

## LIFESTYLE

Local families participate in Jefferson County Fair . • A7

## LOCAL

Aztalan Day celebrated. • B3

## SPORTS

Ryan Lind becomes Lake Mills girls basketball coach. • B1



# Lake Mills Leader

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## City council expected to finalize 2022 strategic plan

Plan highlights council's goals, vision for next five years

By Harrison Freuck  
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The Lake Mills city council is expected to finalize its

2022 strategic plan in the next month, to give city leaders a guide to meet future goals and identify areas of improvement for the next five years.

While the plan hasn't yet been finalized, the publicly-available draft identified issues such as public safety, the wastewater treatment plant, Sandy Beach, community

engagement and infrastructure improvement as key areas for improvement between 2022 and 2027.

The plan, which was developed across three meetings with Cream City Marketing's director of creative strategy Erin Shields Yvisaker in May 2022, was supposed to be finalized at the council's July 19 meeting.

Instead, council members decided to postpone the vote to August to allow for revisions, suggestions and public input.

The plan draft opens with the city's mission and vision statements. The mission statement reads, "The City Council sets policy and enacts legislation to facilitate the public safety, health and welfare of its

citizens through strong community relations and fiscal responsibility." The vision statement reads, "Lake Mills is a vibrant city that fosters quality of life and economic vitality, and preserves our community and natural resources for the well-being of our citizens and visitors."

See **PLAN**, Page A2

## LAKE MILLS SUMMER SCHOOL



Lauren Henning

Students in Lake Mills gather at the elementary school on July 18 for a variety of summer school classes.



### LAKE MILLS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Support, communication with staff key to plan

By Lauren Henning  
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One measure of achieving the Lake Mills Area School District's strategic planning goals is providing support for teachers and support staff.

And part of that measurement is in staff surveys, which, among other things, ask whether the district is providing enough resources to allow staff to do their jobs.

Most said yes to that question in a sparsely responded survey this spring, but other responses provided insights the administration hopes to use to adjust its programming and communication.

"People are the No. 1 resource in the district," district administrator Tonya Olson told the school board as she delivered a strategic plan update July 11.

The spring district teaching staff survey yielded 66 responses, a number Olson admitted was not a "large cross section" of the district. But the district plans to use the data as a benchmark and will offer another survey this fall to all staff to guide its efforts, including how staff are supported outside of the work day.

The vast majority of respondents - 77% - agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I have been provided the resources I need to achieve the District learning targets and curriculum."

Survey results also indicated that while the district communicates important issues with staff, there is room for improvement when communicating, Olson noted.

"There's never-ending work to do on communication," she said.

Olson noted that its wellness program came up in survey responses and apparently needs to be communicated better.

"We still need to find ways to help staff manage wellness and stress going into this year," Olson said.

The district expanded its wellness program in January using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding (ESSER) through a partnership with a national organization, Stepping Wellness. The organization's website calls its program one that helps "to slowly infuse wellness opportunities for employees in order to help balance their lives and better support the lives of those served."

See **SCHOOLS**, Page A2

## Colorado man sentenced in 2020 killing of Lake Mills HS grad

By Tyler Dedrick  
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A Colorado man convicted of killing a former Lake Mills resident in 2020 will spend the rest of his life in prison.

A district court judge in Weld County Colorado, an hour north of Denver, gave Kevin Eastman of Greeley, Colorado two consecutive life sentences and an additional 27 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections. The

ruling came down Thursday, July 21, a media release from the Weld County District Attorney said.

Eastman was convicted on July 20 of killing Lake Mills High School graduate Heather Frank and another man in February 2020, the release said.

Frank grew up in Waterloo and Lake Mills, according to an

obituary, and graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1990. She moved to Greeley in 2008 and worked as a waitress and restaurant manager. She also worked at a bank.



Frank

Frank's body was discovered in February 2020 while police were investigating the death of Eastman's other victim, Greeley-based trumpet

player Scott Sessions.

Sessions was discovered by a snowplow driver off a desolate road in Poudre Canyon, Colorado. Eastman was incarcerated at the Larimer County Jail on suspicion of first-degree murder and tampering with a deceased human body. The Larimer County Sheriff's Office launched a homicide investigation into Sessions' death.

See **CRIME**, Page A2

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