



Ringsted Council to take up library furnace replacement

By Michael Tidemann

The Ringsted City Council at their Monday, Oct. 13 meeting agreed to take up the issue of replacing a furnace in the library portion of the City Hall building.

Robin Hansen of the Library Board said one of the 25-year-old furnaces was leaking and needed to be replaced. She quoted a price of \$16,392 to replace both furnaces, \$7,896 for one and \$8,496 for the other. That's in addition to \$1,050 to repair a fan motor in the rooftop air conditioner.

City Clerk Sommer Nielsen said there was no money budgeted for replacing the furnace. However, Hansen said the Friends of the Library could pay a third to half the cost of the cheaper furnace which is the one that has to be replaced.

Councilmember Amanda Morris said the matter could be placed on the council's November agenda, and Mayor Pro Tem Travis Nielsen asked Hansen to get a second bid.

Hansen said the second aging furnace could be placed in next year's budget when the board could apply for a grant.

Councilmember Nick Larsen said the library should not have to foot the

entire cost.

Clerk Nielsen said she would look for money in this year's budget for the work, and Hansen said the Library Board could come up with the other half of the cost.

The council agreed to put the matter on their November agenda.

In other business, the board discussed delinquent utility payments from a customer. Clerk Nielsen said the party had been making partial payments. The council agreed to demand past due and current bills be paid by Oct. 20.

In consent agenda items, Clerk Nielsen said the final payment for work on the water tower will be December 2026.

In other business, the council:

- Approved closing Second Street from Maple Street to Oak Street from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31 for Halloween trunk or treat sponsored by Friends of the Library.
• Agreed to advertise for bids for downtown sidewalk snow removal.
• Approved to replace lightbulbs in City Hall.
• Heard the street report from City Superintendent Toby Morris.
• Discussed whether a building permit was needed for a fence.

Supervisors approve body cams

By Michael Tidemann

The Emmet County Board of Supervisors at their Tuesday, Oct. 14 meeting approved a five-year upgrade for Sheriff's Office body cameras at a cost of \$103,000.

Information Technology Director Trevor Duckett made the proposal from the Axon company, with input from Sheriff Justin Schultes. Duckett said the system would include continual technology upgrades with unlimited cloud storage. He said the upgraded system would help prove chain of custody. Cameras would be replaced after the third year. The system would include body and car cameras for nine officers. The first-year cost would be \$10,000.

A second proposal from WatchGuard was for \$143,000 with a first-year cost of \$42,431.60. After discussion, the board

approved the Axon upgrade.

In supervisor reports, Supervisor Jeff Quastad reported on a regional hazmat online meeting. Supervisor John Pluth reported on a trafficking awareness meeting and Board Chair Lisa Hansen reported on a Redwood Farms tour. Supervisor Tim Schumacher and Hansen recapped a safety meeting. Hansen said the county has gone 559 days without a lost-time accident and that a fall fire drill should be scheduled.

In the public forum, Auditor Heidi Goebel reported on a department head meeting and LuWanda Towell, Emmet County assessor, introduced Emily Behrends, the new appraiser.

The board also approved claims and drainage and new head expansion for Oleson site 368.

Supervisors also held a brief closed session and reconvened with no decision announced.

EOC Blood Drive

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

The Ringsted Evening Out Club will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross on Thursday, November 6th from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Ringsted Legion Community Center.

For more information or to make an appointment to donate, call Barb Christensen at 712-260-0375, Karen Witte at 712-260-1671, or Cindy Liljedahl at 956-458-2155. Or you may sign up online at redcrossblood.org.

Hosting a blood drive coincides with the Evening Out Club's core values of giving back to the community. "With a simple blood

donation, we have the ability to help save the life of someone who could be a coworker, loved one or neighbor.

Blood is routinely transfused to patients with cancer and other diseases, premature babies, organ transplant recipients and trauma victims, according to the Red Cross.

"The short amount of time it takes to donate can mean a lifetime to a patient with a serious medical condition. We urge eligible donors to join in the selfless act of giving blood."

Donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, B negative and A negative. According to the Red Cross, type O negative is the universal blood type that can be safely transfused to anyone, and is often used to treat trauma patients.

statelinepubs.com

Remember to call before you dig!!! 811

North Kossuth School Board continues talks about upgrades to the school building

By Kim Meyer

North Union Superintendent Travis Schueller asked the North Kossuth School Board their feelings on work session that was recently held by Site Logic regarding upgrades to the school building during their October 14th meeting.

Site Logic presented different phases of building upgrades and what could be done with each having a different cost. Superintendent Schueller spoke about a few small projects that could be completed now with the PPEL and SAVE monies that the district currently have saved without depleting the accounts and still having money for other larger projects within reason.

This would include a new security system inside the building with upgrades and more cameras for around \$30,000. Also purchasing a

new mower to upgrade from the 2013 the district currently has. Vaske Sales and Service would sell the mower he has on hand for \$18,492 minus the \$8,000 he is allowing for a trade in.

Board member Justin Deim asked about getting quotes from different dealers. Superintendent Schueller noted he has looked and Vaske Sales and Service is the best price. Schueller also noted if the mower on his lot does not include any tariff charges. After this one is sold, it could be an additional \$2,000 to the cost.

Schueller also asked if they could change the bagger on the mower for an additional \$4,000. The current system is hard to use and would be easier for the school employees.

Erin Rogers explained recurring (estimated) costs that come out of the SAVE and PPEL accounts each year - \$125,000 for technology purchase, software, copier lease, etc; \$60,000 for bus leases and \$50,000 for recurring

Candidates for Nov. 4 Election to North Union School Board CAC Meeting

Voters in the North Union School District will head to the polls to decide who will fill the seats up for election on November 4th. Incumbent Gene Miller will have a contested race for his At Large Seat with newcomer Ethan Jensen running against him

For Director District 2, Art Pixler is running unopposed. The Director District 1 seat will need to be filled by a write-in candidate.



Ethan Jensen

Personal information: education, employment, family, hobbies/special interests/ church activities

I am married to Katie Jensen and have three daughters Zoey (7) in second grade, Chloe (4) in PreK, both at Fenton campus, and Kylie (1.5 years old).

I am a 2010 graduate of Armstrong-Ringsted and played one year of football at Iowa Central in Fort Dodge before coming back to Iowa Lakes at the Emmetsburg campus for farm diesel mechanics in the fall of 2011.

I began my mechanic career at Ernie Williams LTD, John Deere store in Estherville in June of 2011 and worked there part time until I graduated from Iowa Lakes in 2013 when I became full time. I received the opportunity to start farming in the spring of 2017 and left the now KC Nielsen John Deere in spring of 2019. I have been farming and raising cow calf pairs within the family farm to current.

Hobbies/ Interests spending time with my wife and daughters playing games, side by side rides, getting animals ready for fair, or doing pedal tractor pulls, watching them perform their dance routines. Also enjoy playing cards, golfing.

Previous experience on councils, boards, committees, etc.

Growing up I was in 4-H and held many offices treasurer, president, vice president, and reporter. I have



Gene Miller

Personal information: education, employment, family, hobbies/special interests/ church activities

I am a former teacher, local church pastor, and church executive. My last position before I retired was as the Executive Director of the Association of Christian Churches of South Dakota. My family has been in Kossuth County for six generations. My spouse and I love to travel. Especially Europe which we visit every two to three years. Education wise, I have a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and a doctorate.

Previous experience on councils, boards, committees, etc.

North Union is the 3rd school board I've served on. I've also been on the Board of Trustees of two colleges and a seminary. In addition I have served on a plethora of boards and committees over the last fifty years.

Reasons for seeking election to the North Union School Board

Education has always been important in my family. We have produced numerous teachers and school administrators. In addition we have a long history of being on local school boards beginning with my great-grandfather serving on the Lone Rock School Board in the 1920s. Since then, besides myself, I've had an uncle, a brother and two cousins who have served on their respective school boards. All together we have over fifty years of service.



Art Pixler

Personal information: education, employment, family, hobbies/special interests/ church activities

I grew up on a farm near Whiting, Iowa, and graduated from Whiting High School. I also attained a BAE degree (Cum Laude) from Wayne State College, an MSE degree from Drake University and a CAS in the Superintendentcy from the University of Northern Iowa. My employment began as a teacher and coach in the Lohrville Community School District. I then became the Junior and Senior High Principal at Lohrville and after going into a whole grade sharing agreement with Lake City Community School District became the Middle School Principal for Southern Cal. Next, I became the Middle School Principal in the Perry Community School District where I also served as the Special Education Director and Gifted Education Coordinator. Finally, I became the Superintendent of Central Community School District where I also served at various times as Middle School and Elementary Principal. I retired in 2015 but continue my love of teaching by substituting in several area school districts. My family includes my wife, Chris, three grown children and nine grandchildren. My main hobbies are reading and working in the yard. My special interests include my work in the masonic fraternity and my substitute teaching.

Interviews of candidates for North Union School Board Election continued on page 2

PROCLAMATION The Mayor of Ringsted has declared Friday, October 31, 2025 as the official date to observe Halloween.

If you can dream it, we can probably do it! And, if not, we can find a source for you to get it done. Custom Printing 712-868-3460

Have some news you'd like to share? Call 868-3460 with your news today! We publish Engagements, Weddings, and Births free of charge!

Paging Back through the Ringsted Dispatch 100 Years Ago - October 1925, 75 Years Ago - October 1950, 50 Years Ago - October 1975, 25 Years Ago - October 2000



Spilled Ink

By Clinton J. Davis

Last weekend we attended trivia at the Garage in Armstrong. The event was hosted by the Armstrong Betterment Club. This is the second year that the ABC is hosting this event. This month's theme was general knowledge which turned out to be anything but general knowledge. That or our team was not well educated. We got 12 out of 50 questions correct. Our team consisted of myself, Taylor, Jason and Tiffany Davis, Jason and Jess Pergande, Jake and Kristin Nicolson. We didn't win the gift certificate to the Armstrong Service Center but we did win the last place rubber chicken. Would you believe it if I told you that the Kollasch team won the gift certificate to the Service Center?

