Slivered almonds

Cook the chicken and remove the meat from the bones. Make gravy from the broth from the cooked chicken. Add to the gravy the chicken meat, the diced celery, diced green pepper and pimento. Season to taste. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Put the chicken mixture into a casserole and top with potato chips, crushed, and slivered almonds. Bake for 1 hour.

Frozen Pumpkin Parfait
(Gerry Arnold)

1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
¼ cup melted butter
¼ cup white sugar
½ cup finely chopped pecans
1 quart vanilla ice cream, softened
1 ½ cup canned pumpkin
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup brown sugar
¼ teaspoon ground ginger
1 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Mix the cracker crumbs, pecans white sugar and melted butter to form a crumb mixture. Press this into a 9-inch square baking pan and bake for 8 minutes. Cool. Soften the ice cream to a custard consistency and stir in the rest of the ingredients. Pile this into the cooled crust. Freeze until hard. Remove from the freezer 20 minutes before serving. Cut into squares.

The craft section of this book has interesting projects such as a Pasta Christmas Tree, a Calico Scrap Wreath and how to turn cornhusks into lovely flowers! All that is way above MY pay grade; I have no talent in the crafty side of life. And…that's all she wrote.

Northwood Anchor Society



An apple one day

The Northwood-Kensett kindergarten classes recently welcomed Teresa Stehn, with the Ag in the Classroom program from Worth County Farm Bureau. Stehn visited to teach them about apples. She read a story about a kid their age whose family owns and operates an orchard. Then Stehn had them use apples cut in half as stamps, filling a basket with the artistic results. Stehn also left them with apples to enjoy for a snack.





Drone Workshop to prepare participants for Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Certification

Iowa State University's Digital Ag Innovation Lab, in partnership with Terraplex Ag, will host a two-day course designed to prepare participants for the Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Remote Pilot Certification exam. The workshop will take place from November 30 to December 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, at the Alliant Energy Agriculture Innovation Lab, located at 3800 University Blvd.

The workshop is geared toward agricultural professionals, drone operators and others interested in using unmanned aerial systems commercially. Participants will receive in-depth instruction on FAA regulations and operations, including Part 107 rules and limitations, airspace classifications and requirements and key concepts needed to successfully pass the Part 107 exam.

The course will include hands-on review sessions, group discussions, FAA-style practice tests and time for a Q&A session. Study materials, including practice exams, are included with registration, and lunch will be provided both days. In-class instruction will also guide participants through the process of registering for the FAA Part 107 exam at an FAA-designated testing center. The FAA exam fee is not included in the workshop registration cost.

The workshop will be led by Sam Welton, director of compliance at Terraplex Ag. Welton brings six years of military experience flying the U.S. Army's RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aircraft system, five years of operating agricultural spray drones and extensive experience assisting operators with FAA certifications and licensing.

Early registration is $449 through November 13, increasing to $500 after. Registration closes on November 20. Enrollment is limited to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 participants.

To register, visit FAA Part 107 Test Prep Course.

More information is available by contacting Doug Houser, digital agriculture extension specialist at Iowa State, at dhouser@iastate.edu.

Grant Writing 101 workshop scheduled for Worth county on November 16

Representatives of nonprofits, local government, schools and community volunteers are encouraged to register for a Grant Writing 101 workshop, which will be presented at the Worth County Extension and Outreach office located at 1206 Third Ave. N., Northwood, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2026.

The workshop is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Worth County, and a light meal will be provided.

Grant Writing 101 is designed for those who are new to the world of grant writing or need a refresher. It will provide a thorough overview of the grant-writing process, from finding appropriate grant opportunities to submitting successful grant applications. There is no registration fee. Participants may register at go.iastate.edu/NQ0HYY, or by calling the Worth County Extension office at 641-324-1531. The deadline to register is Saturday, November 14, at 11:59 p.m.

Grant Writing 101 will be presented by Lindsay Henderson, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Community Development Specialist. She has extensive experience writing and reviewing grant applications and working with various federal, state, local and private foundation grant programs. Henderson will help workshop participants explore public and private funding sources and provide instruction and tips on planning projects and writing successful grant applications.

More information about the workshop is available by contacting Lindsay Henderson at lindsayh@iastate.edu or 515-835-6605.

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Northwood Anchor **Opinion**

Savvy Senior

How to save on Medicare in 2027

By Jim Miller

Dear Savvy Senior,
I'm on Medicare. What changes are coming in 2027, and how can I make sure I'm not paying too much for my coverage?

--Careful Shopper

Dear Careful,
If you have Medicare, now's a good time to make sure you're getting the best coverage for your money. Open enrollment runs through Dec. 7, giving you a chance to switch Medicare Advantage or prescription drug plans for 2027. Since costs, drug coverage and extra benefits can change from year to year, comparing plans now could save you money and headaches later.

Even if you're happy with your current plan, don't assume next year's coverage will be the same. Here's what to look for.

Prescription drug changes

Medicare Part D prescription drug plans are changing, and some enrollees could pay more. In 2027, the maximum annual deductible will rise from $615 to $700, while the annual out-of-pocket limit for covered Part D medications will increase from $2,100 to $2,400.

That limit helps protect people who take expensive medications. Average premiums for stand-alone Part D plans are projected to rise by less than $1 a month, but individual plans can differ considerably. A temporary federal program that helped stabilize premiums is also ending, making it especially important to compare your options.

Your insurer may change its list of covered drugs, called a formulary, or move your medication to a more expensive cost tier. Check that your prescriptions are still covered and what you'll pay for them.

Medicare Advantage changes

If you have Medicare Advantage, the private-insurance alternative to Original Medicare, review your plan carefully. Some insurers are dropping plans or leaving certain markets, while others may change costs or trim extra benefits, such as dental, vision and hearing coverage.

Doctor, specialist and hospital networks can change, too. If your plan is being discontinued, you'll need to choose new coverage. Even if it continues, compare next year's costs, benefits and provider networks before automatically renewing.

Help with weight-loss drugs

A new Medicare GLP-1 Bridge program offers eligible beneficiaries certain medications for weight management for $50 a month through Dec. 31, 2027. Covered drugs include Wegovy, Zepbound (KwikPen only) and Foundayo.

Eligibility is limited. For example, you generally need Medicare drug coverage and must meet specific body mass index and health requirements. The program operates separately from regular Part D coverage, so the $50 monthly payment doesn't count toward your Part D deductible or annual out-of-pocket limit.

Learn more and check eligibility at Medicare.gov/coverage/weight-loss-drugs.

How to shop smart

Here are four ways to find coverage that fits your needs without overpaying.

Read your plan notice: Your insurer should send an Annual Notice of Change explaining next year's premiums, deductibles, copayments and coverage changes. Medicare Advantage members should also check provider networks and extra benefits.

Compare total costs: Visit Medicare.gov/plan-compare. Enter your medications and preferred pharmacies to compare plans and estimate annual costs. Don't focus on premiums alone; include deductibles and what you'll pay for prescriptions.

Check your doctors: If you're considering Medicare Advantage, contact your doctors and hospitals directly to confirm they'll accept the specific plan in 2027. Online directories can be outdated.

Get free help: Your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free, unbiased Medicare counseling. Find a local counselor at ShipHelp.org or call 877-839-2675.

One important caution: If you're thinking of switching from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare, check your Medigap options first. In most states, insurers can deny you a Medigap policy or charge higher premiums based on your health history if you don't qualify for guaranteed-issue protections. Make sure you understand your options before dropping your current plan.

Take time to compare plans before Dec. 7. A little homework now could save you money and help you start 2027 with better coverage.

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



Ponderings from the Batt Cave

By Al Batt writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist.

Echoes from the Loafers' Club Meeting

Good morning.

And the rest of the day to you. You look taller.

That's because I got a raise at work.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Halloween is when old cobwebs become new decorations. I bobbed for apples and got water on my knee. I dressed as a Band-Aid once. That was a hard costume to pull off. My neighbor Crandall wore a Mark Hamill mask. You should have seen the Luke on his face.

Hoping to smooth my life's path, I took a job at a gas station to learn how to do things. I had a short and distinguished career as a pump jockey. It was more short than distinguished. My boss told me my job was to never disgrace the sign. He pointed to the logo of the business. I wasn't as talented as a coworker who claimed to be proficient at using a Slim Jim and hot-wiring cars. Paying with a credit card required me to place a customer's embossed plastic card into a mechanical device called a zip-zap or knuckle buster machine and roll a heavy metal handle across it to imprint the card number and name on a multi-part carbon paper sales form before it was signed.

My strongest point was being good at using GOJO hand cleaner.

I've learned

Dr. Lowell Barr of Spring Valley has a 1931 Ford Model A. Lowell's uncle purchased the car new in Nebraska. The Model A began production in 1927. It's 95 years later, and the Barrs have preserved that piece of family history that can still be driven.

The inventor of the couch invented nothing else. He was too busy napping.

The paper towels at the gas pumps are there to wipe the tears away.

When the James-Younger Gang robbed the First National Bank of Northfield on September 7, 1876, they left with a burlap bag containing $26.70 cash.

Ask Al

"What do you think Edward Munch's painting 'The Scream' portrays?" A father who stepped on a Lego brick.

"Why do sharks swim in salt water?" Pepper makes them sneeze.

In local news

Our local origami shop kept getting busier. Business was in creasing, but then it folded.

Brace yourself for the upcoming orthodontists' strike.

Local geometry teacher missed a school day after spraining his angle.

All Flat Earth Society members must report back to the 8th grade.

Ventriloquist retires after dummy contracts laryngitis.

Local man gives up watching football on TV to spend more time with his family.

Senator Highbottom recommends putting stop signs on interstate highways to slow speeders.

Baking Bad Bakery (formerly Filled of Cream) has rigamarolls, but you will have to go through a lot to get one.

Nature notes

I led a tour to Denali. Alaska is a big place, and traveling around it builds a big appetite. We stopped to eat, grabbing sandwiches and drinks before finding perches outside, because why wouldn't we sit outside? We finished our meals and were walking back to our bus when another tour arrived. They snagged sandwiches and chips, placed them on the outdoor tables, and went to get drinks. I told the leader that someone should stay and guard the food. I'd do that, but I needed to catch a bus. He thought I was goofy and asked who would steal their food. He was right about the goofy part, but when I said, "The gulls," he replied, "The gulls to you too."

