



Piles of snow accumulated around the town of Bancroft and the area when almost a foot of snow fell over the Thanksgiving weekend.



A large group of community members braved the cold and participated in the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. The Trot started at 8:00 a.m. and runners ran the 5K route on the streets of Armstrong. More than \$700 was raised for the local food pantry. Organizers say they hope to make this a new tradition!



The light poles in Bancroft are now decorated with new snowflakes that light up the streets at night for the holiday season.

Treasurer Smith Encourages Holiday Contributions to IAble Accounts

This holiday season, State Treasurer Roby Smith is inviting family and friends of IAble account owners to give the gift of financial freedom to an individual in their life. IAble, Iowa's Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) plan, helps people with disabilities, and their support system save for qualified expenses while protecting essential benefits.

"As the holiday season approaches, many of us are thinking about how to give meaningful gifts," said Treasurer Smith. "Contributing to an IAble account is a powerful way to support independence for people who have a disability. In addition, it's a gift that can make a lasting difference well beyond the holiday season."

Giving to an IAble account enables family and friends to assist and actively participate in enhancing the quality of life for people with disabilities. Additionally, any Iowa taxpayer

can deduct up to \$5,800 in contributions to an IAble account from their state income taxes for 2025.

Connect with the Treasurer on Facebook, Instagram and X, to stay informed of updates and news.

More about IAble:

IAble, administered by State Treasurer Roby Smith, provides eligible people with disabilities and their support systems a way to save money while maintaining crucial benefits for federally means-tested programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Funds in IAble accounts can be used to cover qualified disability expenses like assistive technology, support services, medical bills and much more. If you or a loved one could benefit from an IAble account visit IAble.gov.

For more details about IAble, review the Plan Disclosure Booklet.



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## Bancroft

# Days Gone By

5 Years Ago  
December 9, 2020

Bancroft Light Parade Winners were first place - Main Street Pub, second place - Bob Boland Ford, third place - spa-dee-dah, too! and honorable mention - Bancroft Chamber... With all the worries in world, there is a bright spot in the world during this Christmas season. And that bright spot can be seen as you drive down Portland Street in Bancroft. The home of Paul and Dana Ingalls is definitely the brightest in town each night with their light display set to Christmas music. The Ingalls have several elves that help them with the setting up of the display - Caleb Rasch, Joseph Ingalls, Evan Ingalls, Delaney Fessler, Megan (Ingalls) and Clay Morgard... The 2020 North Union Novelty Dance Team of Halle Rezac, Katelyn Thackery, Ashton Merrill, Paris Dale, Abby Rezac, Shelby Potratz, Kassandra Watkins, Ella Hagebock, Rachel Henriksen, Amelia Fothergill, Faith Steinberger, and Leix Vaske were crowned Class 1 champions at the state competition.

10 Years Ago  
December 2, 2015

Each year, Ally TIME and the National Automobile Dealers Association team up to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of auto dealers within their communities. Named to this year's list of nominees is Ken Kemna, who owns and operates Kemna Auto Center in Algona. The Dealer of the Year will be announced in April of 2016...The Greenwood 4-H Club completed their Community Service Project by filling bags with healthy groceries during their monthly meeting. The bags of food are then distributed each Friday to 150 students in Kossuth County Schools. The group filled over 600 bags in honor...Bancroft Community Foundation members Darlene Jansen, Dick Deitering and Phil Jaren presented a \$500 grant to Backstage in Bancroft Community Dinner Theater president, Victoria Koestler. The grant will help provide for a new lighting and new sound system. The sound system will be used for the first time in "A Christmas Carol".

25 Years Ago  
November 29, 2000

Major General "Orville" Wright, Commander presents a plaque to Air Intelligence Agency Chief Master Sergeant Tom Nurre (retired). The plaque read Chief Tom Nurre - Mister HFDF, Mister NCO PME, Chief of Chief's Group. Tom rolled three unmatched careers into one. Unparalleled excellence in all that he did...A large number of people attended a farewell party for Bill and LeAnn Kienitz and daughters at the Kettle Cafe on November 22. Bill

and LeAnn were long time business owners of Kienitz Decorating and members of the Bancroft Community. They have now moved to Alabama and will continue in the painting business...Longtime Lakota correspondent Lois Weringa passed away. She also worked for the Buffalo Center Tribune for many years.

