



# SUMMER SPORTS

*BASEBALL & SOFTBALL*



# Run production will be key for Storm Lake's baseball success

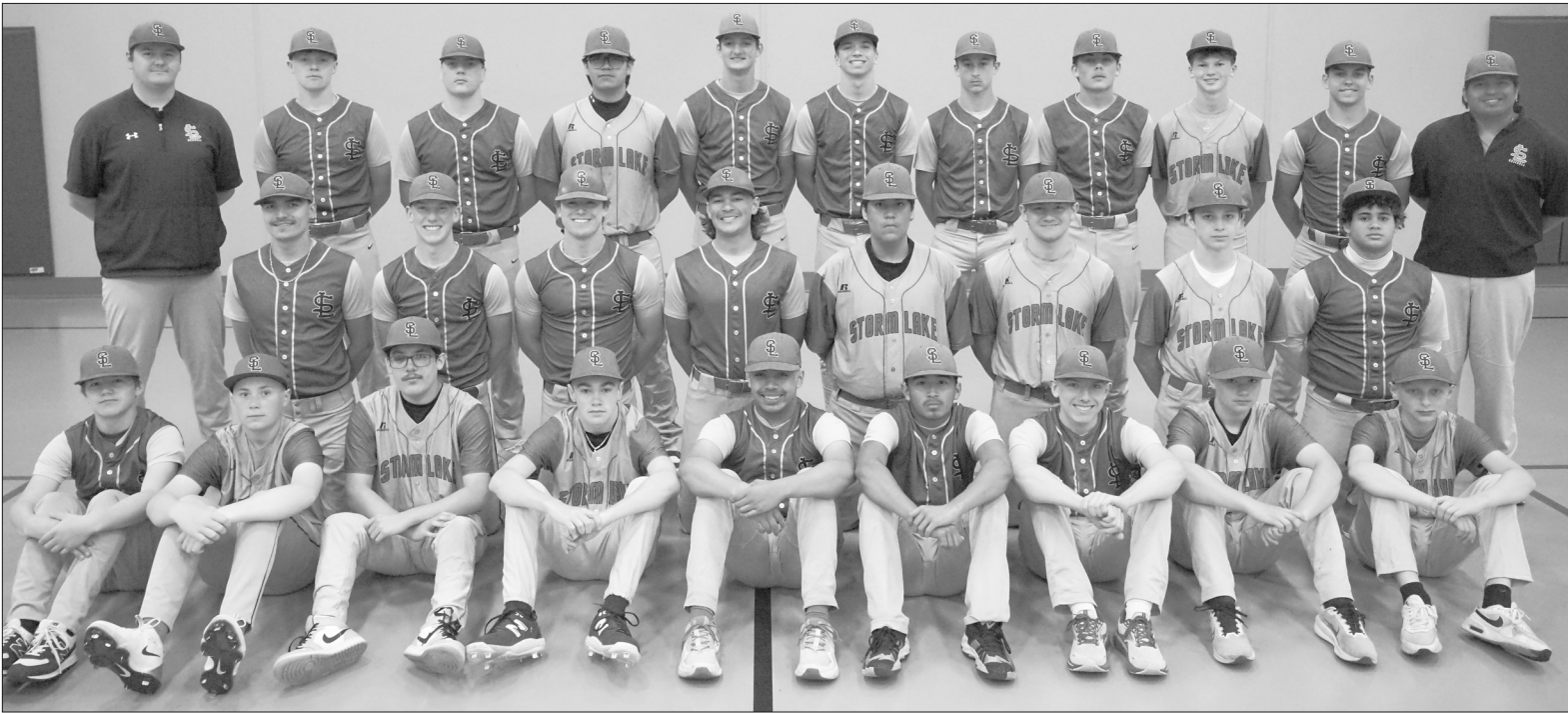
Pitching will more than likely give Storm Lake a chance to win. It's the run production that needs to improve to allow for those opportunities to win games.

Storm Lake averaged 3.6 runs a game last season, and if that number would have been a run-and-a-half more, the Tornadoes would have been undefeated in the Lakes.

That's been the focus heading into this season and it will be a huge factor in how much success Storm Lake has this summer.

"To be competitive and be in the race for a conference title, we have to bring consistency and aggressiveness at the plate each night," Storm Lake coach Michael Knapp said. "Our pitchers will give us a chance to win. It will most likely be up to our at-bats. Last summer, if we averaged 5.0 runs per game rather than our 3.6, we would've gone undefeated in the conference. That has been a big focus for us preparing for this season."

Storm Lake, which went 12-13 last season, returns first team all-district and first team all-conference pitcher Charlie Dvergsten, infielder Brock Edwards, all-conference honorable mention catcher David Gon-



Members of the Storm Lake baseball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Ian Hoffman, Everett Grover, Xavier Rios, Jager Johnson, Abraham Rodriguez, Azael Garcia, Cael Phelps, Brennen Beal and Braxton Richardson. Second row: Peyton Phillips, Bobby Boeckman, Charlie Dvergsten, Brock Edwards, Alric Rodriguez, Michael Miller, Will Landgraf and David Gonzalez-Santos. Third row: head coach Michael Knapp, Bryson Harder, Drew Hogrefe, Jean Dominguez-Lopez, Carson Taylor, Trey Boettcher, Brennen Anderson, Teo Rodriguez, Chase Mathistad, Rylan Richardson and assistant coach Garrett Anderson.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 19	at Ridge View
May 21	at Denison-Schleswig
May 22	at Emmetsburg
May 23	at Le Mars
May 27	at Newell-Fonda
May 28	Pocahontas Area
May 30	at Sioux City West
June 2	at Spirit Lake
June 3	Webster City
June 5	Spirit Lake
June 7	Sioux Center
June 9	Cherokee
June 12	at Cherokee
June 16	at Estherville Lincoln Central
June 17	Carroll
June 19	Estherville Lincoln Central
June 23	at Spencer
June 24	Algona
June 26	Spencer
July 1	Fort Dodge
July 7	MOC-Floyd Valley
July 8	at Humboldt

zalez-Santos, utility player Cael Phelps and outfielder Bobby Boeckman.

There are several top prospects who will help fill the void left by the loss of last year's starters. They include Trey Boettcher, Rylan Richardson, Peyton Phillips, Bryson Harder, Azael Garcia and Carson Taylor.

Knapp measured the team's potential strengths coming into the season, which begins on Monday at Ridge View.

"Our pitching staff will be the strength of this year's team," he said. "We have many guys stepping into different roles who have worked really hard this preseason and shown a lot of potential."

However, there are a few question marks with the team.

"Inexperience in our lineup is going to be a question mark,"

Knapp said. "With just five upper-classmen on the roster, we will rely on several young kids to carry large roles this season."

Knapp discussed how this year's team could be better than the one from a year ago.

"I think this year's team can use their speed and athleticism to give opponents trouble," he said. "It will take some time developing our young hitters, but this group plays aggressive and can do a lot of different things on the bases. That dynamic play style can help our offense improve."

Knapp assessed how the Tornadoes will be offensively.

"Our offense will be the big question mark as to how this summer will go," he said. "We return one player with multiple years of varsity experience, five players with one year playing varsity, and the rest of

our team will be getting their first varsity action. Being comfortable and confident at the plate will be important for us, and will dictate how much success we can expect this summer."

The Tornadoes should be better defensively.

"We've done a good job defensively so far this preseason," Knapp said. "We will have our guys in more natural positions this year than last, and that will really help us when fielding a lineup."

The pitching staff will be the team's best asset.

"Pitching should be our strength this season," Knapp said. "Our top six arms have done a nice job improving as the preseason has unfolded. They all provide a unique skill set that will be fun to pair as starters and relievers."

There are a few important fac-

tors that will dictate how much success the Tornadoes have this season.