I stood by the door of our bus, using my amazing math skills to be sure all 50 of my tour participants boarded. Before I stepped onto the deluxe motor coach, I looked back at the spot where we'd enjoyed a lovely repast. Delicate-appearing gulls named mew gulls (the name has been changed to short-billed gulls) were devouring the sandwiches of that group of tourists. The "mew" part of the name didn't come from its catlike call because it makes nothing that sounds like that. It's derived from "zee meeuw," an old Dutch name for the bird. Gulls are incredibly good at obtaining food. A gull in Florida snatched a partially eaten hot dog from my hand. It did so for my own good.

The name "nighthawk" is a misnomer, since the common nighthawk isn't strictly nocturnal—it's active at dawn and dusk—nor closely related to hawks. They have long tails, forward-swept wings and spectacular aerial maneuverability. It belongs to the nightjar family, and its "hawk" name comes from its resemblance to a small hawk flying and its hawking method of catching insects mid-air.

Meeting adjourned

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." - Ralph Waldo Emerson. Be kind.

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Letters to the Editor

To all Iowa voters,

I have a question for you. WHY are Elon Musk and so many other billionaires spending so much money — hundreds of millions of dollars— in their efforts to get Republicans elected next Tuesday? Do you believe it is because they think Republicans will make life better for average Americans? OR is it more likely they are working to elect Republicans because they believe Republicans will continue to award them lucrative government contracts and continue to give them ever more tax cuts and tax exemptions??

Lonna Gooden Van Horn
Northwood

Dear Editor,

Could someone please explain to me, in common language that I and most readers can comprehend. why this statement I have read often makes any sense? Please reply publically; don't keep the secret to yourself. The most recent expounder of this logic was Rev. Jerry E. Robertson in a letter published in the October 21 edition of the Anchor. Rev. Robertson says that sales taxes "generally take a larger share of income from lower-income households." He was referring to the possibility that if Amendment 1 to Iowa's Constitution is passed, a "possible" source of additional revenue for the state would be increasing sales taxes. This often spouted comment makes no sense to me. If a family/household is on a budget, has lower income (whatever that may mean in today's life) they are not the ones paying a lot of sales taxes. Food is not taxed except for pop, alcohol etc., medication is not taxed, some services are not taxed. If you want to travel the short distance to Minnesota, clothing/shoes are not taxed when priced under a certain level. Unless these households are buying items they cannot afford using credit or money that should be directed elsewhere, sales tax should not be a huge burden. They are not paying sales tax on daily necessities of life. These are not families who are buying luxury cars, fancy boats and snowmobiles, designer clothing, expensive watches, jewelry and $2,000 phones. People who can afford those items... and who DO buy them...can afford to pay the required sales tax to the city, county, state. If I want a special item but cannot afford to pay cash for it, I simply don't buy it until I CAN afford to own it...and pay the expected tax for that privilege. The cost of daily living has exploded but I don't believe the sales tax is to blame or will be even if increased. Please do not think I am unaware of what things cost today to feed and clothe a family plus maintain a home or that I am unaware that some families are stretched thin. But inflation is not due to sales tax. Can someone tell me why I'm wrong in this perception?

Sandy Olson
Northwood

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Fit to print...

Did you know? A history of Halloween costumes

It is impossible to identify the first Halloween costume and which masks the earliest celebrants donned in efforts to keep away the evil spirits during Samhain, which historians believe is the Celtic precursor to Halloween.

According to Lesley Bannatyne, an author who has written extensively about the history of Halloween, masks and coverups were designed to symbolize ghosts and the souls of the dead, first for Samhain and later for the custom of "souling," which was intended to cut back on pagan influences. Costumes of saints and evil spirits also were popular during this time. When immigrants brought Halloween customs to North America, early 20th century costumes featured much of the same — ghosts and ghouls.

It wasn't until the 1920s and 1930s that pop culture began to infiltrate costumes. In fact, one of the first costume companies, J. Halpern Company, began licensing pop culture images like Mickey Mouse and Popeye around this time.

By the 1960s, costumes were largely store-bought, spurring entire industries.

Many 1980s kids recall buying boxed costumes that consisted of rigid plastic masks with eye holes (and very small holes by the mouth and nose) that stayed in place with thin elastic straps, and a plastic sheeting costume that went over clothes.

Modern costumes have evolved into outfits that are far more complex.

Northwood Anchor Early Files

100 years ago

October 21, 1926

An Albert Lea man, driving a Dodge coupe, is reported to have said in Kensett a little before midnight that he was going to pass every car between that town and Northwood as he and three other men started from the former town to this city. Instead of doing that thing, the Dodge and its occupants rolled over twice in a ditch less than a mile north of Kensett, and before they had caught the first car ahead of them.

Two touchdowns by Lefty Narum and a place kick from the 35 yard line by Captain Fedge while the Lake Mills team collected but two points from a touch back made the Northwood high school football team a winner in last Friday's game played here.

Miss Myrtle Ausenhus, office assistant at the Farm Bureau office, left last Saturday for Decorah for an over Sunday visit with relatives in that city. Miss Gladys Burtness helped out at the office during the weekend.

A.E. Salisbury is carrying two mashed fingers of his right hand in a heavy bandage the past several days as a result of a mix-up with several large lumps of coal while unloading a wagon load of fuel.

Sever Knutson, local high school teacher; his mother, Mrs. Knutson; her father, O.A. Storvick; Mrs. Andrew Singlestad; and Mrs. Oscar Rustad drove to Decorah in the Knutson car to visit relatives and friends and attend the dedication of a new college building at Luther College that day.

A Halloween program Thursday, Oct. 28, at the Dist. No. 5, Kensett Township, school house, 8 p.m. A 15 cent lunch will be served. The proceeds will go to pay for equipment for hot lunches, Bernice Gabriel, teacher.

Seldom have so many strange cars been seen (nearly all enclosed) as were in Grafton Saturday, probably hunters from a distance, come to try their luck at pheasant hunting in Worth County corn fields.

75 years ago

October 25, 1951

Hiram Ellingson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ellingson of Northwood, spoke on the Fellowship of Evening Prayer, a program by students of Luther Theological seminary in St. Paul over WCAL Northfield Monday. A senior at Luther Seminary, Hiram graduated from Northwood in 1938 and from Luther in 1949.

The week of Nov. 4-11 has been designated as gun safety week by the state conservation commission. The list of persons to speak on gun safety in Worth County has been announced and included Dr. B.H. Osten and Whitney Randall, Northwood; Thelan Elthon, Fertile; Richard Arneson and Ernest Brunsvold, Joice; and Floyd Morrley, state conservation officer, Forest City.

Nearly 1,000 people, many from a distance, attended the Harris and Son farm auction. Proceeds of the sale were estimated at $28,000, not including the items repurchased by Ralph Harris. Heifers sold up to $320 each and fall pigs at $61.50. Fourteen young calves, on average weighing about 280 pounds, sold for $122 each.

John S. Veenker, Northwood pharmacist, was re-elected as second vice president of the National Retail Druggists Association. Veener returned to Northwood after spending a week at the NRDA national convention at Minneapolis.

Work began last week on the foundation of the new county garage to be located just east of the sheriffs office on the courthouse square.

Six men selected to fill the Worth County October draft quota left Thursday by bus for induction at Des Moines. They are Carl Belz, St. Ansgar; Dewayne Borchadt, Riceville; Roger Ritter, Fertile; Virgel Grosland, Northwood; Duane Vaage, Joice and Dale Borchardt, Plymouth.

50 years ago

October 21, 1976

One of the earliest snowfalls on record Monday night tempted children to bring out sleds two months ahead of schedule. Although the ground was white until noon Tuesday, there wasn't enough cover for sledding.

Total income for the 1976 Worth County Fair was $53,919.16, according to a financial report by secretary Kary Paulson. This compares to an income of $41,217.14 for the 1975 fair.

A combine harvesting row upon row of corn was a common scene in Worth County during the week. Corn harvest is well ahead of average, with an estimated 40 percent of the crop in.

The Northwood-Kensett Vikings led the Britt Eagles 14-0 early in the second quarter in a North Iowa Conference game at Britt Friday night, only to have the Eagles roar back to claim a 22-20 homecoming win.

The N-K cross country team placed sixth at the district meet at Fort Dodge, Saturday, with 117 points. Winner was Lake City with 44 followed by Orange City 47, Newman of Mason City 50, Remsen, 108, and Dike 116. Nineteen teams participated and the top four go to the state meet at Waterloo on October 30.

Grand opening of North Iowa Trailer Sales, Grafton, will be held at the Grafton Elevator on Friday, October 29. A Halloween dance will be held and a roast pig luncheon will be served.

The 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mowers will be noted on an open house to be held Sunday, October 24, at First Lutheran Church parlors from 2 to 5 p.m. Anna Hermanson and Lloyd Mowers were married on October 21, 1916, in the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thor Hermanson, in Northwood.

Sarah Aabjornson, a resident at the Manly Care Center while recuperating from an attack of shingles, was recipient of a party Wednesday, Oct. 13, honoring her 94th birthday.

25 years ago

October 24, 2001

Northwood police are investigating the theft of an N-K school bus. The bus turned up missing at 6:40 a.m. last Thursday when transportation director Gary Hartwig and the district's drivers arrived at the bus barn to begin their routes.

Registered nurse Joanne Windschitl prepared to take a blood donation from Conservation Board executive director Dean Mueller as his son Marty provided moral support during the American Red Cross Bloodmobile drive at the First Lutheran Church here. The Northwood Lions Club-sponsored drive collected blood from 90 donors, including Jerry Hopperstad, whose contribution last Monday earned him an 11-gallon donor pin from the North Central Red Cross.

Eric Lynn Schaub and Angela Kathleen Hinn announce their engagement and approaching marriage. Eric is the son of Lynn and Sharon Schaub of Northwood. Angie is the daughter of John and Kathleen Hinn of Spirit Lake, Iowa. The couple is planning a wedding on Dec. 29, 2001.

The Berge Oil softball team took third place this summer in the Minnesota state co-ed Class D softball tournament in Inver Grove Heights. Team members included Tammy Knudtson, Tammy Severson, Amber Julseth, Sheila Bratrud, Kris Gordon, Sam Walk, Tim Berge, Jeff Overgaard, Aric Finch, Brian Schutz, Matt Willand, Scott Severson and Kris Paulson. The team also won the co-ed softball championship during the Myrtle centennial celebration.

Blocks like the one he got from Northwood-Kensett tight end Josh Reindl sprang Viking fullback Nathan Loberg from the nine-yard gain, which set up the fifth of N-K's six first-half touchdowns against Ventura here last Friday night. N-K running back Joe Fierova scored from six yards out on the ensuing play to give his team a 31-0 lead with 3:59 to play in the second quarter.

