

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

A look at area teams. Section C-D

DAKOTA COUNTY STAR

Since 1909

1000 West 29th St., South Sioux City, NE 68776 Volume 113, Issue 49 26 pages \$1.00 Thursday, December 5, 2024

STAR CALENDAR

Upcoming print schedules

The Dakota County Star offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays on Wednesday, Dec. 25 and Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Papers for that week's edition will be printed on Thursdays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, with corresponding delivery delays due to the holiday schedule.

Legal, advertising and editorial deadline adjustments will be announced in a future issue.

Coffee Hour Friday

This Friday's Chamber Coffee Hour will take place at Siousland Bank, located at 1001 West 29th Street.

Coffee starts at 9:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 10 a.m.

City Council meeting

The City Council of South Sioux City will meet Monday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Newly-elected Council members will be sworn in at this meeting.

A current agenda is available at www.southsiouxcity.org.

County Board to meet

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners will hold its next meeting on Monday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. in the Dakota County Courthouse.

A current agenda is available at www.dakotacounty.ne.gov.

School Board meeting

The South Sioux City Community Schools Board of Education will meet Monday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m. in the high school library.

A current agenda for the meeting is available at www.scccardinals.org.

Cardinal Vision meeting

The fourth in a series of five Cardinal Vision meetings will be held Tuesday, Dec. 10 from 6-8 p.m. at the South Sioux City Middle School gymnasium.

For more information on the meeting, go to www.cardinalvision.org.

LOCAL WEATHER

Data Courtesy National Weather Service FOR WEEK OF DEC. 5-11, 2024

Day	High	Low	Conditions
THURSDAY	20	13	Partly cloudy.
FRIDAY	42	23	Mostly sunny.
SATURDAY	52	28	Sunny.
SUNDAY	51	29	Mix of clouds and sun.
MONDAY	41	17	Mostly cloudy.
TUESDAY	28	15	Mostly cloudy.
WEDNESDAY	35	22	Mostly sunny.



CARDINAL CHRISTMAS BASKETS DONATIONS

\$10,000

\$20,000

\$30,000

\$6,825

Send donations to South Sioux City Community Foundation, PO Box 987, South Sioux City, NE 68776

THINK OF SOMETHING CREATIVE



Natalie Barclay (left) and her mother, Amber, have always enjoyed their "coffee time" together, and now they get to do it with the opening of Good Roots Coffee Co. in downtown Homer.

(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

Mother and daughter make daily coffee into Homer business

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

When Natalie Barclay was a senior at Homer High School, she would come home each day to enjoy a cup of coffee with her mom.

Amber Barclay was running a daycare center in her home at the time, and the daily cup of coffee with her daughter led to a lot of discussions about life — including starting up a coffee shop.

"I took a business class in high school, and one of the projects was to build your own business," Natalie said.

The business? A coffee shop, naturally. Taking a short break after three years working at Scooter's Coffee in South Sioux City, Natalie discovered that starting your own coffee shop is even more fun than working at one.

"I worked at Scooter's and I just loved it. It was the best job I've ever had," she said.

"I loved the atmosphere and chatting with people and building those relationships. I tried doing an 'adult' job for a few months but nothing felt the same."

With that idea in mind, she and her mother opened Good Roots Coffee Co. at its location in downtown Homer this past summer.

"We had always talked about opening a coffee shop, because we're coffee people," she said.

Her mother agreed. "When I was little, my grandmother would make us cappuccinos and we'd sit around the coffee table and talk," Amber said. "Even after I had my kids, we'd go visit her and she'd always have coffee ready."

Coming from a family of entrepreneurs (father Jessie owns his own construction company), it seemed only natural that Natalie would come up with the idea. And the timing and location couldn't have been better.

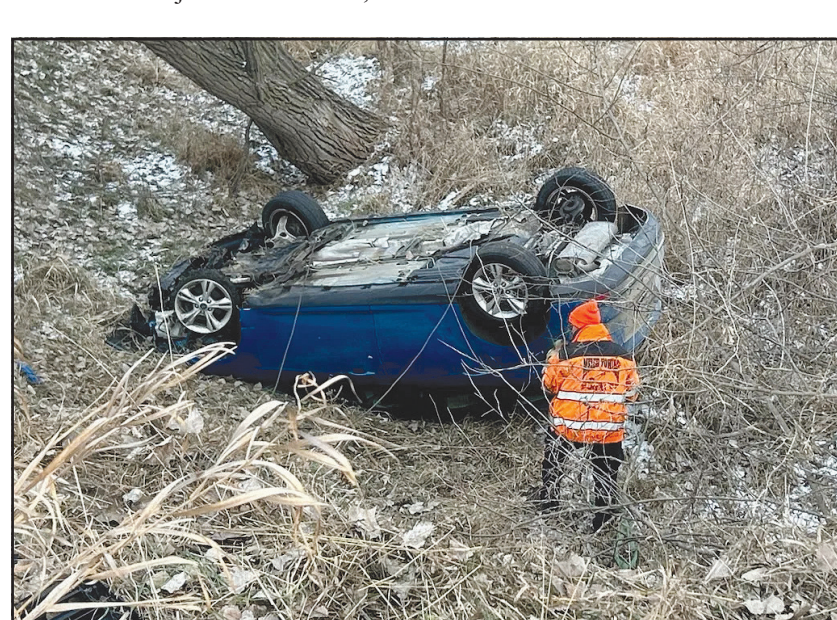
"We were only using this space once a week for yoga classes," said Amber Barclay, who also has her own massage therapy in their 17 John Street location. "Natalie came up with the idea of opening her own coffee shop, and we thought this would be the perfect space for it."

One step inside the business will tell you all you need to know — with comfortable seating and a pleasant, friendly vibe, the coffee shop is a great place to stop in and sit down for a cup of coffee.

It's a popular location in town during the morning, as well as in the afternoon after the kids get out of school.

"When I was a kid, there wasn't much to do in town except walk across the highway to the convenience store, and that wasn't always the safest option," Natalie said. "Now, the kids can come down here and hang out and don't have to go across the highway to

SEE COFFEE, 2A



(PHOTO COURTESY KCAU-TV)

Authorities investigate the scene of a crash along Highway 35 near Hubbard Monday afternoon. An Ohio man began fleeing from authorities north of Pender and was pursued by Thurston County Sheriff's deputies and the Nebraska State Patrol when the crash occurred.

Ohio man arrested as pursuit ends near Hubbard Monday

The Nebraska State Patrol arrested an Ohio man near Hubbard late Monday afternoon after a chase that began in Thurston County.

According to Cody Thomas, public relations director for the Nebraska State Patrol, the man was caught after his car went over stop sticks and crashed in a ravine along Highway 35 west of Hubbard. He fled from the scene but was struck with a taser and eventually taken into custody.

At about 3:20 p.m. Monday, the Nebraska State Patrol was notified that Thurston County deputies were in pursuit of a Ford Focus on Highway 9 south of Emerson. Troopers responded to assist in the chase, which went through Emerson and continued on Highway 35.

A state trooper successfully deployed stop sticks to slow the vehicle as state troopers took over the pursuit, which lasted another mile before the vehicle

went off the roadway and into a ravine. The driver attempted to flee on foot, but was hit with a taser by a trooper who chased him on foot and the suspect was taken into custody.

The suspect, Kerry Moore, 50, of Cleveland, Ohio, was taken to the Pender Community Hospital for treatment before being turned over to the Thurston County Sheriff's Offices. Charges were pending at press time.

According to information from the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, Moore had been at a residence in the county and was told to leave. The resident forwarded information about him and his vehicle, which prompted the later pursuit. Thurston County authorities later discovered the man had an active arrest warrant in Arkansas.

New roads will need to be named

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

Some current and soon-to-be completed streets will be getting some new names in the near future.

At Monday's Public Works Committee meeting, a quorum was not present with two members missing, but the committee did discuss several items that will come up for a final decision at next week's City Council meeting.

Chief among the items discussed Monday were several streets in the community that need to be named to they can be platted by the city.

The process for naming the streets is a simple one, and city officials said the community could suggest ideas for certain streets.

Mike O'Brien had a suggestion for the semi-circle at Veterans Drive.

"I would like to see that named Bill McClarty Circle," he said, suggesting the name of a former mayor of South Sioux City. "He was a veteran and was our mayor, and was a very important citizen to the community. I think he should be honored somehow, and that would be a good place."

Several streets are on the list of those that either need an official name or are suggestions for new names, including the street in Klasay Park, the entry to the interpretive center at Freedom Park, the new solar farm, a road that runs past East 17th Street by the soccer fields, the current Riverview Drive North that runs between the baseball fields near the river, and Veterans Drive.

The committee also heard from Fire Chief Doug Koopman about an emergency alert system that would be installed on the city's emergency vehicles (fire and rescue) capable of sending messages to drivers in the area to alert them of a situation where emergency vehicles are located.

"Once a week, a law enforcement officer, a firefighter or a paramedic is killed by a moving vehicle," Koopman noted, adding that an accident would also impact the department's entire fleet.

The HAAS emergency alert system is installed in an emergency vehicle that communicates to navigation systems. People with cell phones in their car receive an alert that they are approaching an emergency vehicle along the road and alerts them to move over to avoid emergency workers.

The cost to the city to install the devices on the fire and rescue units would run about \$2,400, or about \$600 per unit. Koopman added that similar setups are being used in Norfolk and North Sioux City, and newer personal vehicles will have this technology installed as a standard feature.

The committee also heard a request from the YMCA requesting that the road going from the pool to the YMCA be designated as a west-bound one-way street.

