

Lake Mills woman pleads guilty to thefts from dependent adults

MARY PIEPER
Globe Gazette

A Lake Mills woman who stole thousands of dollars from adults with intellectual disabilities while she served as a supervisor at the Mosaic group facility in Forest City will be sentenced July 15.

Michelle Carol Loth-Dreier, 48, pleaded guilty Tuesday to five counts of dependent adult abuse, a Class D felony.

One count of ongoing criminal conduct, a Class B felony, and one count of second-degree theft, a Class D felony, are to be dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

Part of Loth-Dreier’s job at Mosaic was to oversee the accounting of individual finances for those living at the group facility,



according to Winnebago County District Court records.

She is accused of stealing from five residents over a period of a year and a half by using their debit and EBT cards for her financial benefit and that of her daughter, Harley A. Loth, 27, Lake Mills.

The total stolen was nearly \$3,000, according to court documents.

Loth has pleaded not guilty to one count of ongoing criminal conduct and seven aggravated misdemeanor counts of unauthorized use of a credit card. She is scheduled to be tried Aug. 27.

Clear Lake band camp hosts free concert

AILIS MCCARDLE
Globe Gazette

The North Iowa Middle School Band Camp held a free performance at the Clear Lake Band Shell in City Park on Friday, June 20.

This year’s program was magic-and-wonder themed, and the concert included arrangements from Disney’s “Aladdin,” “The Greatest Showman” and the hit Broadway musical “Wicked.”

The band camp comprises more than 90 students and staff from band programs across North Iowa, including students from Clear Lake, Osage, Gar-

ner-Hayfield-Ventura, Lake Mills, and more.

Children in band who have finished fifth grade through seventh grade were welcome to attend the week-long camp, where youth volunteers and area band directors lead them through a selection of songs performed at the end-of-the-week concert.

The family friendly program was free for people of all ages.

Ailis McCardle is an education reporter at the Globe Gazette. She can be reached at ailis.mccardle@globegazette.com or at 641-421-0527



AILIS MCCARDLE , GLOBE GAZETTE

Middle school students from across North Iowa rehearse during the North Iowa Middle School Band Camp in Clear Lake on Wednesday, June 18.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Legals



Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds discusses the recently concluded legislative session while taping her appearance on Iowa PBS’ “Iowa Press” at Iowa PBS studios in Johnston, Iowa, on Friday, May 23, 2025.

‘We have to take a look at everything’

Reynolds expresses
openness to
proposed county
consolidation

ERIN MURPHY
Lee-Gazette Des Moines Bureau

DES MOINES — Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds’ task force on government efficiency has floated the idea, and Reynolds on Friday did not rule it out.

“I’ve said this 100 times. ... We have to take a look at everything,” Reynolds told reporters Friday after a public bill-signing ceremony. “Iowans are going to have to decide if they truly do want their property taxes reduced, then we probably are going to have to think about how we deliver services a little bit differently, a little bit more efficiently.”

Reynolds early this year created a state DOGE Task Force — named similarly to the federal government efficiency agency created by President Donald Trump and formerly headed by tech billionaire Elon Musk before their recent public fallout. Reynolds charged the state task force with researching ways to make government in Iowa operate more efficiently at all levels.

At its second of four scheduled meetings, the task force last week floated as one possible recommendation consolidating some Iowa counties to be more cost-effective in delivering government services.

With 99, Iowa has the ninth-most counties among U.S. states, yet Iowa is just

31st in population and 26th in land mass.

Reynolds said the task force and state policymakers must be willing to consider all recommendations to ease Iowans’ property tax burden, a top goal of state lawmakers.

“I’ve come full circle,” Reynolds said when asked about the task force’s possible recommendation. Before becoming governor in 2017, Reynolds had served as lieutenant governor, as a state senator, and as Clarke County treasurer.

“I remember fighting Des Moines way back when, when they talked about regionalization one week after I had just been hired at the county treasurer’s office,” Reynolds said. “I went from thinking I had the greatest job ever to thinking, ‘I’m going to lose it in a week.’”

“But I also spent time in local government. I spent time in the (Iowa) Senate. I’ve spent time as lieutenant governor, and now as governor. And I really do have a fairly good understanding of how those all work together, and how there truly is a lot of duplication in the services,” Reynolds said. “And we just can’t have that if we’re going to try to reduce the cost to property owners. And they’re screaming for change, so they’re going to have to be a willing partner in that change.”

The Iowa DOGE Task Force is tentatively scheduled to meet again in August, and will formalize and make its recommendations to the governor and lawmakers this fall.

City of Leland, Iowa June 16, 2025 City Council Minutes

The City Council of the City of Leland, Iowa met in regular session on June 16, 2025. Mayor Leitz called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present at roll call: Mayor Leitz, Council members Casler, Krein, and Ver Hoef. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer.

