

VOLUME 131 NUMBER 47

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Single Copy *\$1.00*



The North Union FFA gave a power point presentation of their recent trip to Nashville where they attended the

North Union FFA speak about their National Trip

Column One

Events

Bancroft Holiday Light

The annual Holiday Light Parade

in Bancroft will be held on Thursday, December 4th starting at 5:30 p.m.

Line up will be in front of Accura

Healthcare starting at 5:00 p.m. if you would like to enter a float. This year's theme is "It's Beginning To Look A

The parade will start at Accura

If you would like to enter a

float, please RSVP to Carole at

Healthcare and continue down

Ramsey Street to Bancroft Tire.

next to the Bancroft City Hall.

Hager Foods to hold

Holiday Open House

Hager Foods in Banroft will be

holding their Holiday Open House on

Wednesday, December 3 from 4:00

7:00 p.m. They will have samples

along with Santa as their special guest.

Bancroft Register to hold Christmas Open House

The Bancroft Register will be

6:00 p.m. Subscription specials,

Cornerstone Health, 103 West

Ramsey St., Bancroft, will hold their

Christmas Open House on Thursday,

December 4 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Wine, snacks, giveaways and specials

will be offered throughout the event.

Christmas Open house to

be held at Fidelity Bank

Fidelity Bank and Trust in Bancroft

will be holding their Christmas Open

House on Thursday, December 4 from

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Join them for snacks

Holiday Sip and Shop at

Stroll through 16 talented local

vendors offering gifts decor, treats,

and handmade treasures - while you

enjoy seasonal holiday cocktails from

the S& B Farms Distillery, Bancroft,

Holiday Sip and Shop on Saturday,

Cookie Walk to be held in

A cookie walk will be held on Sun-

day, December 7th from 10:30 a.m. to

1:00 p.m. at the Swea City Communi-

ty Church. The cost is \$8.00 a dozen.

10:00 - 5:30

10:00 - 4:00

December 6 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

S&B Farms Distillery

refreshments and goodies will be

Cornerstone Health to

hold Christmas Open

House

and Trust

and refreshments.

Swea City

Swea City

Wednesday:

Library Hours

holding their Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 3 from 4:00

Parade to be held on

December 4

Lot Like Christmas".

Ten North Union High School FFA members, who traveled to Nashville for the annual National FFA Convention, gave a power point presentation to the school board on Monday, November 26th. Also present was their advisor Sarah Proctor.

bancroftiachamber@gmail.com or The students described traveling call 515-320-4294 to reserve your with two other FFA chapters and making stops along the way learning A tree lighting will also be held about agriculture. They also spoke about the convention and what they

> At the end of the presentation, they thanked the school board for allowing them to attend the event.

The board approved an early request for Grace

The SBRC application for open enrollment not included on the 2024-25 count in the amount of \$42,676.25 was approved. Sue Brown was approved to

represent the NU District as the Director District No. 1 of Prairie AEA Lakes Board of Directors. Approved the resignation of Tricia

Harmon as an elementary para educator. Approved the hiring of Jenessa Ehman as a elementary para

Before the meeting closed Jen Von Bank and Gene Miller were thanked for their years of service on the school

The organization meeting of the new school board was called to order. Ethan Jensen, who replaces Miller, was sworn in. Brian Craig, who was a write in for Von Bank's seat, was

unable to attend the meeting and will be sworn in at the next meeting. Incumbent Art Pixler was also sworn

North Union superintendent Travis Schueller spoke to the new school board members about watching a session on open meeting laws. He stated that if any other members of the board would like to watch the session, to contact him.

Travis Nielsen was elected as new board president with Jason Pergande as vice president.

Due to conflicts on Monday night, the monthly meetings will now be held on first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. There will be no December

meeting



The Swea City Public Library is the place to be for finding a good book to read but also to sit and color at the table. During Winter Wonderland, one young patron colors as Julie Maze has a conversation with her.

Principal Zotz updates board on high school activities and achievements

By Kim Meyer

North Union High School Principal Robert Zotz highlighted high school events since the start of the year during the North Union School Board meeting.

Principal Zotz reported the fall extra curricular activities have seen much success. In football, the junior varsity team went 8-0, and the varsity team qualified for state playoffs losing in the second round.

In volleyball, team finished fourth in Top of Iowa Conference with Brylie Deim breaking the NU all time

Alexis Cummings finished 71st at the state cross country meet.

The new vocal teacher Natalie Keenan, along with her students, performed the musical Addams

Cheer finished 12th in the Class 1A state competition.

He noted that canvas project that was started last year, which features the activities throughout the high school, will be updated each season.