10 years ago

October 26, 2016

Each year students at Northwood-Kensett Elementary board school buses only to be told that there is an emergency and that they must use the emergency exit to evacuate. The younger students are aided by their older counterparts, who make sure that they can exit safely. Fortunately this is only a drill, meant to make sure that the students are calm and know how to evacuate buses.

Worth County 4-H'ers conducted their semi-annual Adopt A Highway Ditch cleanup along Highway 65 on Saturday, October 22. Members participating included Ayanna Eckblad, Julia Quisley, Lindsey Davidson, Maddie Shoger, Larry Eckblad, Sydney Patterson, Laura Hopperstad, Matt Parcher, and Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist.

N-K's Jamie Steinman and Taylor Jorgensen perform one of their stunts that earned them both a spot on the prestigious Shrine Bowl cheerleading squad.

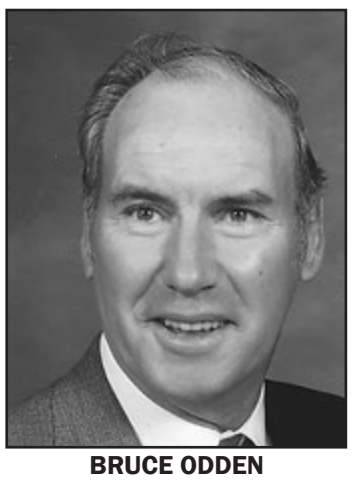
Senior Erika Heideman gets ready to deliver one of her 12 assists in last Tuesday night's 3-0 (25-6, 25-17, and 25-18) regional win over Mason City Newman. The talented setter now has a team high 226 assists on the year.

N-K seniors lead the team on the field for the final game of their careers last Friday night in Northwood. Not many, including this reporter, thought a winning season was possible, but this group far exceeded expectations in finishing with a 5-4 mark, Congratulations men.

Northwood-Kensett eighth graders attended the 30th annual "Program for Women in Science & Engineering" at Iowa State University in Ames on October 13. Their favorite sessions were about cool chemistry, where they made slime and using spices to create different flavors.

Northwood Anchor Obituaries

Bruce Odden



BRUCE ODDEN

Bruce Gerald Odden, 94, of Northwood, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at Northwood Pines Assisted Living surrounded by his loving family.

Bruce was born in Northwood, Iowa, on March 29, 1932, to Leif and Ida (Kuhlmann) Odden. He graduated from Northwood High School in 1950. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in December 1951. Bruce served in the Korean war, was an instructor for aircraft mechanics stateside and was an assistant crew chief on F84 fighter aircraft in Korea and F86 fighter aircraft in Japan.

On July 20, 1952, he married the love of his life, Marjorie Urbatch and together they raised a loving family with three children; Pamela, Vicki and Luane. After leaving the Air Force, Bruce purchased a farm in rural Northwood raising crops and cattle. Early in his farming career he tore down the old farm house and built a beautiful home for his family along with the help of his father, Leif Odden. He was also worked as a carpenter and built many beautiful wood projects for his family. Bruce was a 4-H leader for over 20 years, belonged to the Saddle Club, loved being outdoors hunting, riding his Honda Goldwing motorcycle and camping in their motorhome.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Marjorie Odden; children, Pamela (Michael) Pleiss, Vicki Gerhardt and Luane Odden (Retha King); sister, Maxine Wignes; brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard Urbatch, Sharon Dilling, Roger and Wendy Urbatch and Barb and Dennis Walser; 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leif and Ida Odden; in-laws, Eldred and Lucille Urbatch; son-in-law, Ron Gerhardt; great-granddaughter, Gracie Roe; and brothers and sisters-in-law, Shirley and Howard Ludens, Marilyn Cooper, Evelyn Urbatch, Leland Dilling and Russell Wignes.

A funeral service for Bruce was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at Hoff Celebrations – Sites Memorial Chapel in Northwood, Iowa, with visitation one hour prior. Interment with military honors was at Stateline Cemetery, Northwood, Iowa. Hoff Celebrations – Sites Memorial Chapel of Northwood is assisting the family with services. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.hoffcelebrations.com.

Iowa farmers see promise in drones, but express high levels of uncertainty about impacts



Drones are beginning to play a role in Iowa agriculture, particularly for crop monitoring and pesticide application, but most farmers remain uncertain about the technology's advantages and limitations, according to results from the 2025 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, an annual survey of Iowa farmers conducted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Aircraft have been used in farming for decades for tasks such as scouting, spraying and planting cover crops. Recent technological advances in unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones, have expanded their potential use in farm operations. As drones have become more affordable and easier to access, interest among farmers has grown. The 2025 farm poll included several questions designed to better understand how farmers are using drones and how they perceive the technology.

"As agricultural drone technology has improved, many opportunities to more efficiently scout for and treat pests and disease have emerged, and both farmers and drone service providers are taking advantage," said J. Arbuckle, extension sociologist and director of the Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll. "This year's survey looked at how farmers are using drones and their attitudes toward them, to better understand their information needs."

Overall, 22% of surveyed farmers reported using a drone or a drone service provider in 2024. Among those who used drones, access most commonly came through specialized drone service providers (51%), followed by hiring an agricultural retailer or cooperative (37%). About one-quarter of drone users reported owning their own drone, while a smaller share rented or borrowed equipment.

The most common use of drones was monitoring and scouting crops, reported by 62% of drone users. Pesticide application was nearly as common, with 56% indicating this use. Fewer farmers reported using drones for planting (20%) or fertilizer application (9%).

Patterns of use differed depending on how farmers accessed drones. Farmers who owned or rented drones primarily used them for monitoring and scouting crops, with relatively limited use for spraying, planting or fertilizing. In contrast, farmers who hired drone services — either through cooperatives, agricultural retailers or specialized providers — most often used drones for pesticide application. Among these farmers, drone services accounted for a substantial share of their pesticide application work.

"Farmers don't need to invest in drones right away," said Doug Houser, digital agriculture extension specialist. "Many are gaining experience by working with drone service providers, which allows them to better understand the value of the technology on their operation before making a purchase decision."

The survey also asked all respondents, regardless of use, about their attitudes toward drones. Agreement with both positive and negative statements was generally modest. The only positive statement that received majority agreement was that drones "can be controlled with precision," which 61% of farmers agreed with. Fewer than half agreed that drones save time and effort, spray uniformly or increase labor efficiency, and only 25% agreed that drones are generally easy to operate.

Among potential concerns, the most widely shared was that drones are difficult to operate in windy conditions, with 58% of respondents agreeing. Other concerns — including malfunction risks, pesticide drift, maintenance costs, battery life and transportation challenges — were endorsed by fewer than one-third of farmers.

A notable finding was the high level of uncertainty. For eight of the 12 attitude statements, a majority of farmers selected the "uncertain" response. This likely reflects limited direct experience with drones, as fewer than one in four farmers reported using them in the previous year.

"Interestingly, uncertainty was high on most attitudinal items for both drone users and those who have not used them," noted Arbuckle. "A big take-home is that while many farmers are interested in the technology, they're still not comfortable with drones and have a lot to learn."

Taken together, the results suggest that while drone use is expanding — particularly through custom service providers — many Iowa farmers need more information to help them evaluate the technology.

"We are still early in the adoption curve, but drones are getting better at range of applications from crop scouting and rock identification to developing spray prescriptions, and farmers are wanting to know more about them," added Houser. "ISU Extension and Outreach has been developing informational resources and workshops to provide farmers with opportunities to learn about drones and whether they might make sense for their operations."

Follmuths celebrate over 100 years on family farm

By JoAnn Lower

John and Anne Marie Follmuth, he an immigrant from Germany, she from Bohemia, moved to America, married and in 1891 purchased their 160-acre farm. In 1995 the farm was purchased by great-great-grandson Paul and his wife Cynthia Follmuth.

"Both Cynthia and I are from Glenville; Cynthia from one side of the tracks, I from the other," Paul chuckled. "I farmed the place for ten years and then suffered a broken arm, which put an end to my farming career. We still live here but rent the land."

"When my grandfather bought the place, which is in the eastern part of Worth County, he didn't tell my grandmother it was wet. Actually, it was kind of a slough. She cried for two weeks. They had four children when they moved here and then added five more, for a total of eleven."

"The house at one time had a fire in it, so when Cynthia and I bought the place, people said we should just bulldoze it down and start over. However, because I had always loved this house, we rebuilt it. The 1500 square feet we added plus a basement made us a very nice house."

"This farm contains so many memories. In the 60s, my teenage years, we had family reunions where hundreds of people gathered in our front yard. Others may consider this just a typical farm, but it's more than that to our family. It's special."







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Thronds celebrate 150 years on family farm





By JoAnn Lower

Anders and Kjersti Olson Flatekval, homesteaded their farm in 1876. Humble people who loved the land, they spent their first years living in a shoddy and farming the hilly 80 acres with Percherons. When a house was built, it took a long time for Kjersti to decide to move out of the shoddy and into a house with electricity.

"I've been told that Kjersti was a force to be reckoned with," said great-great-granddaughter Amy Throng. "The men were the farmers, but the women were the glue. They held down the fort; they got things done. Kjersti not only helped homestead this property but also went to the Dakotas to help her sister homestead theirs."

Two original buildings remain on the property that has been passed to Truman and Barbara Throng and farmed by Steven and Randy Throng. "My sisters and I made 18 quarts of applesauce from the apples we picked here," said Amy. "It was so much fun. There's such a sweet spirit on this farm."

"For more than a hundred years, this farm has been known as the Throng farm, but it got its name quite accidentally," said Dale Throng. "The Flatekval daughter, Theolina (my grandmother), married a young man from Carpenter, Iowa whose name was Clarence Olson. When they moved to Silver Lake Township from Carpenter, there was another Olson in the Norwegian community. Their mail was always getting mixed up, so shortly after moving, he changed his last name and took his father's name – Throng Olson. My grandfather took the name Clarence Theodore Throng. No more mail getting mixed up. And that's how it became known as the Throng Farm."

Receiving the Heritage Farm Award was a poignant but bittersweet moment for Truman and Barbara Throng's family. Sixteen family members were present; the youngest named Anders. Sadly, Truman, who would have been so proud of receiving the award, passed away in January.