"The results we can get from our offense is the biggest factor," Knapp said. "If we can average five runs per game or higher, our pitchers will put us in a position to win almost every night. We have to find a way to string together quality at-bats consistently to produce more runs."

Knapp gave his insight on the conference.

"ELC lost a talented group of seniors, but they are always fielding competitive teams and staying in the mix for the championship," he said. "Spencer and Spirit Lake will be tough challenges as well, and playing Cherokee is never an easy task. It is a very competitive league despite being just five teams. We can finish at the top if we get the run production we are setting goals for."



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# Storm Lake in position to have another successful softball season

Storm Lake is in position once again to have an extremely successful softball season.

The Tornadoes finished second in the Lakes Conference with a 6-2 mark and went 22-4 overall last year.

Seven starters return from that team, including second team all-conference catcher Abby Bodholdt (two home runs, 13 RBI, .973 fielding percentage), second team all-conference pitcher Avery DeHaan (.351 avg., 31 RBI, five home runs, .915 fielding, 137 strikeouts), honorable mention all-Lakes second baseman Lillie Hoffman (12 RBI, .924 fielding), first team all-conference shortstop Maddy Raveling (.435 avg., 27 RBI, three home runs, .938 fielding), second team all-conference third baseman Kennadie Miller (.311 avg., 15 RBI, .892 fielding), first team all-Lakes center fielder Mackenzie Harder (.411 avg., 36 stolen bases) and second team all-Lakes Conference right fielder Cole Richardson (.436 avg., 23 RBI).

Grace Kenkel has been playing first base for junior varsity the past few years and will do a great job filling in at that position. The team has a few prospects that they are looking at for the vacant left field spot, but hasn't made any decisions yet.

Storm Lake coach Jenna Lull-



**Members of the Storm Lake softball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Julie Tapia, Mackenzie Harder, Dikaia Dahlhauser, Nadya Hinojos, Zoe McCoy, Ava McAtee, Allison Galvin, Madison Galvin and Maddy Raveling. Second row: Maddy Lane, Kamryn McCoy, Naunie Mahavong, Lola Banks, Reagan DeHaan, Destiny Brown, Kennadie Miller, Cole Richardson and Ella Robinson. Third row: Abbie Zavala, Keeley Drey, Nyabuom Pal, Lillie Hoffman, Abby Bodholdt, Macy Bodholdt, Avery DeHaan and Grace Kenkel. Not pictured are Ashtyn Titus, Tanya Najera, Dulce Zavala and Olivia Speers.**

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 27	at Newell-Fonda
May 28	at Sioux Central
May 30	at OABCIG
June 2	at Spirit Lake
June 3	Webster City
June 4	at Western Christian
June 5	Spirit Lake
June 6	at Le Mars
June 7	Storm Lake Invitational
June 9	Cherokee
June 10	at Pocahontas Area
June 12	at Cherokee
June 13-14	at OABCIG Tournament
June 16	at Estherville Lincoln Central
June 17	Carroll
June 19	Estherville Lincoln Central
June 20	at GTRA
June 21	at Sioux Center
June 23	at Spencer
June 24	at Humboldt
June 26	Spencer
June 27-28	at Spencer Tournament
July 1	MOC-Floyd Valley
July 2	at Emmetsburg
July 3	at West Monona
July 7	Sioux City West

mann considered the team's potential strengths entering the season.

"I think one of our biggest strengths is that we are returning seven out of nine starters," she said. "Most of these girls have been playing their position at the varsity level since their eighth or ninth grade year and have a lot of experience and team chemistry. I think another team strength is our batting lineup. We have a lot of solid hitters on our team, which doesn't leave many gaps in our lineup. I always feel confident when one of them steps into the box."

However, there are a few question marks with the Tornadoes.

"Our biggest team question marks will be who will start in left field for us this year and fill that spot in the batting lineup," Lullmann said. "We have some upperclassmen who are great hitters, and we are looking into possibilities of a designated player/flex situation and what that could mean for us this summer."

Lullmann discussed how this year's team will be better than last year's.

"I think we have improved because our girls have been working very hard this offseason and have gained speed on their swings, and Avery has been developing her pitching and looks great this pre-season," she said. "We have another year of experience with seven out of nine returning starters, and they are great leaders, which only helps us get better."

Lullmann assessed how the Tornadoes' lineup will be offensively.

"I am very hopeful that we can come out strong this season and have a strong offensive lineup like we have had the past few years," she said. "We have a lot of strong hitters and some speed throughout our lineup that doesn't leave gaps and allows us to do different things at any point in our lineup."

The Tornadoes will be seasoned defensively.

"We have a lot of experience in

both the infield and outfield this season, and that is something invaluable to have," Lullmann said. "The girls have developed the mentality and knowledge needed to make quick, instinctive plays, and I am excited to see what they do this year."

The pitching staff will be led by the ace DeHaan.

"We have a lot of young pitchers to help us out at the different levels this year," Lullmann said. "Avery DeHaan will be returning for us for varsity games, and she is looking great. All of our pitchers have put in the work this winter and are ready to get after it."

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Tornadoes have this season.

"Mentality and drive, I think, will be key factors in our success this season," Lullmann said. "We have a heavier schedule this year and picked up some games against teams we haven't played in the past to give us some new challenges. I

think our mentality and drive to want to win and perform each time we step on the field will be key for us. I know we have the skill. We just have to show up ready to play each and every day."

Lullmann explained what needs to happen for Storm Lake to challenge for the Lakes Conference title.

"To compete for the conference title, we will need to play flawless defense against ELC and put the ball in play," she said. "ELC has a great pitching staff and is a good team that makes plays. We just need to do the same."

Lullmann gave her insight on the Lakes Conference for this season and included her team's position in it.

"I believe we can compete for the top spot in the conference as long as we play good ball," she said. "We have a lot of good teams and tough competition in the conference. ELC will be a good competition and will be our biggest challenge."



# St. Mary's looking to be more competitive in every softball game

Storm Lake St. Mary's struggled to an 0-10 softball season in the Twin Lakes Conference and went 2-17 overall.

However, the Panthers return all-Twin Lakes honorable mention pitcher Neely Bacon and all-conference honorable mention second baseman Avery Smith, center fielder Aubrey Crum, shortstop Ruby Phelps, catcher-first baseman Isabelle Landgraf, catcher-first baseman Peyton Phelps, third baseman Kielee Larson and left fielder Chelsey Gibbins.

Jessa Fetrow will have an every day role in right field, and Harley Doyel will contribute at the plate and in the circle as a pitcher. Eighth grader Maymie Brinkman will also be a major contributor on the field and in the circle.

St. Mary's coach Peter Leo measured the team's strengths heading into the season.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 27	Ar-We-Va
May 29	at Manson NW Webster
May 30	at Siouxland Christian
May 31	at Boyer Valley
June 3	at River Valley
June 4	at West Bend-Mallard
June 6	Emmetsburg
June 9	at Alta-Aurelia
June 10	at Ar-We-Va
June 11	Pocahontas Area
June 12	at East Sac County
June 14	at Trinity Christian Tourney
June 16	GTRA
June 18	Newell-Fonda
June 19	West Bend-Mallard
June 20	at Southeast Valley
June 23	South Central Calhoun
June 24	at Boyer Valley
June 25	at Sioux Central
June 27	Manson NW Webster
June 30	Ridge View
July 1	at Coon Rapids-Bayard
July 3	MVAOCOU (Mapleton)



Members of the Storm Lake St. Mary's softball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Avery Smith, Neely Bacon, Peyton Phelps, Jessa Fetrow, Aubrey Crum and Maymie Brinkman. Second row: Isabelle Landgraf, Chelsey Gibbins, Kielee Larson, Harley Doyel, Ruby Phelps and head coach Peter Leo.