On a motion by Krein and seconded by Casler, Council moved to approve the agenda for June 16, 2025, city council meeting. Motion carried.

On a motion by Krein and seconded by Casler, Council moved to approve the following consent agenda items: Council minutes for May 27, 2025, special session and June 12, 2025, special session. Motion carried.

Andy Buffington, Winnebago County Emergency Management Coordinator, discussed the findings from the County Hazard Mitigation Plan worksheet that Council filled out in May 2024. Afterwards, all in attendance completed a subsequent worksheet for further essential information.

Melissa Michaelis, Winn-Worth Betco Director and Mary Lou Kleveland, Winnebago County Veterans Affairs, addressed council about becoming a "Home Base Iowa City" and the advantages this program has for bringing veterans to the community.

Deputy City Clerk, Dawn Arispe, read aloud Ordinance No. 25-06, an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, Iowa 2023, Title IV Mental and Physical Health, Chapter 1 Animal Control, Section 14 Livestock.

Ver Hoef made a motion to accept the reading of Ordinance No. 25-06. Krein seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Krein made a motion that the rule requiring said Ordinance No. 25-06 to be read on three (3) different days be dispensed with. Ver Hoef seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Ver Hoef made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 25-06 and have it put upon its final consideration and adoption. Casler seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared Ordinance No. 25-06 duly adopted as follows:

ORDINANCE #25-06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LELAND, IOWA, 2023, TITLE IV MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, CHAPTER 1 ANIMAL CONTROL, SECTION 14 LIVESTOCK

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Leland, Iowa: SECTION 1. AMENDMENT, TITLE IV MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, CHAPTER 1 ANIMAL CONTROL, SECTION 14 LIVESTOCK, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, 2023, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

4-1-14 LIVESTOCK. It is unlawful for a person to maintain, keep, or harbor any cattle, swine, pot belly pigs, sheep, llamas, elk, buffalo, horses, jacks, rabbits, hares, goats, quail, guinea fowl, ostriches, emus, turkeys, geese, peacocks, pheasants, and ducks, or similar domestic animals raised for private or commercial purposes within the City limits; or allow any such animal to run at large.

SECTION 2. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of Leland, Iowa on the 16th day of June, 2025.

Arispe, read aloud Ordinance No. 25-07, an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, Iowa 2023, Title IV Mental and Physical Health, Chapter 2 Urban Chickens, Section 1 through Section 14. Ver Hoef made a motion to accept the reading of Ordinance No. 25-07. Krein seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Krein made a motion that the rule requiring said Ordinance No. 25-07 to be read on three (3) different days be dispensed with. Casler seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Ver Hoef made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 25-07 upon its final consideration and adoption. Krein seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared Ordinance No. 25-07 duly adopted as follows:

ORDINANCE # 25-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LELAND, IOWA, 2023, TITLE IV MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Leland, Iowa: SECTION 1. AMENDMENT, TITLE IV MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH, CHAPTER 2 URBAN CHICKENS, SECTION 1 THROUGH SECTION 14, of the Code of Ordinances of the City, of Leland, 2023, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

4-2-1 DEFINITIONS. For use in this Chapter the following defined terms shall apply:

1. Chicken-shall mean a member of the subspecies Gallus gallus domesticus, a domesticated fowl.
2. Urban Chicken-shall mean a chicken kept on a permitted tract of land pursuant to a permit issued under this Chapter.
3. Permitted Tract of Land-shall mean the tract of land as identified by the application upon which a permit is granted for keeping chickens pursuant to this Chapter.
4. Permittee-shall mean an applicant who has been granted a permit to raise, harbor or keep chickens pursuant to this Chapter.

4-2-2 PERMIT REQUIRED.

1. Permit required. No person shall raise, harbor or keep chickens within the City of Leland without a valid permit obtained from the City Council under the provision of this Chapter.
2. Application. In order to obtain a permit, an applicant must submit a completed application on forms provided by the City Clerk and payment of all fees required by this Chapter.
3. Requirements. The requirements to the receipt of permit include:
 - a. All requirements of the Chapter are met;
 - b. All fees, as may be provided for from time to time by City Council resolution, for the permit are paid in full; Application fee is \$25.00;
 - c. All judgments in the City's favor and against the applicant have been paid in full.

4-2-3 ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.