I believe it was my brother who yelled, "Wait a minute. Landon gets a free oil change?" That caught a huge laugh from people in attendance. What wasn't funny was me taking the rubber chicken home and giving it to Calvin. This chicken makes a loud noise when squeezed. So for the past few days, that chicken noise is all we have been hearing. He even slept with it that first night and had a hard time falling asleep because he was squeaking that thing and laughing when he should have been sleeping. I still think it's funny though. Mom, not so much. Either way, those who didn't attend the trivia night missed out on some fun. Next month the theme will be tv shows. Hopefully we get a few more right. I can't afford to have two squeaking chickens in the house. Taylor might end up moving out.

The Armstrong Heritage Museum held their annual meeting on Sunday, October 19th. We had nearly forty members join in for a short meeting and a great potluck supper. The entertainment this year was playing a few games of bingo. Thanks to Bernie and Sally Verbrugge for organizing the bingo play and calling the balls. The food was amazing as always and the ending of this meeting always signifies the beginning of winter in my eyes. It always seems like the weather turns cold, the leaves turn red on my neighbor Charlotte Thiesse's maple outside her house, and the first frost is right around the corner. Believe me when I say that I drop the average age in that room by over 30 years. I would like to see some young people around my age, even a little older or younger to take some interest in the museum. Even if you don't want to volunteer throughout the year we would love to have you as a member and join us for a meal once a year! Please consider joining us. I would like to keep the museum around beyond my years but I can't do that with no members!

Hartley will be selling popcorn on Saturday from 9-11 a.m. at Fareway in Estherville for those of you who would like to support the local Cub Scout pack. Tell your Estherville friends to get their wallets out and support Armstrong's pack!

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EMMET COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Deed Transfers

Rodney Laue and Debra Laue, husband and wife, to the Estate of Donald F. Wegner Sr.: Lots 1 and 2 in the Fractional Block 3 of the Original Plat of the Town of Armstrong, Emmet County, Iowa.

Timothy Henrickson and Lori Henrickson, Husband and Wife, to Henrickson/Christensen Acres, LLC: North Half of the Southeast Quarter and Northeast Quarter Southwest Quarter of Section 26 Township 100 North, of Range 33 West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Dean Christensen and Denise Christensen, Husband and Wife, to Henrickson/Christensen Acres, LLC: North Half of the Southeast Quarter and Northeast Quarter Southwest Quarter of Section 26 Township 100 North, of Range 33 West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Dennis R. Henrickson III and Stephanie Henrickson, Husband and Wife, to Henrickson/Christensen Acres, LLC: North Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 26 Township 100 North, of Range 33 West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Sept. 12 – Robert Lowe and Lisa Lowe to Lisa Lowe: Lot 10 of Block 1 of Bartlett's Third Addition to Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Lori Jean Brandt, a single person, to Jared Brandt: Lot 1 in Block 9 of Ridley's Addition to the City of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Lori Jean Brandt, a single person, to Jared Brandt: Lot 1 in Block 9 of Ridley's Addition to the City of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Ronald S. Schomaker and Debra K. Schomaker, to Debra K. Schomaker: Lot 6 in Block 3 of Bartlett's Addition to the City of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Sept. 16 – Tena Nichole Husfeldt f/k/a Tena Nichole Sunde and Todd Husfeldt, wife and husband, to Nicole Weber, a single woman: Lot 13 in Block 5 of Bartlett's Addition to Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Linn L. Ries and Sharla J. Ries, a married couple, to Ries Farm Holdings: the southwest Fractional Quarter in Section 6, Township 98 North, Range 31, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa, and the Southeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 98 North, Range 31, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

and the Northeast Quarter of Section 5, Township 98 North, Range 31 West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa, and the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 7, Township 98 North, Range 31 West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa, and the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 98 North, Range 34, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa, and all of my undivided interest in the Southwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 98 North, Range 31, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Zachery D. Edwards and Alosha K. Edwards, husband and wife, to Paula Mendenhall, as a single person: Lot 6 of Nichol's Subdivision of Lots 25 and 26 of Roy J. Ridley's Subdivision of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 99 North of Range 34, West of the 5th P.M., Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Nicholas Aanonson, a single person, to Nathan J. Lile: Lot 3 in Block 2 of Pierson's First Addition to the City of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

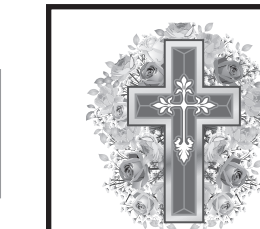
Sept. 17 – Lowell E. Platter and Lois M. Platter to Lois M. Platter: the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 98 North, Range 34, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Lois M. Platter, a single person,

to Lois M. Platter, as Trustee of Lois M. Platter Trust: the South one-third of the North Half of Section 22, Township 98 North, Range 32, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa, and the Southeast Quarter of Section 35, Township 98 North, Range 34, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa, and all of my undivided interest in the Southwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 98 North, Range 31, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Joquin Mata Sr. and Yasaria Mata, husband and wife, to Candice A. Fredericksen Trust: Lots 1 and 2 in Block 14 of the Original Plat of the Town of Wallingford, Emmet County, Iowa.

Sept. 18 – Amed Jose Castro and Maria Castro, husband and wife, to Juan Edgar Tzoc Chitic, single: Lot



I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

John 3:3

1 of Chester Rewey's Subdivision of Lot 7 and parts of Lots 5 and 6 in Block 11 of Bemis Addition to the City of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Arnita A. Ross, a single person, to Arenas Investment Properties LLC: Lot 19 of the County Auditor's Plat of the West Half of the Southeast Quarter

of Section 11, Township 99 North, Range 34, West of the 5th P.M., in the City of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa.

Sept. 19 – Bill Huntley, a/k/a Billy Huntley, and Diana Huntley, husband and wife, to Bill Huntley, a/k/a Billy Huntley, and Diana Huntley, husband

and wife, as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship and not as tenants in common: an undivided one-half interest in the Southeast Quarter, Section 11, Township 100 North, Range 33, West of the 5th P.M., Emmet County, Iowa.

Continued Interviews of Candidates for Nov. 4 Election to North Union School Board

Ethan Jensen, continued

Gene Miller, continued

Art Pixler, continued

been on the Emmet County 4-H beef committee since 2011-current, served on the Emmet County 4-H youth committee until disbandment, a member of Armstrong little league board and a member of Emmet County drift busters snowmobile club served as vice president

Reasons for seeking election to the North Union School Board I am seeking election to the board because my children are now attending the district and I want to do everything I can to ensure that they and all the kids in the district get the best education they can. Also I want to do my part in helping to keep the district strong and thriving as long as possible.

What are some major issues of concern facing the North Union School District in the next few years My concerns are - declining high school enrollment with the more kids going to a home school setting. Just plain smaller enrollment numbers, and with that smaller budgets to make sure everyone is receiving the best quality education they deserve.

Your personal goals as a board member, what would you like to see done during your term? I do not have personal goals or agendas I simply want to help provide the youth in our district the best education and opportunities possible in today's world.

What are some strengths the North Union/North Kossuth School currently has? We as a whole have very good group of educators in our buildings judging by our state test scores the teachers know how to teach the curriculum in a leaning and receptive manner. We are utilizing employees and money wisely by sharing them throughout different buildings instead of each building having to hire and pay that position independently.

What do you think the school could improve on in the next few years and how would you go about the improvements? I believe there are some improvements that can be made in transportation of students to and from school. I would be interested in working with the transportation departments of both districts to improve the overall efficiency of the transportation logistics. After all both districts should be after the same goal of the best interest of the students and their learning experience.

Personal statement you would like to make to the voters. I'm not here to make friends or enemies I am here and running because I want to give our young people the best education they can get before they enter the real unforgiving world. If that means asking the hard questions and going against the majority then so be it doing the easy thing is not mean it's the right thing.

What are some major issues of concern facing the North Union School District in the next few years As always in a rural area in today's scenario we need to pay strict attention to student numbers and finances. Teacher recruitment can also be an issue on occasion.

Your personal goals as a board member, what would you like to see done during your term? My personal goals have always been the same no matter where I've served - to do whatever I need to do to ensure that our students get the best education we can offer them and prepare them for the future.

What are some strengths the North Union/North Kossuth School currently has? In question four I alluded to some of my concerns. Our strength as a district is that, so far, we have managed to stay strong in all those areas. Our numbers are steady. Our finances are strong. And we've managed to recruit excellent personnel. Personally I think we have an excellent future.

What do you think the school could improve on in the next few years and how would you go about the improvements? At the moment I think there is nothing we need to specifically act on, but we must never let our guard down. Rural life is not getting easier and we simply need to be constantly aware of that and address inherent concerns and needs as they come along.

Personal statement you would like to make to the voters. I have given a lifetime of service to a variety of organizations and I appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the North Union School District.

I am the chair for the SPRC for the Fenton First United Methodist Church. Previous experience on councils, boards, committees, etc.

I am currently on the Board of Directors for the North Union Community School District. For 10 years as a teacher, I regularly attended school board meetings. Naturally, during my 27 years as a school principal and superintendent I was directly involved and made recommendations to the board. While at Lohrville I served on the city council for 9 years. I am currently serving on the Fenton City Council. As a teacher, I was president of the Lohrville Education Association and served as chief negotiator for that group. As a superintendent I served as the chief negotiator for the Sentral Board. I have served as the Chair of the Administrative Council and as the SPRC chair in two different Methodist churches. I was on the Board of Directors and treasurer for the Iowa Association of Middle Level Educators for many years. Additionally, I have served on the board of directors for the Rowley Masonic Community (Nursing Home) in Perry and on the board of directors and chair of the Grand Lodge of Iowa Masonic Scholarship Endowment Committee. I currently serve on the board of directors and am secretary for Iowa Masonic Charities, treasurer of Iowa Research Lodge #2, am on the scholarship selection committee for Prudence Lodge #205, as well as being treasurer for Prudence Lodge. I am on the board of directors and secretary for the Fenton Cooperative Telephone Company. I also am a Past Grand Treasurer for the Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. & A.M.