"We return the core of our roster with everyone having more experience with the game of softball and more comfort with their roles on the team," he said.

However, there are some question marks with the Panthers.

"Health, health, health," Leo said. "As long as everyone is healthy, we'll be fine. But with only 12 play-

ers rostered, a nagging injury here or there can really limit our flexibility."

Leo discussed how this year's team will be better than last year's.

"We really understand what it takes to win softball games at this level, and the girls are showing that by really focusing in practice on their individual skill development,"

he said. "Up and down the roster, every player has really worked hard to be the best they can be at their position and at the plate, which makes the whole team that much stronger."

Leo gave an assessment of how the Panthers will be offensively.

"We'll be a stronger offensive team this year for certain," he said.

"Good weather this spring has helped us get our hitters in the box against live pitching a lot sooner than last season, so we'll be more ready for competition."

The Panthers' defense is making a step in the right direction.

"We are continually improving in this area," Leo said. "One of our

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

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# Alta-Aurelia baseball team to have great chemistry this season

Alta-Aurelia had another successful baseball season a year ago as the Warriors won the Twin Lakes Conference title for the third year in a row.

The team went 9-1 in the league and 21-8 overall and returns seven of its top players. Heading the list are first team all-conference outfielder Peyton Meyer, first team all-conference infielder Sam Sennert and first team all-Twin Lakes short-stop and second team all-district utility player Camden Reinert. Sennert was also a second team all-district pick as a pitcher.

Also back are catcher Brayden Marshall, utility player Gabe Olsen, first baseman Maddux McCoy and outfielder Payton Syndergaard.

Angus Miller, Cale Sievers, Tilman Bern and Alex Daughenbaugh are among the players who could increase their contributions from last year.

Alta-Aurelia coach Ryan Burkhart measured the team's potential strengths heading into the season.

"We are a great base running team," he said. "We led the entire state in stolen bases last year. Our pitching could be another strength for us. While we graduated a top flight arm in Cale Brechwald, lots of different guys are looking to make



Members of the Alta-Aurelia baseball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Cale Sievers, Adrik Kolpin, Alex Daughenbaugh, Tilman Bern, Ray Hansen, Daxton Mason, Alex Manteufel and Urijah Thompson. Second row: Kashton Sherwood, James Kelsey, Payton Syndergaard, Dusty Mattson, Dane Gunkelman, Andre Borjas, Connor Brown and Caden Kolar. Third row: assistant coach Kyran Wagner, Angus Miller, Maddux McCoy, Gabe Olsen, Brayden Marshall, Camden Reinert, Peyton Meyer, Sam Sennert, Gable Van Oort, Quintin Jensen, Braxton Lytle and head coach Ryan Burkhart. Not pictured are assistant coach Logan McCoy and assistant coach Chris Hansen.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 28	Woodbury Central
May 29	Unity Christian
June 2	at Westwood
June 3	Cherokee
June 4	Pocahontas Area
June 6	at East Sac County
June 10	at Akron-Westfield
June 11	at Newell-Fonda
June 12	MVAOCO (Mapleton)
June 13	Southeast Valley
June 16	at South Central Calhoun
June 17	Ridge View
June 18	at Sioux Central
June 20	Manson Northwest Webster
June 23	at West Bend-Mallard
June 25	Emmetsburg
June 26	at GTRA
June 28	at North Polk Tournament
July 1	at Coon Rapids-Bayard
July 2	OABCIG

the leap and pitch big innings. I think we will be scrappy at the plate and compete to drive in runs."

However, there are some question marks with the Warriors.

"Cale Brechwald pitched every big game on our schedule the last 3-4 years," Burkhart said. "Someone else will have to toe the rubber in those games. I think guys are excited to be in that position, though."

Burkhart discussed how this year's team could be better than the one from a year ago.

"Our defense has shown improvement, and experience will pay off in that area as guys have gotten another year under their belt," he said.

Burkhart assessed how the Warriors will be offensively.

"I think we will work really hard to put balls in play and be tough outs," he said. "We have speed. We've worked hard this offseason challenging hitters against tough

pitching, so we are hoping that translates to more balls in play."

The Warriors' defense is a work in progress.

"There will be some new faces out there defensively, but those guys will be ready," Burkhart said. "Our outfield should be fast. And our infield has gotten another year older, so I hope to see that experience pay off."

The pitching staff will be a starter by committee approach.

"There might not be one sure-fire ace like we've had in years past," Burkhart said. "I think this year's pitching staff has a mindset of whoever is on the mound taking the role of 'ace'. Each guy has the ability to frustrate opposing lineups and get people out. It's going to be a multi-pronged attack, in my opinion. You could see lots of different arms taking a turn each night as opposed to one guy trying to throw a complete game. We will make those decisions

as we go."

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Warriors have this season.

"I think if our older guys embrace leadership roles, and collectively these guys compete, we are going to be tough to beat," Burkhart said. "Our greatest strength will be our team chemistry. We've had a great tradition at Alta-Aurelia of guys loving to play together and working toward a common goal."

Burkhart explained what needs to happen for Alta-Aurelia to challenge for the conference title.

"You only get one shot at each team, so you have to really minimize the amount of off-nights you have as a squad," he said.

"You have to come to play every night if you want to win the Twin Lakes Conference championship."

Burkhart gave his insight on the conference for this season.

"I think we will be in the mix again for a conference title, but I think it's a relatively wide open field," he said. "Emmetsburg, Pocahontas, Newell-Fonda, Sioux Central and Alta-Aurelia will have some great games against each other. I also think you can't count out any team in this conference. As I look up and down the standings from last year, everyone has room to improve, and in this game, anything can happen."



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# Adjusting to new coach key for Alta-Aurelia's softball success

Alta-Aurelia struggled to a 3-7 softball season in the Twin Lakes Conference a year ago and went 5-19 overall. However, the Warriors have some strong players returning in Caitlyn Mattson, Kadence Langschwager, Peyton Kies, Hayden Berkland, Clare Gunkelman and Leah Kannegieter.

"As a new coach, I have told the team that all varsity positions are available and no one has a secured position from last year," Alta-Aurelia coach Megan Peterson said. "We have 11 freshmen and 10 eighth graders who will be working hard to push the upperclassmen and earn varsity positions. Throughout the spring open gyms, we had seven pitchers and five catchers who worked hard to get better."

Peterson measured the team's strengths entering the season.

"Our best strength this year is our numbers," she said. "We have 31 girls playing at three different levels. Strong numbers will bring competition at each position, pushing



Members of the Alta-Aurelia softball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Allie Stites, Addilyn Langschwager, Eden Ferrusca, Kamdyn Diischer, Amanda Reyes, Grace Garrison, Harper Koth, Macy Droegmiller and Aneissa Yahola. Second row: Bree Anderson, Clare Gunkelman, Jade Mier, Jade Wilkinson, Olivia Binder, Aubree Maldonado, Kadence Langschwager, Morgan Munro, Blair Bunjes and Amarie Olsen. Third row: Hayden Reeves, Peyton Kies, Payton Kruse, Taylor Sherwood, Caitlyn Mattson, Hayden Berkland, Leah Kannegieter, Quimby Kies, Emma Brunning, Elizabeth Schable, Kora Westeen and Lilah Gustafson.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 28	Woodbury Central
May 30	GTRA
May 31	at Kingsley-Pierson Tournament
June 3	at Glidden-Ralston
June 4	Pocahontas Area
June 5	Cherokee
June 6	at East Sac County
June 9	Storm Lake St. Mary's
June 11	at Newell-Fonda
June 13	Southeast Valley
June 16	at South Central Calhoun
June 18	at Sioux Central
June 20	Manson Northwest Webster
June 23	at West Bend-Mallard
June 25	Emmetsburg
June 27	at GTRA
June 28	Alta-Aurelia Tournament
June 30	Sioux Central
July 2	OABCIG
July 3	at Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn

everyone to be their best, which will inevitably make our team stronger."

