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Minutes 06.02.2025
City of Thompson

The Thompson City Council met in special session on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 4:00 pm in the City Clerk's office of City Hall. Mayor Hauan called the meeting to order. Members present: Kezar, Willert, Chapman, Swearingen was via the phone, Absent: Flo Cara explained that the pool has a leak in it, and she had custom innovations from Clear Lake, come look at it. They are sure they found where the leak is at and can fix it, the work would take about 2-3 weeks. They gave a bid of around \$8000.00. The Park and Pool board has applied for a grant but wanted the city to help pay the remaining amount or in case the grant didn't come thru. Swearingen stated there was another grant that they could apply for and he would help them with that. A motion was made by Swearingen seconded by Kezar to hire Custom Innovations to do the work. 4-0 A motion was made by Willert, seconded by Kezar to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 pm. 4-0
Published in the Buffalo Center Tribune on June 11, 2025

WINNEBAGO COUNTY RECORDS

LAND TRANSFERS

Marci W. Cole to Todd E. Missman, transfer of partial interest in a parcel of land in section 35, Eden Township.

Claire Grothe to Wyatt Gelhouse and Cristina Carter, Lot 3 Moe's Subdivision, Lake Mills.

MK3 LLC to William Lee Loeffke and Mary Ann Nelson Loeffke, Lot 4 and 5, Block 50, Buffalo Center.

Alice M. Stohr to Bradley A. Stohr, Lot 19-23, Block 25, Thompson.

Alec T. and Alexa J. Sundermann to Steven T. and Cynthia D. Peterson, Lot 14, Winnebago Addition, Forest City.

Cole Christianson D/B/A CQ LLC to North Branch LLC, ½ Lot 4, Lake Mills.

SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED VIOLATIONS

Yoana Iyali Bustillos, Fairmont, MN, speeding 55 or under (16 thru 20 over).

Rebecca Rae Hopes, Forest City, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over).

Samuel Espinoza Lorano, Forest City, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over).

Alyce Marie Decambra, Buffalo Center, person under 21 using tobacco/vapor product.

Laura Sue Monson, Rake, failure to provide proof of financial liabilities.

Christopher Michael Adams, Kiester, MN, failure to maintain or use safety belts.

Glaydon Olendo Grunhvd, Lake Mills, unsafe backing on highway.

Moses Andrew Yoder, Cresco, speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over).

Robert H. Rupp, Jr, Scarville, speeding 55 or under speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over).

Colleen Hovinga, Forest City, speeding 55 or under speeding 55 or under zone (6 thru 10 over).

Michael Martin Arndt, Buffalo Center, excessive speed speeding (6 thru 10 over).

Kamden Ray Larson, Lake Mills, stop sign violation.

Joseph Michael Dupont, Buffalo Center, operation without registration.

Overnight campout at Hanson Nature Center



The Winnebago County Conservation Board and NIACC are teaming up to offer a fun opportunity for kids who will be 3rd, 4th, or 5th-graders this fall – an Overnight Campout at the Hanson Nature Center. The campout will begin at 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 27 and will end at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 2.

While at the nature center, the kids will enjoy campfire cooking, stargazing, a night hike, and a movie complete with popcorn. They

will also enjoy seeing everything that the new Hanson Nature Center has to offer. All participants will need to bring a sleeping bag, a pillow, and an overnight bag.

There is a fee for the campout, and registration is through NIACC. To register, go to <https://niacc.augusoft.net/> and either search for Class #19803 or “Overnight.” People can also call NIACC directly at 641-422-4358 to register. If people have questions about the campout, they can contact either Winnebago County Naturalist Lisa Ralls (641-567-3390, lisa.ralls@winnebagocountyiowa.gov) or Ashley Kraus at NIACC (641-422-4476), Ashley.Kraus@NIACC.edu).

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Murras win district conservation-themed poster contest



Shelby Murra, left, and Joey Murra are local district winners in the 2025 Conservation Districts of Iowa Poster Contest. The Winnebago Soil & Water Conservation District picked Shelby as the winner in the 2nd-3rd grade division, while Joey is the winner in the 4th-5th grade division.