Advisory Time which allows time to building relationships between teachers and students and students with other students have been very busy. In September, they did a freshmen welcome. In October, they built scarecrows that were placed along the building. In November, they put together Thanksgiving meal baskets and decorated doors for Christmas. Upcoming events in December will include decorating gingerbread houses, minute to win in

The United States Mint officially

produced its final batch of one-cent

coins Wednesday, November 12,

2025, at its Philadelphia facility

where United States Treasurer

Brandon Beach struck the final,

circulating one-cent coin (penny).

The event marks the official end of

the penny's 232-year production run

as a circulating coin. The decision,

driven by rising manufacturing costs

competitions and Christmas trivia. Chris Stevens is the new Robotics

Club Coach. He applied for a grant through NASA who offers grants. NASA selects a very limited number of high schools across the country that have demonstrated a strong potential to launch and sustain a successful Robotics program. North Union was awarded a \$6,300 grant to be used for Principal Zotz noted a grant for the

FFA chapter what was used to build a chicken coop. The coop recently housed four chickens which have now gone onto a new home.

The North Union Athletic Booster Club is covering the expense to bring Ethan Miller, a Performance Coach, to the high school.

Miller will be on the high school campus six full days throughout the school year and will meet with the student-athletes in a variety of

- 1 on 1 individual meetings
- Small group sessions • Team or class presentations
- Practice support/observation • Coaches meetings (head and
- assistant coaches) The coaches will also be provided

with a Google Drive of resources, mental training tools they can incorporate within the North Union programs. Students can also access Miller individually between his visits during appropriate hours of 7:00 a.m. 9:00 p.m.

Ethan's curriculum focuses on the 10 essential performance skills, which

U.S. Mint Produces Final Batch of Pennies, Ending 232-Year Run

like Bancroft, where cash transactions

According to the Treasury

Department, each penny cost about

3.7 cents to make last year, prompting

federal officials to discontinue the

The last five pennies were

stamped with a special omega mark

at the Philadelphia Mint and will be

coin to reduce long-term losses.

and declining use of the coin, has auctioned off sometime in December,

remain part of everyday life.

sparked conversation in small towns as reported by USA Today.

• Elite Mindset

- Motivation and commitment • Focus and awareness
- Self Control and discipline
- Process Over Outcome
- Mental imagery and meditation • Routines and habits of excellence
- management
- organization Leadership
- Culture

Principal Zotz, who is also a coach. is thrilled to have Ethan Miller come into the school to work with the An achievement that Principal Zotz

was excited to share Test Results. He different ways: stated that the high school was above state average in all ISASP areas. The scores are from the 2024-25 school year. The school received an overall performance of high performing.

The school ranked #48 out of 1276 schools in Iowa and #25 out of 352 high schools in Iowa.

In the last four years, three of those vears, North Union has been classified as a High Performing School.

In ELA, NUHS scored 92.44 which was above the state average of 73.56 and in science NUHS scored 931.8 better than the state average of 67.14. The state average for absenteeism

is 15.81 with NUHS average of 9.88. The five year graduation rate for North Union was 97.37 compared to the state average of 89.88.

Principal Zotz is pleased with the success of the students and the district

will continue to strive for even more

Economists say the transition to

rounding-to the nearest five cents

when paying with cash—has worked

smoothly in Canada and is not

Lincoln since 1909, was the oldest

continuously produced coin in the

effects may be felt locally as well.

delivered to the Pub on December 5th

from 4:00 -7:00 p.m. or on December

6th before 8:00 a.m. Entries will

https://www.kingarthurbaking.

comjblog/2023/10/09/gingerbread-

The penny, featuring Abraham

While the change is national, its

expected to raise prices overall.

Let the Library know how they can better serve you

The Swea City Public Library invites community members to provide their thoughts and perspectives through a short survey.

This is your opportunity to share what you value most about your library experience, what could be improved, and what you would like to see in the future.

You can take the survey three

1. Scan the QR code, pictured below. 2. Go to the survey link on our

3. Complete a printed copy from

the library or city hall.





Bank Plus to hold Christmas Open Houses and Donation Drives The locations of Bank Plus will

be holding Christmas Open Houses along with a Donation Drives to support their communities and will proudly match every donation made at each branch.

> December 3 - Graettinger 10:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m. Local Food Pantry Non-Perishable Food

December 4 - Ledyard 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Kossuth County Care Team Towels and Sheets

December 5 - Swea City 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. North Kossuth School District Hygiene items, hats, gloves and canned items

December 17th - Estherville

10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. **Emmet County Food Pantry** ELC Food Shelf Non-Perishable Food

Private Pesticide Continuing Instruction Courses Offered in Kossuth County

The Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Kossuth County office will be offering four opportunities to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course (P-CIC), led by Extension Field Agronomist, Gentry

Sessions in Kossuth County are scheduled for the following dates and

- Thursday, December 18th, 2025, 9:30 am: Iowa Lakes Community
- College, 2111 US-169, Algona • Thursday, December 18th, 2025, 1:30 pm: Iowa Lakes Community College, 2111 US-169, Algona
- Thursday, January 15th, 2026, 9:30 am: Summit Center, 304 S Summit St., Bancroft

• Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 9:30 am: United Methodist Church, 302 Cedar Ave W, Swea City

Pre-registration is required for all courses in Kossuth County and can be completed online at www.extension. iastate.edu/kossuth or by phone, (515)

The course will run for approximately 2 ½ hours including check-in and breaks. The registration fee is \$30. To obtain additional information about the P-CIC, contact your county extension office.