However, there are some question marks with the Warriors.

"The biggest question mark will be how well the team adjusts to a new coach," Peterson said. "Of course, I do things slightly different than what they are used to. I have different rules, different expectations, a different pre-game routine and different goals, etc. It will come down to how quickly they can adapt to the change. So far, things have gone great."

Peterson discussed how this year's team will be better than the one from a year ago.

"Overall, I think this team will understand the defensive positions and what the expectations are at each position, and we will most certainly be improved offensively," she said. "We have added some variety

to our offense."

Peterson assessed how the Warriors will be offensively.

"Offensively, our team will try to utilize more offensive weapons, keeping the defense on their toes," she said. "Our team also has a lot of speed, so that should make it fun to watch."

The Warriors plan to be better in the field as well.

"Defensively, I see our team being more consistent than last year," Peterson said. "They will understand each position a bit more and know that if they become compliant, we have a few other players who will be given a chance at that position."

The Warriors will have something in the circle this season that they didn't have last season — a pitching staff.

"This year, I am excited that we

actually have a pitching staff," Peterson said. "We won't rely on just one pitcher throughout the season. We had seven pitchers who worked hard in the offseason. If one is having an off-night, we have a few others who will take advantage of the opportunity given to them."

There are a few important factors that will determine the amount of success the Warriors have this summer.

"The amount of success we have this season will really depend on how quickly they adapt to a new coach and implement the new things we are working on," Peterson said. "This team has a lot of potential, but it may take some time to get everything in place. I believe the biggest factor to determine our success is how well everyone accepts and understands their role on any given night."

Peterson explained what needs to happen for Alta-Aurelia to contend for the conference title.

"Any team challenging for the conference title will have to be able to score runs, and our team is no different," she said. "We are going to work hard on using a variety of offensive tools to generate offense and score runs. On the defensive side, our pitching and catching will need to be consistent, and our defense needs to think ahead and know where the play is and execute the play cleanly."

Peterson offered her insight on the conference.

"The Twin Lakes Conference is usually a pretty competitive conference, and I expect this year to be no different," she said. "I am sure every team will have some lineup changes from the previous year, so it is a new year and new season for everyone."

## St. Mary's softball ...

*Continued from page 5*

team's goals is to improve our defensive efficiency this year by turning more weak contact events into outs than we did last year. The girls are all more comfortable in their spots on the field this spring, and that has really helped their confidence on defense."

The pitching staff will be led by Bacon.

"We're spoiled this year," Leo said. "Neely Bacon had an all-conference level season as a sophomore, and she'll be our staff leader once again. The public statistics never tell the whole story, and that's especially true for her. She pitches like an ace every time out and gives us a chance to win. I'm excited to see what she'll accomplish this year."

"Harley Doyel has also really stepped up as a pitcher, and will be pitching a lot more for us this year," Leo added. "Behind them, Maymie

Brinkman has really established herself as a quality pitcher who will compete well in her first crack at this level of the game as she continues to develop her repertoire."

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Panthers have this summer.

"Playing up to our potential in every contest," Leo said. "Playing well in practice is one thing, but playing well against the competition is something else entirely. Every player approaching each game with

the belief that we can beat anyone will be the most important ingredient in our team's success this year."

Leo explained what needs to happen for St. Mary's to be competitive.

"We're not concerned about titles or awards," he said. "Our focus is on competing in every game and giving ourselves a chance to win. If we pitch well, play solid defense and get timely hitting, we'll add to our win total and show just how competitive we can be despite being one

of the smallest schools in the state."

Leo gave his insight on the Twin Lakes Conference.

"Our conference will be strong at the top once again," he said. "Newell-Fonda and Sioux Central will be tough. Southeast Valley is sneaky good. GTRA and Alta-Aurelia both have many good, young players returning, and those teams could contend. Everyone always plays us tough, so I expect we'll need to be at our best to climb up the standings this year."

# Newell-Fonda will be more athletic baseball team this season

Newell-Fonda enjoyed a successful baseball season a year ago as the Mustangs went 8-2 in the Twin Lakes Conference, which was good for second place, and 15-11 overall.

The Mustangs return six regular players from that team, including first team all-conference and second team all-district pitcher Max Carlson and first team all-conference and second team all-district catcher Mason Hoberman.

Also back are honorable mention all-conference infielder Trevor Tauber, infielder Kellen Meyer, and outfielders Jackson Bellcock and Gunnar Baron.

Newell-Fonda will have a few top prospects to help fill the void left by the loss of last year's starters. They include Ian Harrer, Liam Gauley, Lincoln Gauley, Tom Mercer, Cody Wolf, Jack Olsen and An-



Members of the Newell-Fonda baseball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Sawyer Puhrmann, Kinnick Kaufman, Hoyt Hanlon, Carver Brown, Jack Helmkamp, Avery Melohn, Kellen Meyer, Cody Wolf, Ian Harrer, Gunnar Baron and Benrley Jewell. Second row: Brayden Jewell, Jack Olsen, Lincoln Gauley, Liam Gauley, Trevor Tauber, Max Carlson, Mason Hoberman, Jackson Bellcock, Thomas Mercer, Draytn Heun and Andrew Greenfield.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 19	Woodbury Central
May 21	Remsen St. Mary's
May 27	Storm Lake
May 29	at Humboldt
May 30	at Webster City
June 2	Glidden-Ralston
June 4	Manson Northwest Webster
June 6	at West Bend-Mallard
June 7	Newell-Fonda Tournament
June 9	at Emmetsburg
June 11	Alta-Aurelia
June 13	at Pocahontas Area
June 16	East Sac County
June 17	at Coon Rapids-Bayard
June 19	at OABCIG
June 20	GTRA
June 23	Southeast Valley
June 24	Le Mars Gehlen
June 25	at South Central Calhoun
June 26	Sioux Central
June 27	at Spirit Lake
June 30	Ridge View
July 1	at Kingsley-Pierson

drew Greenfield.

Newell-Fonda coach Nathan Baron considered the team's potential strengths heading into the season.

"We are going to be a more athletic ball club this summer," he said. "We want to take advantage of our team speed. We have good leadership at the top of the program with Max and Mason. They have been outstanding in helping the younger players out."

However, there are a few question marks with the Mustangs.

"Youth," Baron said. "We are young and we will have some growing pains along the way. We will need to grow up in a hurry to compete with the teams on our schedule."

Baron discussed how this year's team could be better than the one from a year ago.

"We will have the most athletic infield since I have been associated with the baseball program," he said. "We will also have a better overall fielding ball club this summer, and I look for our hitting to be much improved as well."

Baron assessed how the Mustangs will be offensively.

"We are going to have to be disciplined at the plate and hit the pitches we want, not the ones the pitchers want us to hit. Our increase in team speed should lead to us taking advantage of that on the base paths. We will be a work in progress offensively as our hitters figure out how to hit high school pitching."

The team's defense is coming markedly better.

"We will be better defensively than we were a year ago," Baron said. "Our outfield will be a solid

group, and we as coaches are excited to see what our infielders can do."

The pitching staff will be the cornerstone of the team.

"We will be led by all-conference performer Max Carlson," Baron said. "He will be our workhorse. He is one of the better pitchers in all of Class 1A. After Max, we do have some newcomers eager to show what they can do."

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Mustangs have this season.

"We will be a very young team this summer, so how quickly we can become high school baseball players will be huge for us," Baron said. "Another factor will be can be come to play every night? With our schedule, and in the Twins Lakes Conference, there can be no off-nights."

Baron explained what needs to happen for Newell-Fonda to challenge for the conference title.

"Pitching and defense will lead the way," he said. "We want to make the boring look good, meaning we just want to make the simple plays and get three outs each inning. On offense, we want to take advantage of our speed to put the pressure on the defense."