Reasons for seeking election to the North Union School Board I have been an Educator for over 37 years and continue as a substitute teacher. I deeply believe that public education is one of the foundations of our country and I believe I can continue to offer my expertise to advance education in the North Union District. As an eighth grade Civics teacher for ten years, I preached to my students to become involved in local government - I see this as practicing what I preached way back then.

What are some major issues of concern facing the North Union School District in the next few years The major issue that I see facing the North Union Community School District is the same one that faces all small districts, and one that I also faced as superintendent at Sentral for 13 years, and that is finances. The legislature continues to underfund public schools while at the same time it has passed laws that allocate public tax-payer funds to private purposes. Providing public tax-payer funds to private entities only further erodes the resources for all districts but more especially small rural districts.

Your personal goals as a board member, what would you like to see done during your term? My personal goals are to follow and keep in mind the duties of school board members which are to hire and evaluate a superintendent; review, evaluate, and pass district policy; and administer fiduciary responsibilities.

What are some strengths the North Union/North Kossuth School currently has? Our greatest strength is our people including students, staff, teachers, administrators, and the board. We all can always improve, and we are continuing to do so.

What do you think the school could improve on in the next few years and how would you go about the improvements? I think we could continue to work on continuity in our sharing agreement to ensure that all students are arriving at the middle school at a similar level and then, likewise, to have all students as prepared as possible for high school. The way for the board to go about those improvements is to provide the policy and finances to ensure quality professional development that helps ensure that continuity. By no means is this denigrate past and current efforts toward continuity, but we can always continue to improve.

Personal statement you would like to make to the voters. I owe a lot to North Union and the old Sentral District and would consider it a privilege to continue to serve on the North Union Community School District Board of Directors. Thank you in advance for your vote.

Legal Publications

All legal publications are published as submitted.

Your Right To Know Proceedings of Emmet County Board of Supervisors

Approved Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes

October 7, 2025, at 08:30 a.m. Regular Meeting Board Room, Courthouse Present: Lisa Hansen, Chair; John Pluth, Jeff Quastad, Tim Schumacher, Todd Glasnapp Media: Ed Funston, Mike Tidemann Emmet County Employees present: Heidi Goebel, Melanie Summers Bauler, Sheriff Schultes Also: Emmet County Zoning Administrator

Chairperson Hansen, called the meeting to order. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Quastad, second by Glasnapp to approve the board meeting minutes from 09.30.2025, also approving them for publication. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion to approve agenda by Schumacher, second by Pluth. All Ayes, motion carried.

Quastad and Hansen toured a drainage dispute between two landowners. Committee updates: Pluth shared that Stacy Besch will be giving a presentation on the dangers of human trafficking today at 6:30 at Masonic Temple.

Public forum: Auditor Goebel confirmed the ILCC reservation for use of their auditorium for November 12 at 6:00 public hearing for amendment to the wind energy ordinance.

There were no candidates to appoint to the Emmet County Board of Adjustment.

Board chairperson, Lisa Hansen, signed a proclamation recognizing manufacturing month in the Iowa Great Lakes Corridor.

Sheriff Schultes requested cell phone stipends for two new deputies, Brody

Fritsche and Drew Strom. Motion to approve cell phone stipends by Pluth, second by Glasnapp. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Sheriff updated the board that the dispatchers will be parting ways with the union.

Casee Ross presented three price quotes for mini splits and/or return duct work at the Annex Building to try to resolve the heating and cooling issues in that building. The three estimates address different aspects of the HVAC in the building. Motion to accept the Lakes Plumbing and Heating estimate of \$5563.58 to add return air ducting by Schumacher, second by Quastad. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board reviewed the quarterly veteran affairs' report and auditor's report.

Motion to enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 (1) (c) by Quastad, second by Pluth at. All ayes. Motion carried. Board entered closed session at 9:07 a.m.

Motion to leave closed session by Quastad, second by Pluth. Roll call vote- Schumacher-aye, Glasnapp-aye, Pluth-aye, Quastad-aye, Hansen-aye. Motion carried.

No decisions were made in closed session.

Manure Management Plans reviewed by the supervisors: Facility Owner Site K and T Olson Swine 3 #70491 K & T Olson Swine 4

Tirevold Finisher Farm #65440 White Swan Farms, LLC

Andy Olson #59781 Andrew Olson

East Swan Swine Care #69107 East Swan Swine Care, LLC

K and T Olson Swine #69122 K and T Olson Swine, LLC

Motion by Glasnapp, second by Quastad to adjourn at 9:40 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Heidi Goebel, Auditor Lisa Hansen, Chairman

(Published October 22, 2025)

Your Right To Know Proceedings of Ringsted City Council

CITY OF RINGSTED COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

October 13, 2025 6:00 CITY HALL The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Present: Council: Laidig, Morris, Larsen, Nielsen present. Mayor Mike Rasmussen absent, Petersen absent. Staff present: Sommer Nielsen, clerk, Toby Morris, superintendent

AGENDA as posted was approved by Mandly, seconded by Laidig, all ayes. CONSENT AGENDA for September 8, 2025 was approved by Morris, seconded by Laidig, all ayes.

Approval to close Second Street from Maple Street to Oak Street from 4:00pm - 8:00pm on October 31. Motion by Larsen, second by Morris, all ayes.

Snow removal for main street sidewalks was discussed, decision was made to advertise for bids. Approval by Laidig, second by Larsen, all ayes.

LED light bulbs will be purchased to replace bulbs in City Hall. Motion by Morris, second by Larsen, all ayes. ADJOURNMENT approved by Morris, second by Laidig, all ayes.

BILLS APPROVED: Alliant, Svcs \$2587.03 Amazon, supp \$124.29 Armstrong Building Supp \$26.82 Baker & Taylor, Books \$171.83 Banyon, svcs \$865.00 CAC, supp \$1458.00

DSG, supp \$174.39 Delta Dental, Ins \$94.56 ECCOG, Svcs \$1229.21 Emmet Co Treasurer, svcs \$98.00 Evolv, svcs \$199.00 Hach, svcs \$234.70 Hanigan Writing, supp \$36.00 Hawkins, supp \$595.00 HIC, supp \$12.02

IMFOA, svcs \$240.00 IRS, Tax \$1839.66 IDR, Tax \$315.40 IA State Ext., svcs \$240.00 Ipers, Retire \$1401.87 J.Petersen, reimb \$100.57 JT Excavation, svcs \$2403.27 Maguire Iron, svcs \$23238.00 M.Cole, svcs \$160.00 MidAmerican \$43.74 Municipal Maintenance \$722.00 Payment Dr., svcs \$2984.00 Postmaster \$73.81 Quill, supp \$41.48 Dispatch, Svcs \$66.06 Library, Alloc. \$1000.00 RingTel, Svcs \$226.51 Ringsted Welding, svcs \$690.00 Shamrock Recycle, Svcs \$806.12 Sheriff \$1256.65 Silver Smith Data, svcs \$1171.00 S.Nielsen, reimb \$53.70 State Hygienic, Lab \$180.50 T.Morris, reimb \$174.87 TrioFin, Ins \$80.55 Wellmark, Ins \$1778.41 Wilson Ins, svcs \$211.00 Employees, Wages \$9079.51 TOTAL \$58,484.53

RECEIPTS: General \$5218.15 Tort \$2699.31 Road \$4855.63 T&A \$1992.83 Local Option \$5091.74 Debt \$1548.81 Water \$4312.24 Sewer \$4204.21 Storm \$310.44 Garbage \$3816.44 TOTAL \$34,049.80

SOMMER NIELSEN, CLERK TRAVIS NIELSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM (Published October 22, 2025)

SCHUBERT, MATTHEW 150.00 Services 150.00 SPENCER CSD, Entry 90.00 SPIRIT LAKE HS, Entry THEATRICAL RIGHTS' Supplies 2,195.00 Tigges, Sandra, Services 390.00 VIVENS, RIANNA, Services 525.00 WALMART, Supplies 231.20 WEBBER, KRISTIAN Services 150.00 WEGNER, KEVIN, Services 50.00 WILLEMS, COREY, Services 600.00 Fund Total: 17,374.20

PHYSICAL PLANT & EQUIP FUND: A-LERT ROOF SYSTEMS Services 26,617.50 AMAZON, Equipment 2,786.98 DRAIN PRO OF NW IOWA Svcs 980.00 FOLLET SOFTWARE COMPANY Svcs 9,100.10 G & R CONTROLS, Services 1,020.90 J AND R ELECTRIC Services 1,558.50 NEXT GENERATION TECH Services 13,127.54 PER MAR SECURITY Services 363.58 SCHOOL SPECIALTY, Equip 836.47 STEVENS CONSTRUCTION Svcs 1,452.50 Fund Total: 57,844.07

NUTRITION FUND: DEAN DAIRY, Supplies 588.21 HAGER FOODS, Supplies 454.00 MARTIN BROTHERS Supplies 4,531.75 NU GENERAL, Services 10,601.01 Fund Total: 16,174.97

TOTAL: 911,961.43 (Published October 22, 2025)

Your Right To Know Proceedings of North Union Community School Board of Education