Flaatens celebrate over 150 years on family farm





By JoAnn Lower

In 1870 Tollef Knut Flaaten and his sister Mari left Norway to join their brothers Thor and Ole in Lansing, Iowa. In 1873 Tollef heard about some land for sale in Worth County and wanted to see it. Lansing was beautifully hilly and by the river but needed much cleanup of the wooded area in order to grow crops. Iowa didn't have as many trees, so in 1876 he bought 120 acres where the site is now.

When Tollef moved to Worth County where more of his family lived, he met and married Bertha Anderson who had come from Norway with her one-year-old daughter, Agnes. Little Agnes was later blessed with a brother and a sister, Knute and Hannah.

"My brother Truman Flaaten and I grew up on this farm that great, great grandfather Tollef purchased 150 years ago," said Karen Flaaten Rollenhagen who now lives in Colorado. "I have many farm stories I could tell, but this is one I'll always remember."

"It happened one afternoon in January 1952 when I was six years old and at home from school with chickenpox. Dad and two-year-old Truman were taking a nap downstairs when Dad woke realizing the house was on fire. He put little Truman on the front stoop and told him not to move. Because the fire kept Dad from going up the stairs, he calmly yelled at me to get my one-year-old sister Trudy out of the house. I kicked out a window on the second-floor bedroom and stepped onto the roof above the stoop, handed Trudy to Dad and climbed down by myself. Dad's calm voice, his caring and faith in me as a six-year-old, will remain with me for the rest of my life."

"Being a farm kid means discipline and hard work, caring for each other and working together to make the farm succeed. Four generations of Flaatens have lived on this land for more than 150 years. What an honor."

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Lake Mills News Sports

LM students selected for Opus Honor Choir

Four students from Lake Mills Community School District were selected from over 3,000 auditions for the 2026 All-Iowa Opus Honor Choir.

Students in grades fifth through ninth audition from across the state each year for limited spots in the state's top vocal ensembles for this age category. Students selected are - ninth grader Grant Rentz, son of Josh and Laura Rentz, seventh grader Ella Sletten, daughter of Nate and Mindy Sletten, and fifth graders Hannah Slattum, daughter of Jason and Alyssa Slattum, and Monroe Hauan, daughter of Matt and Jenna Hauan.

The students are under the direction of 6-12 vocal music director Linda Larson and elementary music teacher Molly Holtan.



Opus Honor Choir - Grant Rentz, Ella Sletten, Hannah Slattum and Monroe Hauan.

The Opus Festival will be held Thursday, Nov. 19, the first day of the All-State Music Festival held each year on the Iowa State Campus in Ames. Students, directors, parents, and fellow music lovers converge on the campus each year during this festival to hear the state's top musicians.

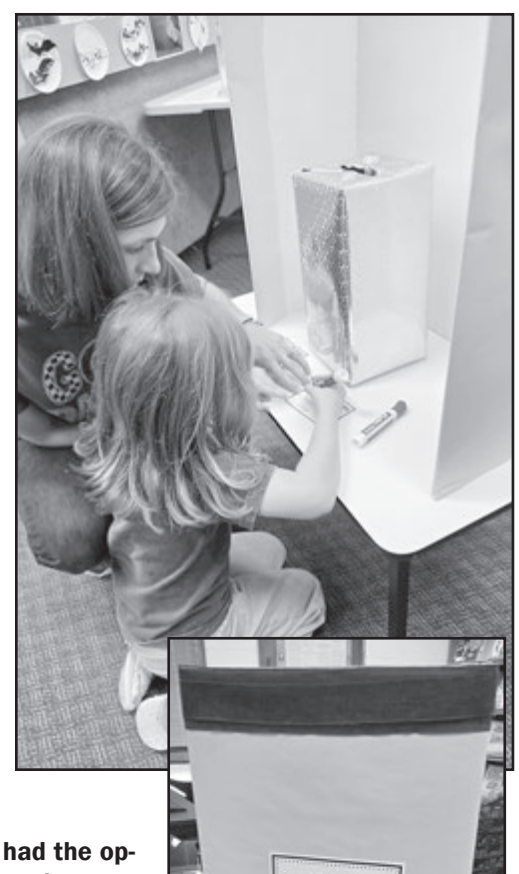
Concert tickets are available through Ticketmaster at ticketmaster.com.



What came first, the dinosaur or the egg?

Dinosaurs visited the Lake Mills Library recently as a part of the Wednesday Little Learners program. After reading the book "Dino the Brave Explorer," the young library visitors hunted for tracks until they found dinosaur eggs. They then helped them hatch to see what kind of dinosaur could be found inside.





An early election

Little Learners at the Lake Mills Library recently had the opportunity to take part in their own version of an election. The children were introduced to a friendly puppy, who needed a name. After narrowing down the name choices to two, the young people and adult helpers cast ballots. The end result had the puppy named "Lloyd," winning with one vote more than "Fluffy." The children left wearing "I voted today" stickers, and were also read the "Curious George Votes" book.





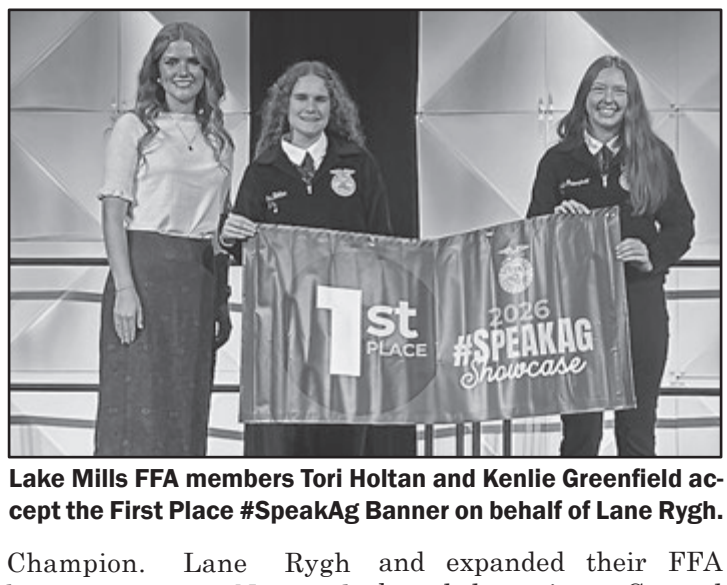
Lake Mills FFA members who attended the National FFA Convention, from left, Conner VanRoekel, Carter Ham, Kenlie Greenfield, Leighton Flugum, Taelynne Flugum, Tori Holtan and FFA advisor Max Deeter.

Lake Mills FFA attends National Convention

By Lake Mills FFA Chapter Reporter Tori Holtan

Learning to live and serve through the 99th National FFA Convention and Expo.

Six Lake Mills FFA members traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, to have a trip full of involvement, learning, and empowerment. Leighton Flugum, Kenlie Greenfield, Tori Holtan, Taelynne Flugum, Carter Ham, and Conner VanRoekel were chosen to head to the National FFA Convention to grow their leadership and FFA experience. Starting with a tour of the John Deere Pavilion in Moline, IL, and a stop at the Indiana Dunes National Park on their day of travel. We started full swing of the 99th National FFA Convention and Expo once we reached Indiana. Our days at convention were filled with the career expo, shopping mall, and countless moments of learning and memories! Two members, Kenlie Greenfield and Tori Holtan, were happy to present Lane Rygh's #SpeakAg State Showcase video! Our chapter is proud to announce our National Champion. Lane Rygh became a National Champion in the #SpeakAg State Showcase and we couldn't be more proud of him! Congrats Lane! Our members learned the importance of living to serve through the National Convention service project where they made tie scarves. After long days at the convention center, our members enjoyed nights filled with fun! From pizza parties and suppers to the Ty Myers concert and Urban Air, there was always a time for fun for our members! These six kids took the opportunity to go to the National Convention and expanded their FFA knowledge, going to General Sessions and hearing from Ag leaders like the National FFA Advisor and the U.S Secretary of Agriculture. They heard an incredible message from a keynote speaker and are excited to bring back information to our chapter. We ended our trip with some members completing their Pin Challenge and started our long ride home! Our members are incredibly grateful for this experience and can't thank the ones who make it possible enough! We can't wait to see what holds for our chapter this year!



Lake Mills FFA members Tori Holtan and Kenlie Greenfield accept the First Place #SpeakAg Banner on behalf of Lane Rygh.

Briefs

Care Center welcomes trick and treaters

The Lake Mills Care Center and Mills Harbour will welcome trick or treaters on Halloween, October 31, from 5-6 p.m.

The Care Center will offer a lighted courtyard walk for the trick or treaters.

Trick or treating in Lake Mills

Costumed kids and accompanying adults will be trick or treating in the Lake Mills community this Saturday, October 31, from 5-7 p.m.

Forest City Ford

Ben's Weekly Specials

"Where Customers Send Their Friends"