Baron gave his insight on the conference and included his team's position in it.

"Alta-Aurelia, Emmetsburg, Sioux Central and South Central Calhoun should be the front-runners as we start the season," he said. "We will need to compete each and every night to give ourselves a chance to be near the top of the league. If we can compete every night, I like our chances to be in the top half of our conference."

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# Newell-Fonda poised to have another successful softball season

Newell-Fonda appears poised to have another successful softball season.

The Mustangs return seven starters from last year's team that won the Twin Lakes Conference with a 9-1 mark and went 27-7 overall.

Heading the list is shortstop Kinzee Hinders (.398, 34 RBI), first baseman Jaicee Vanderhoff (.212), outfielder Anna Mercer (.362, 34 RBI), pitcher Jocce Walsh (6-2), outfielder Ellie Sievers (.311), third baseman Rylee Hogrefe and catcher Mylie Hinders (.232).

Camryn Puhmann, Danika Meyer, Bailey Mandernah, Vienna Wingert, Abby Leu and McKayla Hanson are all capable of filling in the positions from last year's players lost to graduation. Each player brings a different aspect to the game that can be utilized.

Newell-Fonda coach Courtney Darrow considered the team's potential strengths heading into the season.

"This group loves to compete," she said. "They look forward to each night and competing to get each other better. They push each other and hold each other accountable. Many of these girls have competed at a high level in state basketball and state track this year and will do whatever it takes to get back to that level. During our preseason practices, we have been making great plays, and that is due to experience



Members of the Newell-Fonda softball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Cecilia Weekley, Aubree Richter, Kyia Copp, Diem Johnson, Hadleigh Neppi, Madelyn Vanderhoff and Kennedy Hoberman. Second row: Quinn Sievers, Danika Meyer, Bailey Mandernach, McKayla Hanson, Vienna Wingert, Abby Leu, Elliot Hamilton and Paige Erickson. Third row: Jaicee Vanderhoff, Camryn Puhmann, Rylee Hogrefe, Ellie Sievers, Anna Mercer, Kinzee Hinders, Mylie Hinders and Jocce Walsh.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 26	Fort Dodge St. Edmond
May 27	Storm Lake
May 28	at Spirit Lake
May 31	at Kingsley-Pierson Tournament
June 3	at Pocahontas Area
June 4	Manson Northwest Webster
June 6	at West Bend-Mallard
June 7	Newell-Fonda Tournament
June 9	at Emmetsburg
June 10	at Estherville Lincoln Central
June 11	Alta-Aurelia
June 13-14	at OABCIG Tournament
June 16	East Sac County
June 17	Ridge View
June 18	at Storm Lake St. Mary's
June 19	GTRA
June 20-21	at Fort Dodge Tournament
June 23	Southeast Valley
June 25	at South Central Calhoun
June 26	Sioux Central
June 27-28	at Spencer Tournament
June 30	at GTRA
July 1	Exira-EHK/Audubon
July 2	Kingsley-Pierson
July 3	Humboldt

and confidence."

However, there may be one minor question mark with the Mustangs.

"We go into every game as a new day," Darrow said. "Trust the process and play hard every out."

Darrow discussed how this year's team could be better than the one from a year ago.

"We have young athletes who are eager to get out on the field," she said. "A lot of our kids can play in multiple positions and do anything for the team to make sure we come out on top at the end of the night."

Darrow assessed how the Mustangs will be offensively.

"Offensively, using our speed on the base paths will be key," she said. "We have to trust our speed, advance ourselves, and push the defense. Our girls swing hard, but also do an excellent job executing the

small ball. We have many girls with a lot of experience at the bat that will help us put the ball in play to give us a chance each game."

Darrow gave an assessment of the team defensively.

"Kinzee is solid at shortstop being a multi-year starter at that position," she said. "She will lead our infield along with her sister Mylie behind the plate. They will be the generals on defense making sure everyone knows where to go. Rylee did an excellent job at the hot corner at third. She has a great glove and her confidence is growing. Jaicee will be another valuable infielder with experience at the corners. Our outfield has speed, which has the capability to cover ground. Anna gets excellent jump and read on balls. She isn't afraid to lay out to get the out. Ellie will be utilized on the field in the infield and outfield

with her athletic speed and smooth glove."

The pitching staff lost all-stater and five-year starter Kierra Jungers, but two capable hurlers return.

"Jocce and Anna are back in the circle for us," Darrow said. "They both have gained confidence in the circle. They are gamers who want the ball in their hands when the game is on the line. They both have good control of their pitches and use of their speed. Ellie has put in a lot of work in the offseason and will see innings throughout the season as well. We have a lot of depth with each one of them bringing their own style of pitching."

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Mustangs have this season.

"Improving each game and learning from each game to improve for the next," Darrow said.

"We have to communicate and be disciplined at the plate. We play a competitive schedule, which will help us develop and improve our game in all aspects. We will have to push each other each day while being consistent."

Darrow explained what needs to happen for Newell-Fonda to challenge for the conference title again this season.

"You only play each team once and they will be key to come ready to play each game," she said. "There are a lot of good teams in our conference with many teams bringing back many experienced players and excellent pitching. Each night will be competitive. Each game will be competitive. It will provide us with a great opportunity to evaluate our game. I can see many teams making a great postseason tournament run. It will be a fun, exciting season."

# Ridge View looks to build on last year's baseball success

Ridge View took some steps toward improvement last baseball season. The Raptors want to take even bigger ones this season.

They definitely have the experience to do that as 10 players return from last year's team that went 6-2 in the Western Valley Conference and 16-10 overall.

Heading the list of returnees is first team all-conference and first team all-district shortstop Blake Myrtue. Also back are second team all-conference first baseman Owen Worthan, second team all-conference and second team all-district outfielder Aiden Myrtue, honorable mention all-conference and second team all-district pitcher Kinnick Jensen, honorable mention all-conference utility player Noah Struck, catcher Ryan Barry, center fielder Eli Franken, first baseman Jack Braun-



Members of the Ridge View baseball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Evan Ramirez, Lane Wandrey, Evan Kolpin, Eli Franken, Jasper Willroth, Leo Nedved, Brock Bisenius, Kaleb Kolpin, Jack Braunschweig, Ryan Barry, Luke Braunschweig, Max Breyfogle and Landen Kluver. Second row: assistant coach Jake Myrtue, head coach Eric Myrtue, Broc Wilken, Karsen Jensen, Aiden Myrtue, Kinnick Jensen, Owen Worthan, Blake Myrtue, Kyle Burk, Noah Struck, Jake Cougill, Ethan Wandrey, assistant coach Ryan Wuebker and assistant coach Evan Grieme. Photo courtesy of Stevenson Studios

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 19	Storm Lake
May 20	IKM-Manning
May 21	at Sioux Central
May 28	at Cherokee
May 29	Kingsley-Pierson
June 3	at OABCIG
June 4	Westwood
June 5	MMCRU (Marcus)
June 9	at West Monona
June 10	at South O'Brien
June 11	MVAOCO (Mapleton)
June 13	at Woodbury Central
June 16	Siouxland Christian
June 17	at Alta-Aurelia
June 18	at Lawton-Bronson
June 23-26	at Western Valley Tournament
June 30	at Newell-Fonda
July 3	at East Sac County

schweig and designated hitter Kyle Burk.

Utility player Broc Wilken, outfielder Jake Cougill, utility player Luke Braunschweig and first baseman Brock Bisenius are top prospects who will provide depth for the Raptors.

Ridge View coach Eric Myrtue considered the team's potential strengths entering the season.

"We return a lot of starters from last year's district final team, so that will help with getting to the next level because guys have been there," Myrtue said. "We also have a lot of baseball guys in the program now. They have worked really hard in the offseason and hopefully that translates to the season."