SEPTEMBER 2025 BOARD BILLS

GENERAL FUND: AED SUPERSTORE Supplies 3,071.01 AFLAC, Payroll 226.68 AFSOURCE LABS, Services 41.50 ALGONA PUBLISHING Supplies 63.00 ALLIANT UTILITIES Services 10,044.11 AMAZON, Supplies 4,929.16 ARMSTRONG BUILDING SUPPLY Supp 158.95 ARMSTRONG JOURNAL Services 677.16 B.E. PUBLISHING Supplies 1,133.10 BISHOP-GARRIGAN HS Entry 50.00 BLACK, KATIE, Reimb 240.09 BOMGAARS, Supplies 137.05 BW GAS, Supplies 61.05 CASEYS, Supplies 17.99 CITY OF ARMSTRONG Services 679.22 CUMMINS, MICHAEL Reimb 150.00 DISCOVERY EDUCATION Supplies 3,921.50 EBAY, Supplies 16.04 EBS, Insurance 44,391.43 FARM BUREAU, Payroll 90.00 FENTON COOP TELEPHONE Services 208.40 Fisher, Alex, Reimb 182.00 GREIN, KELLY, Reimb 106.36 Hansen, Ann, Reimb 204.54 Hansen, Nathan, Reimb 150.00 HASSEBROEK REFRIG Services 355.00 HYVEE, Supplies 76.97 IHMA, Services 129.00 ICDA, Dues 35.00 ICTM, Services 160.00 IOWA ASSN OF BLDG MAINT Dues 40.00 IOWA BAND MASTERS ASSN Dues 75.00

North Union CSD

IOWA COMM NETWORK 106.52 Services KEN BORTH AUTO PLAZA Supplies 93.70 KOSSUTH CO TREASURER Supplies 129.22 LAKESHORE LEARNING Supplies 34.97 LAMINATOR.COM, Supplies 361.95 MEYER, LOREN, Reimb 75.00 MICHAELS STORE, Supplies 64.04 MICROSOFT, Services 106.99 NAVIGATE 360, Services 1,604.14 NCIBA, Dues 25.00 NEXT GENERATION TECH Svcs 2,053.47 NORTH KOSSUTH CSD Services 728,065.38 ONESOURCE, Services 182.50 PERGANDE ENTERPRISES Services 1,140.00 PIONEER, Supplies 871.25 PRESTO-X-CO, Services 93.89 QUILL CORPORATION Supplies 242.31 RENAISSANCE LEARNING Services 312.00 RINGTEL COMMUNICATIONS Svcs 326.17 Rogers, Erin, Reimb 150.00 ROGERS, MATTHEW Reimb 150.00 SAVVAS, Services 1,287.90 SCHOOL SPECIALTY Supplies 512.24 SCHUELLER, TRAVIS Reimb 319.20 SENOR WOOLY, Services 199.00 SHERWIN WILLIAMS Supplies 334.25 SIPMA, RANAE, Services 460.00 STAR GROUP LLC, Supplies 76.34 TEACHER SYNERGY Supplies 319.00 TIGGES CHIROPRACTIC Services 75.00 VOYA INST TRUST, Payroll 859.16 WE WILL WRITE, Services 60.00 WEST MUSIC, Supplies 476.39 Zotz, Robert, Reimb 193.40 Fund Total: 813,181.69

MANAGEMENT FUND: SU INSURANCE CO 7,386.50 Fund Total: 7,386.50

ACTIVITY FUND: AMAZON, Supplies 1,316.36 AMERICINN NEWTON Services 448.80 CENTER SPORTS, Supplies 364.00 DEHRKOOP, MICHAEL Services 150.00 ELC COMMUNITY SCHOOL Entry 105.00 ELITE SPORTS, Supplies 0.00 EMMETSBURG CSD, Entry 105.00 FUTURE PRO, Supplies 266.80 GARNER HAYFIELD CSD Entry 90.00 GRABINOSKI, JAY, Services 50.00 GRABINOSKI, JOEL, Services 50.00 GTRA CSD, Entry 100.00 HACKBARTH, MITCH Services 150.00 HUISENGA, TROY, Services 150.00 HYVEE, Supplies 113.36 ISDTA, Supplies 1,115.00 JACOBSEN, BRENT Services 180.00 JMY GRAPHIX, Supplies 377.00 KBEW, Services 14.09 KILB, Services 124.00 LARSEN, LORI, Reimb 17.96 NIELSEN PHOTOGRAPHY Supp 60.00 NU GENERAL, Reimb 1,379.04 NURSE, JAMES, Services 207.60 PAUL, MATTHEW, Services 50.00 PEPSI-COLA, Supplies 834.24 PERKINS, FRED, Services 150.00 PETTY CASH, Services 2,000.00 PIONEER, Supplies 161.52 POINTER, MOLLY, Services 390.00 POST PROM, Supplies 204.35 PROCTOR, SARAH, Reimb 38.95 RHODE, STEVE, Services 150.00 RIDDELL/ALL AMERICAN Supp 912.25 RILEY, WILLIAM, Services 150.00 Sabin, Kenneth, Services 50.00 SAMS CLUB, Supplies 817.68

SCHUBERT, MATTHEW 150.00 Services 150.00 SPENCER CSD, Entry 90.00 SPIRIT LAKE HS, Entry THEATRICAL RIGHTS' Supplies 2,195.00 Tigges, Sandra, Services 390.00 VIVENS, RIANNA, Services 525.00 WALMART, Supplies 231.20 WEBBER, KRISTIAN Services 150.00 WEGNER, KEVIN, Services 50.00 WILLEMS, COREY, Services 600.00 Fund Total: 17,374.20

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TOTAL: 911,961.43 (Published October 22, 2025)

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If you can dream it, we can probably do it! And, if not, we can find a source for you to get it done. Custom Printing 712-868-3460

IOWA TPEN PUBLIC NOTICES IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION



Natalie Walders and Davian Martinez work to "plant" the scarecrow while Jeffery Walker and Trayna Turner look on.



Miss Harle's advisory students pose with their scarecrow. L to R: Jorie Hartman, Jordanne Brown, Donny Harris, Brayden Peta, Harley Rezac, Gavin Henning, Aiden Carranza, and Tysun Fulbright.

High school students bond over scarecrow building

By Peyton Jenkins
 NUHS Journalism Student

On October 2, 2025, the high school students spent the last hour of the school day building scarecrows in their advisories.

The high school implemented advisory groups in January 2024. The purpose of these groups is to build relationships between teachers and students, as well as among students. Advisories meet once a month to do exciting activities that include minute-to-win-it games, BINGO, decorating doors for Christmas, and head-to-head competitions with other advisories. Advisors also bring snacks for the students to munch on before or after the activities take place.

Jessica Zotz, the Academic Interventionist, likes spending time with the kids in a non-instructional type of environment and getting to know a different side of the kids.

She states, "The advisories have helped to improve the climate and culture by forming relationships between students that wouldn't normally interact with each other. It brings people together positively." Her favorite advisory activity is the Amazing Race and door decorating because it involves everyone.

Senior Olivia Price said, "Advisories are always exciting and it's a positive way to bond with other people that you aren't usually around."

Kyla Irmiter, also a senior, enjoys becoming closer with the underclassmen during these activities.

For October, each advisory group built their own scarecrow using wooden cross posts supplied by Chris Stevens's shop class. The scarecrows had to be built outside and students had to come up with ideas for the appearance of their scarecrow. It was a perfect fall day, and the kids seemed



Jakob Ernster and Dyson Wikert model Mrs. Colegrove's scarecrow's attire.

to really enjoy the activity.

Kael Vaske, a junior, stated, "It was fun because my group had to come up with ideas to create a fun looking football player."

Alexis Cummins stated, "It was fun for everyone to get together and enjoy

Iowa Secretary of State Urges Iowa Voters to Stay Alert When Receiving Election Information Amidst Reported Fraudulent Messages

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate released the following statement regarding an emerging situation in multiple Iowa counties.

"My office is aware of reports that an individual or group is sending mass texts to Iowa residents impersonating local elected officials and candidates. These messages are not authentic and were not sent by the officials or candidates named.

The reported impersonated messages read:

Hello, [NAME]. I'm [NAME], your [CITY NAME] [GOVERNMENT ROLE OR OFFICE SOUGHT], and I'm listening to residents about what matters most in our community. What issues do you think should be our top priority? Reply with your thoughts or text STOP to opt out.

Impersonating public officials and candidates is unacceptable and must stop immediately. We have advised the county auditor's offices to report to local law enforcement.

Iowa voters should remain vigilant about messages claiming to be from officials or candidates. With the continued rise of election-related misinformation, we remind Iowans to always verify information through trusted sources: the Iowa Secretary of State's Office or your local county auditor.

I also want to remind Iowans that it is election season, and candidates are also conducting legitimate outreach. Legitimate outreach from candidates and pollsters will not ask for sensitive information. We urge Iowans not to provide sensitive information over text, and if making plans to donate, to navigate separately to the candidate's official donation channels. If Iowans have any questions, we encourage them to turn to trusted sources of information and reach out directly to campaigns to validate any outreach.

Iowans who receive suspected messages appearing to be impersonations should immediately report them to local law enforcement, their county auditor's office, and our office at elections@sos.iowa.gov.

Confirmed reports have come from Franklin, Johnson, and Madison Counties at the time of distribution.



Matchy Matchy

Jolene Johnson, Dorothy Cronk, and Jan Richmond got a kick out of showing off their matching embroidered sweatshirts at the Armstrong Heritage Museums annual meeting on Sunday, October 19.



North Union choir members participate in Heartland Honor Choir

Heartland Honor Choir at Iowa Lakes Community College included over 200 student participants in a daylong workshop and evening performance Thursday, Oct. 16.

Schools participating included Estherville Lincoln Central, Okoboji, South O'Brien, Pocahontas Area, Spencer, Manson Northwest-Webster, North Union, Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock, Le Mars Community, Graettinger-Terril, Ruthven-Ayrshire, and Iowa Lakes Community College.

The Heartland Honor Choir sang four songs, while the concert also featured the Iowa Lakes Chamber Choir, Jazz Singers, and Men's Ensemble. The guest conductor was Dr. Kurt Runestad, who has taught at Doane University since the fall of 2004, and is chair of the music department.

