



BACK ON THE MATS

Area wrestlers at Winnebago. Page 1B

Since 1909 DAKOTA COUNTY STAR

1000 West 29th St., South Sioux City, NE 68776 www.dakcostar.com Volume 114, Issue 2 10 pages \$1.00 Thursday, January 9, 2025

STAR CALENDAR

Chamber Coffee Friday

This week's Chamber Coffee will be hosted by the Dakota County Star and will be held at the South Sioux City High School library. Coffee begins at 9:30 a.m., with the program starting at 10 a.m.

Cardinal Vision workshop

The last of the series of Cardinal Vision workshops will be held Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at the SSC Middle School.

This is the final meeting and will include drafting a final presentation that will be presented to the South Sioux City Community Schools Board of Education.

City Council meeting

The City Council of South Sioux City will meet on Monday, Jan. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Council chambers at City Hall.

An agenda is available at www.southsiouxcity.org.

School Board to meet

The South Sioux City Community Schools Board of Education will meet on Monday, Jan. 13 at 5 p.m. in the high school library.

An agenda is available at www.ssc-cardinals.org.

Got an event?

If your school, church or nonprofit has an upcoming event that you'd like to promote, send the information to the Dakota County Star at least two weeks ahead of time.

Information can be sent to news@dakcostar.com or call (402) 494-4264.

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LOCAL WEATHER

Data Courtesy National Weather Service FOR WEEK OF JAN. 9-15, 2025

THURSDAY		35	21
		Cloudy.	
FRIDAY		27	19
		Mix of clouds and sun.	
SATURDAY		31	20
		Partly cloudy skies.	
SUNDAY		30	16
		Cloudy skies.	
MONDAY		22	11
		Partly cloudy.	
TUESDAY		23	13
		Mix of clouds and sun.	
WEDNESDAY		31	18
		Partly cloudy.	

M Avenue could get widened to 30 feet

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

The final meeting for three outgoing members of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners Monday was highlighted by discussion of the possibility of widening M Avenue just south of Hubbard.

Concerns about the width of the road and the difficulty of large vehicles being able to pass on the road have the county looking at widening the 28-foot width of the road to allow for safer passage on the county road between Highway 35 and the entrance to Kramper Lake.

"There are concerns about the 28-foot width and getting trucks through there, and I'd like to look at getting that road a little bit wider," board member Troy Launsby said.

Josh Keithley of Midwest Engineering, who is in charge of the project, said that the

state's minimum design standards for a county road are at 24 feet, and since the project has yet to be started the county could ask the contractor to see if there are any additional costs to widen the road to as much as 30 feet.

"If it would be cheaper we can do it, but I don't want to spend more money," board chair Martin Hohenstein stated.

The road currently sees about 150 vehicles per day, according to Keithley.

The board also discussed snow removal contracts that could be enacted in the event of a major snowstorm or winter weather event.

Highway superintendent Jolene Gubbels said that three companies in the county have offered their services in the event that the county needs help with snow removal. On a 4-0 vote (Brian VanBerkum was absent from the meeting), the board approved offering contracts to Harris Construction, Lux Brothers and Oban Construction in the event that

they are needed.

Monday's meeting was the final one for three outgoing board members, including Launsby, Bob Giese and Scott Love.

All three expressed their thanks for the opportunity to serve the community, and Love — who was finishing his second stint on the board — was particularly vocal in his comments.

"It's been a great experience and I wouldn't change it," he said. "My first time on the board was in 2011 when the flood happened, and talking about getting your feet wet — I did in many ways. There are a lot of good people here (at the county office) and I appreciate it."

Hohenstein said that he and VanBerkum, along with newcomers Rick Bousquet, Jeff Reed and Rogelio Rodriguez Villalobos, will have a lot to look forward to after the three are sworn in Thursday morning.

"It's going to be a huge challenge this year with the new budget constraints put on by the Legislature and all three unions up for renegotiation," he said.

In other action, the board:

— approved a proclamation noting January as Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month.

— approved a letter of support to SIMP-CO/SRTS to apply for a grant to expand their facility in Sioux City and build a satellite location in LeMars, Iowa.

The three new county commissioners will be sworn in on Thursday at 10 a.m. in the court room at the Dakota County Courthouse. The county board's next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 3 p.m., a day later than normal due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, Jan. 20.

After a quarter century in politics, Giese ready for next chapter

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

People get into politics for any number of reasons.