EDUCATION COMMISSIONER VISITS SSC SCHOOLS



(PHOTO BY LANCE SWANSON)

State Education Commissioner Dr. Brian Maher visited the South Sioux City Community Schools Monday. With Dr. Maher was assistant commissioner, Ryan Foor. The visit showcased Harney Elementary's exceptional achievements, highlighting its "Excellent" classification in back-to-back years. Dr. Maher had a brief tour of key areas within the school that exemplified academic and community engagement. The next stop was the student-built home across the street from Harney Elementary School to highlight the hands-on learning and real-world experience facilitated by the Construction and Engineering College and Career Academy. The last stop was at EN Swett Preschool to observe early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds and discuss the district's commitment to foundational learning. Also pictured are Superintendent Dr. Rony Ortega and Board of Education member Marla Grier.

Landmand launches 'Layover' stay and play package

The acclaimed Landmand Golf Club near Homer has launched the Landmand Layover stay-and-play package, which guarantees golfers who book a night in the course's cabins two rounds on the course, which sold out its entire 2024 tee time inventory in less than three hours.

The Layover packages went on sale Monday, Nov. 18, some six weeks in advance of Landmand's launch of its tee time bookings for 2025, which happens on New Year's Eve. The cabins, located below the 18th fairway of the golf course, each contains four bedrooms.

"We have launched these Layover packages to give more golfers the option to play 36 holes while staying on property," general manager Adam Fletcher said. "Given the pressure on our inventory, which has increased in the two full seasons we have been open, a number of the guests who were staying in our cabins have said they would have liked to play an additional round, but tee times were not available. These packages provide a first look at the 2025 tee sheet, guaranteeing golfers who book them 36 holes. Our goal is to allow guests to choose their ideal rounds, but

we should note that, although booking the package guarantees you two tee times, precisely when those tee times will be will not be guaranteed - it is first come, first served. As this is a new concept for 2025, we are wading into new waters, but we expect the Layover packages to be very popular."

Landmand Layover packages can be booked by visiting the course's website, www.landmandgc.com. The 2025 season runs from May 17 to Sept. 28.

COFFEE: Mother, daughter turn love of coffee into downtown Homer shop

from Page 1A

get a treat." Good Roots not only offers a variety of coffee and energy drink options, but some tasty homemade treats as well, including cookies and breakfast sandwiches.

"Everything is homemade," Amber said. "We had explored outsourcing our food options, but nothing is as good as homemade and we use the best recipes from my mom's old family recipes written on recipe cards that we still refer back to."

And if you're not sure what the difference is between a latte and a cappuccino, they are more than helpful in offering suggestions.

"This is the safest space to mess up your order," Amber said. "Natalie is really good at coming up with suggestions and it's a good place to learn about coffee and ask questions. We want the space to be comfortable, and if you don't know what a latte is or want to try something different, she's ready to help out."

Good Roots also offers some products from local entrepreneurs, something that Amber is anxious to talk about.

"We try to sell as many local products and give local entrepreneurs a chance to showcase their businesses," she said. "We have honey from Mike VanArsdale, who is a local beekeeper, and Erin Bonneau from Bancroft. She is a Homer alumni and we sell her candles here as well."

The coffee shop takes a break dur-

ing the midday, opening early (6:30-11 a.m.) for those who enjoy a morning cup of joe and after school (2-5 p.m.) for the kids to stop by and get a cookie or an energy drink. (They are also open Saturday mornings from 7 a.m.-noon).

"We get most of our traffic in the morning, and we also wanted to cater to those kids after school," Natalie said. "In between, that is when we got to our distributor to get supplies, stop by the grocery store to get baking supplies and take care of some of those business things like payroll and ordering."

Amber's massage therapy business, Good Roots Massage & Wellness, also has its doors open during the day. It was the original idea for the business, and something that Amber took on as a new career after her daycare days were done.

"When my youngest son started preschool, I knew it was time to re-evaluate where my life was going and I have had a love for natural and holistic medicine, so I went back to school for massage therapy and enjoy taking care of people," she said.

The two businesses are something that keeps small towns like Homer going, and that is important to the Barclays.

"The coffee shop isn't just for ourselves," Amber explained. "The things we add, we have our community in mind and are always wanting to make it better. Something was missing here that everyone could go to and this is something everybody in the community can benefit from."



(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

Amber Barclay mixes up a cup of coffee for a customer at Good Roots Coffee Co. in downtown Homer. She and her daughter, Natalie, opened the business earlier this summer.

Northeast Nebraska Senior Center Menu

1501 W. 29th St.
Luncheon meals served
Mondays through Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Coffee and socializing will be served Mondays from 9-11 a.m.
Please call the day before to reserve a lunch — (402) 494-1500

Thursday, Dec. 5 — Hamburger casserole, mashed potatoes, green beans, pears, broccoli

Friday, Dec. 6 — Fish sandwich, Au gratin potatoes, mixed veggies, cottage cheese, bun, peaches

Monday, Dec. 9 (Evening meal) — BBQ ribs, Au gratin potatoes, baked beans, glazed carrots, cranberry salad, applesauce

Tuesday, Dec. 10 — Taverns, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, pineapple

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — Country fried steak, mashed potatoes and country gravy, green beans, fruit cocktail, orange juice

SSC Senior Center Fundraiser

Craft & Vendor Show
Saturday, Dec. 14
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

South Sioux City Senior Center
1501 West 29th St.

Free Admission - Free Parking

Kitchen Open Bake Sale

More information, contact
Beverly Bates - 402.494.1500

Proceeds benefit the
South Sioux City Senior Center

Reimbursement hang-up threatens mental health care access for some

By MIKE MOEN
Nebraska News Connection

The mental healthcare landscape in Nebraska is being upended by policies for reimbursing providers who see patients covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. Systems say they're losing money, resulting in access gaps for older low-income clients.

Providers say the key concern has to do with serving patients considered dual-eligible, meaning they're enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid. This year, the federal government expanded the scope of professionals who can see Medicare patients for therapy and be reimbursed.

But Jon Day, executive director of Blue Valley Behavioral Health, said because of how Nebraska policy aligns with dual-eligible situations, practitioners are now seeing rates cut in half.

"More providers are coming out and saying, 'Oh my gosh, we can't see these people cause we're losing money.' So, we either refer them out, or they're not taking on people as well," he explained.

Day estimates a \$200,000 revenue loss for his system and added

that it's not easy to refer clients elsewhere because of provider "deserts" in some areas. Those working with the Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations have been meeting with state Medicaid leaders, noting the state can cover the difference without taking on extra costs. But progress on a final solution has been slow.

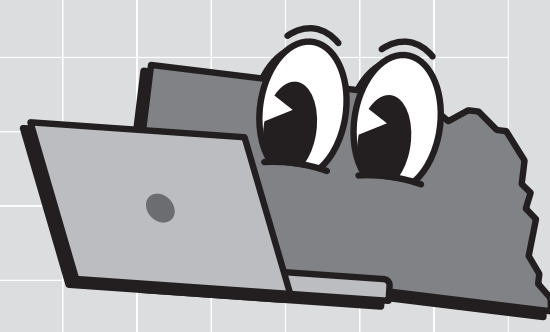
Providers say they understand the federal government's desire to bring more mental health professionals to the table in seeing patients. But they add unintended consequences at the state level almost defeat the purpose.

Chase Francl, CEO and president of the Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare Services, said this is a heartbreaking situation.

"There's such a low margin on any behavioral health services, and any small disruption really can have catastrophic effects," he said.

Even though fixes offered by these providers are described as solutions without extra costs, they acknowledge the challenging environment given the appetite among elected officials to reduce the state's budget.

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www.dakotacountystar.net

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1 year: Out of State & Other Iowa	\$ 60
2 year: Out of State & Other Iowa	\$101
Student Subscription*	\$ 39

(*September 1 - April 30) all areas

STAR DEADLINES

News	12 p.m. Mondays
Advertising	4:30 p.m. Fridays
Classifieds/Legals	11:30 a.m. Mondays

Monday-Thursday
Friday
Saturday-Sunday



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The Star Team

Michael Carnes
Publisher/Editor/Advertising

Laury Mahr
Bookkeeping/Subscriptions/Front Office

Noodles
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The 3rd Rail



Liar, liar, Sleepy Joe's on fire

The soon-to-be-departed Biden regime has turned lying into an art form during its four-year reign in Washington.

An under-the-radar move over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, hopefully, is the final curtain call for this pathetic excuse for national leadership.

As Sleepy Joe's morally-defective son, Hunter, was being found guilty for a variety of crimes earlier this year, President Biden made it very clear, on numerous occasions, that he would not pardon his son for the crimes he committed and pled guilty to. He told America that "nobody is above the law" and, as much as we should have known better, we bought what the slimy former senator from Delaware was selling regarding his influence-peddling, drug-sniffing, whore-servicing excuse of an offspring.

So it really should be of zero surprise to have heard the news over the weekend that the outgoing Walking Autopsy In Chief has done the exact opposite of what he claimed he would do and, instead, has pardoned the chip off the old block, claiming that his arrest and conviction were "politically motivated."

So I guess that nobody is above the law — that is, unless you're the one in charge and a family member needs to work outside of that mindset. Sonny boy gets waved through the VIP line at the Hall of Justice, while the rest of us have to stay in line.

If you had ANY faith in the believability of our alleged "representatives" in Washington, I'm going to guess that this is pretty much flushing that down the drain. When a sitting President shamelessly lies about whether or not his son will or will not get a break in the justice "system" and offers him something that would be almost impossible for any other criminal in this country to get without having some type of blood relation to the man in charge, we can pretty much end the facade about leadership right here.

And this really isn't much of a surprise if you've paid ANY attention to Biden's body of work over a half-century as the resident liar from the

Don't Get Me Started

By Michael J. Carnes
Star Publisher

state of Delaware. From his standing in law school to his family being eaten by African zombies, this guy has more stories and half-truths and outright fibs than a 20-year high school alumni gathering.