North Union choir members include: Natalie Walders, Kenna Hatten, Mylee Oleson, Cadence Lemmens, Avery Walstead, Brenna Ross, Karly Potratz, and Thalia Diaz Mora.



CHUCK GRASSLEY

Q&A: Arctic Frost
 With U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley
 Q: What is Arctic Frost?

A: Under the Biden administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) opened an investigation in April 2022 codenamed Arctic Frost. I started my congressional oversight of Arctic Frost in July 2022 after whistleblowers approached my office. Ostensibly, the FBI investigation was opened to examine an alleged false electors scheme following the 2020 election. Since then, my oversight has exposed the partisan spear that launched the investigation to go after President Trump, his circle and poison his campaign to return to the White House. Arctic Frost created the framework that Jack Smith, a special counsel appointed by the Biden Department of Justice (DOJ), used to form his election case against President Trump. Even before the special counsel appointment, I flagged the partisan bias of the senior FBI official who ran Arctic Frost. This official's political tilt undermines the credibility of the entire investigation. FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Timothy Thibault was assigned to oversee public corruption matters. Ironically, he allowed his partisan views to corrupt his decision-making process and tarnish the rule of law. Whistleblower disclosures to my office revealed how Thibault bent FBI rules and, in so doing, weaponized

the federal government to take down a political opponent. The Office of Special Counsel confirmed Thibault also broke the law; the Hatch Act prohibits political activity among federal employees while on duty.

As part of its Arctic Frost investigation, the Biden DOJ, FBI and supporting agencies issued hundreds of subpoenas and conducted dozens of interviews across the country at taxpayer expense. The facts show the investigation was a sweeping partisan fishing expedition to take down political foes. Earlier this year Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and I released tranches of whistleblower records detailing the plot to pin Trump in the Jack Smith electoral case. What's more, my congressional oversight also found the probe targeted 92 conservative organizations, including Charlie Kirk's Turning Point USA. Thanks to the courageous disclosures by whistleblowers, the truth is seeing the light of day. I'll continue working to root out abuses of power to restore public trust in government.

Q: How is this targeting of political opponents during the Biden administration worse than Watergate?

A: My oversight work continues to pull back the curtain on the full extent of partisan misconduct at play in the Arctic Frost investigation. Most

recently, I learned that as part of the investigation, the Biden FBI misused the long arm of the law to target at least eight Republican senators. In 2023, it sought and obtained cell phone "tolling data" for their devices even though they weren't under investigation. This is a serious breach of the constitutional separation of powers. I've also discovered the Arctic Frost documents have been hidden as so-called Prohibited Access Files at the FBI to prevent them from ever seeing the light of day. As a lifelong family farmer, I know it takes the light and heat of the sun to grow crops. Likewise, I've learned in Washington it takes the heat of congressional oversight, often aided by the courage of whistleblowers, to shine light on wrongdoing and hold government accountable to the public. No matter how long it takes, I'll continue to follow the facts to shut down political misconduct that weaponizes government against law-abiding citizens. That means I'm crossing the t's and dotting the i's of my oversight work before holding public hearings as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. As part of that effort, I've sent letters to the DOJ and FBI, as well as various other federal entities and telecommunications companies, seeking all records related to Arctic Frost and all records they provided to former Special Counsel Jack Smith for his investigation into President Trump and others. In the infamous Watergate tapes, President Nixon delivered the marching orders to fire a Pentagon whistleblower for telling the truth. As a freshman member of the U.S. House of Representatives elected post-Watergate, I cut my teeth on holding government accountable. History shows transparency brings accountability. As a watchdog for good government, I'll keep digging to root out wrongdoing to ensure the government works for the American people, not the other way around.

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Northern Iowa Woman Wins \$50,000 Lottery Prize

Debra Sherman Claims Top Prize In 'Quick Cash' Scratch Game

CLIVE, Iowa — A northern Iowa woman has won a \$50,000 lottery prize. Debra Sherman of Algona won the second top prize in the Iowa Lottery's "Quick Cash" scratch game. She purchased her winning ticket at Casey's, 602 E. State St. in Algona, and claimed her prize Friday at the lottery's Mason City regional office.

Quick Cash is a \$5 scratch game that features eight top prizes of \$50,000 and overall odds of 1 in 3.67. For more information about this game, and the number of prizes still available, visit ialottery.com.

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By David Swartz
dswartz@esthervilleneews.net
ARMSTRONG — Greyson Colegrove passed for two touchdowns and ran for two more in helping North Union manhandle Northwood-Kensett, 58-0, in the regular season finale last Friday.

The Vikings couldn't stop the Warriors' ground game as the hosts racked up 304 rushing yards led by Draven Keeler's 17 carries for 132 yards and two scores. Colegrove was efficient in the passing game, completing 6-of-7 passes for 72 yards.

"I'm incredibly proud of our guys," said North Union coach Matt Ernster. "We played at a high level in all three phases of the game, and it showed. Defensively, we were dominant from start to finish, set the tone early, and never let up. This group put in a great

week of preparation, and their effort really paid off. Clinching a playoff berth is exciting, and it's a testament to how focused and committed these players are. We'll enjoy this one, but we're already looking ahead and getting ready for what's next."

Colegrove had a hand in North Union's first four touchdowns, the first one coming on a 53-yard run. That was followed by a 13-yard touchdown pass to Cooper Hoyer and then Colegrove's second rushing touchdown, this time from 6 yards out. With Christian Reyes perfect on extra points in the first quarter, the Warriors led 21-0 after the first 12 minutes.

To start the second quarter, Colegrove connected with Hoyer again, this time from 2 yards out. While the extra point kick failed, the

North Union offense never let up. Keeler scored his first touchdown on a 5-yard run with Colegrove running in the two-point conversion to make the score 35-0. An 18-yard touchdown run before half by Keeler and a Reyes kick gave the hosts a 42-0 lead.

With a running clock throughout the second half, the Warrior defense scored the first points by forcing a safety. The reserves completed the scoring as Jackson Hutchinson scored on a 3-yard run to make the score 51-0 to end the third quarter. Drake Nelsen added an 8-yard touchdown run in the final period.

"It was Senior Night, and sending our seniors out the right way meant a lot to all of us," said Ernster. "This group has given so much to our program, and we appreciate the leader-

ship, toughness, and example they've set. They deserved a night like this."

For the Warriors receiving corps, Hoyer had three catches for 39 yards, Crouch had a catch for 19 yards and Drew Henderson and Khael Jones each had a catch for 7 yards.

On the ground, Colegrove had 76 yards on six carries, Hutchinson had four carries for 40 yards, Noah Hersleff had three carries for 23 yards, Nelsen had three carries for 21 yards, Noah Campbell had five carries for 12 yards and Taylin Jones had a carry for no yards.

Hoyer led the North Union defense with four tackles while Cole Nicoson and Jeffrey Walker each had three. Nicoson had three sacks, John Waller had 1.5 sacks, Hoyer and Hutchinson each had one sack and Kyan Walter had a half a sack.

NU Warriors head to playoff game against GTRA

By David Swartz
dswartz@esthervilleneews.net

When Graettinger-Terril/Ruthven-Ayrshire and North Union take the field Friday night, the stakes will be higher than ever — this time, it's win or go home.

The Titans (8-0, 6-0) enter the post-season as the Class 8-Man District 1 champions, while the Warriors (4-3, 3-2) finished third in District 2.

When the two teams met in the regular season, GT/RA jumped out to a 16-0 lead after the first quarter. North Union roared back with 28 points in the second period to briefly take a 28-24 lead, but the Titans scored just before halftime to go up 32-28, then shut down the Warriors in the second half for a 52-28 victory.

This time around, North Union will look to sustain its offensive rhythm and slow down the Titans' explosive attack.

"We know we've got a tough matchup ahead in the playoffs with GTRA," said North Union coach Matt Ernster. "They got the best of us back in Week 4, and we remember that. It's going to be a challenge, but our guys are excited for the opportunity. We've grown a lot since then, and we're looking forward to competing and seeing how far we've come."

The teams feature contrasting styles. North Union relies heavily on its ground game, while GT/RA boasts the state's top 8-player passer in senior quarterback Teagan Hanson.

Hanson has completed 119-of-189 passes for 2,201 yards and 33 touchdowns. His main targets are Jaxson Schnell (42 catches, 809 yards, 13 TDs), Kenny Ness (33 catches, 636 yards, 11 TDs), and Caleb Swedin (34 catches, 595 yards, 8 TDs).

The Titans also have an effective rushing attack led by Swedin (35 carries, 315 yards, 11 TDs), Ness (39 carries, 288 yards, 3 TDs), and Hanson (41 carries, 292 yards, 5 TDs).

For North Union, Draven Keeler powers the offense with 131 carries for 932 yards and 15 touchdowns. Quarterback Greyson Colegrove has added 329 yards and nine touchdowns on 56 carries, while Carson Crouch

has rushed 25 times for 209 yards and three scores.

Colegrove has also been efficient through the air, completing 41-of-71 passes for 648 yards with nine touchdowns and two interceptions. His top receivers include Khael Jones (18 catches, 270 yards, 2 TDs), Cooper Hoyer (14 catches, 248 yards, 5 TDs), Crouch (9 catches, 99 yards), and Drew Henderson (5 catches, 71 yards, 2 TDs).

Offensively, GT/RA averages 58 points per game while allowing 24, while North Union averages 43 points and gives up 26.

Swedin leads the Titan defense with 72.5 tackles, including 5.5 sacks, followed by Brady Harris (45 tackles), Hanson (37.5), Luke Malm (32), and Schnell (30.5).

For North Union, Cole Nicoson leads the defense with 30 tackles, followed by Jones (29), Max Merrill (25.5), Crouch (23.5), and Gabe Whaley (23).

GT/RA has forced 16 turnovers this season, while North Union has come up with 11.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Friday in Ruthven.



