



## Column One Events

### Bancroft Historical Society to hold meeting

The Bancroft Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bancroft Museum. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Spring Story and Craft Time at Bancroft Library

Bancroft Library to hold Spring Story and Craft Time for preschool children (3 years old and above) on Tuesday 29th. Please register your child by calling 515-885-2753 or by stopping in the library.

### Bridal Tea Party honoring Abigail Kintzle

An Open House Bridal Tea Party honoring Abigail Kintzle, bride elect of Logan Longhenry, will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at 3400 Cedar Park Rd Fairmont, MN. The couple is registered at: theknot.com/loganandabbymay2025.

### Mobile Food Pantry to be in Swea City

The Mobile Food Pantry will be available at the Swea City Methodist Church on Thursday, May 1, 4-6 p.m. Please bring your own totes or boxes.

### BBQ Ribs/Grilled Shrimp at Johanson's Cafe

Johanson's Cafe in Bancroft will be serving a BBQ Ribs or Grilled Shrimp Special on Sunday, April 27th from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. or until gone. They will be served with baked potato, cole slaw and garlic toast.

### North Kossuth School Board approves budget

By Kim Meyer  
The North Kossuth School Board held a public hearing for the 2025/2026 budget hearing on Tuesday, April 15th. North Union Superintendent Travis Schueller stated that the tax rate for this year is \$8.33 which is very consistent with the tax rate over the past five years. He also noted that the district is the third lowest in the state.

Once the hearing was closed with no public comments, the board approved the budget.

Mr. Schueller gave a short update on things happening in the district. He noted that ISAP testing was finished. Middle school track season had begun.

He noted that Pergande Enterprises thatched and fertilized the softball field. Other areas of the field are also being taken maintained.

The board approved the FY 26 Budget Guarantee resolution at around \$72,000.

The resignation of elementary teacher Amanda Goche was approved. They approved the hiring of Ron Swalve.

The next school board meeting is tentatively set for May 12.

Make sure to check out our website at [www.statelinepubs.com](http://www.statelinepubs.com)

### THE SWEA CITY HERALD-PRESS

Phone 515-885-2531 or 712-868-3460  
bancroftregister@yahoo.com

Published weekly at 319 - 3rd N., Swea City, IA 50590 • USPS 530-700  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Swea City, Iowa • Official Newspaper for Swea City, IA, and North Kossuth Community School District.

Member of Iowa Newspaper Association, Des Moines, IA.

ADVERTISING RATES:  
Classified, \$7.00 minimum (10 words), 40¢ per word after ten words; cash in advance; display rates upon request.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (1-year):  
Kossuth, Emmet Counties \$32.00  
Out of county \$38.00  
Out of State \$41.00  
All subscriptions payable in advance

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to Swea City Herald-Press, PO Box 428, Swea City, IA 50590



Only being six weeks old, Bowdie Sorenson, son of Cheyenne and Dawson Sorenson of Armstrong, was all snuggled into his blanket and sound asleep as he visited the Easter Bunny for the first time on Saturday, April 19th at the North Union elementary playground in Swea City.



Little Bode Johnson was all smiles as his mom, Marissa takes a picture of him with the Easter Bunny during Swea City Community Club's Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday, April 19.

## Swea City City Council lifts building size restrictions

By Michael Tidemann

After several council sessions – and two pending building applications – the Swea City City Council April 16 decided to lift ancillary building sizes, leaving height and setback distances.

Councilmember Lupe Kollasch said her research had shown height restrictions of 24-35 feet in area communities.

The type of accessory buildings that could be constructed, though, remained an issue.

"I also don't want to see quonset buildings all over town," said Mayor Wendy Zielske.

Kollasch also noted current city zoning sets a maximum of 30 percent of yard space upon which secondary buildings can be constructed.

"As long as it fits within the setbacks, let's build," said Councilmember Randy Perdue.

Kollasch noted current zoning limits secondary buildings to 34-by-26 feet. Councilmember Nicole Hoye said setbacks are three feet from lot lines and five feet between structures and from alleys.