For somebody who claims to be a genius, why did it take so long for us to come to the realization that Joe Biden is at least three of 10 biggest liars in the history of American politics?

When he first ran for President back in the 80's, he was found to have not only lied about his standing in his law school class, but that he had also plagiarized a law review article while in law school, plagiarized a speech by a British politician, and lied about his family working in northeast Pennsylvania coal mines.

The guy has so many instances of plagiarized material that one could write a book about it, taking from everybody from JFK to Hubert Humphrey. While running for President, he went so far as to copy language from a variety of outside interest groups. You have better luck finding something he stole from somebody than you do one of his original thoughts.

Even the phrase "Build Back Better" that was the mantra of his pathetic four-year term as President of the United States, is a copycat. The phrase actually originated a decade earlier as a result of efforts to help out those impacted by tsunamis, written by former President and then United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Bill Clinton, called "Key Propositions for Building Back Better."

And I'm sure you may find this shocking, but guess who he blamed for all of these mental miscues? In the 2019 instances, rather than taking

the bullet himself, he threw his campaign staff under the bus.

Yeah, now THAT is leadership. So now that Biden's staff is being left to clean up the mess left behind by his latest bag of bullcrap, how do you suppose the mainstream propaganda will respond to this? WILL they respond? Will they CARE? What kind of spin job does Morning Joe and The View and all the babbling bobbleheads on the TV try to put on this?

And what if the incoming leader decides to use his power to pardon those who were put in prison for their involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol? The Democrat leadership seems to have nothing to say about their figurehead leadership's disregard for the concept of "nobody is above the law" — what's the over-under in the number of seconds it takes for them to go full-blown gonzo and start accusing Trump of circumventing the law? (Give me the under on that one.)

Allowing this lifelong loser to have ascended to the highest office in the land, and then hiding his physical ailments until it became obvious to everybody that he was not longer fit to run for the office a second time, has rendered the Democratic National Committee to be nothing more than a punchline to any joke relating to the believability of a politician. Joe Biden has been a lifelong liar during his time in public office, and we can only hope that this is the last time this bozo casts any further damage on what's left of the integrity of the position of President of the United States.

And as a final thought, here's a warning to the incoming leader — we will be watching. Closely.

Assessment test results are announced

Gov. Jim Pillen and First Lady Suzanne are inviting Nebraskans to two holiday events on Sunday, Dec. 8. The first is the annual lighting of the State Christmas Tree. The second event, which will follow immediately after, is the Hometown Christmas at the Governor's Residence. This year, it includes a salute to veteran and active military. Both events are free.

This is the 76th year for the tree lighting ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. It starts at 1:30 p.m. and will feature prelude music by the Sharpshooters Woodwind group, part of the Nebraska National Guard 43rd Army Band. The program will be hosted by award-winning Nebraska broadcaster Charlie Brogan. Performers include choirs from Concordia Lutheran High School of Omaha and Wahoo Elementary School of Wahoo. Governor Pillen will deliver his holiday message before leading the lighting of this year's donated Christmas tree. The tree is scheduled to be transported to the Capitol early next week.

Following the ceremony, a Hometown Christmas will be celebrated outdoors at the Governor's Resident, 1425 H St., Lincoln. Open to the public, and in its second year, this holiday tradition will feature the Blackhawk Brass of the Nebraska National Guard 43rd Army Band, choir performers, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, a live nativity scene, elf car rides, hayrack and horse drawn carriage rides, live animals, face painting, a balloon artist, hot cocoa, cookies, and much more. The festivities will get underway at 2:30 p.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. Streets around the Governor's Residence will be closed to traffic during that time. As all events will take place outside, attendees are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather.

Throughout the holiday season, visitors are welcome to the State Capitol. Free guided tours are offered hourly Monday-Friday at the following times: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m.. On Saturdays, tours begin at 10 a.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. The Cap-

Legislative Update

Sen. Joni Albrecht
District 17



tol will be closed on Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and again on New Year's Day (Jan. 1). Once lit, the tree will remain up through Sunday, Dec. 29.

Dept. of Ed. News
The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) released the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) results and the Accountability for a Quality Education System Today and Tomorrow (AQUESTT) classifications last week. Both reports provide insight into how students are performing academically on Nebraska's state standards.

NSCAS English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science are rigorous assessments with high expectations for postsecondary readiness. NSCAS ELA and Mathematics are given in grades three through eight. NSCAS science assessments are given in fifth and eighth grades and Nebraska juniors take the ACT assessment.

The following are the key findings from this year's NSCAS:

— 59 percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 were considered proficient in ELA (performing at the On Track or Advanced level).

— 58 percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 were proficient in Math.

— 74 percent of Nebraska students in grades 3-8 were proficient on the NSCAS Science assessment.

— At the high school level, Nebraska's juniors were 45 percent proficient in ELA, 42 percent in Math, and 49 percent in Science.

— Literacy is a key priority for the state. The Nebraska State Board of Education has a goal to increase third grade proficiency in ELA to 75 percent by 2030. This year's scores outline the work that will be a focus

moving forward.

— Grades 4-8 saw increases in ELA proficiency statewide last year.

— Proficiency in third grade dropped from 62 percent to 59 percent in ELA.

— Students representing different demographics including race, ethnicity, special education, free/reduced lunch, and English learners all saw growth compared to last year, however achievement gaps continue to persist.

"Literacy continues to be a priority for the Nebraska Department of Education," said Commissioner Brian Maher. "We will continue to focus resources on statewide improvement."

More information on assessment and accountability results can be found on the Nebraska Education Profile, nep.education.ne.gov.

I would like to share with you how the school districts in Legislative District 17 did in comparison with the 2022-2023 school year. Those numbers are included below.

I would strongly encourage you to make sure you are invested in your children's education at your local school. Make sure you know what the school improvement plan is. Visit with your school administration to make sure your child is doing well and you can see how they scored on their state assessments. Check to see what curriculum is being used in the classrooms to help students succeed in all areas. Attend school board meetings so you know how the school is investing in the students that attend.

As always, I invite you to let me know your thoughts, ideas, concerns, or suggestions by calling my office at (402) 471-2716 or emailing me at jalbrecht@leg.ne.gov.



10 YEARS AGO

DEC. 4, 2014

Jury selection opens in Gonzales trial

Jury selection for the trial of a South Sioux City man accused of first-degree murder and making terroristic threats began with opening statements. Gonzales, 23, is accused of shooting Baker, 28, with a 9mm gun at her South Sioux City home Dec. 15, 2013. If found guilty, Gonzales faces the possibility of life in prison.

30 YEARS AGO

DEC. 8, 1994

Family homeless after fire guts trailer

A short in an extension cord is being blamed for a Saturday afternoon fire that destroyed a mobile home in Lake Village Trailer Court and left the Mike Curry family homeless. "My husband son and I had been out Christmas shopping that morning. We came home a little after noon, put the presents on the kitchen table and woke up our daughter because she had to go to work. Our other daughter was sleeping in a bedroom. We left again and our daughter went back to the bathroom to take a shower. That's when she noticed smoke coming from the bedroom. The fire marshal said our opening the door when we came home probably provided enough air circulation to get the fire going," Mrs. Curry said. Although none of the Currys were harmed, the family lost its 3-year old miniature doberman.

20 YEARS AGO

DEC. 2, 2004

Stolze keeps Baumer's wish alive

Jerry Stolze's expression turns thoughtful as he begins sharing the experiences and the gratitude that have been a part of his work coordinating Pete's Feeders in Dakota County. He recalls how the late Police Chief Pete Baumer and his wife started the project in 1945. Back then, Stolze says there were only probably only about 60 baskets to delivered, and Pete and wife were solely responsible for the project. Within three to four years the project go to big for Pete and his wife to handle, and they asked others to help.

40 YEARS AGO

DEC. 6, 1984

Illegal lottery machines confiscated

Dakota County law enforcement officers, aided by the Nebraska State Patrol, confiscated five illegal lot-

tery machines in an organized raid on three Dakota County taverns last Thursday. State law permits Nebraska cities and counties to operate lotteries utilizing machines similar to arcade video games, but even those machines will be banned when a new law takes effect at midnight Dec. 31. Some South Sioux City officials, especially Mayor Vern Larson, have been vocal about trying to keep video slot machines legal. The lottery issue is expected to be raised when the 1985 legislative session to the Nebraska Unicameral opens in early January.

50 YEARS AGO

DEC. 3, 1974

Robbery suspect attempted suicide

C. Johnson, 26, one of three Sioux City men charged with the Nov. 11 armed robbery of the Corner Store, 2621 Dakota Avenue, has been returned to the Dakota County Jail after an apparent attempted suicide. Johnson was hospitalized in Sioux City from early Thanksgiving Day until Saturday after slashing his left wrist with a razor blade, Dakota County authorities said. He is being held in the county jail in lieu of \$15,000 bond along with Rucker, 29, and Virgus, 22, both of Sioux City. A preliminary hearing for the three men was scheduled wed afternoon before judge Cecil Orton.

Emerson-Hubbard Public Schools

District Classification GREAT

DATA YEARS	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
2023-2024	68%	70%	71%
2022-2023	53%	61%	77%

Homer Community Schools

District Classification GOOD

DATA YEARS	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
2023-2024	57%	56%	89%
2022-2023	59%	69%	85%

South Sioux City Community Schools

District Classification GOOD

DATA YEARS	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
2023-2024	49%	55%	72%
2022-2023	46%	56%	68%

— Numbers courtesy Nebraska Department of Education

We Want To Hear From You!