Shelby Murra and Joey Murra of Buffalo Center are winners in the 2025 Conservation Districts of Iowa Poster Contest. Lori Bertram and fellow commissioners with the Winnebago Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

congratulate Shelby as the 2nd-3rd grade district winner and Joey as the 4th-5th grade district winner. Shelby and Joey are the children of Josh and Dallas Murra of Buffalo Center.

The theme for the 2024 contest was “Home

is Where the Habitat is.” The annual art contest is co-sponsored in Iowa by the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), Grinnell Mutual, and by local Soil & Water Conservation Districts across the state.

For the winning entry, Joey and Shelby – both students at Great Acres Academy – receive a \$20 award from the Winnebago Soil and Water Conservation District and both will advance to the regional competition. Last year, Joey received a first-place award at the regional competition, and his poster advanced to the state level for his age category.

The CDI Poster contest is a colorful way for Iowa youth to turn their artistic talents toward promoting conservation and sustainability practices in their home state. The contest starts at the district level; winners advance to the regional and state level, and then to the national level, where they receive recognition at the National Association

of Conservation District's (NACD) annual meeting.

NACD provides students from kindergarten through 12th grade the chance to have their art displayed as part of a national conservation outreach initiative. The Stewardship and Education Committee developed a five-year rotation for stewardship topics – water, soil, habitat, forestry, and a topic of interest – and determines the theme each year. Winning posters reflect NACD's annual Stewardship theme and highlight the work of local conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries, and agencies to protect and enhance natural resources.

The poster contest is open each year to public, private, and home-schooled students. The top three posters in each category of the national contest receive monetary prizes. To learn more, visit the Conservation Districts of Iowa webpage: www.cdiowa.org/get-involved/poster-contest.

NIACC offers free High School Equivalency program

North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) is making it easier than ever for individuals to earn their high school diploma through its free High School Equivalency (HSE) program this summer.

The summer session runs from July 7 through August 14, with multiple scheduling

options to meet the needs of adult learners:

- NIACC Campus - Mason City: Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- NIACC Career Center - Charles City: Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. or Tuesday

and Wednesday, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

NIACC's HSE program prepares students to succeed on the HiSET exam, Iowa's official high school equivalency test. Classes cover essential subjects including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies, and are led by

knowledgeable instructors dedicated to student success.

The program is open to individuals age 17 and older who are not currently enrolled in high school.

To learn more or fill out an interest form, visit niacc.edu/hse, call 641-422-4278, or email AEL@niacc.edu.

Nominate an outstanding Iowan for recognition at the State Fair

Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation and Cookies BBQ Food Products are currently seeking ten individuals to be recognized for the Iowan of the Day award at the 2025 Iowa State Fair. Recognize an outstanding individual in your life who exemplifies the qualities associated with Iowa-integrity, dependability,

sense of community and a strong work ethic-by nominating them today.

Each of the ten Iowan of the Day winners are awarded a day of recognition at the 2025 Iowa State Fair, August 7-17, including four Iowa State Fair admission tickets, an introduction on the Anne & Bill Riley Stage, four Grandstand concert tickets

on their day of recognition, use of the Iowan of the Day golf cart, VIP parking, accommodations at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown, and \$200 cash.

Nomination forms can be found online at www.BlueRibbonFoundation.org/events/iotd and must be submitted to the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation

by July 1. Nominations from 2022, 2023 and 2024 will be reconsidered. All nominees must currently reside in Iowa.

The Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Since its inception in 1993, the Foundation has generated more than \$200 million for renovation and preservation of the historic Iowa State Fairgrounds. For more information, contact the Blue Ribbon Foundation at 1-800-450-3732 or Info@BlueRibbonFoundation.org.

Address continued from page 3

me, I was the runner believe it or not. I carried the relays.