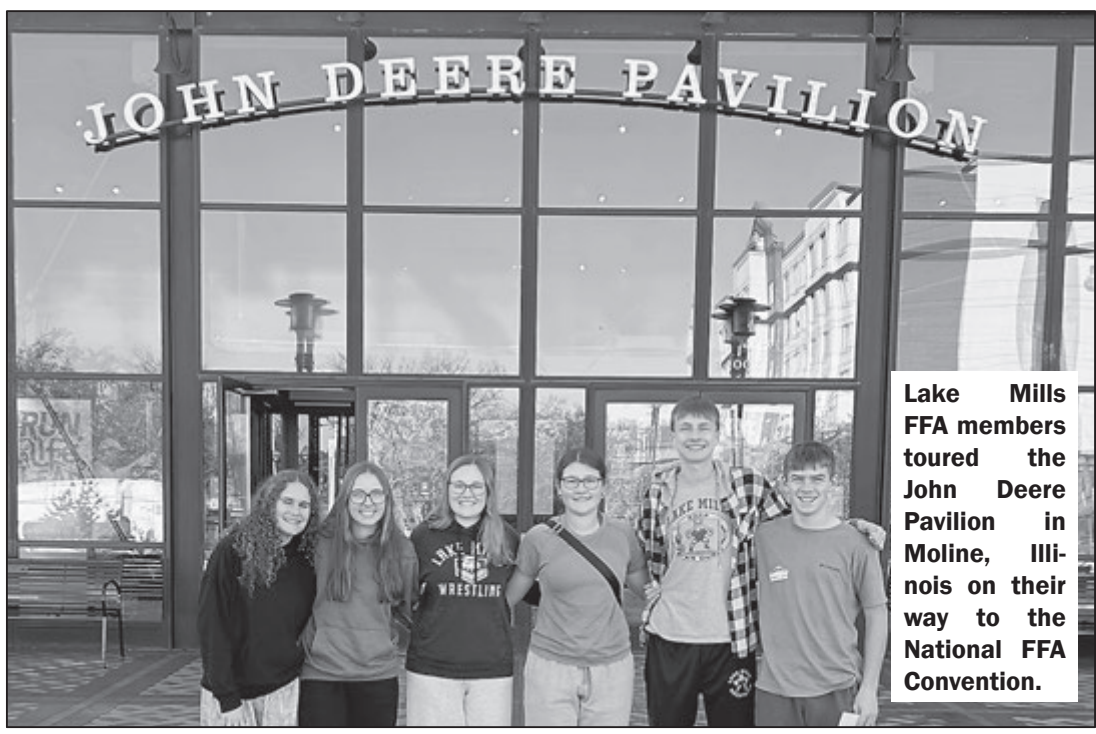
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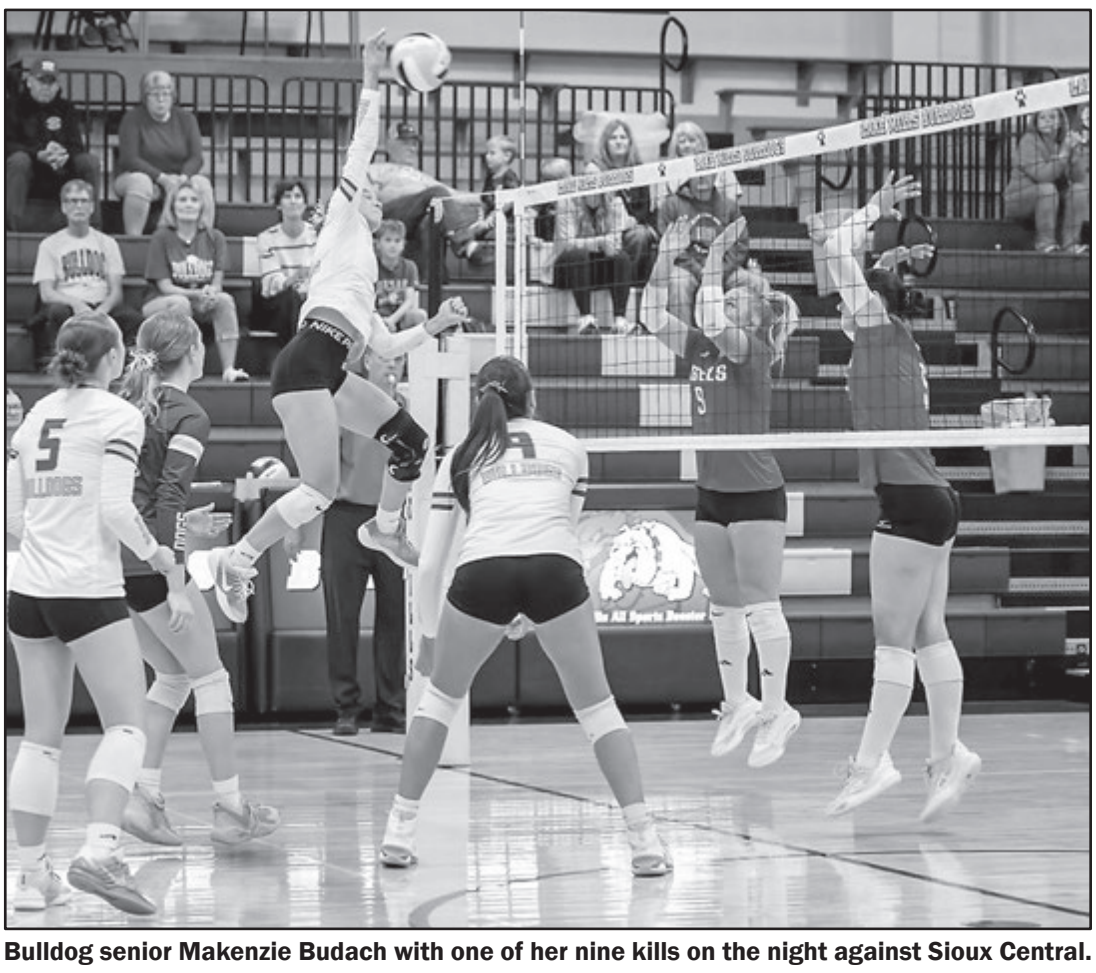
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Lake Mills FFA members toured the John Deere Pavilion in Moline, Illinois on their way to the National FFA Convention.

Lake Mills News Sports



Bulldog senior Makenzie Budach with one of her nine kills on the night against Sioux Central.

Bulldogs sweep Rebels in quarterfinals

By Julie Salisbury

The Lake Mills volleyball team hosted the Sioux Central Rebels in a Class 2A Region 5 quarterfinal game on Wednesday, October 21, and swept them in three straight sets, 25-16, 25-8 and 25-12.

Betsy Byars led the team with 11 kills, two assists, 10 digs and 18-20 serving with four ace serves. Ari Stensrud had 10 kills, two assists, four digs and was 4-5 serving, and Makenzie Budach had nine kills, one assist, six digs and was 6-6 serving. Afton Dean had seven kills and two blocks and Regan Eastvold had two kills, 31 assists, two blocks, 13 digs and was 7-9 serving. Tori Sterrenberg had two kills, one assist and one block, Cora Sauer had three assists, 18 digs and was a perfect 18-18 serving with three ace serves, and Hayden Wempen was 13-15 serving with three ace serves.

The Bulldogs had 41 kills, 40 assists, five blocks, 51 digs, and were 66-73 serving with 10 ace serves.

The Class 2A No. 12 Bulldogs (29-6) were scheduled to host Class 2A No. 15 Garner-Hayfield/Ventura (30-2) in a Class 2A Region 5 semifinal on Monday, October 26, see next week's paper for results.

On Saturday, October 17, the Bulldogs traveled to Algona for their final regular season tournament and went 3-2 on the day.

The Bulldogs defeated Decorah 21-13 and 21-10.

Byars led the team with seven kills, one assist, five digs and 6-6 serving with one ace. Budach had six kills, one block, eight digs and was 8-8 serving, and Dean had four kills, one dig and was 1-1 serving. Stensrud had three kills, two digs and was 9-9 serving with two ace serves, and Eastvold had one kills, 16 assists, four digs and was 8-8 serving. Sauer had one assist, eight digs and was 4-4 serving and Liz Oldenkamp had three digs and was 5-5 serving with one ace.

The team tallied 21 kills, 18 assists, one block, 31 digs and were a perfect 41-41 serving with four ace serves.

Next was the Algona Bulldogs who upset the Lake Mills Bulldogs 21-17, 16-21, 12-15.

Budach had nine kills, six digs and was 8-9 serving with three ace serves, and Stensrud had six kills, one assist, three blocks, four digs and was 8-8 serving with one ace. Byars had five kills, five digs and was 9-11 serving with two ace serves, and Eastvold had two kills, 21 assists, 10 digs and was 4-5 serving. Sterrenberg had two kills, one dig and two blocks, and Sauer had one assist, 15 digs and was 9-10 serving with two ace serves. Wempen had one dig and two blocks and Oldenkamp was 3-4 serving with one ace.

The Bulldogs had 24 kills, 23 assists, seven blocks, 42 digs and were 41-47 serving with nine ace serves.

Lake Mills next faced Emmetsburg and defeated the E-Hawks, 21-16 and 21-14.

Byars had seven kills, one block, four digs and was 10-10 serving, and Stensrud had seven kills, one assist, two blocks, three digs and was 2-3 serving with one ace serve. Budach had four kills, one block, four digs and was 7-7 serving, and Eastvold had three kills, 16 assists, four digs and was 8-9 serving with one ace. Dean had one kill and one dig, and Sauer had four assists and was 5-5 serving with one ace serve. Oldenkamp had one assist, one dig and was 5-5 serving with two ace serves, and Sterrenberg had four blocks.

The team had 23 kills, 22 assists, eight blocks, 24 digs and were 37-39 serving with five ace serves.

Up next was the Spencer Tigers who the Bulldogs defeated 21-16 and 21-7.

Budach had five kills, one dig and was 8-8 serving with one ace, and Byars had four kills, one block, six digs and 8-9 serving with two ace serves. Dean had four kills and Stensrud had three kills, six digs and was 6-6 serving with one ace. Eastvold had 18 assists, five digs and was 5-5 serving with one ace and Sterrenberg had two kills and one block. Sauer had one assist, three digs and was 7-8 serving with two ace serves, Wempen had two kills and one block, and Oldenkamp had one dig and was 6-6 serving.

The Bulldogs had 20 kills, 19 assists, three blocks, 22 digs and were 40-42 serving with seven ace serves.

The final game of the day was against Class 2A No. 4 undefeated Riverside, and the Bulldogs were defeated 18-21 and 11-21.

Budach led the team with seven kills, seven digs and 6-6 serving, and Eastvold had 10 assists, six digs and was 4-4 serving. Stensrud had two kills, five digs, two blocks and was 4-4 serving, and Byars had five kills and was 5-7 serving with two ace serves. Oldenkamp had one dig and was 3-3 serving with one ace and Sterrenberg had one block. Sauer had eight digs and was 4-5 serving, Dean had one dig and one block, and Wempen was 1-1 serving.

The Bulldogs as a team had 14 kills, 11 assists, four blocks, 28 digs and were 27-30 serving with three ace serves.



Bulldog setter Regan Eastvold puts up one of her 31 assists on the night. (Photos courtesy of Chet Yost)



The Lake MIlls boys cross country team has qualified for the state meet on Friday, October 30, in Fort Dodge. This is the Bulldogs' fifth consecutive year of qualifying.



The Bulldog girls pose for a group photo prior to running their final race together on Thursday at the district meet. Photos courtesy of Lory Groe.

Bulldog runners headed to state again

By Julie Salisbury

The Lake Mills boys cross country team has qualified for the state meet in Fort Dodge on Friday, October 30, after placing second at the district meet held on Thursday, October 22, at Luther College. This is the Bulldogs fifth consecutive year of qualifying for state.

Leading the boys was Lane Rygh who placed second overall with a time of 17:19 which qualified him individually if the team hadn't made it. Caleb Skogen placed ninth with a time of 18:36 and also qualified individually. Carson Christianson was 14th with a time of 18:55, and Wyatt Hansen was 15th with a time of 18:57. Aiden Reese was 20th with a time of 19:38, Brayden Eden was 28th with a time of 19:56, and Kaden Lee was 40th with a time of 20:22.