The Dakota County Star feels that the bedrock of our freedoms is the freedom of speech, and we welcome your comments and letters to the editor. We invite submissions from the community, with a limit of one submission per 30 days. Letters must be no longer than 500 words, and must be submitted to mike@dakonews.com by 12 p.m. Monday the week of publication. **Only e-mail or online submissions from our website at www.dakcostar.com will be accepted by the Dakota County Star for publication.** The management of the Dakota County Star reserves the right to edit for spelling and grammar before publication. As a policy, we will not publish letters that we feel are objectionable, libelous or of a commercial nature.



FROM THE BLEACHERS



By Michael Carnes

Big Ten's wrist slap is a joke

Poor sportsmanship rears its ugly head from time to time, and one of the worst in recent memory happened over the Thanksgiving weekend.

For those who think the bitterness that is tossed about when Nebraska and Iowa get ready for their annual football showdown every Black Friday, allow me to introduce you to "The Big Game," a historical showdown between two of the Big Ten's biggest names that has a lot of history — and violence — behind it.

To say that these two schools do not like each other would be the Grand Poobah of understatement. Nebraska and Iowa like to tell jokes about each other's teams, fan bases and even the quality (or lack thereof) of each state's agricultural products.

Not Michigan and Ohio State.

The bad blood that exists between these two schools is messy, to put it kindly. And it doesn't matter what competition we're talking about — athletics, academics, who has the better marching band — if it's Michigan and Ohio State at opposite ends of the arena, it's going to be rough.

This past week, Ohio State was supposed to cruise past Michigan. The Buckeyes were ranked in the top three and gunning for a spot in the Big Ten championship game and a first-round bye in the College Football Playoffs. Michigan, on the other hand, was nowhere close to being the team that won the national title last year and easily handled their conference rival for the third straight year.

On paper, this should have been an easy win for Ohio State. The scoreboard, however, had a different verdict — Michigan 13, Ohio State 10.

In a game that is already an emotional battle long before kickoff and gradually becomes more intense during the game, it should be enough for the two teams to leave the field and deal with the outcome in their respective locker rooms — to the victor goes the spoils, while the defeated are left to lick their wounds.

Michigan fired the first shot when they brought their flags out and planted them in the turf on Ohio State's home field. Ohio State responded by tearing down the flags.

Words were exchanged. Then the fists started flying. Police from both schools started pepper-spraying anything that moved. And the riot was on.

It was an embarrassment on so many levels that we lack the space to count them here. Both schools should be held to equal account. Both fanbases will point fingers while trying to downplay their side's involvement. In the end, there are no winners and the schools, the Big Ten Conference, the NCAA and college football in general are given a black eye by this boorish behavior from athletes of both schools.

We see this type of behavior more and more. It's not a new thing — a friend reminded me that Texas pulled this stunt 20 years ago when Nebraska was still in the Big XII, and you see it happen in other big-time rivalry situations as well at the high school, college and pro levels.

The Big Ten Conference decided over the weekend that it was going to come down on both schools and hold them accountable for their roles in this melee.

Sadly, the penalty comes nowhere close to the statement they were hoping to make regarding this pathetic lack of sportsmanship — both schools were fined \$100,000.

Oh wow.

What a kick in the mouth THAT has to be for each school's athletic department and football programs. Each team's starting quarterback is making that much scratch in NIL money. What kind of lesson does the conference think it's teaching its membership regarding the committing of acts of unsportsmanlike behavior that leads to violent activities? This isn't even a slap on the wrist — it's a complete joke if it wants to send some kind of message to schools about allowing such behavior at their sporting events.

Obviously, college athletics is a multi-billion dollar endeavor these days and EVERYBODY is getting in on the financial action. And now, thanks to NIL, it's all legal (unlike the old days when kids who didn't have a dime in their pocket were somehow driving around in fast cars and getting under-the-table cash for that game-winning touchdown and we all acted like they were true amateurs).

"Fining" one of these schools \$100,000 does nothing to deter such activity from continuing.

You know what WOULD stop these things from happening in the future? How about a punishment that sends a REAL message about unsportsmanlike behavior?

When I was a kid, I had tickets to a concert once and was grounded from going to the show after I had disobeyed my parents. It didn't matter that I bought the tickets with my own money from my allowance - I acted like a jerk and paid the price for it.

So hear me out here — what if the conference had the cajones to tell Ohio State that it couldn't participate in the College Football Playoff and that Michigan couldn't attend a bowl game this year? Their actions were an embarrassment to the conference, so let the punishment fit the actions. Who wants a bunch of thugs representing their conference in a postseason setting?

Not going to happen, you say? Well — you are right, because money trumps integrity in the Big Ten Conference and in major college sports in general. Not letting the schools compete in bowl games or the playoffs would result in tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue for both schools and the conference itself. Plant all the flags on opposing fields and start all the riots you want — we'll just take a little off the top and shake our fingers as if to say you've been a bad boy and don't do it again.

The days of being a good sport in major college sports appear to be over. When money talks louder than right and wrong, it's a sad day for athletics.

MONDAY JAMBOREES GET TEAMS READY FOR SEASON



(PHOTOS BY LANCE SWANSON)

The 2024-25 winter sports season officially kicks off this week, and teams from South Sioux City, Homer and West Point-Beemer gathered Monday evening at the Mini-Dome for their exhibition Jamboree Games, giving teams an opportunity to get some live preseason action in before the season tips off. This week's Dakota County Star includes a special section featuring the four area schools' winter sports teams, including photos, preseason stories and schedules.



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Most Popular Titles of 2024

(So Far)

Approaching the end of the year, it is a good time to take a peek at the most popular titles of the year.

“The Women,” by Kristin Hannah (FIC HAN). “When 20-year-old nursing student Frances ‘Frankie’ McGrath hears these unexpected words; it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America.” — Provided by publisher.



Dan Nieman

“Holmes, Marple, & Poe” by James Patterson and Brian Stitts (FIC PAT). Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple and Auguste Poe open a private investigating company together and their daring methodology and news-making solved cases would make their last-namesakes proud and attract the attention of a NYPD detective.

“Three-Inch Teeth” by C.J. Box (FIC BOX). This is the 24th Joe Pickett novel.

“The Housemaid” by Freida McFadden (FIC MCF). “Welcome to the family,” Nina Winchester says as I shake her elegant, manicured hand. I smile politely, gazing around the marble hallway. Working here is my last chance to start fresh. I can pretend to be whoever I like. But I’ll soon learn that the Winchesters’ secrets are far more dangerous than my own . . . Every day I clean the Winchesters’ beautiful house top to bottom. I collect their daughter from school. And I cook a delicious meal for the whole family before heading up to eat alone in my tiny room on the top floor. I try to ignore how Nina makes a mess just to watch me clean it up. How she tells strange lies about her own daughter. And how her husband Andrew seems more broken every day. But as I look into An-

drew’s handsome brown eyes, so full of pain, it’s hard not to imagine what it would be like to live Nina’s life. The walk-in closet, the fancy car, the perfect husband. I only try on one of Nina’s pristine white dresses once. Just to see what it’s like. But she soon finds out . . . and by the time I realize my attic bedroom door only locks from the outside, it’s far too late. But I reassure myself: the Winchesters don’t know who I really am. They don’t know what I’m capable of . . .

“The Frozen River” by Ariel Lawhon (FIC LAW). “A gripping historical mystery based on the real-life diary entries of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife who found herself at the center of a murder trial” — Provided by publisher.

“Point of Retreat” by Colleen Hoover (FIC HOO). Layken and Will’s relationship has endured through hardships, heartache, and a cruel twist of fate, further solidifying the fact that they belong together. But the two lovers could not have expected that the things that brought them together may ultimately be the things that tear them apart. Their connection is on the brink of being destroyed forever and it will take an extraordinary amount of willpower to keep their love afloat.

“Random in Death” by J.D. Robb (FIC ROB). This is the 58th In Death title.

“The Teacher” by Freida McFadden (FIC MCF). “Something isn’t right at Caseham High School. Last year, the school was rocked by scandal: a teacher was accused of having an inappropriate relationship with a student. Now, Addie is a pariah and will do anything to get through the year. More than that, she’s desperate to keep the truth from coming to light. Evie, a colleague of the disgraced teacher, is horrified to find Addie in her class. She knows the girl can’t be trusted and soon realizes she’s being watched — which is dangerous, considering she’s hiding something from her husband. But each has secrets about what happened last year. And someone in this school will do anything to keep them silent” — Provided by publisher.

“One by One” by Freida McFadden (FIC MCF). “A night spent sleeping on dirt and leaves is not how Claire Matchett expected to spend her vacation. She thought this would be a break from the stresses of work and raising her young children.

A chance to repair her damaged marriage. A week of hiking and hot tubs with friends. It sounded like heaven. Then Claire’s minivan breaks down on a lonely dirt road. With no cell reception, the group has no choice but to hike the rest of the way to their hotel. But it turns out the woods aren’t as easy to navigate as they thought. Hours later, they are lost. Hopelessly lost. And as they navigate deeper into the woods, the members of their party are struck down mysteriously one by one. Has a wild animal been hunting them? Or is the hunter one of them? But as more time passes, one thing becomes clear: only one of them will return home alive” — Provided by publisher.

“Inheritance” by Nora Roberts Inheritance is the first in The Lost Bride Trilogy by No. 1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts — a tale of tragedies, loves found and lost, and a family haunted for generations. 1806: Astrid Poole sits in her bridal clothes, overwhelmed with happiness. But before her marriage can be consummated, she is murdered, and the circle of gold torn from her finger. Her last words are a promise to Collin never to leave him . . . Graphic designer Sonya MacTavish is stunned to learn that her late father had a twin he never knew about — and that her newly discovered uncle, Collin Poole, has left her almost everything he owned, including a majestic Victorian house on the Maine coast, which they will stipulates she must live in it for at least three years. Her engagement recently broken, she sets off to find out why the boys were separated at birth — and why it was all kept secret until a genealogy website brought it to light. Trey, the young lawyer who greets her at the sprawling cliff-top manor, notes Sonya’s unease — and acknowledges that yes, the place is haunted . . . but just a little. Sure enough, Sonya finds objects moved and music playing out of nowhere. She sees a painting by her father inexplicably hanging in her deceased uncle’s office, and a portrait of a woman named Astrid, whom the lawyer refers to as “the first lost bride.” It’s becoming clear that Sonya has inherited far more than a house. She has inherited a centuries-old curse, and a puzzle to be solved if there is any hope of breaking it . . .