North Union senior football player Jayden Hagedorn, along with his parents Jason Lloyd and Melanie Blakesly, were honored prior to their game against Northwood-Kensett.



North Union senior marching band player Aidan Giddings, along with his parents Molly and Dan Giddings, were honored prior to the football game against Northwood-Kensett.



Cooper Hoyer reaches out for the football during the first quarter of the conference game against Northwood-Kensett. Hoyer caught the ball and ran it into the end zone to score.

Good luck as you head to your playoff game!

vs GTRA
Friday, October 24
7:00 p.m.
Graettinger

North Union Warrior Football



2025 Warrior Football Team

North Union football team consists of front row: Drew Henderson, Hudson Tirevold, Cole Nicoson, John Waller, Lane Bruhn, Draven Keeler, Jayden Hagedorn, Jeffrey Walker, Khael Jones; second row: Michael Tobin, Wyatt Leininger, Kael Vaske, Gabe Whaley, Caden Zoltz, Casey Rezac, Wiley Stevens, Jackson Hutchinson, Max Merrill, Dyson Wikert, Cooper Hoyer, Greyson Colegrove; third row: Christian Reyes, Noah Hersleff, Zane Vaske, Castor Kollasch, Hunter Clendenen, Kaden Grimm, Hunter Geitzenauer, Kyan Walter, Carson Crouch, Drake Nelsen; fourth row: Brock Marsh, Jakob Ernster, Luke Hansen, Max Heinen, Broc Bollig, Brekkyn Morpheu, Noah Campbell, Austin Gillis, Lane Engelby, Taylin Jones; back row: Assistant coaches Nathan Hanson, Robert Zoltz, head coach Matt Ernster and assistant coach Alex Fisher. Missing is Colin Kruse.

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 - Swea City Herald Press
 - The Garage



Four North Union High School students traveled to Bishop Garrigan High School who hosted a quiz bowl this past weekend. The team of Cole Nicolson, Drake Nelsen, Kyan Walter and Casey Rezac came in second overall.



Between the tears and the laughs, North Union senior volleyball girls Olivia Price, Macy Colegrove and Brylie Deim, give each other a hug following their loss to Bishop Garrigan on Monday, October 20th.

Halloween Party
 Friday Oct. 31
 Food 5-7 pm
 MANY DRAWINGS / PRIZES
 COSTUME CONTEST 9 PM
 ARMSTRONG VFW #5232

BBQ Ribs or Grilled Shrimp Special
 Served with Baked Potato, Cole Slaw & Garlic Toast
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Sunday, October 26th
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Cross Country runner Cummins earns All-Conference honors

By David Swartz
 dschwartz@esthervilleneews.net
 MASON CITY — North Union's Alexis Cummins earned all-conference honors via a Top 10 finish at the 2025 Top of Iowa Conference Cross Country Meet last Thursday.

The conference meet combines the teams from the Top of Iowa West and Top of Iowa East divisions.

Cummins finished 10th overall in the girls' race with a time of 21 minutes, 55.7 seconds. Osage senior Scarlett Byrness was the only girl runner to complete the 5K course under 20 minutes as she won with a time of 19:53.5.

North Union's other runner in the girls' race, Alyssa Welbig, placed 41st in 24:27.5.

The North Union boys had four runners. Landon Manwarren led the Warriors, placing 80th in 22:35.9, while Traecer Starnes placed 87th in 23:11.5, Kade Madden placed 89th in 23:19.7, and Edward Champney placed 100th in 26:55.9.

Lake Mills senior Knute Rogne won the individual title with a time of 16:52.

North Union runners travel to Emmetsburg on Thursday for a Class IA State Qualifying Meet. The girls' race starts at 4 p.m. followed by the boys.

2025 Top of Iowa Conference Cross Country Championships
 Mason City, Iowa

Girls' team scores: Forest City 60, Osage 81, Newman Catholic 126, West Hancock 133, Bishop Garrigan 137, North Iowa 154, Saint Ansgar 156, Lake Mills 167, Belmont-Klemme 187, West Fork 196.

Boys' team scores: Lake Mills 36, Forest City 66, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura 111, West Hancock 124, North Butler 153, Newman Catholic 179, Osage 201, Eagle Grove 217, North Iowa 221, West Fork 234, Nashua-Plainfield 284, Central Springs 289, Belmont-Klemme 291, Saint Ansgar 385.

Warriors run at Forest City
 On Monday, Oct. 13, North Union runners were at the Forest City Invitational.

Alexis Cummins placed sixth in the girls' race in 21 minutes, 16.4 seconds, while Alyssa Welbig placed 36th in 24:18.8.

The North Union boys placed 11th. Landon Manwarren placed 78th in 22:34.6, Kade Madden placed 86th in 23:04.2, Traecer Starnes placed 88th in 23:21.5, Samuel Kirkegard placed 100th in 23:31.0, and Edward Champney placed 107th in 27:00.8.

RINGSTED HALLOWEEN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

- 5-7 PM TRICK OR TREAT
- 5-7 PM TRUNK OR TREAT AT LIBRARY
- 5:30-6:30 PM SACK LUNCH AT THE LEGION

North Union Warrior Cross Country

Good Luck at State Qualifying
 Thursday, October 23 • Emmetsburg

Alexis Cummins
 First Team All Conference



2025 North Union Warrior Cross Country

North Union Warriors' cross-country team is comprised of front from left: Alyssa Welbig and Alexis Cummins; back row: Edward Champney, Kade Madden and Landon Manwarren. Not pictured is Traecer Starnes.

Notice

The Garage in Armstrong will be closed Mon. & Tues. October 27 & 28 for maintenance!

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- Ringtel Communications
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- Swea City Herald Press
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 Friday, October 31 at
 St. Mary's Catholic Church Parking Lot
 for Trunk or Treat! 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Inviting all businesses, individuals & groups to decorate your trunk & hand out treats.

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- Compensation includes a wage rate range of \$27.00 to \$27.52 per hour, health and dental insurance and Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System.
- Possession of or the ability to obtain a Class "A" Commercial Driver's License with air brake endorsement is required.
- A pre-employment physical, pre-employment drug test, registration with the US Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse and pre-employment criminal background check is required.
- The successful applicant will be required to live in or near the Lakota area.
- An application may be obtained at the office of the Kossuth County Engineer, 114 West State Street, Suite 5, Algona, IA, 50511 or at Kossuth County's Website <https://kossuthcounty.iowa.gov/careers.php>.
- Applications will be accepted at the Kossuth County Engineer's Office until November 14, 2025 or until the position is filled.

KOSSUTH COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Officiating Clinics will offer future officials an introduction to the job

By Erin Sommers
pokyrdnews@gmail.com

Chandler Todd found his place alongside sporting events at an early age.

At least unofficially. "It all started when I was younger," said Todd, a 2020 PAC graduate.

At his friends' houses, the kids were playing all kinds of sports.

"I never wanted to play, so I learned the rules and I would ref them," he said.

Todd, now working at Morningside University in Sioux City, is still officiating sporting events. He's a certified official for football, softball and basketball. For several years, Todd worked on a football crew, which took him to varsity games every Friday night for the eight weeks of football season, but this year, he's not and has been subbing where needed. Last week, he turned down multiple requests to referee football games in favor of one close to home.

Todd is likely just the kind of official the Twin Lakes Conference is hoping to get started this fall with clinics in Emmetsburg and Sac City.

"It's never really been easy to get quality officials," said Lance Wilhelm, assistant athletic director at East Sac County Schools, who is one of the organizers of the clinics.

Wilhelm worked for a superintendent years ago who, as an athletic director in the 1970s, told him once that he got around the problem of recruiting officials by paying a little more per game than neighboring school districts did.

"Now, I would say it's even more challenging to get officials," Wilhelm said.

The good news is, the barrier to entry for new officials is fairly low. The first test to become an official is an open book one, followed by a closed book test the second time around.

"Getting started is not that hard in officiating," Wilhelm said.

The trick is in learning how to officiate well, Wilhelm added.

"Some officials are just better than others," he said. "The best ones are the ones you don't even notice."

The officiating clinics, which are set

for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 31 at Emmetsburg High School and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 7 at the Sac Community Center in Sac City, are free and offer an introduction to the art of officiating. To sign up, email lwilhelm@eastacs.k12.ia.us.

Wilhelm said all schools are struggling to bring in new officials. Baby Boomers, who have been officiating games for decades, are reaching their 60s and 70s and retiring.

The younger generations of parents, particularly the ones who are really into sports, often are following their own children in travel sports and aren't as available as they would have been before travel sports became so prevalent.

He said he sees other factors that contribute to the official shortage. School districts are larger and now students are traveling through a town or

at PAC High School. The process was straightforward. "You study it, you take the test, you pay your dues," he said.

He didn't just watch the players. He watched the referees on the field. He wanted to see what they saw.

"I did an awful lot of watching," Todd said. "I watched and watched."

Getting started might be easy, but like playing a sport, it takes practice and continually working on it to stay good at it.

Larry Bevins of Pocahontas is on the other end of the spectrum. Bevins got into officiating football about 25 years ago, after his children had graduated from school and his son had started officiating. Bevins was invited to join a football crew, took the test and started refereeing a sport he didn't even play himself.

"That was the greatest thing," he said.

To Wilhelm's point that officials can

turn the gig into a decent part-time job, Bevins and Todd offered some insights into what they can make.

"I make \$95 a game officiating out here," he said. "I only drive six blocks."

His son earns \$120 to \$150 at varsity games. Closer to Sioux City, Todd said he earns \$140 to \$160 at a varsity basketball double header, and \$130 to \$155 for varsity football games.

"We don't do most of these things for the money," Todd said.

Officiating isn't always easy. Todd said he's had coaches and parents cuss him out. He lets it roll off his back, though.

"I was hard on (the referees in high school)," he said. "I love it when fans are yelling at me. I get their passion and where they're coming from. As a good official, you can't let these get to you."