In third and fourth grade, we had something called Invent Iowa. It was where you got partners and you all had to try and invent something, and then a winner would get chosen. That was a competitive event, because my class is and always has been very competitive. My partner was Gavin, we invented a great item called the “Pencil.” It was a pencil and a pen built into one. Even though we just had a pencil and a pen taped together, but we thought we were geniuses – we thought we had the win in the bag for sure. We knew we were going to make millions one day off of this invention. Just to get our poor little hearts broken by the judges, since apparently it was already a thing. Maybe someday we'll be millionaires.

Then in fourth grade, we got introduced to rollerblading in school; boy was that fun. I already knew how to, so I didn't have any problems, but I had so much fun watching everyone crash into each other, especially when Gavin ran into the bleachers and chipped his tooth.

Then in seventh and eighth grade, there was Covid. We all were so excited for sports that year, but then our dreams were crushed by Covid-19, but we survived. We survived all of the awkward zoom meetings with Mr. Moretz. Can't say we learned much from those because

most of us boys had the cameras off, and we were gaming, but it was the thought that counts.

Then came high school, our freshman year when everything was different. We all thought we were hot stuff now that we were in high school. We walked in with our oversized backpacks and our awkward confidence, but we really had no idea how high school worked, but after a little time we realized that high school was just another chill and fun time to be in school. And it was, until our freshman year us boys learned a lot about what to do and definitely what not to do.

Sophomore year we were all confident, we weren't freshmen anymore. We were still too young to be taken seriously, though. Sophomore year was like being the middle child in a family; we were just there, ignored, not trying to make anyone mad.

Then junior year was when things got real. We learned the true meaning of stress. All of the college classes, ACTs, SATs, and caffeine additions. We all aged about 10 years in our junior year. That was when we had to figure out if four hours of sleep was worth it if it meant passing chemistry. It never was. Or for me it was trying to pass math principles; boy was that class hard.

Then there was senior year, ahh yes senior year. The year of pretending we still cared. We developed a rare medical condition called “Senioritis.” It was a very serious condition, and

the symptoms included procrastination, extreme sarcasm, and being allergic to homework. Senior year was also the year that I set a record for myself, a record that I believe is untouchable. I managed to score a 12% on one of my Anatomy tests, and I should probably add that we were handed a study guide. But if there was one thing I was known for, it was not studying; my grades prove that.

Somehow, we powered through it all – all of the college applications, scholarship applications, the drama, and the crisis of people wondering, “What am I going to do with my life.”

We survived a lot: cafeteria foods, random fire drills in the winter, and teachers saying “this will be on the test” and then... it absolutely was not.

We also learned some valuable life skills:

- How to Google a 5-page essay that we learned about 20 minutes ago.
- How to look engaged in class like we are paying attention, but we are really counting down the seconds until lunch.

But let's be honest – these four years weren't just about classes, tests, and trying to find X when X didn't want to be found in math class.

They were about friendships, hallway concerts with squeaky sneakers, group projects where one person did all of the work (shoutout to you guys, we owe you our diplomas). And it was about making memories that'll

make us laugh, cringe, and maybe cry for years to come.

We owe a huge thank you to the teachers and coaches that pushed us, the staff that supported us, and the Wi-Fi that somehow still never worked when we needed it the most.

As we leave here today, we take with us more than just a diploma, we take the knowledge that we survived 12 years of homework, hallway traffic jams, and awkward pep-rallies.

So here is to us, the class of 2025. We came, we saw, and we passed. Most of the time. Some of us didn't think we'd make it here. And some of the people we wish were here... aren't. But we made it – for them, for ourselves.

This goodbye is heavier than we expected. Not just to a school, but to a version of ourselves we'll never be again. So, hold this moment. Feel it. Let it hurt a little. Because endings like this mean it mattered.

I could not have asked for a better group of people to grow up with, through the thick and the thin, through all the drama, I wouldn't change it one bit. I am proud of every single one of you, yes even you Max, and you should be proud of yourselves. Congratulations to everyone. Now go out there and do amazing things like I know you will. Or at least do things that pay rent.

Now let's go get rich and make people proud!

Congratulations Class of 2025!

Thank you.