Have a great week and read good books.

Extension cash rent workshop Dec. 17



Nebraska Extension in Dakota County is hosting a 2025 Landlord/Tenant Cash Rent Workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at the office at 1505 Broadway in Dakota City.

Innovative solutions in land management will be discussed at the free program, with a question-and-answer session to follow.

The workshop will run from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., with refreshments provided by Farmers National Company.

Registration deadline is Monday, Dec. 16. For more information or to register, call (402) 987-2140.

Candidates to face factory farm health impacts

By MIKE MOEN

Nebraska News Connection

When newly elected candidates take office next month, they will hear from a range of constituents and special interest groups about a wide range of issues.

In states such as Nebraska, the health effects from factory farms could be among them. Nebraska is among the states with the most concentrated animal feeding operations.

Jonathan Leo, an environmental and land use attorney, worries the election results will not do anything to shake up the status quo in regulating such sites. Even with growing research about harmful nitrates from animal waste polluting drinking water, Leo said there is too much of a “baked-in” resistance at the local, state and federal level to push for meaningful change.

“There is a long-standing political culture that is anti-regulatory,” Leo pointed out.

Under the Biden administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made moves aimed at helping smaller, less-polluting farms thrive. But Leo pointed out it also pushed for carbon-sequestration projects, which benefit factory farms. He also wonders what might happen under President-elect Donald Trump’s pick for agriculture secretary. Observers said she does not have much history related to ag policy but is backed by groups aligned with industrial farming.

Eleanor Rogan, professor and associate dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska, has helped lead research on health issues linked to agriculture runoff, including higher cancer rates among children. She said it is not just cases of extreme drinking water pollution to worry about.

“Chronic illnesses are beginning to be associated with lower levels of nitrates,” Rogan emphasized.

Leo acknowledged there are promising signs in conservative states such as Nebraska, where some GOP legislators have introduced bills to address the effects of pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations. But he stressed there needs to be more urgency and those concerned need to keep educating policymakers about what is at stake.

“To indicate that it’s a genuine, nonpartisan concern that has solutions, if only people can embrace them,” Leo added.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Schleusener Colleen L, to Scheusener Colleen L, Schleusener Holly M, Lot 3,4 and Pt Lot 2,5 in block 66, Dakota City

Mark Albenesius Rentals LLC aka Albenesius Rentals LLC, to Torres Sam, Torres Arcelia, Lot 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 in block 30, Moans Addition of South Sioux City

Cider Mill Development LLC, to B Hohenstein Built LLC, Lot 10 Harvest Meadows First Addition of South Sioux City, Replat of Lot 1 Hans Addition, S-T-R 7-88-47 W PT NW 1/4 NW 1/4

Cider Mill Development LLC, to JMF Concrete Inc, Lot 15,16 Harvest Meadows First Addition of South Sioux City, Replat of Lot 1 Hans Addition of South Sioux City, S-T-R 7-88-47 W PT NW 1/4 NW 1/4

Brown Connie fka Connie Wieck, Brown Robert B, to Jones Owen, Lot 7,8,9,10 in block 75, Dakota City

Gill Gregory J, Gill Kristina M, to Gill Gregory J, Gill Kristina M, S-T-R 35-29-7 E PT S 1/2 NW 1/4, S-T-R 35-29-7 E PT N 1/2 SW 1/4, S-T-R 35-29-7 E PT S 1/2 NW 1/4, S-T-R 35-29-7 E PT SE 1/4 NW 1/4

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Robert Henandez Munoz, 19, Sioux City, Iowa and Itzel Marin Pimentel, 19, South Sioux City

Fredis Leodan Mendez, 30, South Sioux City, and Haley Jean Max, 31, South Sioux City

Abraham Balos, 31, South Sioux City, and Yoya Hensen, 26, South Sioux City

Rodrigo Martinez, 24, South Sioux City, and Jezzamae Nicole Carter, 24, Sioux City, Iowa

Federal application for student aid (FAFSA) open

EducationQuest Foundation encourages Nebraskans who plan to attend college during the 2025-26 academic year to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), now open at studentaid.gov.

The FAFSA is the application for federal, state and college-based financial aid. Colleges use the information in the FAFSA to determine eligibility for financial assistance, which can include scholarships, grants, work-study funds and student loans.

EducationQuest Foundation President and CEO Liz Koop said, “EducationQuest’s mission is to improve access to higher education for every Nebraskan, which is why we stress FAFSA completion. The form is key to determining students’ eligibility for financial aid. Last year, only 47 percent of Nebraska’s high school seniors completed the FAFSA, which means millions of dollars in ‘free’ federal money to attend college went unclaimed.”

According to the National College Attainment

Network, more than \$4 billion in Pell Grants went unclaimed in 2023, of which \$24 million was available to Nebraskans.

Before starting the FAFSA, applicants must create a Federal Student Aid Account at studentaid.gov. The parent or guardian of a dependent student must also create an account. Income tax return information from 2023 will be required to complete the application.

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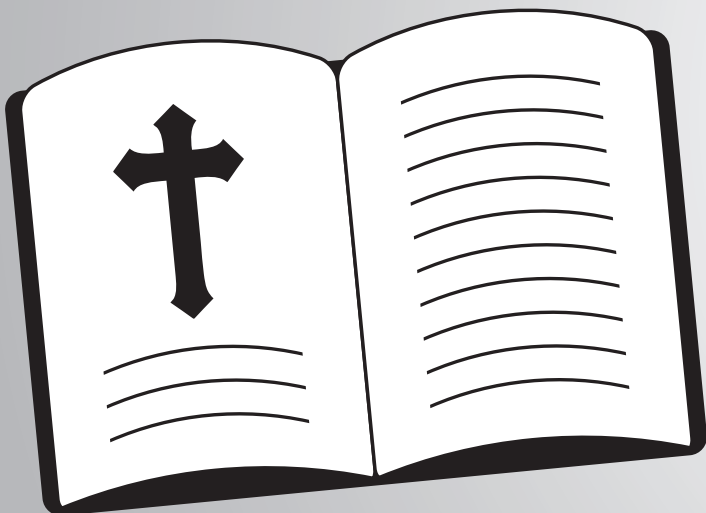
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21st & A Street, South Sioux City
402-494-1868

Worship..... 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Beth Hamilton

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
3601 Dakota Avenue
402-494-5461

Sunday School 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Patti Meyer

SIUXLAND COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
17th & B Street
402-241-0744

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service..... 10:35 a.m.

Wed. Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

“Reformed by His Grace”
“Reforming His Glory”
Pastor Richard Peralez

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
218 West 18th Street
402-494-1847

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School, Adult Bible Class and Fellowship Hour..... 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Michael Awe

RIVER HILLS CHURCH
1101 5th Avenue
402-494-1852

Sundays
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays
Family Ministries 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Kevin Roach

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410 East 10th Street
402-494-2185

Sunday Worship Services:
10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Wed. Night Family Night: 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Michael R. Ring

Homer News

By Stacie Johnson



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(COURTESY PHOTO)

Fifth graders paired with first graders to create their own Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 'Balloons over Broadway' last week. Gianna and Alexis show off their creation.

Songs of the season

Enjoy festive songs and fun at the elementary school Holiday Concert on Monday, Dec. 9 in the school gym.

Singers in grades preschool through second grade go onstage at 6:30 p.m. with the third, fourth and fifth graders performing at 7:15 p.m. The 6-12 grade musicians will hold their concert the following week, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. Both band and chorus students will show off their talents under the direction of band instructor Paige Moos and chorus leader Bridget Anderson.

Pizza delivery, Santa style

Yes, Santa delivers toys in December to all the good little boys and girls, but did you know he delivers pizza, too?

Santa and the Homer Volunteer Fire and Rescue will deliver pizza to anyone within five miles of Homero on Wednesday, Dec. 11 from 5-7 p.m. Order your favorite pizza pie from Bonanza Bar (402) 698-2999 or Pronto (402) 698-2485 by noon on Dec. 11 and the man in red will deliver.

Lighted Parade on the 14th

Homer's third-annual Lighted Parade and Community Christmas is just days away! On Saturday, Dec. 14, the popular lighted parade begins at 6 p.m. with the parade line up starting at 5:45 p.m. in the school parking lot.

Afterwards, head to the Fire Hall where the fire department will be serving taco in a bag, and friends can enjoy crafts, treats, and a visit with Santa.

It's not too late to join the parade. Cover your car, truck, sleigh or tractor

or anything else you can think of with plenty of lights and holiday cheer.

"Let's really light up Homer!"

Joyful Bags add to the season

Homer TeamMates invite you to be a part of the giving this season by helping collect supplies to make Joyful Bags. The Ziploc bags will include an assortment of toiletries and snacks, and they will be donated to the Sioux City Warming Shelter in January.

How can you help? Bring any of the below items to the entry way of Homer School by Friday, Dec. 20. TeamMates will pack one of each into the bags, so please make sure you're getting travel-sized items. Monetary donations can also be sent on Venmo to @HomerTeam or dropped off at the office.

Items encouraged: band aids, chapstick, comb, crackers, granola bars, gum, hand sanitizer, lotion, mouthwash, soap, shampoo, tissues, toothbrush, toothpaste, trail mix, warm socks.