Bevins said, although he wouldn't have had time to play regardless. "Dad needed me on the farm in the fall."

Going from the stands to the sidelines is a new perspective, Bevins said.

"You learn to hold yourself back," he said. "You make the calls the way you see them and then stand by them."

Bevins spent years traveling around for football Friday nights. These days, he stays closer to home, working junior high and junior varsity games in Pocahontas.

"It's probably one of the most rewarding things I've ever done," Bevins said of becoming an official.

He even had the opportunity to officiate the Shrine Bowl with his two sons.

"That was the greatest thing," he said.

To Wilhelm's point that officials can

Confusion results from differing applications of teachers' rights

By Randy Evans

The nation's founders got right to the point when they laid out how to treat the First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, the press and the rights of people to assemble and to petition the government. They used only 45 words, without asterisks.

Their simple words should lead to simple conclusions. Yet, recent Iowa cases illustrate why people in general, and educators specifically, are perplexed about what is protected and what is not.

Some legal background:

In a 2022 decision dealing with school employees' First Amendment rights, the U.S. Supreme Court refereed whether Joseph Kennedy, a public high school football coach in Bremerton, Wash., engaged in protected conduct when he held post-game prayer sessions with his players in the middle of the football field.

School officials disapproved and told Kennedy to stop. He persisted, so the school suspended him and then declined to renew his contract.

The coach sued, arguing the school violated his First Amendment rights by punishing him for his "brief, quiet prayer" at the 50-yard line after each game. He contended the school could better address its concerns by educating students and the public that such prayers merely were personal religious expression, not that of the Bremerton district.

The school countered that the coach's prayers were disruptive, with spectators bowling over people as they rushed the field to pray alongside the coach and team. Some players felt social pressure to join the coach's prayers, the school noted.

The district court ruled for the school, finding the coach's "prominent, habitual prayer [is] not the kind of private speech that is beyond school control."

By a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court decided otherwise. The majority wrote, "The Free Exercise and Free Speech clauses of the First Amendment protect an individual engaging in a personal religious observance from government reprisal; the Constitution neither mandates nor permits the government to suppress such religious expression."

School officials' actions against two Iowa teachers in recent weeks seem at odds with the Supreme Court's broad protection of personal expression in the Bremerton case.

Since 2012, Matthew Kargol taught art at Oskaloosa High School. He also served as track and wrestling coach. The district consistently gave him positive evaluations. It never disciplined him — until firing him last month.

Kargol's transgression: He posted three words — "I Nazi down" — on his own personal Facebook account the day that conservative activist Charlie Kirk was murdered in Utah. Seven days later, the school board fired Kargol.

Unlike the Bremerton coach, who exercised his speech and religion rights on school grounds, during school events, and with students participating, nothing in Kargol's Facebook account or his posting identified him as an Oskaloosa teacher or otherwise linked him and his message to school events. He did not gather students on school property to hear him speak. Instead, he posted his comment from his own computer, on his own time and from his own home.

Kargol sued the school and Superintendent Michael Fisher. His lawsuit said the school district engaged in a "politically motivated pressure campaign," even though no one claimed Kargol's off-duty comment created classroom disruption or otherwise caused "any failure or inadequacy in his performance, or any threat to disrupt the learning environment."

Instead, the lawsuit said, the superintendent "responded swiftly, not by examining whether the post had any impact on Mr. Kargol's ability to teach or the District's ability to provide educational services in an efficient and effective manner, but by condemning Mr. Kargol's viewpoint."

The superintendent "publicly announced that he would recommend termination and justified that recommendation by pointing to the public disapproval of Mr. Kargol's post

and his own disagreement with Mr. Kargol's speech," the lawsuit said.

Another Iowa case shines the spotlight on governments that punish school employees for what they said instead of what they did, based on the popularity of their post rather than the fact it was an expression of personal opinion.

Melisa Crook has taught English at Creston High School since 2022. She sued the school, Superintendent Deron Stender and school board President Don Gee last week after they threatened to fire her for a Facebook comment she made in response to a relative's post about Charlie Kirk's death.

Crook wrote of Kirk, "He is a terrible human being. Terrible. I do not wish death on anyone, but he [sic] him not being here is a blessing."

The next morning, Crook apologized on her Facebook page: "I do NOT condone violence or the killing of people you disagree with politically or otherwise. That was never my intent. That is not who I am, nor what I believe. ... I believe all people have the right to their own beliefs, including me."

In the days that followed, Superintendent Stender issued two public statements about Crook's postings. In one, he wrote, "I want to be clear: personal views have no place in the instruction of our children."

But nothing appears to link her Facebook comment to her classroom instruction. Unlike the Bremerton football coach, she did not use school facilities or work time to make her comment.

Crook's lawsuit asks the court to bar the school board from firing her. Her attorneys said in court documents, "Crook's Facebook comment is classic, protected, personal and political speech. The First Amendment protects Crook from discrimination, adverse action, retaliation, and similar punitive conduct by the state or a governmental entity like the District."

The school board has scheduled a hearing for October 21 on Stender's recommendation to fire Crook.

The school board faces an interesting revelation. Crook's lawsuit includes Facebook postings Stender and Gee made about highly partisan political matters. The lawsuit notes how the superintendent was not placed on leave for any of his posts or threatened with termination.

Stender agreed with comments Charlie Kirk made, the lawsuit says. The superintendent also made political posts on a Twitter account he used for school purposes, including comments supporting President Donald Trump. In other posts, Stender called supporters of former President Joe Biden "snowflakes" and "idiot," the lawsuit says.

In 2020, Sarah Scull, then editor of the Creston News Advertiser, wrote in a column that people in the community had contacted her about the "hateful and divisive rhetoric" in Stender's Twitter posts and in postings he "liked." The comments Scull received noted, in effect, the school disruption Stender was creating.

One such post he approved of said, "Are you sure BLM isn't pronounced Al Qaeda?" — a reference to the Black Lives Matter movement. Before the 2020 election, Stender wrote on social media, "Get your boots on. Will be lots of water when the snowflakes melt on Tuesday night."

Scull wrote in her 2020 column, "It's not the content that is upsetting to some of his staff as much as it is the perceived 'double standard'."

And that, at its essence, frames the issue between how the U.S. Supreme Court protected on-the-job speech of Bremerton's Joseph Kennedy and how officials in Oskaloosa and Creston are treating the actions of Matthew Kargol and Melisa Crook, not to mention the postings by Deron Stender.

Will these Iowa districts accord their teachers and coaches full speech rights, the way the Supreme Court did Kennedy? Or will the districts claim some new exception applies for comments about Charlie Kirk?

In large part, the answer may depend on how quickly school administrators rediscover there is no asterisk in the First Amendment.

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The Low-Income program offers discounts of up to \$9.25 per month depending on the rate of your local phone company. See Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association for an application form.

Qualifying Criteria for Low-Income Program

An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

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- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Tribal Programs
- Veterans & Survivors Pension Benefit

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines. You may only receive low-income assistance from one wireline or wireless telephone, or one broadband service provider per household. See Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association at 704 East Main St., Lake Mills, IA 50450 (800-592-6105) for low guidelines.



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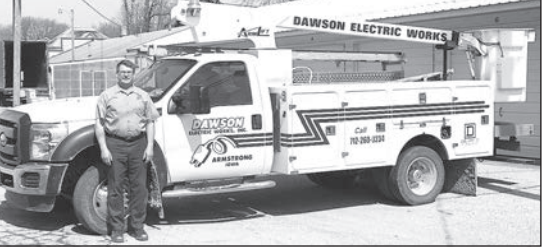


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Armstrong Heritage Museum Annual Meeting

Members of the Armstrong Heritage Museum enjoyed playing bingo after their annual meeting and potluck supper on Sunday, October 19, 2025.

Area Coming Events

Wednesday a.m., October 22
Armstrong Can Cage Closed on this date for 2025; will reopen in the Spring of 2026.

Sunday, October 26
4:30 - 9 p.m. - While they last! BBQ Ribs or Grilled Shrimp Specials at Johanson's Cafe, Bancroft, IA; Eat in or take out; Call 515-885-1020

Friday, October 31 - Halloween
4 - 5 p.m. Valley Vue Care Center trick or treat
5 - 6 p.m. Trunk or Treat at Catholic Church Parking Lot
6 - 9 p.m. House to House Trick or Treat in Armstrong
5 - 7 p.m. House to House Trick or Treat in Ringsted and Trunk or Treat at the Library
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Sack Lunch at Ringsted Legion
5 - 7 p.m. Halloween Party at Armstrong VFW. Costume Contest at 9 p.m.

Tuesday, November 6
1 - 6 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive at Ringsted Community Center. See article for complete information

•Ringsted City Council meets 2nd Monday of each month 6 p.m.

•Armstrong City Council meets 2nd Wednesday of each month

•Armstrong Heritage Museum, Open Wed. 1-3 p.m.; Coffee pot's on!

•ABC - Armstrong Betterment Club meets 3rd Wednesday of ea. month @Community Center

•Armstrong City Recycling: 1st & 3rd Friday of ea. month

•Armstrong Residents: Last Yard waste pick up will be Monday, October 27

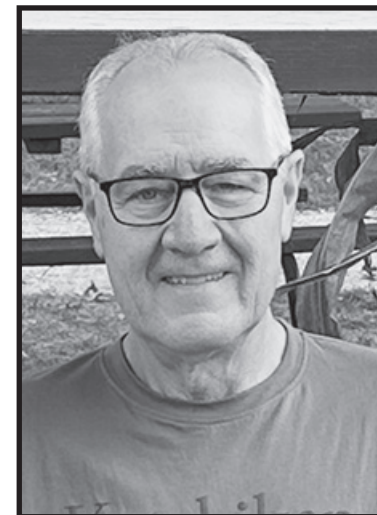
•Armstrong Public Library board meetings, 3rd Mon. of ea. mo. @ library 5 p.m.; Friends of Armstrong Library 3rd Mon. of ea. mo. @6 p.m.