However, there are some ques-

tion marks with the Raptors.

"We have a lot of good baseball players, so finding time for everyone will be challenging," Myrtue said. "We have a lot of good arms, so finding the right rotation and innings will be challenging as well."

Myrtue discussed how this year's team will be better than last year's.

"The offseason program has definitely made us better," he said. "Couple that with a lot of experience coming back and we should be in a good position to compete."

Myrtue gave an assessment of how the Raptors will be offensively.

"Offensively, we were solid last year, so we are looking to expand on that this year," he said. "Guys have put the work in and we are hoping that pays off."

The Raptors improved defensively a season ago and will be even better this season.

"Defensively, we had a goal last year to cut our errors in half from the previous year and we were able to do that," Myrtue said. "We are looking to be even tougher this year."

The pitching staff, which includes Jensen, Blake Myrtue, Aiden Myrtue, Struck and Barry, has a lot of experienced arms.

"We return virtually everyone from last year's staff, so we are looking to build on the success of the staff last year," Myrtue said.

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Raptors have this season.

"Consistency night in and night

out," Myrtue said. "Not having let-downs and showing up every night will take us a long way."

Myrtue explained what needs to happen for Ridge View to challenge for the Western Valley Conference title.

"We were close last year, but you have to beat the top," he said. "We were able to take down Kingsley-Pierson last year, but then stumbled against OABCIG and Woodbury Central. The top four or five teams in this conference are close, so it's up to us to play good baseball to get to the top."

Myrtue gave his insight on the conference for this season.

"The top four or five teams are close, so whoever plays better baseball will come out on top," he said.

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THE STORM LAKE TIMES PILOT SUMMER SPORTS PREVIEW

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025



# Ridge View poised to have another successful softball season

Ridge View is poised to have another successful softball season as the Raptors return six starters from last year's team that finished 6-2 in the Western Valley Conference and 19-12 overall.

Heading the list of returning players is first team all-conference and first team all-district catcher Reese Hawthorne, second baseman Savannah Cudaback, and outfielders Addison Tesch and Leslie Avina.

Also back are second team all-conference shortstop Zoey Aschinger, shortstop-catcher Hannah Brown, pitcher-outfielder Madelynn Horan, pitcher-utility player Hannah Brown, infielder Brynlee Grieme, outfielder Cora Tesch and infielder Haley Wright.

The Raptors have five top prospects to help fill the void left by the loss of last year's starters. They include pitcher-outfielder Made-lynn Horan, pitcher-utility player Hannah Brown, infielder Brynlee Grieme, outfielder Cora Tesch and infielder Haley Wright.

Ridge View first-year coach Barry Andersen measured the team's potential strengths entering



Members of the Ridge View softball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Lovely Serrano-Castillo, Vada Martin, Hannah Brown, Melany Horan, Haley Wright, Cora Tesch, Chloe Kinney and Taylour Hein. Second row: Carly Spanier, Gracelyn Thompson, Madelynn Horan, Zoey Aschinger, Emma Mentzer, Reese Hawthorne, Addison Tesch, Savannah Cudaback, Brynlee Grieme and Leslie Avina. Photo courtesy of Stevenson Studios

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 27	Kingsley-Pierson
May 28	at Cherokee
June 3	at OABCIG
June 4	Westwood
June 6	River Valley
June 7	at Sheldon Tournament
June 9	at West Monona
June 10	at South O'Brien
June 11	MVAOCOU (Mapleton)
June 13	at Woodbury Central
June 16	Siouxland Christian
June 17	at Newell-Fonda
June 18	at Lawton-Bronson
June 19	at Kingsley-Pierson
June 23	at Glidden-Ralston
June 24	at Woodbine
June 25-26	at Western Valley Tournament
June 30	at Storm Lake St. Mary's
July 2	at GTRA
July 3	at East Sac County

the season.

"We have an excellent senior leader with Emma and we also have a strong core of junior athletes," he said. "Last year, we hit .277 as a team, so we will look to build on that this year. Our goal is to hit over .300 as a team. We will look to be aggressive offensively in order to put pressure on the defenses we face."

However, there are some question marks with the Raptors.

"Last year, we had a fielding percentage of .906," Andersen said. "We will need to play solid defense and minimize both physical and mental mistakes. We will need

some of our young players to step and fill the voids that were left by last year's seniors."

Andersen gave an assessment of how the Raptors will be offensively and in the field.

"We hit .277 as a team last year, so our goal is to have a team batting average above .300," he said. "We had a team fielding percentage of .906 last year. Our goal is to have at least a .950 fielding percentage this year."

Andersen assessed the Raptors' pitching staff.

"Zoey Aschinger will be our No. 1 pitcher this year," he said. "She has

quite a bit of experience in the circle. We will also have Madelynn Horan and Hannah Brown that will get some innings this year."

There are a few important factors that will determine the amount of success the Raptors have this season.

"We will need our offense to consistently put pressure on defenses in order to score runs," Andersen said. "Our pitchers will need to keep hitters off-balance and limit the number of walks issued. We also need all of our players to stay healthy."

Andersen explained what Ridge

View needs to do to challenge for the conference title.

"Last season, our conference opponents had a .183 batting average against us," he said. "We gave up the fewest hits allowed in the conference last season (156). We will need to play solid defense and score more runs."

Andersen offered his insight on the conference for this season.


"West Monona and MVAOCOU will both be solid again this year," he said. "Woodbury Central will also have a pretty good club. We are hopeful we can compete with those teams."



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# Sioux Central more mentally, physically mature baseball team

Sioux Central had a .500 baseball season a year ago, but the Rebels have the returning experience to get over that hump this season.

Sioux Central returns a total of 10 players from last year's team that went 6-4 in the Twin Lakes Conference and 12-12 overall.

Heading the list of returnees is first team all-conference and first team all-district infielder Max Wittmaack. Also back are first team all-conference and second team all-district outfielder Owen Mills, honorable mention all-conference catcher Andrew Nelson, infielder Boden Bright, outfielder Jack Christian, outfielder Hunter Cooper, in-



Members of the Sioux Central baseball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Caden Smith, Hunter Cooper, Perry Spooner, Sawyer Hollesen, Jack Christian, Andrew Nelson, Remi McGregor and Cristhian Reyes. Second row: assistant coach Ethan Johnson, Boden Bright, Connor Brown, Carter Smith, Max Wittmaack, Owen Mills, Luke Chindlund, Chase Heuton and head coach Alan Vasher.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 19	at Estherville Lincoln Central
May 21	Ridge View
May 28	Sheldon
May 29	at Le Mars Gehlen
May 31	Sioux Central Tournament
June 3	Manson Northwest Webster
June 4	at Southeast Valley
June 5	at Cherokee
June 6	South Central Calhoun
June 9	at GTRA
June 10	at Okoboji
June 11	at Manson Northwest Webster
June 13	West Bend-Mallard
June 16	Emmetsburg
June 18	Alta-Aurelia
June 19	South O'Brien
June 20	at Pocahontas Area
June 23	at East Sac County
June 24	Western Christian
June 25	at West Lyon
June 26	at Newell-Fonda
June 28	at North Polk Tournament
July 1	at MMCRU (Marcus)
July 3	Spencer

fielders Peyton Otto, Sawyer Hollesen and Caden Smith, and outfielder Chase Heuton.

Connor Brown, Remi McGregor, Cristhian Reyes and Carter Smith will be top prospects who will provide the depth for the Rebels.

Sioux Central coach Alan Vasher measured the team's strengths and concerns.

"Experience and the number of returning players will be our strengths," he said. "Team cohe-

siveness will be a question mark. We will have some new guys in new roles. The sooner we accept those and excel, the better we will be."

Vasher discussed how this year's team could be better than the one from a year ago.