Cardinal Christmas Baskets bring joy

Cardinal Christmas Baskets has been delivering food baskets to families in need in our community for years. Homer students have been involved in the collection of items needed annually, and this year is no different.

Students help by holding a food drive competition among classes from Dec. 2-13, collecting non-perishable items. These include things like canned meats, peanut butter and jelly (no glass jars), canned or dry soup, tea bags or coffee (ground, no

beans). Items can be sent with students or dropped off at the school by Dec. 13.

Preschool enrollment begins soon

Though the school year is only about halfway through, preschool enrollment for the 2025-26 school year will open on Jan. 1. Please note, your child must be four years old by July 31, 2025 and fully potty trained to be considered.

Homer's preschool children attend Monday through Thursday full days, and enjoy play-based learning, outdoor play, and developmentally-appropriate curriculum.

To enroll your child, call Lynn or Hollie in the school office at 402-698-237 ext. 101 or 102, or email office@homerknights.org.

School activities

Thursday, Dec. 5 - B WR triangular at Scribner, TBD; JH BB at Tekamah, 4:30 p.m.; G/B BB vs Winnebago, JV at 4:45 p.m. rolling schedule; G WR at Stanton, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7 - B WR at Howells, 9:30 a.m.; G/B BB at Lyons, 1 p.m. rolling schedule

Monday, Dec. 9 - B JV WR at Ponca, 4:15 p.m.; Elementary Christmas concert, 6:30 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10 - JH BB at Pender, (community center) 4 p.m.; G/B JV-V BB vs. LCC, 4:45 p.m. rolling schedule; G/B WR at Wakefield, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 - Winter activity picture day

Thursday, Dec. 12 - G/B JH BB vs. Siouxland Christian, 3 and 4 p.m.; G/B BB vs. Winside, 4:30 p.m. rolling schedule

Friday, Dec. 13 - Elementary Fun Night, 6-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14 - B WR at Osceola, 8:30 a.m.

Jackson News

By Laura Sullivan

Rev-Tac firearm instruction

Upcoming events:
Saturday, Dec. 7 - Basic pistol course at 1 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7 - Defensive pistol at 3:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13 - Home Defense at 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14 - Multi-State Concealed Carry Course at 9:00 a.m.
Contact Rev-Tac to enroll in the classes at 712-253-8810

Homer school programs

Because Jackson kids go to four different schools, I want to include all schools events. Please pass your school events on to me. Thank you,
Dec. 9 - Holiday Concerts: PreK-2nd, 6:30 p.m. and 3rd-5th, 7:15 p.m.
Dec. 2-13 - Cardinal baskets food drive
Dec. 5-12 - 12 days of Christmas
Dec. 19 - Knight Pride Celebration
Dec. 23-Jan. 3 - Winter break

St. Patrick's

Sacrament of reconciliation is offered after mass on Sunday morning and Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in Jackson and Dec. 11 in Emerson. Dec. 18 is the last day of CCD before the Christmas Break.

Cards of Recovery

Donnie Hogh is recovering in Regency Square and has agreed to share his contact information. Cards can be sent to Donnie c/o Regency Square, Room 404, 3501 Dakota Avenue, South Sioux City, Neb., 68776.

Book Club

December book is "The Ghost at the Table" by Suzanne Berne. December meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 17 at Diane Sullivan's. The big book for this year is "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes.

Christmas Angel at Heritage

Be a Christmas Angel to a Heritage of Emerson Resident. Get a tag from the Emerson Village Office, purchase the gift, and bring it to the Village office by Dec. 18.

Kickoff to Christmas set

Saturday, Dec. 7 is the second-annual EBC Kickoff to Christmas.

The Parade of Lights will be on Main Street beginning at 6 p.m.. Following will be festivities at the Emerson Fire Hall with kids crafts, pictures with Santa and a meal. There will be fun for all so plan on attending.

EBC banquet Jan. 25

The fourth-annual EBC banquet will be Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025 at Sacred Heart Gym. Save the date!

Spelling Bee coming

The Emerson-Hubbard Elementary Spelling Bee will be Friday, Dec. 13. Times: 5th grade, 8:30 a.m.; 2nd grade, 9:10 a.m.; 4th grade, 9:50



(PHOTO BY LAURA SULLIVAN)

Doug and Stacey Janssen are ready for Christmas. This is only a portion of the display they have set up in their yard. I will be traveling around Jackson the countryside looking for great displays. Thank you Doug and Stacey for the festive display!

Jackson Elementary School

Mondays - 1 hour late start
Christmas Program - Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Early Dismissal - Dec. 19 and 20 - Jackson 1:10 p.m.
Dec. 23-Jan. 3 - Christmas Break
Return to School - Return to school
Jackson Elementary School lunch menu Dec. 9-13
Monday - Eggs, breakfast potatoes, muffin, fruit
Tuesday - Hot dog on a bun, baked beans, pickle, fruit
Wednesday - Chili, cinnamon roll, cheese stick, fruit
Thursday - Chicken leg, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit
Friday - Beef nachos, lettuce, pudding, fruit

Hours of Operation

Bank of Dixon County - Monday

through Thursday, drive-through 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Lobby is open 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.

Lunch Box - Tuesday through Saturday - 7:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company - Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

United States Postal Services - Monday through Friday 12-4p.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Pump and Pantry - Daily 4:30 a.m.-10 p.m.

Morrow's House Moving - 402-632-4555 - for estimates and appointments.

Bridal Sweet - by appointment
Jackson Public Library open Mondays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m.

St. Patrick's - Sunday 9:15a.m. services
MC Salon - Men's day every Thursday. No appointment necessary. Call 632-2011 for appointments.

Palermo Italian Cuisine and Bar - Monday closed, Tuesday through Thursday 4-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 4-10 p.m.

FFA leaders gather

Emerson-Hubbard FFA members recently attended the Leadership Event. EH members received the following: Red-CCM; Emelia Harral-Purple; The following members all received Blue ribbons: Parliamentary Procedure, Makayla Horak, DeLaney Fuchser, Benjamin Bousquet, and Thatcher Lamp. Congratulations to all who participated.

Village Board meeting

The December Emerson Village Board meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Village Coffee coming

The December Village Coffee will be held at The Buzzi on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m.

St. Luke/St. Paul's Church

Sunday:Worship at St. Paul's, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.
Monday:Bible Study, 1 p.m.; Council meetings at St. Paul's, 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Friends after school; supper 5 p.m.; Church, 5:45 p.m.; Confirmation 6:30 p.m.



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Information for ready reference - Phone numbers in a HURRY!

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SOUTH SIOUX ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Dr. Emily Gamm, DVM
Dr. Brooke Gilbert, DVM
1550 College Way
South Sioux City, NE
402-494-3844

FUNERAL HOMES

MOHR & BECKER-HUNT Funeral Home
1431 W 29th Street; SSC, NE 68776
402-412-3131
218 N East St., Ponca, NE 68770
(402) 755-2202
For Every Life, There Is A Story

RETAIL

FUEL GRAB 'N GO SNACKS SKILL GAMES
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FINANCIAL

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Gina Anderson 712-574-1703	Alicia Larson 712-259-5912	Omar Salcido 712-204-0108	Ashley Orzechowski 712-259-2420

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NEW LISTING
OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, DEC. 7 • 12-1 PM

1513 Fairmount Sioux City, IA
3BR 1.75 BA 187,500

NEW PRICE

1520 Main Street Sioux City, IA
2BR + Dormer, 1BA \$139,950



TBD Elm St. Dakota City, NE
\$23,900



323 8th Avenue South Sioux City, NE
5BR, 3BA NEW BUILD \$350,000



405 N 9th St. Dakota City, NE
3BR, 2BA \$195,000



457 Hwy. 35 Dakota City, NE
5BR, 2.5BA, 3.3 Acres \$469,000



713 E. 12th Street South Sioux City, NE
\$174,950



Harvest Meadows Subdivision
South Sioux City, NE
\$34,950



1818 Quimby Avenue Waterbury, NE
4BR, 2.5BA \$460,000



448 Dixon Path South Sioux City, NE
\$59,950



110 E 8th Street South Sioux City, NE
The Huddle \$1,200,000



3263 Garretson Ave. Sioux City, IA
3BR, 1BA \$335,000

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Legal Notice

NOTICE

To all Dakota County landowners and tenants. It is illegal to install permanent or temporary fencing on county right-of-way. This is in direct violation of Neb. Rev. Stat. §39-301. Violators will be prosecuted Normal maintenance and snow removal operations may damage fencing. DAKOTA COUNTY will not be liable for any destruction or damage to or caused by livestock that gets through damaged or illegally placed fencing. Dakota County Road Department employees have been instructed to properly maintain the road. Dakota County has a 66-foot right-of-way which measures 33 feet from the center of the road on both sides of the road.

BY ORDER OF THE
DAKOTA COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the Board of Education of the Homer Community School will meet for regular session on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting and public hearings, which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours; however, the agenda may be modified at such meeting.