NEWS & AD DEADLINE
FRIDAY 4 P.M.

Worship at the church of your choice this

Candidate for November 4th Election to North Kossuth School Board

Voters in the North Kossuth School District will head to the polls to decide who will fill the seats up for election on November 4th. Incumbent Phil Albers for Director District 1 will run unopposed as will Megan Heetland for her Director District 2 seat. The second seat for Director District seat will need to be filled by a write-in candidate.



Phil Albers

Personal information: education, employment, family, hobbies/ special interests/ church activities.

I am Philip Albers. I was born and raised in Swea City. My spouse, Jackie, and I raised our 3 children here and all graduated from the North Kossuth Community School District. I have a Business Degree and am currently the Administrator for Kossuth County EMS. My hobbies include fishing, hunting, camping, traveling, and spoiling our 10 grandchildren. I am a member of the Swea City Community Church and have attended here since 1994.

Previous experience on councils, boards, committees, etc.

I have served on the North Kossuth CSD School board for 12 years. During this time, I held a position as Vice Chair and Board Member. I am the Chairman of the Swea City Community Church Administrative Board and served in this position for 8 years. I served 14 years on the Swea City City Council with several of those years being Mayor Pro Tem. I was part of the Kossuth County EMS Advisory Board for 4 years and now am part of the Kossuth County EMS Council. I spend a lot of time working with the Kossuth County Board of Supervisors due to my current employment.

Reasons for Seeking election to NK School Board:

The North Kossuth CSD is important to me and invaluable resource for our youth and staff. We have a great district with experienced staff and administration. Currently, North Kossuth Elementary School is among the top in the state by receiving

an Exceptional overall performance on the Iowa School Performance Profile and the North Union Middle School received a Commendable rating. I will continue to strive to provide our students with a high-quality education.

What are some major issues of concern facing the NK School District in the next few years:

The North Kossuth School District, like most other rural districts, focuses on challenges that require proactivity, particularly in terms of funding, teacher retention, infrastructure, budget constraints from the state, school safety, security and community support. However, at North Kossuth we will continue to be proactive in all these areas and provide the best education and safety for our students.

Your personal goals as a board member, what would you like to see done during your term?

My personal goal as a board member will be to work on our infrastructure including heating, cooling, ventilation, plumbing, structural improvements, etc.

What are some strengths the North Union/NK School currently has?

Both NU and NK have strong school boards that support our administration and staff. We have strong ties to our local communities, individualized student attention because of our smaller class sizes, a smaller close knit supportive environment that fosters a family-like atmosphere, academic excellence with innovative teaching methods, and both districts are financially stable.

What do you think the school could improve in the next few years and how would you go about the improvement?

I think the school can improve our infrastructure while continuing to focus on our students' education and safety.

Personal statement you would like to make to the voters:

I am excited to continue to be part of the North Kossuth School Board and would be honored to have your support. As a proud resident in this district, I believe in the power of education to shape the future of our children with a deep commitment to excellence, fairness, and transparency. I am eager to continue to work for our district.

Obituary

Rita Yager

Funeral services for Rita Yager of Ringsted will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at the United Lutheran Church in Ringsted, Iowa. Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A full obituary will be published at a later date.

Iowa PBS presents the 2025 IGHSU Girls State Volleyball Championships

JOHNSTON, Iowa (October 17, 2025) - From regional battles to the big stage, Iowa girls are chasing championship dreams! Don't miss a moment - Iowa PBS will be there live as champions are crowned.

The statewide network's commitment to girls high school sports coverage continues as teams from across the state compete for the IGHSU Girls State Volleyball Championships. Coverage of each class' title game will take place on Thursday, November 6 at Xtream Arena in Coralville. Each game will be broadcast on statewide Iowa PBS and livestreamed on iowapbs.org and YouTube.

The unparalleled coverage of the championships will include B.J. Schaben and Joanne Settles on the call for the Class 5A and 4A matches. The Class 3A, 2A and 1A matches will be covered by Eric Braley and Beth Discher West.

Live coverage will be as follows*:

Thursday, November 6

Class 5A | 10:00 a.m.

Class 4A | 12:15 p.m.

Class 3A | 2:30 p.m.

Class 2A | 4:45 p.m.

Class 1A | 7 p.m.

*Coverage and start times are subject to change.

Programming support for the 2025 IGHSU Girls State Volleyball Championships is provided by Fareway, Farmers Mutual Hail and Musco Lighting.

In addition to our statewide broadcasts, Iowa PBS, WORLD and Create are available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live, pbs.org/livestream, and the PBS app. Iowa PBS KIDS is available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live or the PBS KIDS app. Iowa PBS programs are also available on most popular platforms. See all the ways you can watch by visiting iowapbs.org/watch.

Church Services

Weekly church messages are contributed by these concerned and responsible citizens & businesses listed below!

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UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ringsted, Iowa

Vicar Kim Kacmarynski
WEDNESDAY, October 22
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 Choir
SUNDAY, October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion
WEDNESDAY, October 29
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
6:30 Choir

NAZARETH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Armstrong, Iowa

Vicar Kim Kacmarynski
WEDNESDAY, October 22
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
THURSDAY, October 23
2:30 p.m. "Old Man's Coffee"
SUNDAY, October 26, 2025
9 a.m. Worship Service
TUESDAY, October 28
9 a.m. Quilting
WEDNESDAY, October 29
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Confirmation

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Armstrong, Iowa

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Ringsted, Iowa
SUNDAY, October 26, 2025
9 a.m. Sunday Service, in Ringsted
For the month of October joint services are in the Ringsted Church

GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
Armstrong, Iowa

Rev. Lyndon Roesler
WEDNESDAY, October 22
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Youth Group
THURSDAY, October 23
Need info for November Calendar
SUNDAY, October 26, 2025
9 a.m. Worship Service
10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee
10:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School & Kids Sunday School
TUESDAY, October 28
10 a.m. VV Bible Time
10:30 a.m. Spring Creek Bible Time
WEDNESDAY, October 29
7:00 p.m. Choir
FRIDAY, October 31
Happy Halloween

Note: AA at 7 p.m. every Wed.
Scouts meet: Monday, Oct. 13

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Armstrong, Iowa
Rev. Brian Feller

WEDNESDAY, October 22, 2025
6 p.m. Religious Ed. Classes, @ St. Mary & St. Patrick
FRIDAY, October 24
7:30 a.m. Mass, St. Patrick's, E'ville
SUNDAY, October 26, 2025
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's, E'ville
TUESDAY, October 28
8 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's
9 a.m. Adoration/St. Pat's/Benediction
11:30 a.m. Reconciliation, St. Pat's E'ville
12 Noon Mass at St. Patrick's, E'ville

WEDNESDAY, October 29, 2025
6 p.m. Religious Ed. Classes, @ St. Mary & St. Patrick
FRIDAY, October 31
7:30 a.m. Mass, St. Patrick's, E'ville

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Dolliver, Iowa
SUNDAY, October 26, 2025
9 a.m. Worship Service

It's Spooky Season!

By Pastor Sara
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Swea City

As the days get shorter and the nights get cooler, it is hard to miss the fall and Halloween décor popping up in stores. Everything from colorful leaves to giant skeletons can be found to decorate your home both inside and out. Halloween for me has always been a fun night of dressing up and collecting candy from friends and neighbors. I have never really gotten into the haunted houses and monster movie part of the holiday nor have I did ever give it much thought until I had a pastor who had spent much of his adult life as a missionary in the Dominican Republic.

Pastor Kent was, well, less than thrilled that we hosted an annual Halloween party for teens at our church. In the DR, it was a very different night and no one went out after dark unless it was an absolutely unavoidable emergency. In his experience, Halloween was all about celebrating death.

To be fair, many of our Halloween traditions find their roots in such celebrations. The skeletons and skulls used to decorate have long been part of Day of the Dead celebrations. The costumes come from dressing up like the ancestors to honor them or attempting to hide from evil spirits who spent Halloween night trying to steal innocent souls. The candy treats we give out come from offerings given to deceased relatives or bribes so that the evil spirits would leave us alone.

However, in the United States, much of that has been lost as we have culturally claimed it as a day to dream about what we want to be in the future, to seek to make someone laugh, and face our fear of ghosts and the dark. In many ways, we have redeemed and reclaimed the holiday back from something Satan would use for evil to use for fun.

Yet, even in the midst of all the fun and cute kids in costumes, we still struggle with the reminders of death Halloween brings. We do not like being reminded of our own mortality nor do we enjoy the sadness and weight of grief in thinking about those who have gone before us. But what if we made our peace with such things? How is that even possible?

Finding peace with the reality of death is possible because we are promised in Scripture that death has been defeated. It no longer holds power over those who believe in Jesus Christ and have faith in his promise of eternal life. Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth, essentially mocks death in writing, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:55-57)

Because of Jesus' victory of death on Easter Sunday, death no longer holds any power over those who believe. We can wonder about death, we can voice our thoughts and opinions on the process of dying as well as the timing of any particular death, but we do not need to fear death if we truly believe the promise of eternal life.

It wasn't until my college years that I learned of All Saints Day and All Souls Day, celebrated on November 1 and 2 respectively. These two days invite us

to remember those we have lost. They invite us to cry because we miss being able to hear their voice and feel their touch. They tell us that it is OK to grieve, to mourn their passing, to feel sadness when we remember that they are no longer with us. But they also invite us to share those stories and memories which make us smile and laugh, those moments which defined how much they meant to us in our lives.

Over the years, as I have experienced loss in my life, I have come to deeply appreciate what these days offer to those of us still trying to figure out this thing called life. They have made Halloween, even with all of its ghosts and goblins, less spooky and more fun we continue to make it a day not about the forces of evil running amok in our world causing chaos, but about embracing the life those who have gone before us have enabled us to live.

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