"We have another year of experience under our belt," he said. "We had a lot of guys playing new positions for the first time at the varsity level. We are more physically and mentally mature at this point."

The Rebels will lean on their experienced pitching staff this season, which will include Wittmaack, Bright, Cooper, Otto and Smith.

"With most of our staff returning, we will rely on the pitchers to be solid in games," Vasher said.

There are a few important factors that will dictate how much success the Rebels have this season.

"We have a tough schedule and know that there will be ups and

downs," Vasher said. "The more even-keel we can keep our emotions, the better the season will be for us."

Vasher offered his team's outlook in the Twin Lakes Conference for this season.

"I feel that we have enough returning talent and experience to have a good conference season," he said. "We will have to gel as a team, but I would expect us to be competitive on a nightly basis."

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# Sioux Central eager to build off last year's softball success

Sioux Central will be looking to build off the success from last season with the return of three key players from last year's Twin Lakes Conference champion team that went 21-7.

Returners who were first team all-conference selections last year are catcher Nichole Hart and infielder Natalie Laursen. Hart collected 32 hits in 95 plate appearances for a .337 average. She drove in 27 runs and scored nine runs. Hart had an on-base percentage of .369 and a slugging percentage of .347. Defensively, Hart committed two errors in 206 total chances for a fielding percentage of .990.

Laursen produced 40 hits in 94 at-bats for a .426 average. She hit four doubles, drove in 31 runs and scored 15 runs. Laursen had an on-base percentage of .446 and a slugging percentage of .468. She struck out only once all season. Laursen committed 11 errors in 200 total chances for a .945 fielding percentage.

Avery Wilson was a second team all-conference selection as an outfielder, producing 27 hits in 87 plate appearances for a .310 average. She hit three triples, scored 22 runs and drove in 19 runs. Wilson had a .394 on-base percentage and a .448 slugging percentage. Wilson, who stole 22 bases, committed five errors in 32 total chances for an .844 fielding



Members of the Sioux Central softball team are pictured from left to right, front row: Sage Weber, Marley Madsen, Nora Christian, Alexa Peterson, Victori Meyer, Nevaeh Brauhn and Nichole Hart. Second row: Ava McCarty, Brogan Johannsen, Kailee Laursen, Natalie Laursen, Avery Wilson, Miina Adams, Cora Drefke, Matilyn Trierweiler and Kennedy Brown.

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent
May 28	Storm Lake
May 29	Harris-Lake Park
June 3	Manson Northwest Webster
June 4	at Southeast Valley
June 5	Pocahontas Area
June 6	South Central Calhoun
June 7	at Newell-Fonda Tournament
June 9	at GTRA
June 11	at Manson Northwest Webster
June 12	at Estherville Lincoln Central
June 13	West Bend-Mallard
June 14	at Woodbury Central Tournament
June 16	Emmetsburg
June 17	at Kingsley-Pierson
June 18	Alta-Aurelia
June 19	Hinton
June 20	at Pocahontas Area
June 23	at East Sac County
June 24	at MMCUR (Marcus)
June 25	Storm Lake St. Mary's
June 26	at Newell-Fonda
June 28	at Okoboji Tournament
June 30	at Alta-Aurelia
July 1	at South O'Brien
July 2	Woodbury Central
July 3	GTRA

percentage.

Several players are expected to step up and fill the roles of last year's graduated starters. With a strong group of returning athletes and developing talent, the team has multiple prospects ready to make an impact this season.

Sioux Central first-year coach Jessy Bibler considered the team's potential strengths coming into the season.

"A strength this season is our team culture," she said. "The girls have really come together, showing strong chemistry and a shared commitment to improvement. They're coachable, dedicated and consistently put in the work. Their eagerness to compete and willingness to support one another have created a positive, driven environment that we believe will translate to success on the field."

However, there are some question marks with the Rebels.

"With new faces stepping into key roles, one question mark is simply inexperience at the varsity level," Bibler said. "However, this also brings a lot of excitement. These athletes are hungry to prove them-

selves, and their work ethic and coachability have been outstanding. As they gain more reps and confidence, we expect them to grow quickly and contribute in meaningful ways."

Bibler discussed how this year's team could be better than last year's.

"This year's team is eager to build off last season," she said. "The players have come in with strong chemistry and a clear commitment to getting better every day. There's a noticeable drive to compete and improve, and that mindset is helping us grow as a team."

Bibler gave an assessment of how the Rebels will be offensively.

"Offensively, we have the potential to be a well-rounded lineup," she said. "We return some key hitters with experience and power, and we've seen encouraging progress from younger players stepping into bigger roles. Our focus has been on quality at-bats, smart baserunning and executing in key situations. If we continue trending in that direction, we expect to be competitive at the plate throughout the season."

Defense is a work in progress.

"Defensively, we're working hard

to be consistent and dependable across the field," Bibler said. "We have solid leadership up the middle and a group that takes pride in making the routine plays. With several players gaining experience in new positions, communication and reps have been a big focus. As the season progresses, we expect our defense to be a steady strength and continue to improve with each game."

The pitching staff will be comprised of veteran and rookie hurlers.

"Our pitching staff will feature a mix of returning arms and new faces this season," Bibler said. "We have returners who bring some varsity experience to the circle, and they've shown growth and maturity heading into the year. The newcomers have stepped in with a lot of energy, passion and a strong willingness to compete. As a group, they're focused, coachable and ready to make an impact this season."

There are a few important factors that will determine the amount of success the Rebels have this summer.

"Our success this season will come down to how well we stay focused on continuous improvement

and how effectively we execute fundamentals under pressure," Bibler said. "Key factors will include our ability to communicate on the field and maintain consistency in both offense and defense opportunities."

Bibler explained what needs to happen for Sioux Central to contend for the conference title.

"To challenge for the conference title, it will be important for us to stay consistent in our execution game after game," she said. "Strong communication, minimizing errors and capitalizing on scoring opportunities will be key. Additionally, our ability to stay mentally tough in close situations and maintain a positive attitude will help us stay competitive throughout the season."

Bibler gave her insight on the conference for this season.

"The conference features several competitive teams and every night will bring a solid challenge," she said. "While the level of competition varies, we know that success requires consistent effort and focus. Our team is ready to compete hard and believes we can be a strong contender within the conference again this season."

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## The Storm Lake Times Pilot

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## The Storm Lake Times Pilot has the BEST NEWS

**FARMTIMES** Murrys enjoy Farm Bureau trip to Brazil  
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**The Storm Lake Times**  
STORM LAKE, IOWA — The City Beautiful ■ FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020 ■ S1

**TV Times**  
IN THIS ISSUE  
Complete listings of  
local cable channels

**IN THE NEWS**

**IN SPORTS: NEW ON FOR**  
Storm Lake Indians  
Storm Lake Indians  
Spring sports suspended  
by high school athletes.  
Page 10A

**UNCERTAIN STORIES SET ASIDE**  
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL  
Forecast and Hy-Vee have  
not added the first hour of  
the day for customers who  
are considered vulnerable  
to the coronavirus, such as  
people over age 60. They  
are curbside pickup and  
drive up service.  
Page 1A

**OPINION: MAIL YOUR VOTE**  
TO NEW ELECTIONS DATE  
Election officials have  
asked the public to mail  
their ballots. The deadline  
is May 19. The deadline  
for the take-out and delivery  
service is May 19.  
Page 1B

**COURTNEY**  
Courtney Duncan, 77,  
Tuesdays  
Page 2B

**File for jobs**  
benefits online  
Employees in-  
sured by COVID-19  
can and should apply  
for unemployment  
benefits online at  
https://www.iowa.gov  
for more information.  
The claimant-unemploy-  
ment insurance agency  
is in order to comply  
with recommended  
guidelines, including  
large gatherings, Iowa  
Workforce Develop-  
ment strongly encour-  
ages claimants to use  
the online application.