Amy M Brand
School Secretary
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

APPLICATION FOR
REGISTRATION OF
TRADE NAME
Trade Name: Hobyo Freight Dispatchers.
Name of Applicant: Hobyo Global Inc.
Address: 200 E 39th St. Apt. 203, South Sioux City, NE 68776.
Applicant is a corporation.
If other than an individual, state under whose laws entity was formed: Nebraska.
Date of first use of name in Nebraska: new.
General Nature of Business: freight dispatch services.
Mohamed A. Warsame
Applicant
Publish in The Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Housing Agency of the City of South Sioux City, Nebraska, will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at the SSC Housing Agency Conference Room, 118 East 21st Street, which meeting will be open to the public.
An agenda for such meeting kept continuously current is available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Director during normal business hours.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SOUTH SIOUX CITY
HOUSING AGENCY
Publish Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. -ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
R & B Rentals, LLC, 207 8th Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776
100 Shares at \$10 a share
Robin P Harris, 207 8th Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776 is the in-state registered agent
Mailing address is 211 8th Avenue, South Sioux City NE 68776
Real Estate Investing and Rentals
The date of the corporation will be 12/24/2024.
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, November 21 and 28, 2024 and December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF
SUAREZ AUTO SALES LLC
Notice is hereby given that SUAREZ AUTO SALES LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The address of the designated office of the Company is 105 1/2 W 19TH STREET, S. SIOUX CITY, NE 68776 The general nature of business is to engage in and to do any and all business, other than banking and insurance, for which a Limited Liability Company may be organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The Company commenced its existence on NOVEMBER 25, 2024 and its duration shall be perpetual. The affairs of the Company are to be conducted by the Managing Member and/or Members as authorized by the Company's Operating Agreement. The initial agent for service of process is LBS, INC at 1413 BROADWAY ST, PO BOX 548, DAKOTA CITY, NE 68731
Lydia Pintor
Organizer
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 12 and 19, 2024 - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF
CHILANGOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT & PIZZAS LLC
Notice is hereby given that CHILANGOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT & PIZZAS LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The address of the designated office of the Company is 112 E 19TH STREET, SO SIOUX CITY, NE 68776. The general nature of business is to engage in and to do any and all business, other than banking and insurance, for which a Limited Liability Company may be organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The Company commenced its existence on December 8, 2020 and its duration shall be perpetual. The affairs of the Company are to be conducted by the Managing Member and/or Members as authorized by the Company's Operating Agreement. The initial agent for service of process is LBS, INC at 1413 BROADWAY ST, P.O. BOX 548, DAKOTA CITY, NE 68731
Lydia Pintor
Organizer
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, November 28, 2024 and December 5 and 12, 2024 - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the Dakota County Board of Commissioners will hold their regular scheduled meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 3 p.m. at the Dakota County Courthouse, 1601 Broadway Street, Dakota City, and which said meeting is open to the public. The agenda for this meeting will be kept continually current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.
Cherie Conley, County Clerk
Publish Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. -ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the Dakota County Board of Equalization will hold a regular meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 2:45 p.m. at the Dakota County Courthouse, 1601 Broadway Street, Dakota City, which said meeting is open to the public. The agendas for these meetings will be kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.
Cherie Conley, County Clerk
Publish Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. -ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
Notice is hereby given that Cruz.L.E Construction LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The address of the designated office of the Company is 3300 Santa Rita Ct, South Sioux City, NE 68776. The initial agent for service of process is Gerardo Cruz Tolentino, 3300 Santa Rita Ct, South Sioux City, NE 68776. The general nature of the business will be to engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The Company commenced its existence on November 27, 2024, and its duration shall be Perpetual.
Organizer Name:
Gerardo Cruz Tolentino
Publish Thursday, December 5, 12 and 19, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA
Estate of Deanna J. Bomar, Deceased
Estate No. PR 24-14
Notice is hereby given that a Formal Petition for Complete Settlement After Informal Testate Proceeding has been filed and is set for hearing in the County Court of Dakota County, Nebraska, located at 1601 Broadway Street, Dakota City, NE 68731 on December 20, 2024 at or after 10:30 a.m.
/s/ Robert N. Stewart
Robert N. Stewart #24759
329 Pierce Street, Suite 200
Sioux City, IA 51101
712-277-4561
ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, November 21 and 28, 2024 and December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

Pender Community Hospital

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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING
DAKOTA COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 011
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a regular meeting of the Board of Education of Dakota County School District 011, more commonly known as South Sioux City Community Schools, will start at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, December 9, 2024. The meeting will be held in the South Sioux City High School Library, 3301 G Street, South Sioux City, Nebraska, which will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, kept continually current, are available for public inspection at the School Administration Office of said District, at 210 West 39th Street, South Sioux City, Nebraska, during normal business hours.
Dr. Rony Ortega,
Superintendent
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

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E-mail resume to mike@dakcostar.com



CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY

CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 25, 2024

A meeting of the City Council of the City of South Sioux City, Nebraska, was held at the South Sioux City Council Chambers, 1615 1st Avenue in said City on the 25th day of November 2024, at 5 p.m.

Present: Mayor Rod Koch and Council Members Jasper Kriens, James Gunsolley, Dan Bousquet, Carol Schultdt, Rick Bousquet, Ben Schultdt and Monty Peters.

Absent: Jason Bowman.

Media in attendance: Dakota County Star. Notice of the proceeding was given in advance thereof by advertising in the Dakota County Star and Mundo Latino attached to these minutes. Notice of the proceedings was given to the Mayor and all members of the Council and a copy of their acknowledgement of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance notice to the Media, Mayor and Council of this proceeding and was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Koch, stated that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall in the rear of the Council Chambers and is available for review by citizens in attendance. A sign-in sheet is available at the entrance to Council Chambers. We ask for your assistance by signing in as this is a Federal Grant requirement. It is strictly voluntary to complete the sign-in sheet.

D. Bousquet motioned to excuse Jason Bowman. Motion seconded by R. Bousquet. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Schultz motioned to approve the following items on the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Peters.

MINUTES: Council – November 11th, 2024; Public Works – November 18th, 2024

CLAIMS- 11.25.2024- Special Assessment – 2002 assessment on 3100 G Street

Treasurer's Report ending October 31st, 2024

Agreement to treat the milfoil weeds in Crystal Cove – 2025 whole lake Eurasian milfoil treatment - \$6,000.00

2009 Dakota Avenue Redevelopment Plan – update plan - Starting with phase 1: 6th Street to 9th Street

INVOICES: ✓JEO

•\$597.50 – GIS Services.

•\$5,000.00 – Foundry Road Improvements.

•\$13,615.00 – Drainage Improvements.

•\$337.50 – BRIC.

•Olsson

•\$19,492.83 – Hovey Development Phase III.

•\$32,838.56 – New Water Treatment Plant.

•\$23,487.50 – Interconnect Water Main.

✓Dale Hans Excavating and Utilities, LLC – (Cider Mill Development)

•\$609,831.27 - Harvest Meadows work (Total invoice amount \$1,100,620.00 - City and CDA pay a percentage of total invoice)

Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Engineers from JEO Consulting Group and Olsson were present to give updates and to answer any question on various projects in the city. No Action taken.

Congratulations to Officer Gerkin on 30 years of service with the South Sioux City Police Department!

Congratulations to Nanci Walsh for receiving the GFOA Award - Cer-

tificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year ending September 30th, 2023.

At 5:08 p.m., Mayor Koch opened the PUBLIC HEARING regarding Conditional Use permit request to allow residential use in a C3 zoning district located at 2219 Dakota Avenue, legally described as Lots 14 and 15, Block 20 Moans Addition. There was no one present requesting special services or to speak in favor of or in opposition to the conditional use permit. At 5:09 p.m., Mayor Koch declared the hearing closed.

Schultz motioned to approve conditional use permit for 2219 Dakota Avenue. Motion seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

At 5:10 p.m., Mayor Koch opened the PUBLIC HEARING regarding conditional use permit request to allow a residential use in a commercial (C3) zoning district. The subject property is located at 125 East 19th Street, legally described as lots 9 and 10 Block 6 First Addition. There was no one present requesting special services or to speak in favor of or in opposition to the conditional use permit. At 5:11 p.m., Mayor Koch declared the hearing closed.

Peters motioned to approve conditional use permit at 125 East 19th Street. Motion seconded by Schultz. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

At 5:12 p.m., Mayor Koch opened the PUBLIC HEARING regarding Taqueria and Bar Mallis La Casa Del Taco Mexican Food at 710 Dakota Avenue. Liquor License, Class C Spirits, Wine, Beer on and Off sale. There was no one present requesting special services or to speak in favor of or in opposition to liquor license. At 5:13 p.m., Mayor Koch declared the hearing closed.

Schultz motioned to approve Taqueria and Bar Mallis La Casa Del Taco Mexican Food liquor license. Motion seconded by Kriens. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Kriens motioned to approve the following Resolution and Westside Connecting Trails – Preliminary Engineering Service Agreement with JEO. Motion seconded by Peters.

RESOLUTION 2024-37
Signing of Preliminary Engineering Services Supplemental Agreement
BK2407-001

Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Kriens motioned approval to apply to the Department of Homeland Security – FEMA for their FY2024 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to support the costs of personal protective equipment at \$74,250.00 (95%) federal share and \$3,750 (5%) city cost share. Motion seconded by Gunsolley. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

R. Bousquet motioned to authorize the purchase of two (2) police vehicles and replacement of one (1) vehicle due to an accident. Request to replace a total of 3 Police vehicles, using ARPA funds. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Schultz motioned approval for website redesign agreement with company – Revize – the Government Website Experts. (Redesign and hosting for two (2) years is \$20,900.00 - using ARPA Funds). Motion seconded by Schultdt. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Kriens 1st, 2nd by Gunsolley, to approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION 2024-38
YEAR-END CERTIFICATION OF STREET SUPERINTENDENT 2024

Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

The City Attorney read the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE 2024-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY, DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, AMENDING SECTION 90-40 OF THE SOUTH SIOUX CITY MUNICIPAL CODE AS IT RELATES TO FEES FOR REMOVAL OF TRASH CONTAINERS;

REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING A TIME WHEN THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Kriens motioned to approve Gill Hauling garbage rate increase starting January 1, 2025 and introduced Ordinance 2024-20 on its first reading for approval. Motion seconded by R. Bousquet. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

The City Attorney read the following Ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO: 2024-19

AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NEBRASKA, AMENDING CHAPTER 110 ARTICLE 6 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND REPLACING ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY IN EFFECT

Schultz motioned to approve Ordinance 2024-19 on its 2nd reading. Motion seconded by Schultdt. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Schultz motioned to approve Fibercomm – notice a contract assignment. Motion seconded by D. Bousquet. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Employee Bonus – postponed

Kriens motioned, to approve bid from I and A Construction for \$24,913.80 for South Sioux City Shop Channel (trough repair). Motion seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Gunsolley motioned to approve Robert Rapp as replacement for Don Faber as point person for insurance. Motion seconded by Schultdt. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Schultz motioned to approve the Health and Dental, Vision and Life Renewal – Mid American Benefits (Point C). Motion seconded by Gunsolley. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Kriens motioned to approve Animal Control agreement. Motion seconded by Gunsolley. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

Information Only. Accepted water main. Harvest Meadow First Addition. The state has accepted work done by JEO.