The Bulldog girls placed eighth and were led by Kara Renneker who finished 20th with a time of 22:23. Kaylie Sylvara was 35th with a time of 24:13, and Lillian Young was 41st with a time of 24:31. Katie Machin was 56th with a time of 26:32, Kylie Schulz was 68th with a time of 29:29, and Laylah Ingledue was 69th with a time of 29:36.



What a week for Lake Mills senior Lane Rygh, not only did he qualify for state cross country, his team qualified and his previously submitted #SpeakAg Video received first place at the National FFA Convention.



Lake Mills students serve farmers

Farmers in the fields around Scarville, Joice and Hanlontown recently received a tasty treat, courtesy of students at Lake Mills schools. The Lake Mills FFA chapter assembled and delivered Farmer Snack Bags to the area co-ops, including cookies made by members of the Lake Mills FCCLA.

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Roadway replacement

With summer and fall weather in place, road work was underway in various areas across Worth County. That included replacing this portion of Highway 105 in recent weeks, as pictured here.

Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 197

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LAKE MILLS, IOWA, BY AMENDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO PARKING: WEATHER-RELATED PARKING BAN

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Lake Mills, Iowa:

SECTION 1. SECTION MODIFIED. Section 69.11 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake Mills, Iowa, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

A. AUTHORITY TO DECLARE PARKING BAN

The Public Works Director, Police Chief, or their designee may declare, extend, modify, or terminate a weather-related parking ban whenever snow, ice, or other weather conditions create hazardous roadway conditions, interfere with snow and ice removal operations, or impede the movement of emergency or public safety vehicles. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, snow, freezing rain, sleet, drifting snow, ice accumulation, or similar weather events.

Any declaration shall specify the effective date and time and the anticipated expiration date and time of the ban. A declared parking ban may be extended if conditions warrant or terminated before the stated expiration time when conditions have sufficiently improved. Notice of any extension or early termination shall be provided through the same communication methods used to announce the parking ban whenever practicable.

B. PARKING RESTRICTIONS

When a weather-related parking ban is in effect:

1. No person shall park, leave unattended, or abandon a vehicle upon:

a. Any public street or alley; or

b. Any City-owned off-street parking area, except those specifically designated by the City as available for parking during the ban.

2. These restrictions shall remain in effect for the entire duration of the declared parking ban, including periods during which precipitation is actively occurring.

The restrictions established by this section are necessary to facilitate snow and ice removal operations and to ensure the safe and efficient movement of emergency and public safety vehicles.

C. PUBLIC NOTICE

The City shall provide notice of a weather-related parking ban at least four (4) hours before the effective time of the ban whenever practicable. In emergency circumstances requiring immediate action to protect public safety or facilitate snow and ice removal operations, a parking ban may become effective with less than four (4) hours' notice.

The notice shall include the effective date and time and the anticipated expiration date and time of the ban and shall be disseminated through the Alert Iowa System in coordination with Winnebago County Communications.

In addition to the Alert Iowa System, notice may be provided through:

1. The City website;

2. Social media platforms;

3. Other customary City communication methods; and

4. Temporary or permanent signage indicating the dates and times of the parking ban.

Failure of any person to receive notice shall not constitute a defense to enforcement of this section.

D. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

1. Any vehicle parked in violation of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of twenty-five dollars ($25.00), payable to the City Clerk within fourteen (14) calendar days of the date of the violation.

2. Any vehicle parked in violation of this section may be towed, relocated, or otherwise removed whenever necessary to facilitate snow removal operations or protect public safety. All towing, relocation, storage, and administrative costs shall be the responsibility of the vehicle owner or operator.

3. Any towing, impoundment, notification, storage, and disposition of vehicles under this section shall be conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of the Iowa Code.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, provision or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. WHEN EFFECTIVE. This ordinance shall be in effect from and after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Council the 19th day of October, 2026.

Bruce Helgeson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Paula S. Hanson, City Clerk

First Reading: October 19, 2026

Second Reading:

Third Reading:

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 197 on the 28th day of October, 2026.

Paula S. Hanson, City Clerk

Supervisors

October 19, 2026
Forty-third 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 October 12, 2026 minutes. Motion carried.

Chairperson Loberg recessed the regular session at 8:33 A.M.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to open the Public Hearing at 8:33 A.M. on the Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimate of Cost for the Worth County Administrative Office Building Project. Motion carried. Jason Petersburg, PE, Veentra & Kimm Inc., was present to explain the Administration Office Building Project and answer any questions. There was no public comment.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to close the Public Hearing at 8:34 A.M. Motion carried.

Chairperson Loberg reconvened the regular session at 8:34 A.M.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve Resolution 2026-37 Adopting Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract and Estimate of Cost. Roll call vote – Ayes: Smeby, Stone, Loberg. Motion carried. (Full text of resolution available in auditor's office).

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve Resolution 2026-38 Making Award of Construction Contract. Roll call vote – Ayes: Smeby, Stone, Loberg. Motion carried. (Full text of resolution available in auditor's office).

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve Addendum No. 2 to the plans and specifications for the Worth County, Iowa Administration Office Building Project. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve Addendum No. 3 to the plans and specifications for the Worth County, Iowa Administration Office Building Project. Motion carried.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to set the DD #11 Public Hearing for proposed new lateral on December 14 at 9:30 A.M. Motion carried.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to approve quotation for IDOT Culvert/Ditch Cleanout, Drainage District No. 46, Worth County Iowa. Motion carried. Bidder A1 Excavating and Drainage Inc. submitted a total quote price of $18,000 for the length of ditch within DOT Right-of-Way and $16,000 for the I-35 Culvert Only.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to receive and file the following salary increases effective October 16, 2026 as approved by the Worth County Board of Health: Shana Butler - $89,440/year; Lexee Anderson - $84,822.40/year and Jill Schutz - $66,352/year. Motion carried.

Chairperson Loberg recessed the regular session at 8:53 A.M.

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to open the public hearing on Noncurrent Debt and Approving Internal Loan at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried. There was no public comment.

Motion Smeby/Second Stone to close the public hearing at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried.

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

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to approve Resolution 2026-39 Authorizing Internal Loan to Fund Urban Renewal Project Costs. Roll call vote – Ayes: Smeby, Stone, Loberg. Motion carried. (Full text of resolution available in auditor's office).

Motion Stone/Second Smeby to adjourn at 9:01 A.M. Motion carried.

Jacki A. Backhaus, Auditor
Enos Loberg, Chairperson

City of Lake Mills

OFFICIAL MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING LAKE MILLS CITY COUNCIL
October 19, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Lake Mills, Winnebago County, Iowa, was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, October 19, 2026, at 7:00 PM. Notice of the meeting was posted at Lake Mills City Hall on Friday, October 16, 2026, and was open to the public.

Mayor Helgeson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present were Mayor Bruce Helgeson; Council Members Rob Hughes, Nathan Ostrander, Kristin Peters, Mark Peterson, and Bob Storby; City Clerk Paula Hanson; Director of Public Works Brad Wempen; and Chief of Police Matt Levine. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared. Mayor Helgeson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Hughes moved, seconded by Storby, to approve the agenda as written. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

No comments were received during the public forum.

Reports were presented by the Chief of Police, the Director of Public Works, the City Clerk, the Library Director, the LMCDC Director, and the Mayor.

Storby moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve the consent agenda, including monthly claims, warrants, and financial reports totaling $1,071,267.94; Resolution 26-34, authorizing the transfer of funds from the Employee Benefits Fund to the General Fund; termination of the Airport Hangar Lease Agreement and an $800 reimbursement to the family of Paul Pigman; sewer forgiveness for Norma Adams totaling $176.63; the resignation of Police Officer Micah Carroll, effective October 30, 2026; the sale of a bullet-resistant vest for Police Officer Micah Carroll to Appanoose County Sheriff's Office for $1,215; and a Training Reimbursement Agreement for Police Officer Micah Carroll totaling $933.33. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Monthly Financial Reports:

ALLEN UNSELD OR CITY LM METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 215.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES SUPPLIES..... 218.96
AT&T MOBILITY LMPD CAR COMPUTERS..... 128.31
AVESIS, VISION INS..... 459.94
BLACK HILLS ENERGY NATURAL GAS SERVICE..... 684.14
CITY OF LAKE MILLS ELECTRIC SERVICE... 2,670.43
DELTA DENTAL DENTAL INS..... 1,306.58
IIESHA WALTERS OR CITY LM METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 202.00
IA DEPT OF REVENUE TAX..... 2,142.61
LMCDC, FUNDING 4,713.33
PETERSON SANITATION GARBAGE SERVICE . 10,706.50
PRINCIPAL LIFE INS LIFE/LT DISABILITY INS 649.18
TROY MERRY OR CITY LM METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 187.00
UNITED HEALTHCARE HEALTH INS..... 47,870.64
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING COPIER CONTRACT..... 127.25
ADAMS GARAGE PARTS 95.00
AGSOURCE COOP SERVICES TESTING..... 1,471.05
ALBERT LEA STEEL INC PARTS 145.20
ALBERT LEA TRIBUNE SUBSCRIPTION..... 172.00
AMARIL UNIFORM COMPANY CLOTHING ALLOWANCE..... 421.74
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES SUPPLIES..... 255.91
BISON GRAPHICS SIGNS..... 1,950.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY NATURAL GAS SERVICE 58.42
CAVETT'S LAWN & GARDEN SERVICES..... 415.57
CENTRAL AUTOMOTIVE LMPD VEH MAINTENANCE ... 52.26
CINTAS, SUPPLIES..... 56.98
COLE DUMMERMUTH OR CITYLM METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 140.00
COMPRESSED AIR & EQUIP SERVICES..... 240.94
CONSUMER REPORTS SUBSCRIPTION..... 35.00
CONTRACTOR SOLUTIONS PARTS 424.04
CUSTOM ALARM SUBSCRIPTION..... 90.00
DAIRYLAND POWER PURCHASE CURRENT..... 76,607.33
DAVE'S AUTO SERVICE FUEL 1,704.90
DAVIDS FOODS SUPPLIES..... 197.29
DEMCO INC, SUPPLIES.. 137.73
DEREK LAIR OR LM CITY METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 211.00
DIANAISIS JIMINEZ OR CITY LM METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 152.00
DONS MOTOR MART FUEL 2,243.95
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING LMPD EQUIPMENT .. 18,438.80
FLETCHER REINHARDT CO SUPPLIES..... 3,126.40
FOREST CITY FORD LMPD VEH MAINTENANCE ... 1,092.15
GORDON FLESCH CO COPIER CONTRACT..... 75.44
GRACE OKLAND OR CITY LM METER DEPOSIT REFUND..... 160.00
GROE ELECTRIC REC - HAND DRYERS. 1,131.82
HAWKINS INC WATER - CHEMICALS 4,686.86
HEARTLAND POWER COOP AIRPORT ELECTRIC SERVICE 88.23
INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES LMPL BOOKS..... 984.12
IAMU, TRAINING..... 2,906.68
IA DEPT OF NATURAL RES ANNUAL PERMIT 120.00
IOWA ONE CALL LOCATES..... 26.10
JULIE EVENSON CLOTHING ALLOWANCE..... 102.80
KUSTOM SIGNALS SIGN 894.00
LM LUMBER COMPANY SUPPLIES..... 393.00
LM POSTMASTER POSTAGE..... 471.30
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT SERVICES..... 1,023.87
MBT, SAFE DEPOSIT BOX 45.00
MBT-VISA, SUPPLIES .. 5,775.35
MELANIE DAUPLAISE REIMBURSEMENT 117.47
NAPA AUTO PARTS SUPPLIES..... 783.52
NELSON SEPTIC SERVICES PORTABLE RESTROOM 250.00
NGT, LMPD OFFICE 365 . 132.85
NORTHWOOD ANCHOR PUBLICATION..... 1,121.98
OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF MC LMFD MAINTENANCE4,310.43
PAULA HANSON CLOTHING ALLOWANCE..... 150.00
PETTY CASH - LIBRARY SUPPLIES..... 44.97
QUALITY PUMP & CONTROL SERVICES..... 2,890.00
SIEGRIST, JONES, LIPPS & BAKKE LMPD LEGAL..... 385.00
SINGELSTAD HARDWARE SUPPLIES..... 2,146.72
TASC, ADMIN FEES..... 86.06
THOMPSON SANITATION RECYCLING SERVICE6,642.59
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES SOFTWARE CONVERSION..... 5,720.00
UBIQUITI INC ANNUAL FEE..... 99.00
UMMEG PURCHASE CURRENT..... 13,068.38
UNITYPOINT HEALTH AT WORK ANNUAL DRUG TESTING FEE 187.00
WAGNER TIRE SERVICE SERVICES..... 218.00
WASTE MANAGEMENT FALL CLEANUP 398.09
WCTA TELECOM SERVICES. 1,082.06
WINN CO SECONDARY ROADS WINTER MAINTENANCE..... 2,330.15
YOUNG PLUMBING AND HEATING SERVICES..... 12,361.16
PETERSON CONSTRUCTION WWTF..... 676,502.25
PAYROLL..... 139,138.16
TOTAL..... 1,071,267.94

FUND TOTALS
001 GENERAL FUND 138,710.74
002 LIBRARY SAVINGS..... 0.00
007 K9 POLICE DEPT 0.00
110 ROAD USE TAX FUND 14,704.31
125 TIF FUND 4,713.33
600 WATER FUND..... 29,724.79
610 SEWER FUND..... 695,357.68
630 ELECTRIC FUND 186,966.79
740 STORM WATER 0.00
890 PAYROLL.....-176.70
950 TRUST & AGENCY FUND... 1,267.00
TOTAL..... 1,071,267.94

Storby moved, seconded by Peterson, to open the public hearing, published in the Northwood Anchor on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, to consider approval of an amendment to Ordinance 197, Chapter 69.11, Parking: Weather-Related Parking Ban. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried. City Clerk Hanson stated that no written or verbal objections had been received. There being no further discussion, Storby moved, seconded by Peters, to close the public hearing. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Storby moved, seconded by Peterson, to approve the first reading of the amendment to Ordinance No. 197, Chapter 69.11, Parking: Weather-Related Parking Ban. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Storby then moved, seconded by Peters, to waive the second and third readings. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried, and the amendment to Ordinance No. 197, Chapter 69.11 was adopted.

Drew Sweers, V&K Engineering, reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Facility project and presented Pay Estimate No. 8. Motion made by Storby, seconded by Ostrander, to approve payment of Pay Estimate No. 8 for Peterson Construction for $1,059,846.25. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Council did not discuss Lot 7 in North Oaks Subdivision to Lake Mills because Richard Schwarm requested that the item be removed from the agenda.

Jason and Katie Peterson of Peterson Sanitation attended with Jeremy Waters and Frank Thompson of Thompson Sanitation to announce the sale of Peterson Sanitation to Thompson Sanitation, effective November 1, 2026. Peterson moved, seconded by Hughes, to amend the Solid Waste Agreement by changing the contractor name from Peterson Sanitation to Thompson Sanitation and omitting the portion of item 15 that requires a facility within a 10-mile radius of Lake Mills. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Peterson moved, seconded by Storby, to approve Sample B of the Training Reimbursement Agreement, under which the 36-month employment period used to determine reimbursement will begin on the employee's ILEA graduation date. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Peters moved, seconded by Peterson, to begin the hiring process to fill the open position in the Police Department. Roll call vote: Ayes: Peters, Peterson, Ostrander, Storby. Nays: Hughes. Motion carried.

Peterson provided illustrations to the Council of locations to consider painting crosswalks and install pedestrian crosswalk signage. Peterson moved, seconded by Ostrander, to paint crosswalk markings and install pedestrian crosswalk signage on North 3rd Avenue East. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Ostrander moved, seconded by Storby, to approve scopes 1 and 2 of the DGR Engineering financial analysis rate study for $11,000. Roll call vote: Ayes: Ostrander, Storby, Peters. Nays: Hughes, Peterson. Motion carried.

Council Member Peterson presented an informational flyer the City of Lake Mills and the LMCDC may send to businesses as part of an effort to recruit businesses to Lake Mills and fill vacant commercial properties. No formal action was taken.

Peters moved, seconded by Storby, to approve the amended September 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Storby moved, seconded by Peters, to approve the September 21, 2026, meeting minutes with the proposed amendments. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The first budget meeting was set for Monday, December 7, 2026, at 5:00 PM at City Hall.

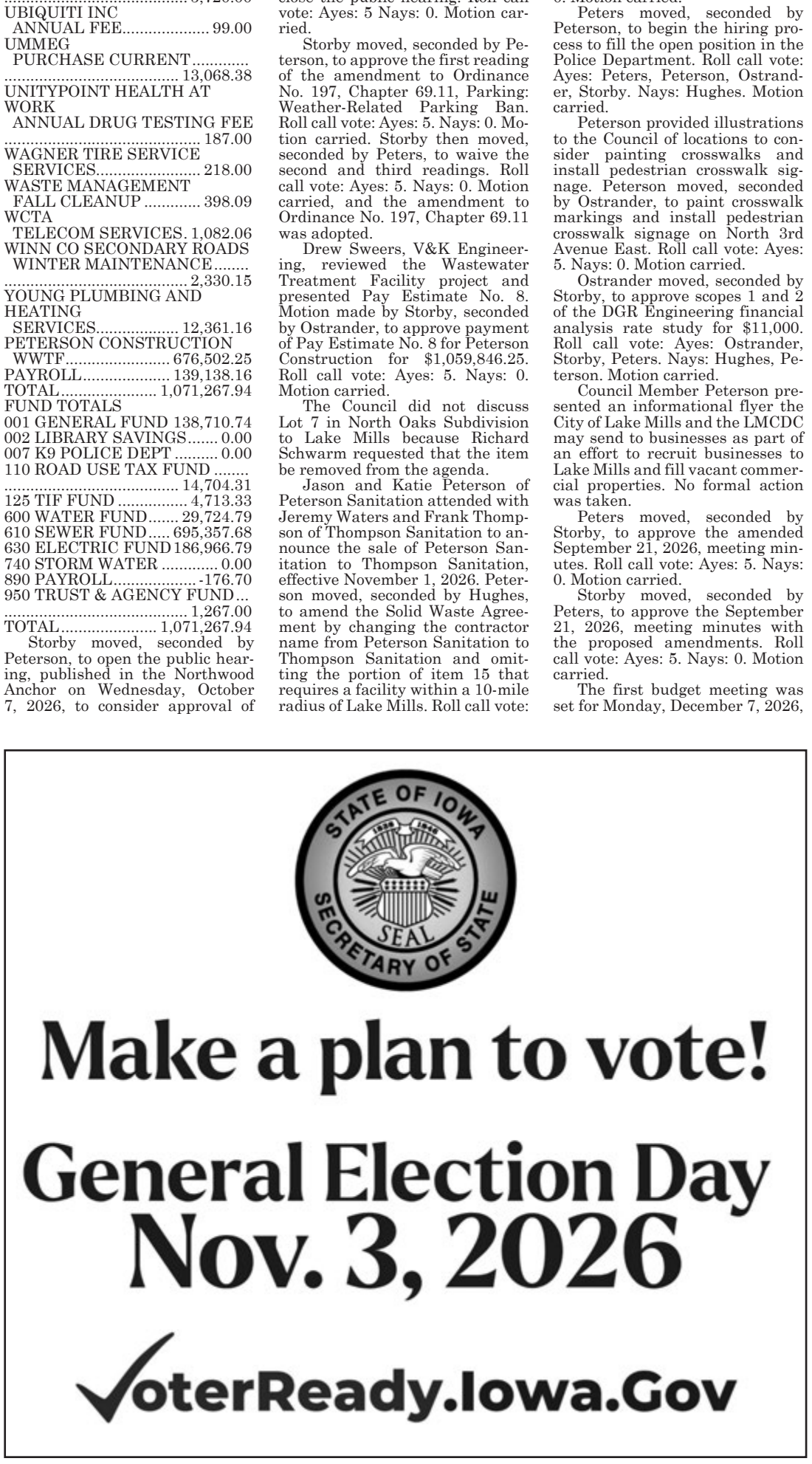
Storby moved, seconded by Hughes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Roll call vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0. Motion carried.

ATTEST

Paula S. Hanson, City Clerk
Bruce Helgeson, Mayor

These minutes are subject to change until finalized by the City Clerk. For a final official copy, please contact City Hall at 641-592-3251.

