

# CARROLL +BEYOND

### FIVE-DAY FORECAST

SAT. 33/25 Mostly cloudy.	SUN. 32/27 Mostly cloudy.	MON. 36/30 Mostly cloudy.	TUES. 40/30 Mostly cloudy.	WED. 43/31 Mostly sunny.
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### ALMANAC

Last year's high.....	22
Last year's low .....	5
Last year's precip. ....	0.04
Record high.....	65 in 2002
Record low.....	-17 in 1904
Record precip. ....	1.51 in 1996
Record snowfall.....	13.7 in 1996
Normal high.....	31
Normal low .....	13

CITY GOVERNMENT



JACK MCCLELLAN | TIMES HERALD  
Rec Center lifeguards, Carter Sporrer (left) and Sophia Polking (right) pictured after receiving certificates for their service.

## City recognizes lifeguards, acknowledges Merchants Park awards

By JACK MCCLELLAN  
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Members of the city council and city staff recognized individuals associated with the parks department during its meeting Monday evening.

Toward the beginning of the meeting Rec Center Lifeguards, Carter Sporrer and Sophia Polking were recognized for their outstanding actions in response to a medical emergency that unfolded at the rec center in December.

Director of Parks And Recreation Chad Tiemeyer said both Sporrer and Polking went above and beyond to fulfill their lifeguard duties.

“We feel like that patron is much better off for their services,” Tiemeyer said.

Two hours later as the council prepared to adjourn for the night, Mayor Jerry Fleshner took his comments as an opportunity to highlight awards recently presented to the City of Carroll and Merchants Park by the Iowa Baseball Coaches Association.

AWARDS, PAGE 6

CITY GOVERNMENT

## City staff give overview of upcoming budget plans

By JACK MCCLELLAN  
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Carroll’s City Manager and City Clerk delivered a budget overview for the city council during their meeting Monday evening, announcing new proposed levies consistent with previous fiscal years.

City Manager Aaron Kooiker said the budget for the coming fiscal year is coming together well. Despite the challenges posed by new legislation, he said the proposed overall tax levy is \$12.16, unchanged from previous years.

“So we were able to balance the budget with the rollbacks and the new law in place and keep the levy the same,” Kooiker said.

Comparing budgets, Kooiker said the approved budget for the current fiscal year, including expenditures across all funds, was \$25 million; the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year is \$30 million.

Kooiker said the increase is mainly due to the number of infrastructure capital project expenditures the city saw through the year.

General fund revenues are estimated to be \$8.3 million, while proposed expenses are \$9.4 million. Kooiker said the deficit would be covered by general fund reserves from the previous year’s re-estimated budget.

Carroll City Clerk Laura Schaefer walked the council through comparisons on the city’s taxable valuations.

Schaefer said when putting together projected tax dollars, everything starts with the assessed value of a property. From there she

BUDGET, PAGE 7

DOCUMENTARY

# CAPTURING THE STORY OF MANNING



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Inside of the Market Place, a home decor business, women’s boutique and coffee shop in Manning, Jack Chimbetete and Arnold Chirimika film an interview with owner Jaime England. The two men came together to produce a film about Manning, with plans of releasing the film in April.

## Filmmakers to release city documentary later this year

By SARAH STORTZ  
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The unique nature of Manning will soon be viewable on the big screen.

Last summer, a crew visited the town to film a documentary about Manning, capturing the people, businesses and agriculture.

Jack Chimbetete, co-producer of the documentary, was already familiar with Manning before jumping on the project.

In 2018, through the Mandela Washington Fellowship program, Chimbetete first visited Manning while staying in Des Moines. Drake University is one of the Institute Partners for the Mandela Washington Fellowship

In his initial visit, Chimbetete, who’s from Zimbabwe, expressed interest in producing a documentary. Chimbetete is co-producing the film alongside Arnold Chirimika, another former Mandela Washington Fellow from Zimbabwe.

During the summer of 2023, when Chirimika visited Manning,

also wanted to pursue the story of Manning’s success.

Following the end of Chirimika’s fellowship, Chimbetete collaborated with him to initiate the project.

Having a small, compact crew accompany them, Chimbetete also helped out with the camera, sound and lighting, while Chirimika directed it. They also have a team helping out with the post-production.

The film will be released through Chimbetete’s production company Jack’s Shack International, which is based in the United States and Africa.

The crew visited Manning in August, where they spent their time filming interviews and meeting with residents.

Tentatively, Chimbetete said the title of the documentary is “1,500,” which references the population of Manning.

“We’re saying, ‘how do you have 1,500 people doing all these amazing things?’” Chimbetete said. “We’re capturing all the farms, we’re talking to people



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Behind the scenes, co-producers Jack Chimbetete and Arnold Chirimika film an interview with Dawn Meyer, the City Clerk/Administrator of Manning. With their upcoming documentary, the two men and their film crew highlight the unique nature of Manning and the resident’s passion for their hometown.

in different industries and just getting amazed at how they operate.”

Because he only spent one day in Manning during his initial visit, Chimbetete said the crew really had a feel of the town during their two-day trip.

The most rewarding part,

Chimbetete said, was having the conversations with “the regular folks” in Manning. Regardless of their age, Chimbetete learned how they all contribute to their hometown.

“Every individual, one way or the other, contributes,” Chimbetete said. “From the youngest kid in the neighborhood, they participate, they go out early in the morning before school, they go into the farm, they’re helping in the farm. They are so passionate.”

While visiting the family farms in Manning, Chimbetete noticed how happy the kids were to carry out tasks. In a way, Chimbetete said the people have a way of fostering patriotism for Manning.

“Everybody just loves and is so passionate and is so willing to do whatever it takes to get the town moving forward,” Chimbetete said. “I realized that that’s what makes them so successful, because everybody has a role to play.”

Currently in post-production, Chimbetete said he plans for the documentary to release in April, with plans of a premiere location being worked out. He said they also plan to release a trailer during early February.

MANNING, PAGE 6



A look into an interview for an upcoming documentary focused on Manning. During the process, co-producer Jack Chimbetete said he enjoyed speaking with “the regular folks” in Manning. Regardless of their age, Chimbetete learned how they all contribute to their hometown.