Carol Schultdt and Rick Bousquet made a Farewell statement to the Council.

Public Comments:

•Mike O'Brien asked who's responsible for a tree branch across a sidewalk

•Parks and Rec Gene Maffit stated that the tree removal is finished and was successful, the company that did the tree removal did a great job.

Being no further business at 5:57 p.m., Gunsolley motioned, seconded by Schultdt, to adjourn the meeting. Voting Yes: 7, No: 0

These minutes are subject to city council approval.

A copy of the minutes in their entirety is available at City Hall, 1615 1st Avenue Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and on the City's website at www.southsiouxcity.org

Nanci Walsh, CITY Clerk

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, December 5, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

Bonial & Associates, P.C.
12400 Olive Blvd
Suite 555
St. Louis, MO 63141

Notice of Trustee's Sale

The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on 01/09/2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the South door of the Dakota County Courthouse, 1601 Broadway, Dakota City, NE 68731:

LOTS 1 AND 2 AND THE EAST 15 FEET OF LOT 3, BLOCK 236, CITY OF DAKOTA CITY, DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

All subject to any and all: (1) real estate taxes, (2) special assessments, (3) easements, covenants, restrictions, ordinances, and resolutions of record which affect the property, and (4) unpaid water bills, (5) prior mortgages and trust deed of record and (6) ground leases of record. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

By: Sara Pelikan,
Trustee, NSBA# 23602
Bonial & Associates, P.C.
12400 Olive Blvd
Suite 555
St. Louis, MO 63141
Phone: 314-991-0255
Fax: 972-764-5752

First Publication 11/28/2024, final 12/26/2024

Published in the Dakota Star BPC Filename: STECABOA

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN FROM YOU WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, November 28, 2024 and December 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2024.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS (WITH CHILDREN)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Erika Julisa Munguia Alvarado Plaintiff,

vs. Luis Joel Artiaga Defendant.

Case No. CI24-191

TO: Luis Joel Artiaga, whose whereabouts are unknown upon whom personal service of summons cannot be had, and is the defendant in said proceedings: You are notified that on November 7, 2024, the plaintiff, Erika Julisa Munguia Alvarado filed a Complaint against you in the District Court of Dakota County, Nebraska, at case no. CI 24-191 the object of which is to obtain a dissolution of marriage on the ground that the marriage is irretrievably broken and to obtain an equitable division of the property, and to determine custody and child support, among other things.

You are required to answer said Complaint on or before December 7, 2024, or said Complaint against you will be taken as true.

Date: November 20, 2024

Printed Name:
Gina Tabisola, #26209
Street Address/P.O. Box:
308 S 19th Street
City/State/ZIP Code:
Omaha, NE 68102

Telephone Number: 402-884-0700
Email address: gina@kasaby.com

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, November 28, 2024 and December 5 and 12, 2024. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

MAUL & BODLAK, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF KUBIK TAX & ACCOUNTING, LLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **KUBIK TAX & ACCOUNTING, LLC,**

a Nebraska limited liability company authorized to perform professional public accounting services, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office at 303 St. Patrick Court, Jackson, NE 68743 and registered agent, Lee Kubik, at 303 St. Patrick Court, Jackson, NE 68743. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska and for all other purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. The limited liability company was formed on September 26, 2024, and its existence shall be perpetual. The Certificate of Organization was then amended on November 4, 2024. Its affairs shall be conducted by the member pursuant to an Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company.

KUBIK TAX & ACCOUNTING, LLC by its sole member:

Lee Kubik

Maul & Bodlak, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 490
Pender, NE 68047
402-385-3016

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, November 28, 2024 and December 5 and 12, 2024. - ZNEZ

Anonymity an option in reporting sexual assault

By MIKE MOEN

Nebraska News Connection

More than 60 percent of sexual assaults are never reported to police, due to concerns like fear of retaliation or negative social interactions. But Nebraska advocates say there are resources to help with confidentiality issues.

These reminders come amid heightened concerns about threatening behavior women experience online.

Katie Welsh is the vice president of programs for Omaha's Women's Center for Advancement - which works with survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and stalking.

She said advocacy groups and law enforcement are learning more about

the overlap between online harassment and physical abuse.

"It's kind of a new frontier in many ways," said Welsh. "While it may start where the victim and abuser are geographically separated and are communicating online, that it often leads to them meeting up so that the abuser can assert power and control."

Welsh said in its worst form, this can include sexual violence.

No matter the situation, she said anyone targeted can call the Women's Center's 24/7 crisis hotline (402-345-7273) where a confidential advocate works with the survivor ready to report what happened.

The Women's Fund of Omaha also stresses that reporting can happen anonymously, and the website sexualassaulthelp.org is another resource.

The website notes the survivor isn't required to provide any identifying information to law enforcement.

In other situations, Welsh acknowledged the challenges that sometimes come up when a survivor reports an assault or harassing behavior, and is bombarded with threatening online messages afterwards.

"Those online interactions are hard to shut off, you know," said Welsh. "They can come from a lot of different sources — email, social media."

She said taking down social media profiles and changing email addresses might help ward off online harassment.

Welsh added that taking screenshots of online threats and daily notes about interactions can help when reporting them to authorities.

Nebraska State Treasurer encourages holiday gifting with NEST 529 contributions

This holiday season, Nebraska State Treasurer Tom Briese reminds families to think beyond traditional gifts and contribute to a loved one's NEST 529 Education Savings Plan.

Contributing to a NEST 529 account offers the opportunity to invest in a child's future educational success.

"As we approach the holiday season, many people are looking for meaningful gift ideas," Briese said. "A NEST 529 contribution is a thoughtful and lasting investment in a child's education that can have lifelong benefits, both for the student and the family."

Account owners can invite friends and family members to contribute to a NEST 529 account. To get started, visit nest529.com/friends-family-gifting. When a contribution has been made, the gift-giver can order



or print a Nest 529 holiday gift card for the recipient.

As 2024 comes to an end, account owners are encouraged to consider the tax advantages of end-of-year contributions to their NEST 529 account. Nebraska account owners are eligible to receive a Nebraska state income tax deduction of up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 if married, filing separately) for contributions made to their own NEST accounts.

"There's no better time than now

to start planning for a loved one's future," Briese said. "Year-end contributions not only help grow savings for future education costs, but also offer tax advantages for account owners."

Contributions must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2024 to qualify for 2024 tax benefits. Account owners can also contribute online by logging into their account at nest529.com.

Visit nest529.com/tax-benefits to read more about the benefits of a NEST 529 Education Savings Plan.

The Nebraska State Treasurer serves as the Program Trustee. All investments, including the portfolio structure offered through the NEST 529 program, are vetted and approved by the Nebraska Investment Council.

NEW LANES OPEN AT L&C ELEMENTARY



(PHOTO BY LANCE SWANSON)

The new drop-off and pick-up lane at Lewis and Clark Elementary School opened recently. Parents will now enter exclusively through West 9th St. and proceed into the left lane designated for drop-off and pick-up. When exiting, you may turn right onto West 8th St. or continue straight onto 2nd Avenue — left turns are not permitted. The right lane is reserved for moving traffic only after drop-off or pick-up. Gates will remain closed outside of designated drop-off and pick-up times.

Toolkit videos detail needed documentation for Medicaid, long-term healthcare needs

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has published informational videos accompanying a series of documents that outline the various documentation that members need when applying for Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) services.

"This new format will help ready Nebraskans for a variety of life circumstances, whether it's applying for Medicaid, preparing to move to an assisted living facility, or just preparing for the later stages of life," MLTC Interim Director Matt Ahern said.

The MLTC toolkit documents, along with the videos, can be found at dhhs.ne.gov/pages/mltc-toolkits. The website also includes materials for external partners to utilize, including a one-pager document with a QR code leading to the website and graphics to post to social media.

The first video, titled "Medicaid Long-Term Care Documentation Guide," goes over required information and documentation when applying for Medicaid. This includes information about the applicant and their health insurance, income, and resources.

The second video, titled "Financial Preparedness for Long-Term Healthcare Needs," covers important documentation to share with loved ones and/or representatives while planning for the future. The toolkit goes over legal documents, assets, retirement assets, insurance policies, debts, and other necessary documents to gather.

"Making sure these critical documents are all in one place and shared with the right people can give people the peace of mind that they need, especially during later years in life," Ahern said.

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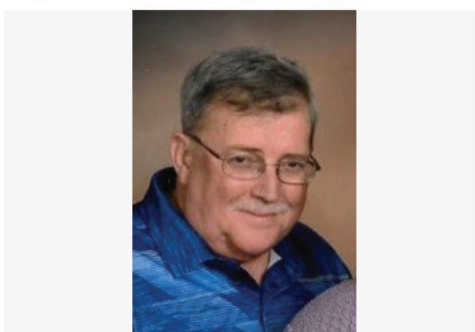
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OBITUARIES

Ray L. Schleusener, 71



Ray L. Schleusener passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024. Funeral services will be 11 a.m., Monday, Sept. 30, 2024 at First Lutheran Church in South Sioux City. Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. Sunday, ...

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