50 Years Ago  
December 10, 1975

Mr. Joe Dixon, who retired from the Elsbecker Const. force recently after 20 years, was honored by Mr. Eugene Elsbecker at the firm's annual dinner-dance party for employees and customers and was presented a wrist-watch...Mrs. Ruth, piano teacher at Bancroft, was awarded the certificate of Master Teacher by President Eugene Hudson of the Iowa Music Teachers Association. Mrs. Welp will be entering 14 students in competitive auditions in Fort Dodge at the Community College...The members of the Board of Directors announce that they will be selling stock in Heritage Apartments No. 4 and proposed garage. These apartments are a non-profit making organization and operate for the purpose of providing housing on a cost basis in the City of Bancroft...Winners of \$10 grocery orders at Droessler's Market were Annette Ratigan, Mrs. James Laubenthal and Rose Schiltz...Tom Nurre, 33, son of Mrs. Vincent Ford of Bancroft, and the late Eugene Nurre, has been promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Tom has 14 years of service.

70 Years Ago  
December 1, 1955

Lt. Jg Bob Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Smith, Bancroft, left Monday to report to Portsmouth, New Hampshire where he will be a Staff Officer at medical hospital. Bob has been sea duty and will be there for two years...Prompt action by the Bancroft Fire Department put out the raging blaze at the Chas. McGuire farm Sunday night and saved the large barn and its contents. The fire started in the kerosene hog wader in the 18x40 hog feeding shed attached to the east side of the barn. This building was practically destroyed and approximately 51 head of hogs were lost. Thirty-three of the hogs and buildings are covered by insurance...A special dedication and memorial service will be held at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7th for the men who were killed in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The event is of particular interest to Bancroft because Rt. Rev. Msgr. R.J. Quinn of Bancroft who is a District Chaplain in the Navy in charge of the 14th Naval district and stationed in Honolulu, T.H. will give the invocation at the services.

## Your Right To Know • Proceedings of the Kossuth County Board of Supervisors

### BOARD PROCEEDINGS November 18, 2025

**SPECIAL November SESSION**  
City/School Election 2nd Tier Canvas  
The Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment. Present were Carter Nath (Chairman), Josh Waechter, Amber Garman and Howard Haas. Absent: Kyle Stecker.

Chairman, Carter Nath called the meeting to order at 9:25 A.M.  
Motion by Haas and 2nd by Waechter to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Kossuth County Auditor Tammy Eden read the abstract of votes for the City/School Election 2nd Tier Canvas. Motion by Waechter and 2nd by Garman to approve the abstract of votes for the City/School Election.

Motion carried unanimously.  
Below are the approved abstract of votes from the November 12, 2025 City/School Election 1st Tier Canvas and the November 18, 2025 City/School Election 2nd Tier Canvas:  
Official Results 1st Tier Canvas  
City School Election  
November 4, 2025  
\*designated the person(s) duly elected for that office.

City of Algona  
Mayor \* Rick Murphy  
Scattering

647  
19

City Council At-Large  
\* Brad Hoover  
Josh Kohlhaas  
Scattering

213  
34  
66

City Council Ward 1  
\* Carl Westling  
Rodney Jay Davis  
Scattering  
City Council Ward 3  
\* Brad Hoover  
Scattering

79  
76  
5  
13  
19

City of Bancroft  
City Council At-Large  
\* James Looft  
\* Tim Goche  
\* Carol Bernhard  
Randy Greve  
Amanda McDonald  
Scattering

76  
55  
36  
35  
24  
28

City of Burt  
Mayor  
\* Randy Wood  
Scattering

135  
1

City Council At-Large  
\* Richard Richter  
\* Christopher Myhre  
Connie Kadow  
Harold Lavrenz  
Scattering

95  
96  
52  
17  
0

City Council At-Large  
\* Megan Jahnke  
(to Fill a Vacancy)  
Perry W. Diekhuis  
Scattering

77  
57  
0

City of Fenton  
City Council At-Large  
\* Daniel Ulfers  
\* Lisa Talbott  
\* Andrea Isebrand  
Scattering

