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## Fire guts apartment building

### Rudd units destroyed in Sunday a.m. blaze

By Bob Steenson  
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A fire early Sunday morning heavily damaged an apartment building in Rudd, with firefighters from several area departments spending about four hours bringing the blaze under control.

According to the Floyd County Sheriff's Office, the initial call came in at 1:11 a.m. for a structure fire in the 100 block of Depot Street. Fire crews arrived on scene at approximately 1:20 a.m. to find the building fully engulfed.

The Rudd Volunteer Fire Department led the response, with mutual aid from departments in Nora Springs,



Press photo by Bob Steenson

**RUDD FIRE**, turn to page 3 Firefighters spray water on the roof of a brick apartment building at 105 Depot St. in Rudd early Sunday morning to get control over a fire raging inside.



Press photos by Travis Fischer

A large group of people fed up with the current state of politics in the nation and Iowa voice their displeasure in a march Saturday.

## Local progressives rally in park

### About 50 gather at Charles City version of national 'No Kings' demonstrations

By Travis Fischer  
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As people gathered across the nation for another round of "No Kings" protests, a group of area progressives met at Central Park to add Charles City to the thousands of demonstrations held on Saturday, March 28.

"We're gathered here to protect our First Amendment rights, so cheers for that," said India May, organizer of the event and Democratic candidate for House District 58 running against incumbent Republican Charley Thomson.

In spite of the chilly wind, more than 50 people gathered at the park to air grievances with the Trump administration both long-standing and recent, with a particular focus on the administration's deployment of ICE, the information from the Epstein files, and the launch of military action in Iran.

"We can love this nation and still demand better from it," said May. "We can support our soldiers and condemn the war waged to profit the Epstein class."



Area Democratic political candidates India May, Clint Twedt-Ball, and Jim Vowels each spoke at the event Saturday afternoon.

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## Lundberg named director of TLC child care center

By Bob Steenson  
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The Learning Center has named Lauren Lundberg as its new director, bringing local roots and a background in education and program management to the role.

Lundberg, a Charles City native, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Iowa State University and has experience as a classroom teacher, wellness



Lundberg

coach and in administrative roles. She and her husband, Caleb, live in Charles City with their two daughters, one of whom

is enrolled at TLC. TLC Board President Danielle Ellingson said Lundberg's

**DIRECTOR**, turn to page 3

## School property tax levy drops nine cents more than expected

By Travis Fischer  
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The Charles City Community School Board held back-to-back special meetings on Monday, March 30.

The first was dedicated to a public hearing for the proposed property tax for fiscal year 2026/27.

Projected at a maximum of \$12.37 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation, already down from \$12.86, the Iowa Department of Management's calculation for the district dropped the rate an additional nine cents, bringing the levy to \$12.28 for the next fiscal year.

"We got it slightly lower," said Superintendent Dr. Brian

Burnight. Closing that public hearing, the board went into a second special meeting where it met with Chris Wand of FEH Design to review bid proposals for phase one of the Modus Plan, a \$4-5 million infrastructure improvement project for the high school.

"It's all coming together pretty cleanly," said Wand. Phase one of the plan will address the high school's long-standing HVAC needs along with updates to the building's lighting and fire alarms.

Electrical work was initially planned for phase one, but is

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