SEAL



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

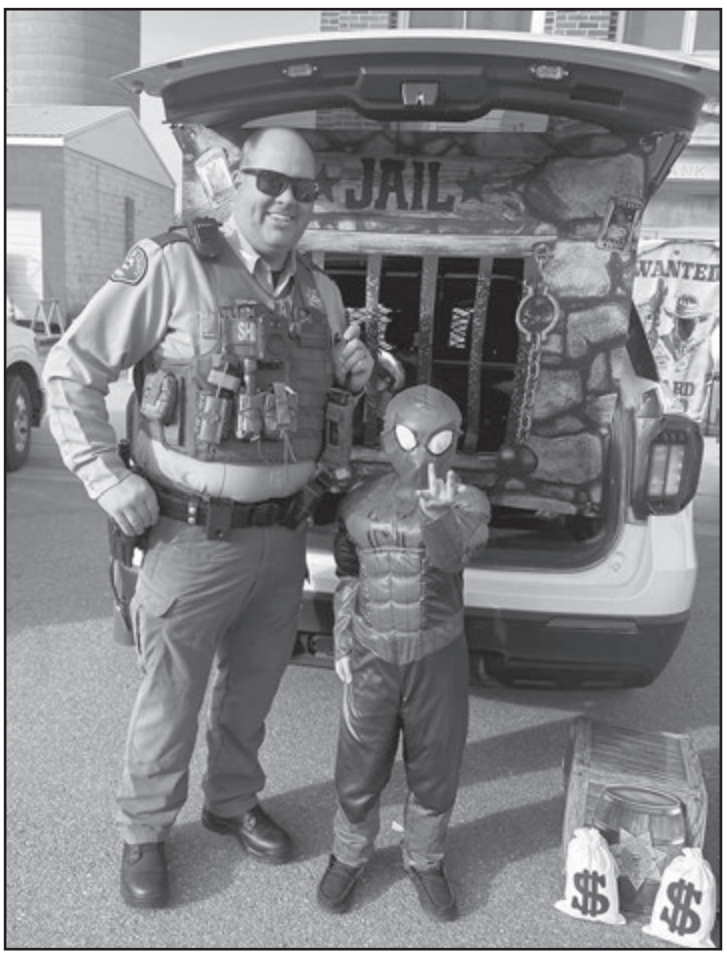
NORTHWOOD INSURANCE AGENCY
John Midtgaard, Agent
91 9th St. S., Northwood, IA
Office 641-324-9844 Fax 641-324-9844

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



Trunk and treats in Grafton

Grafton welcomed costumed kids to Main Street on October 25, with a variety of events. That a pumpkin carving contest, a visit from the Reptile Zoo, food and trunk or treating, with vehicles decorated and welcoming young people. Pictured here is Worth County Sheriff Jesse Luther, with his vehicle's trunk turned into a jail. Luther is pictured with another crimefighter, Spiderman.





Making a movie in Northwood

Various locations around Northwood and Art Farm Iowa recently served as sets for the making of the movie "One Last One." The cast and crew, along with area residents took part in the filming process, in front of and behind the camera. Filming finished as of Monday. The next step is editing. The movie is expected to be released in early summer 2027.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Classified Display 50 Words or less $15; 10¢ a word after 50 (Minimum charge $15)
$6.80 per column inch; $1.50 Billing Charge; Phone 324-1051 or by Deadline Noon on Fridays

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

THANKS

CARD OF THANKS: I wish to thank everyone for the cards and gift. Also thank you for coming to my open house it was much appreciated.
Liz Backhaus*

GARAGE

GARAGE SALE: Thursday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Friday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 401 5th Ave. N., Northwood, IA. Furniture, kitchen & bedroom items, home decor & much, much more. 43-1t*

Gasteiger Electric, Inc.
· Agricultural
· Commercial
· Industrial ·
Residential
· Generators
Jarod Gasteiger
Carpenter, Iowa
641-390-1469 cell

KNUDTSON AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES
804 8th St. N., Northwood
• Diagnostics • Alignment • General Repairs
• Ag • Commercial Tires • Body Repair
Cory Marsh Kirby Knudtson
641-324-9988

FOX AUCTION COMPANY
✓ Locally raised ✓ Family owned ✓ Rooted in tradition
Land & Farm Equipment Auctions
Your local auction company with a national reach!
Hay auctions twice a month
FoxAuctionCompany.com
FRANK FOX
(641) 430-3243
5000 11th Street SE
Mason City, IA 50401

Iowa Newspaper Classified Network
WANT ADS
Reach by 1-3 Millions Households in 238 Iowa Newspapers
Want to place a statewide classified ad? Call the Anchor

Miscellaneous
Does your basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. $250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-866-554-1730
Miscellaneous
Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 12/27/26.) Call 1-866-456-3917
Miscellaneous
Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-304-1545
Miscellaneous
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-948-3442 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

Villa Wood North
1 and 2 BD Apartments* in Northwood has IMMEDIATE openings.
Call today at (515) 528-7996
TT 1-800-735-2942
and/or VOICE 1-800-735-2943
www.keywaymanagement.com
We offer
• Private Playground & basketball areas
• Laundry on site
• Some utilities furnished
• Quiet, clean and professionally managed.
*Must meet income guidelines
Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

Hertz Real Estate Services
LAND AUCTION
190.83 Acres, M/L in 2 parcels
Worth County
1.5 miles west of Grafton on 390th St.
Parcel 1: 136.40 Crop acres with 89.8 CSR2
Parcel 2: 37.12 Crop acres with 88.4 CSR2
Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 10 a.m.
Grafton Community Center
202 6th Ave. • Grafton, IA 50440
Mason City Office • 641-423-9531
www.Hertz.ag

Villa Wood South Apartments*
in Northwood
Consider spacious, clean, and quiet atmosphere!
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TT 1-800-735-2942 and/or
VOICE 1-800-735-2943
www.keywaymanagement.com
ADA Accessible
• Community room for family gatherings
• On site laundry
• Professionally managed
• Some utilities furnished
• Local Taxi Available
• Convenient access to medical facilities
*Must meet income guidelines
For persons 62 or older, handicapped or disabled regardless of age.
Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer

New & Used Computer Sales & Service
• Custom Built Computers
• Custom Servers • Custom Networking
• Upgrades on Older Systems
• Websites
Call Nick or Tim Today:
(641) 713-2141
Don't let an old system slow you down!
"Forget the Rest, Come See the BEST!"
Serving North Iowa Since 1980
ncs COMPUTERS, L.L.C.
4350 Dancer Ave.
St. Ansgar, Iowa
We Take Pride In Our Quality Service!

NOW HIRING
ELECTRICIANS!
Licensed Electricians — Starting at $32/hr.
Apprentices — Starting at $22/hr.
Laborers — Starting at $20/hr.
– Now offering –
Full Benefit Package, 401k & Unlimited PTO
Send resume to:
biceelectricllc@gmail.com
BICE ELECTRIC LLC
Serving North Iowa and Surrounding Communities
INDUSTRIAL - AERIAL - FARM - RESIDENTIAL
641-390-0038

WE'RE HIRING!
Join our team as a Customer Support Specialist
WCTA is a local and progressive leader in Fiber Internet services and we are growing!
FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO WCTATEL.NET/CAREERS.
TO APPLY, EMAIL RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO EMPLOYMENT@WCTATEL.COM
WCTA
Fiber Internet
800-592-6105 WWW.WCTATEL.NET

Halloween Safety Tips

Wear a watch you can read in the dark.

TRŪSTILE
A MARVIN BRAND

Always carry a flashlight.

ADA ENTERPRISES, INC.
ADA Enterprises, Inc.
305 Enterprize Drive
PO Box 77
Northwood, IA 50459
641-324-1093

Don't cut across yards or driveways.

NSB BANK

Make sure your shoes fit and are tied tightly.

Northwood Insurance

Unfamiliar animals and pets should be avoided.

The Slice Pizzeria
95 N. 7th St.
Northwood
641-323-7575

Know your phone number for emergencies

TOP OF IOWA WELCOME CENTER
4705 Wheelerwood Road,, Northwood, Iowa
(641) 324-3184

Walk on sidewalks or driveways, not on lawns or flower beds.

NE Northwood Electric Inc.

Visit only houses that are lit.

Conner
Colonial Chapels, Crematory & Cemetery
1008 1st Avenue South, Northwood, Iowa 50459 (641) 324-1543
www.colonialchapels.com

Young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.

Shade Tree Liquors

Carry a Glow Stick or Flashlight to help you see and to be seen by drivers.

JCI
Jaeckels Contracting Inc.
Northwood, IA
612-221-1982

Carry a cell phone in case you need to call home.

R80
In Kensett
"Where the sun always shines."
In Northwood
Central Ave.

Props such as a sword or wand should only be flexible toys.

D&L EQUIPMENT

Ghosts & Goblins roam the street, slow down for those little feet!

KNUDTSON AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES
641-324-9988
Cory Marsh Kirby Knudtson
• Body Repair • Ag • Commercial Tires • General Service & Repair
• Diagnostics • Alignment
804 8th St. N. • Northwood

Eat dinner before going out to trick-or-treat

GRINNELL MUTUAL
WORTH MUTUAL/
OLSON INSURANCE
641-324-2452
704 Central Ave.
Northwood, IA 50459
641-454-2292
103 N. Todd St.
Manly, IA 50456
507-406-1203
120 E. Main St., Suite 1
Glenville, MN 56036

If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.

Injection Technology
Diesel Service

Buy costumes that are made of flame-retardant material.

WCTA
Fiber Internet
800-592-6105 • wcta@wctatel.net

Use face paint rather than a mask.

FEDERALFOAM TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Give out healthy alternatives to candy.

Northwood
Chiropractic PC
641-323-0096
1602 Central Ave. • Northwood

Plan your route and share it with your family

Tequila's Mexican Bar & Grill

Costumes should not drag on the ground or be too dark to see.

21 Century 21 Preferred
513 Central Ave.
Northwood
641-324-2733
641-390-0007
MLS
Julie Hagen Robb
REALTOR®/ Broker Associate

Follow all traffic laws and signals.

WORTH Lumber Co

Know how and where to contact your parents.

Mason City Glass Service
(641)423-3960

Trick-or-treat only in familiar neighborhoods close to home.

Dewey Kruger Music

Stay on sidewalks as much as possible.

NEXUS COOPERATIVE

Only eat candy after your parents have checked it.

FALKSTONE
QUALITY AGGREGATES SINCE 2005

Be considerate of other people's property.

Fallgatter's Market

Never enter a stranger's home.

State Farm®
Dave Osborne, Agent