40  
37  
33  
10

City of Lakota  
City Council At-Large  
\* Tanner T. Weringa  
\* Brittany Price  
\* Paul Hagedorn  
Scattering

44  
43  
21  
7

City of Ledyard  
Mayor  
\* Robert M. Gilbertson  
Scattering  
City Council At-Large  
\* Jeremy Thompson  
\* Royce Valvick  
Scattering

26  
0  
26  
17  
1

City Council At-Large  
\* John Ternes  
(to Fill a Vacancy) Scattering

26  
0

City of Lone Rock  
Mayor  
\* Jerry Thompson  
Nicholas Harmon  
Scattering

25  
15  
7

City Council At-Large  
\* Bill Helton  
\* Randall Wayne Bollinger  
Scattering

33  
41  
2

City of Swea City  
Mayor  
\* Troy Langford  
Wendy Zielske  
Scattering

151  
71

City Council At-Large  
\* Randy Perdue  
\* Deb Johnson  
Andy Donnelly  
Tyler Kuenle Potter  
Sarah Dale Anderson  
Wendy Zielske  
Scattering

141  
110  
102  
6  
60  
11  
0

City of Titonka  
City Council At-Large  
\* Katie Prothman  
\* Tyler Smith  
Scattering

51  
40  
3

City of Wesley  
Mayor  
\* Craig Florea  
Scattering

100  
13

City Council At-Large  
\* Katelin Rosenmeyer  
\* Paige Grein  
Joella Leider  
Melissa Johnson  
Scattering

72  
68  
37  
52  
1

City of Whittemore  
Mayor  
\* Daniel J Elbert  
Scattering

56  
3

City Council At-Large

Director District 2

\* Stuart A. Simonson  
\* Karla Walker  
Scattering

58  
45  
8

The following results are not final until the 2nd tier canvass. The results you see below are only Kossuth County results. This is because abstracts are needed from other Counties in order for Kossuth County to complete our results. These abstracts can't be received until all counties complete their 1st tier canvass.

This is due to the City and School election being combined this year and also the reason for the 2nd tier canvass. These results will also appear in the 2nd tier canvass and at that time we will have an \* by the person(s) duly elected for that office.

City of LuVerne  
Mayor Kevin McPeak  
Scattering

32  
3

City Council At-Large  
Cassidy Vitthum  
Gene Frideres  
Scattering

30  
12  
5

West Bend  
Mayor Bobbie Gearhart Bauer  
(To Fill A Vacancy) Andrew Virkler  
Randy Carlson  
Scattering

4  
0  
1

City Council At-Large  
Grant Gearhart  
Chris Newton  
Blake D. Banwart  
Scattering

6  
4  
1  
0

Algona Community School District  
School Board Director At-Large  
Jay Limbaugh  
Rodney Davis  
Lany Mitchell  
John Emswiler  
Scattering

951  
951  
923  
218  
47

North Iowa School District  
Director District 1  
Robin Kettwick  
Scattering

49  
0

Director District 3  
Scattering  
Director At-Large  
Jared Allen Viergutz  
Kyle Van Hove  
Rachel Wubben  
Scattering

17  
26  
38  
0

North Kossuth School District  
Director District 1  
\* Phil Albers  
Scattering

328  
5

Director District 2  
\* Megan Heetland  
Scattering

324  
11

North Union School District  
Director District 1  
Scattering

13

Arthur W Pixler  
Scattering

93  
2

Director At-Large  
Ethan Jensen  
Gene Miller  
Scattering

50  
48  
1

Twin Rivers School District  
Director At-Large  
Kristyn Olson  
Courtney McCullough  
Scattering

0  
0  
0

Public Measure KR  
Yes  
No

0  
0

West Bend Mallard School District  
Director At-Large  
Dave Bruellman  
Lisa Traub  
Christopher Montag  
Scattering

27  
25  
31  
4

Public Measure RE  
Yes  
No

30  
4

Iowa Central Community College  
Public Measure VT  
Yes  
No

0  
0

Iowa Lakes Community College  
Director District  
Robert Jennings  
Scattering

7  
773  
5

North Iowa Area Community College  
Director District 1  
David A. Steffens Jr.  
Scattering

3  
0

Official Results 2nd Tier Canvas  
City School Election  
November 4, 2025  
\*designated the person(s) duly elected for that office.

