

The Bancroft Register



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Column One Events

2026 Calendars now available at **Fidelity Bank**
The Bancroft Community 2026 calendars are now available at Fidelity Bank and Trust.

Bancroft Holiday Light Parade to be held on December 4

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 Lot Like Christmas".
The parade will start at Accura Healthcare and continue down Ramsey Street to Bancroft Tire.
If you would like to enter a float, please RSVP to Carole at bancroftiachamber@gmail.com or call 515-320-4294 to reserve your spot.
A tree lighting will also be held next to the Bancroft City Hall.
Both events are sponsored by 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 holding their Christmas Open House on Wednesday, December 3 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Subscription specials, refreshments and goodies will be served.

Cornerstone Health to hold Christmas Open House

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 and Trust

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 and refreshments.

Holiday Sip and Shop at S&B Farms Distillery

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

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

North Union FFA speak about their National Trip

By Kim Meyer

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.

The students described traveling with two other FFA chapters and making stops along the way learning about agriculture. They also spoke about the convention and what they learned.

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

The board approved an early graduation request for Grace Lappégard.

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 educator.

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

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 in.

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.

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 kills record.

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

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

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

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 the program.

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 formats:

- 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 include

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

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

An achievement that Principal Zotz was excited to share Test Results. He 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 years, 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 improvement.

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

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 and declining use of the coin, has

sparked conversation in small towns like Bancroft, where cash transactions remain part of everyday life.

According to the Treasury Department, each penny cost about 3.7 cents to make last year, prompting federal officials to discontinue the coin to reduce long-term losses.

The last five pennies were stamped with a special omega mark at the Philadelphia Mint and will be auctioned off sometime in December,

as reported by USA Today.

Economists say the transition to rounding—to the nearest five cents when paying with cash—has worked smoothly in Canada and is not expected to raise prices overall.

The penny, featuring Abraham Lincoln since 1909, was the oldest continuously produced coin in the country.

While the change is national, its effects may be felt locally as well.

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.
3. All Gingerbread Houses must be placed on a board base.
4. Please include your name on the bottom of the base.
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

candy/embellishments/materials except the base board. Non---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.

Categories

- Age 12 and under
- Age 13 and Up
- Business division

Judging

The Bancroft Chamber Board will judge all entries on the day of Holidazzle based on, overall appearance, creativity, and craftsmanship. A separate People's Choice Award will be determined by dollar-based votes.

General Contest Information

Gingerbread House entries must be

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 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 <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/jblog/2023/10/09/gingerbread-house>

Entry Forms:

If you have any questions 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



The Bancroft Historical Museum is ready to celebrate Christmas. The old Bancroft jail is the home to a few reindeer who are ready to fly off to the North Pole to help Santa haul all the presents to the boys and girls.

Annual Holidazzle to be held December 6

The annual Holidazzle will be held on Saturday, December 6th at the Main Street Pub in Bancroft. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The day will start off with breakfast from Santa from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. The Bancroft Area Rotary Club and Bancroft American Legion will be serving breakfast for a free will donation. All proceeds will benefit the new Veteran's Park.

Santa and his elf will be present from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Come and get your photo taken with the Big Man in Red and receive a special treat.

From 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., Kid's Reindeer Games will be played. Enjoy five fun games with Snowball Search, Wrap and Roll, Tinsel Twister, Rooftop Drop and Merry Matchmas.

Come play and win prizes.

Story time and coloring will take place from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Christmas Olympics is a family friendly competition from 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

Make sure to purchase your raffle tickets for an array of items along with putting a bid on silent auction items from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

New this year is the Ugly Sweater Showdown and First Annual Gingerbread House Contests.

The Gingerbread House Contest, sponsored by the Bancroft Chamber of Commerce, will award prizes in three categories along with a separate People's Choice Award that will be determined by dollar-based votes.

The Holidazzle Ugly Sweater Bracket Challenge is on! Put on your

most hideous holiday gear and enter the Ugly Sweater Contest, running just like a March Madness Bracket. They will be narrowing down the field until they crown the champion. The final four will score some great prizes. Tip off will be at 10:30 a.m.

To end the fun day of activities, is the annual St. Nick's 19th Green with tee time at noon. This is an adult putt for chance to win exclusive grown up goodies and festive provisions.

Beverages and snacks will be available throughout the day.

Proceeds from Holidazzle will go towards Bancroft pool for a shade structure and lounge chairs.

To keep up to date on Holidazzle events, visit their Facebook page at Bancroft Holidazzle.



Several inches of snow fell over the past weekend making travel hard for those on the roads for the Thanksgiving holiday. It also created extra work for the employees of Bancroft who quickly cleaned the streets to make them safe and passable.

Come enjoy breakfast while supporting the future Veteran Memorial

Join the Bancroft Area Rotary Club and the American Legion, McKinnon Post 377 Saturday, December 6th 8:30am-10:30am for a hearty free will donation breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice, milk/coffee during Holidazzle! We are fundraising for the Veterans Memorial Park located on Clay Street in Bancroft across from S&B Farms Distillery.

S&B Farms Distillery, and the American Legion, McKinnon Post 377 vision for a dedicated Veterans Park is officially underway as Phase One of the project begins. This first

phase focuses on establishing the heart of the memorial—a permanent foundation, the main monument stone, and a proud display of flags representing our nation and its branches of service.

The installation of the foundation marks the start of creating a lasting space where community members can gather, reflect, and honor the men and women who have served our country. The main stone, which will serve as the park's central focal point, symbolizes the strength and sacrifice of veterans from every

generation. Surrounding it, the flags will stand tall as a daily reminder of the freedoms protected by those who served.

Phase One is a major milestone and represents the community's deep commitment to building a place of gratitude, remembrance, and pride. As progress continues, supporters, donors, and volunteers are helping turn this meaningful vision into reality. Veterans Park will be a place for stories, celebrations, and reflection—built together, one phase at a time.