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Sports... 4B  
TV Listings... 4B

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times@stormlake.com

**Hi GIG!**  
Methodist Minister resident Jane Duncan has  
some special visitors Wednesday. Four genera-  
tions of family are in the picture: Jane is waving  
to her daughter Kate Nichols, granddaughter Jan-  
dan Jorgensen, and great-grandchildren Rose,  
Vicki and Jane.

**Laucyers seek release of**  
inmates awaiting trial  
Local attorneys are discussing the possibility of in-  
mate releases from the Buena Vista County Jail as the  
most viable that have been put on hold.  
The Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court has  
suspended all criminal and civil trials to dates no later than  
April 20 and May 1, respectively. County Attorney Paul  
Allen told The Storm Lake Times that attorneys are currently meeting  
to discuss the possibility of inmate releases.  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A

## coronavirus pandemic SEEKING SECURITY IN UNSEEN STORM

Police urge  
calm as some  
jobs shut off

**BY TOM CULLEN**  
Local law enforcement is  
asking the public to maintain  
a sense of calm in the  
face of the impact of the novel  
coronavirus, which has al-  
ready shut down businesses of  
all types from Lake Avenue to  
Hatch Drive.  
Storm Lake Police Chief  
Patrick Dickman told The  
Storm Lake Times that law en-  
forcement's priority is to  
maintain order and safety.  
He said that the closure of  
public spaces of all types  
is a challenge.  
All the bars in town have  
closed their doors to the public, save  
for the take-out and delivery  
businesses.  
Iowa Workforce Develop-  
ment is looking for ways to  
help businesses stay afloat.  
Unemployment claims have  
increased significantly in the  
last few weeks.  
The closure of businesses  
and schools has led to an  
increase in the number of  
people seeking food and  
shelter.  
Dickman said the new en-  
forcement is a challenge.  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A



Tom Larson and Bryan Reed deliver each lunch to children from Vista Estates Mobile Home Park, across from  
the North Street ball field 1:15 p.m. Wednesday. TIMES photos by DOLORES CULLEN

## Property taxes to increase County, school levies up; city rate down slightly

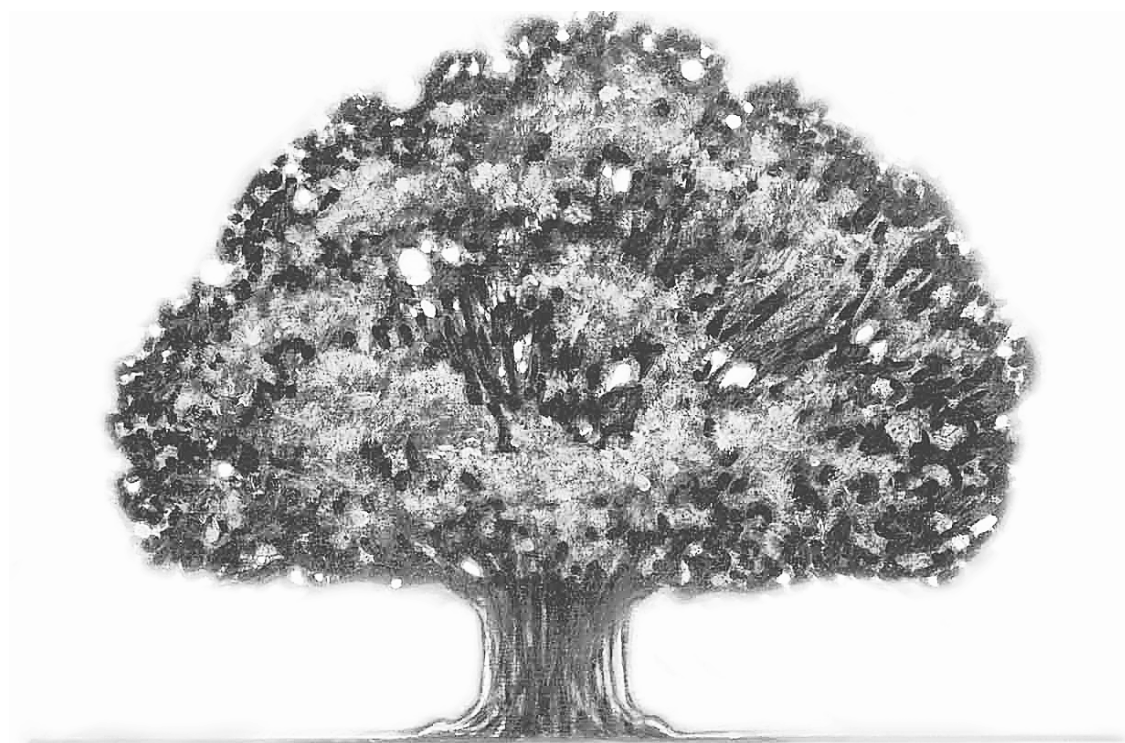
**BY TOM CULLEN**  
In the wake of mass business  
closures and expected layoffs,  
Storm Lake residents are  
concerned about the impact of  
property taxes. The city of  
Storm Lake is expected to  
raise its rate by 1.5 percent  
in 2021. The school district  
is expected to raise its rate  
by 1.5 percent. The city of  
Storm Lake is expected to  
lower its rate by 0.5 percent.  
The impact is expected to be  
the most severe on large prop-  
erty owners in Storm Lake School  
District, but outside the city of  
Storm Lake, according to a re-  
view of budgets from the  
county's major taxing entities.  
The school district levy is  
expected to increase \$1.70 per  
\$1,000 to \$17.17 per \$1,000, a  
9.9% increase.  
SLSD Business Manager  
Trudy Pedersen notified the in-  
crease to the school gym this spring.  
She said that the increase is  
needed to maintain the school  
building and to pay for the ad-  
dition of a new gymnasium.  
The city of Storm Lake is ex-  
pected to raise its rate by 1.5  
percent in 2021. The city of  
Storm Lake is expected to  
lower its rate by 0.5 percent.  
The impact is expected to be  
the most severe on large prop-  
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county's major taxing entities.  
The school district levy is  
expected to increase \$1.70 per  
\$1,000 to \$17.17 per \$1,000, a  
9.9% increase.



COVID-19 hasn't stopped  
Storm Lake School Dis-  
trict's lunch program. Three  
children make media off  
school from the breakfast  
and lunch each weekday.  
St. Mary's students also  
may participate for free.  
Far left photo: Denise  
Struck, center, and Sylvia  
Larson, far right, drop off  
lunches in Lakeland.  
Left: Julieta Medina is  
ready to go home and eat.

**Practice some social distancing, starting**  
It's the first day of spring and Ponds photographer Scott Kilbuck is out catching the ac-  
tion. At the "Sheddown" camp where he drops food for wildlife, a male cardinal mind-  
ing his own business is harassed by a starting.

**Local attorneys are discussing the possibility of in-**  
mate releases from the Buena Vista County Jail as the  
most viable that have been put on hold.  
The Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court has  
suspended all criminal and civil trials to dates no later than  
April 20 and May 1, respectively. County Attorney Paul  
Allen told The Storm Lake Times that attorneys are currently meeting  
to discuss the possibility of inmate releases.  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2A



# Deeply rooted in Buena Vista County

Like the sturdy oak tree, The Storm Lake Times is rooted deep in the rich soil of Buena Vista County. We're home-grown, graduates of the local schools, patrons of the local businesses, nurtured by families who have made this one of the best places on earth to live. We are committed to the growth and prosperity of this area because the people who own The Times live here and work here. The Times is the only locally owned newspaper in Buena Vista County. It is with this faith that we invest in equipment, facilities and people to make The Times an even better newspaper.

As our roots reach deeper and deeper into our rich productive land, we have never been stronger or better fitted for continued growth and service to the communities we serve.

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