Councilmember Dustin Sobolik moved that the council approve a 35-foot height restriction, staying within current setbacks and getting rid of the 30 percent space limitation "since people don't mow their yards anyway."  
The council approved Sobolik's recommendation. Zielske said the matter will pass on to city Planning and Zoning for its recommendation before final council adoption.

An extended discussion arose on the disposition of the former bakery and restaurant on Third Street. Zielske said the city attorney had recommended the city at this time do nothing in regard to abatement unless Chris Stevens is willing to take down his adjacent building or sign a liability waiver for restaurant and bakery demolition to proceed.

Stevens said he was going to take down brick from the walls and rebuild

an open brick wall in the rear of the building.

When Zielske asked Stevens if he was willing to sign a waiver, Stevens said he would not due to the possibility that event construction equipment would hit his building. Zielske replied, saying the city attorney had said the city could start a nuisance abatement against Stevens.

When Stevens asked about six or seven other buildings that he said were in worse condition, Zielske said she was focusing on Stevens' building, with trash piled behind it and falling brick.

Stevens said he has been working on the building since last fall. "I've been there at least multiple nights working on it," said Stevens. He said his work included a new roof, window and overhead door. When Zielske asked Stevens when he would complete construction, Stevens said by the end of this summer.

When Hoye asked about the back part of Stevens' building, Stevens said he intended to take that portion down and fence it for outdoor storage. "It will be fenced off. No one can see it," said Stevens.

"I think he's doing all he can do," said Perdue.

"I think you've got to be fair," added Councilmember Mark Geerdes. "The council can't just pick on one person."

Hoye steered the discussion away from Stevens' building, saying the agenda addresses demolition of 314 and 316 Third Street North, the restaurant and bakery.

City Clerk Alycia Wolterman said the city attorney had said either Stevens sign a variance or that the city could deem it a nuisance.

The council tabled the matter.

In other business, Barry Boland reported on RAGBRAI preparations. Boland said vendors will be located by the water tower. He said volunteers are needed and a first-aid station needs to be set up. Boland said 15-20 food vendors are expected.

In other business:

• Tifini Stevens gave the library report.

• Chris Stevens gave the fire report.

• City Superintendent Travis Stevens reported on a wastewater conference he had attended the previous week in Mason City. He said one contractor had come to a pre-bid meeting for the wastewater project, with final construction completion sometime between October 2026 and February 2027.

• Tylor Evans gave the solid waste report. Zielske noted May 31 was junk day.

• The council held a public hearing and approved plans, specifications, forms of contract and estimate of cost for the wastewater project.

• Alex Bleuer of PMC Advantage insurance said the city would have a 4.7 percent rate increase. While the city saved money since it no longer insures ambulances, Bleuer said property values climbed.

• The council set a 6:30 p.m. May 21 public hearing for a fiscal 2024/2025 budget amendment.

• The council held a public hearing and adopted the 2025-26 budget.

• The council approved street closure of Fifth Street from Highway 9 to the North Union School driveway.

• The council approved first reading of a temporary ordinance regulating the RAGBRAI event and waived second and third readings and gave final approval.

• The council approved \$22,250 for park equipment replacement.

• The council tabled taking action on a comprehensive and zoning plan with North Iowa Council of Governments. The total cost would be up to \$9,000.

• The council approved setting pool wages of \$10.25 for new lifeguards, \$10.50 for returning lifeguards and \$12.50 for the pool manager. Kollasch noted the Pool Plunge committee will also offer a dollar-an-hour season-end bonus up to \$2,000 total for all employees.



And they are off... the kids, along with parents helping the younger kids, were able to collect eggs and turn them into local businesses for Easter treats during the Swea City Community Club's Easter Egg Hunt.



These four youngsters patiently wait for the go ahead to collect Easter Eggs during the Swea City Community Club's Easter Egg Hunt held on Saturday, April 19th. The weather was little cool but the kids didn't mind.

HAPPY EASTER

Color in this issue sponsored by...

**CORNERSTONE**  
INSURANCE SERVICES  
protecting your tomorrow by serving you today