City of LuVerne  
Mayor \* Kevin McPeak  
Scattering

35  
3

City Council At-Large  
\* Cassidy Vitthum  
\* Gene Frideres  
Scattering

32  
13  
7

Algona Community School District  
School Board Director At-Large  
\* Jay Limbaugh  
\* Rodney Davis  
\* Lany Mitchell  
John Emswiler  
Scattering

996  
992  
980  
218  
49

Motion by Waechter and 2nd by Haas to adjourn at 9:29 A.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Attest: Tammy Eden  
Kossuth County Auditor

Carter Nath, Chairman  
Kossuth County Board of Supervisors  
(Published December 3, 2025)

## WRITERS AND WRITING

By MICHAEL TIDEMANN

## The Thief of Words offers gritty realism

The Thief of Words  
Anthony Bukoski

The University of Wisconsin Press  
ISBN 978-0299351748

\$18.95 paperback

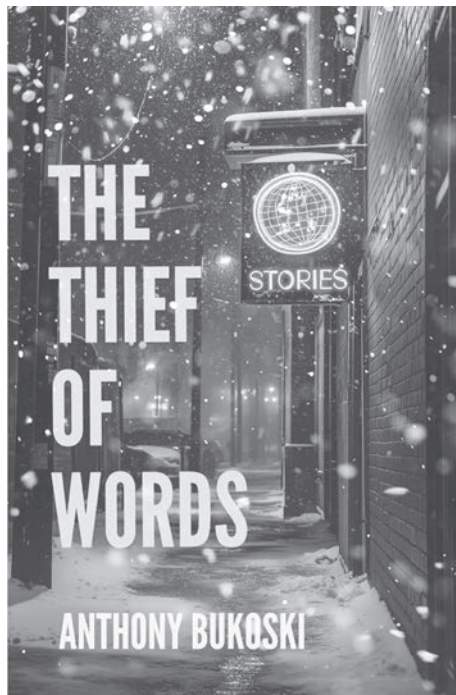
\$11.99 Kindle



Michael Tidemann

If you like good stories you can sink your teeth into and chew on for a while, The Thief of Words is for you.

Anthony Bukoski, grandson of Polish immigrants, Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and former University of Wisconsin-Superior professor, offers a cavalcade of real-life characters in this stunning collection. Polish displaced persons, faithful Catholics and blue-collar workers dot Bukoski's landscape that ranges from Superior, Wis., flour mills and seedy lakefront bars to the steaming fields of Louisiana.



Bukoski's depiction of waterfront bars is hauntingly reminiscent of that of East LA by a writer with a very similar last name, Charles Bukowski.

Bukoski also evokes fatherly images similar to Theodore Roethke's "My Papa's Walz" in his title story, "The Thief of Words".

"If the neighborhood was awake, it would have wondered that something so precious could happen in the East End of Superior, Wisconsin, a father rescuing his son after a terrible thunderstorm. I wanted to be close to him to touch his work shirt, anything now that I realized how important he was for working like this, for taking care of us. This is the Polish way."

That love continues far past life on Earth.

... and each time he's here, each time I miss him, Walter Wozniak of the Polish Club, Walter Wozniak of the Saint Adalbert's Holy Name Society, Wozniak the laborer, I say over and over in two languages, "Father ... Father."

In the story "Chokecherries", the narrator finds similarities and unity between Polish refugees and his Native father who was displaced from the reservation. "Forget Me Not", set in blue-collar Superior, tells how a man who goes to fight in Vietnam returns to find his girlfriend had married another man. One can only wonder if Bukoski had a similar experience.

Bukoski draws realistic characters into a masterful narrative that should leave anyone spellbound. Anyone who enjoys a good story would love this book.

Bukoski's biography is indeed impressive, with eight short story collections, including Time between Trains, a Booklist Editor's Choice as one of the best books of fiction for American libraries, and The Blondes of Wisconsin, winner of the Edna Ferber Fiction Award. He is also a member of the National Book Critics Circle and past fellow of the Christopher Isherwood Foundation.

(Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, Iowa. His author page is Author Michael Tidemann.)