This course fulfills 2025-2026 recertification requirements for private pesticide applicators. Topics include personal protective equipment, safe handling, professionalism, pesticide storage, and pest management.

Many Voices Choir Announces 2025 Christmas Concert Series Admission to all concerts is free, a

The theme of peace is woven

throughout the concert. The opening

anthem, "Advent Peace," blends

Isaiah 26:3 and Lamentations 3:22-

26 to reflect the longing for God's

free-will donation will be accepted.

The Many Voices Choir, Northwest Iowa's premier community chorale, is pleased to announce its annual Christmas concert series, "Peace Will Come." Under the direction of Timothy Schumacher, this year's program shares the Christmas story from prophecy and nativity to worship and joyful praise.

The concert series will include performances on the following dates at these venues:

Estherville

Join the Cub Scouts of Pack 159 in spreading holiday cheer to the residents of Valley Vue Care Center in Armstrong. The Scouts will be

collecting items to create gift bags to

give to the residents. Suggested donations include:

• Friday, December 5th, 7:30 pm:

- United Methodist Church in Spirit • Saturday, December 6th, 1:30
- pm: St. Patrick's Catholic Church in

peace in the quiet nights before Christ's birth. Schumacher describes the selection—composed by Molly Ijames—as a stirring expression of Micah 5's promise: "This Child Shall Be Our Peace." The closing anthem, "Advent Lullaby," tenderly conveys the promise, "Emmanuel, God with you. There is no need to fear, I am love, I am here." The concert features

Nelson on cello, with DJ Gommels accompanying the choir.

Founded in 1988, the Many Voices Choir includes 40–60 singers from more than 15 communities across northwest Iowa and southern Minnesota. Choir member Paul Peterson shares, "The Christmas concert offers a wonderful variety of musical styles that will be very enjoyable for everyone to hear."

For more information or media inquiries, contact Tim Schumacher at 712-209-0202 or visit the choir's website: https://sites.google.com/ view/nwiowamanyvoiceschoir/home

Cub Scouts Collecting Items for Valley Vue Residents

• Holiday no-slip socks.

Joan Gronstal on flute and Randy

- Mittens, Hats, Scarves
- · Baseball hats Nail polish

Lotion

- Mini soda cans • Soap, shampoo, conditioner

City Dollar General or you may contact Melissa Walders to arrange pick up at 712-797-1795.

Donations can be made at Swea

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

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

THE SWEA CITY

Published weekly at 319 - 3rd N., Swea City, IA 50590 • USPS 530-700 Periodicals Postage Paid at Swea City,

North Kossuth Community School District Member of Iowa Newspaper Association, Des Moines, IA

Iowa • Official Newspaper

for Swea City, IA, and

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

Swea City Herald-Press, PO Box 428, Swea City, IA 50590

First annual Gingerbread House contest

Bancroft's First Annual Gingerbread House Contest Presented by the Bancroft Chamber of Commerce and Holidazzle Committee will be held on Saturday, December 6th at the Main Street Pub, Bancroft.

Contest Rules 1. One Gingerbread House per

participant. 2. Gingerbread House kits are allowed to be used ONLY by

participants ages 12 and under.

placed on a board base. 4. Please include your name on the bottom of the base.

3. All Gingerbread Houses must be

- 5. No artificial interior materials, such as Styrofoam, are to be used to
- construct or decorate the house. 6. All Gingerbread Houses must be made of gingerbread, 100% edible
- support structure material other than the baseboard may not be used. 7. Non---edible decorations, like paint, ribbon, figurines, etc. may be used ONLY to decorate your base.

candy/embellishments/materials

except the base board. Non---edible

Categories Age 12 and under

• Age 13 and Up

Business division

- Judging The Bancroft Chamber Board will judge all entries on the day creativity,
- of Holidazzle based on, overall appearance, craftsmanship. A separate People's Choice Award will be determined by dollar-based votes. **General Contest Information**
- Gingerbread House entries must be

remain on display until the end of Holidazzle. Winners and prizes will be announced at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Saturday, December 6th at Holidazzle. Helpful tips can be found at

Entry Forms: If you have any questions

house

regarding the contest entry or rules please contact us by email at bancroftiachamber@ gmail.com or call Carole at 515.320.4294. Entry forms must be returned to

Bancroft City Offices

• Slippers