1. Issuance of Permit. If the City Council concludes as a result of the information contained in the application that the requirements for a permit have been met the City Clerk shall issue the permit.
2. Renewal of Permit. A renewal Permit fee is \$25.00. A permittee shall apply to renew his permit for any of the following grounds:
 - a. The Permitted tract of land has had no chickens on it for 12 months or longer;
 - b. Permit has been suspended or revoked.
3. Denial or Suspension of Permit. The Mayor, or Mayor's designee, may deny, suspend, or revoke any permit issued for any of the following grounds:
 - a. False statements on any application or other information or report required by this section to be given by the applicants;
 - b. Failure to pay any applications, or penalty fee required by this section or city council resolution;
 - c. Failure to correct deficiencies noted in abatement notices in the time specified in the notice;
 - d. Failure to comply with the provisions of an approved mitigation/remediation plan by the City or County;
 - e. Failure to comply with any provision of this Chapter.
4. Notification. A decision to revoke, suspend, deny or not renew a permit shall be in writing, delivered by ordinary mail or in person to the address indicated on the application. The notification shall specify reasons for the action.
5. Effect of revocation, etc. When an application for a permit is denied, or when a permit is revoked, the applicant may not re-apply for a new permit for a period of 1 year from the date of denial or revocation.
6. Appeals. No permit may be denied, suspended, revoked, or not renewed without notice and an opportunity to be heard is given the applicant or hold of the permit. In any instance where the Mayor or Mayor's designee has denied, revoked, suspended, or not renewed a permit, the applicant or holder of said permit may appeal the decision to the City Council within ten (10) business day of receipt by the applicant or holder of the permit of the notice of the decision. The applicant or holder of the permit will be given an opportunity for a hearing. The decision of the City Council hearing the appeal, or any decision by the Mayor or Mayor's designee which is not appealed in accordance to the Chapter shall be deemed final action.

4-2-4 NUMBER AND TYPE OF CHICKENS ALLOWED.

1. The maximum number of chickens allowed is six (6) per tract of land.
2. Only female chickens (hens) are allowed.
3. Only by written permission of the City Council, shall a permittee be granted a permit for greater than six (6) chickens.

4-2-5 TRACT OF LAND ALLOWED.

1. Permits will be granted only for tracts of land located on residential property. No permits will be granted on business, school or church property.
3. No permits will be granted to any renter or lease holder of property without notarized authorized documentation approval from tract of land owner.

4-2-6 NON-COMMERCIAL USE ONLY. A permit shall not allow the permittee to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.

4-2-7 ENCLOSURES.

1. Chickens must be kept in an enclosure of sturdy wire fencing at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a henhouse or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
2. Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, odor-free, neat and sanitary condition at all time
3. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade and must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds and predators, including dogs and cats.
4. Henhouse and chicken tractors

 - a. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens with a minimum of four (4) square feet per bird while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.
 - i. A Henhouse or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides and shall have a roof and doors. Access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire

- ii. The materials used in making a henhouse or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the malls are made of the same material, the roof has the shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste boards, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Henhouses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
- b. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens must be located at least fifteen (15) feet from the property line and at least twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school or place of business.

4-2-8 ODOR AND NOISE IMPACTS.

1. Odors from chickens, chicken manure or other chicken related substances shall not be perceptible beyond the boundaries of the permitted tract of land.
2. Noise from chickens shall not be loud enough beyond the boundaries of the permitted tract of land at the property boundaries to disturb person of reasonable sensitivity.

4-2-9 PREDATORS, RODENTS, INSECTS AND PARASITES. The Permittee shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by a person designated by the Mayor with the assistance of police, if necessary.

4-2-10 FEED AND WATER. Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds and predators.

4-2-11 WASTE STORAGE AND REMOVAL. The henhouse, chicken tractor, chicken pen and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

4-2-12 CHICKENS AT LARGE. The Permittee shall not allow the Permittee's chickens to roam off the permitted tract of land. No dog or cat or other domesticated animal which kills a chicken off the permitted tract of land will, for that reason alone, not be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal or the city's responsibility to enforce its animal control provisions.

4-2-13 UNLAWFUL ACTS.

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this Chapter or any other provision of the Leland City Code.
2. It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter or lease holder of property to allow chickens to be kept on property in violation of the provisions of this article.
3. No person shall keep chickens inside a single-family dwelling unit, multi-family dwelling unit(s) or rental unit.
4. No person shall keep a rooster.
5. No person shall keep chickens on a vacant or uninhabited tract of land.

4-2-14 NUISANCES. Any violation of the terms of the Chapter that constitutes a health hazard or that interferes with the use or enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provision of Leland City Code Title III Community Protection, Chapter 2 Nuisances.

SECTION 2. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of Leland, Iowa on the 16th day of June, 2025.

Arispe, read aloud Ordinance No. 25-08, an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, Iowa 2023, Title V Physical Environment, Chapter 9 Restricted Residence District, Section 2 Definitions, Subsection 6 through Section 8. Krein made a motion to accept the reading of Ordinance No. 25-08. Ver Hoef seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Krein made a motion that the rule requiring said Ordinance No. 25-08 to be read on three (3) different days be dispensed with. Casler seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Ver Hoef made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 25-08 and have it put upon its final consideration and adoption. Casler seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared Ordinance No. 25-08 duly adopted as follows:

ORDINANCE #25-08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LELAND, IOWA, 2023, TITLE V PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHAPTER 9 RESTRICTED RESIDENCE DISTRICT, SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS, BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Leland, Iowa: SECTION 1. AMENDMENT, TITLE V PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHAPTER 9 RESTRICTED RESIDENCE DISTRICT, SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS, SUBSECTION 6 THROUGH SECTION 8, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, 2023, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

5-9-2 DEFINITIONS. For use in this Ordinance, the following terms are defined: or sea vans.

6. "Portable storage container" is defined as a container fabricated for the purpose of transporting freight or goods on a truck, railroad, railcar, or ship, including cargo containers, steel cargo containers, shipping containers, freight containers, cargo boxes.
7. "Portable shed" is defined as a simplified small detached accessory building that is separate from the residential structure, maximum of 120 square feet, cannot have a gable or peak higher than fifteen feet at the middle, has no cement or concrete foundation, has no plumbing.
8. "Workshop shed" is defined by at least one of the following:
 - a. Larger than 120 square feet;
 - b. Gable or peak higher than fifteen feet at the middle;
 - c. Concrete or cement foundation; or
 - d. Plumbing

SECTION 2. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of Leland, Iowa on the 16th day of June, 2025.

Arispe, read aloud Ordinance No. 25-09, an amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, Iowa 2023, Title V Physical Environment, Chapter 9 Portable Buildings and Sheds. Krein made a motion to accept the reading of Ordinance No. 25-09. Ver Hoef seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Krein made a motion that the rule requiring said Ordinance No. 25-09 to be read on three (3) different days be dispensed with. Casler seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared the motion passed.

Krein made a motion to introduce Ordinance No. 25-09 and have it put upon its final consideration and adoption. Ver Hoef seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon the Mayor declared Ordinance No. 25-08 duly adopted as follows:

ORDINANCE #25-09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LELAND, IOWA, 2023, TITLE V PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHAPTER 9 RESTRICTED RESIDENCE DISTRICT, SECTION 9 PORTABLE BUILDINGS, BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Leland, Iowa: SECTION 1. AMENDMENT, TITLE V PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, CHAPTER 9 RESTRICTED RESIDENCE DISTRICT, SECTION 9 PORTABLE BUILDINGS AND SHEDS, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Leland, 2023, is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

5-9-9 PORTABLE BUILDINGS AND SHEDS.

1. The use of Portable Storage Containers is prohibited within the City Limits for private or commercial purposes.
2. Portable sheds and Workshop sheds require a building permit and adhere to placement guidelines:
 - a. Five feet (5') from side and/or rear property lines;
 - b. May not be located in front yard;
 - c. Not on or within any easements;
 - d. Not within eight feet (8') of any existing structure;
 - e. Must be three feet (3') away from all overhead power lines.
3. The use of Portable Sheds and Workshop Sheds as a residence is prohibited.

SECTION 2. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the City Council of Leland, Iowa on the 16th day of June, 2025.

Per City Code of Ordinances (5-5-10 (3), 5-5-11 (4) (5), 5-5-12 (3)). Council discussed the automatic rate increases to the monthly minimum billing at the beginning of each fiscal year for water, sewer, garbage, recycling commencing July 1st. Ver Hoef made a motion not to approve the automatic rate increases to any of the utilities. Krein seconded the motion. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon Mayor Leitz declared motion duly carried.

Mayor Leitz suggested a raise of 3% for Superintendent Daimon Perry and Deputy City Clerk Dawn Arispe. The roll was called and the vote was: Ayes: Casler, Ver Hoef, and Krein. Nays: None. Absent: Johnson, and Hoffmeyer. Whereupon Mayor Leitz declared motion duly carried. Council reviewed and discussed the following items: Nuisance properties, ICAP grant, water tower maintenance bids, moving or replacing the tornado siren, Broadway Avenue Bridge Replacement Project, Wastewater Treatment Facility Project, City Hall new utility and finance software. There being no further business, Krein made a motion to conclude the meeting, seconded by Casler. Mayor Leitz declared the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Dawn Arispe, Deputy City Clerk.
Russell Leitz, Mayor
COL-IA-900283



CODY SCANLAN, THE REGISTER, POOL PHOTO

Gov. Kim Reynolds delivers the annual Condition of the State address on Tuesday at the Iowa State Capitol.