Bob Giese never thought of getting involved in local politics until a chance encounter with a City Councilman 24 years ago, a suggestion that ended up changing his life.

Monday was the final meeting for Giese as a member of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners, the fifth political position he held in a 24-year career in politics that didn't begin until he was approached by the late John Saunders while working at the HyVee store in South Sioux City.

"One day, John stopped in the store and asked me 'Have you ever thought of running for City Council?' and I had never thought of such a thing," Giese told the Dakota County Star in an interview after his last meeting with the county board.

Giese, who worked for HyVee for 30 years, had been involved in some of his kids' activities and served on the Parish Council at St. Michael's Catholic Church, talked it over with his wife, Nancy, and threw his name in the hat for one of the four open positions.

"When you first sit down and think about running, you ask yourself what you can bring to the table, and I thought there were some things I'd be good at," he said.

His people skills from his years in the grocery business made him a good candidate and he was elected to the City Council in 2000 and again in 2004. Two years later, longtime mayor Bill McClarty decided to retire and Giese decided to run for the city's top spot.

"South Sioux City is a very inclusive and proactive community, and having the best city administrator in the state (Lance Hedquist) makes it a good fit for anyone who wanted the mayor's job," Giese said.

The city was in the midst of updating the look of the downtown area along Dakota Avenue, and a \$300 million expansion of BPI were in place during Giese's short stay in the mayor's office when the Democratic Party came calling with a request for him to consider running for the District 17 seat in the Nebraska Legislature.

The recent passage of term limits



(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

Bob Giese listens intently during a recent meeting of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. The lifelong South Sioux City resident has served in five different positions during a 24-year career in politics, and recently stepped down after four years on the county board.

in the Legislature by Nebraska voters meant that longtime State Senator Pat Engel was going to be finished as the District 17 representative, and Giese was encouraged to run for the open seat.

"Pat had been the senator for 14 years and the parties started looking for a candidate, and I was approached by the Democratic Party to run," he said. "It was a tough decision and I had to do a lot of soul searching because I was still working for HyVee."

Giese ran and was elected in 2008, driving back-and-forth between here and Lincoln and taking a leave of absence from his position at HyVee, and it wasn't long before he found that the low pay for being a state legislator (\$12,000 annually) was a drain on his resources.

"I took a leave of absence because that first session ran from January to July. HyVee was great to work with me

SEE GIESE, 2A

Cardinal Elementary traffic discussed

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

Parking in and around Cardinal Elementary has been a concern during the beginning and ending of school days, and the Public Works Committee discussed possible solutions along East 31st Street during Monday's meeting.

A quorum was not present for the meeting with only members Ben Schultz and Monty Peters present, but the committee did discuss the 31st Street issue along with

some other items that will be considered at next week's City Council meeting.

Ethan Joy from JEO Consulting Group told the committee that a traffic study in the area was completed back in 2014, and no real good solution is available in that area right now.

Space for a drive on the back of the school property was noted on an overhead view of the school property that was suggested, but Joy said the school opted to forego installation of the road

there on the east side of the school.

"We could prohibit parking on both sides of 31st Street, but that would be problematic because there isn't enough room in the school's parking lots to pick up kids," he said. In addition, resident along the south side didn't want a No Parking designation in front of their homes.

Schultz, who is a principal at Dakota City Elementary, said designating a No Parking area there wouldn't be a

good idea.

"I would hate to take parking away from residents," he said. "If we could somehow explore LeMesa Way going through, it would alleviate the concern because they would have a different way to exit."

The area in question is currently undeveloped, and city economic development director Oscar Lopez said the area's landowners would be asking \$50,000 an acre

SEE TRAFFIC, 2A



Community support makes a difference for less fortunate

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

When a community comes together to help out those less fortunate, there are never any losers.

Even though donations were down this year due to the state of the economy, Bill Garvey said that Cardinal Christmas Baskets was still able to raise enough money and get enough in the way of food donations to provide 273 families in Dakota County with a little something special this holiday season.

Donations ranging from cans of food gathered by local school children to meat and basic food items from HyVee and Tyson Foods were put together and distributed last month to families in South Sioux City and other Dakota County communities to give them the fixings for a good holiday meal.

Doing so takes a community effort between fundraising and volunteer efforts to fill the boxes and take them to the homes of those in need.

"We're so lucky that the community steps up and shows that support," said Garvey, co-chair of the Cardinal Christmas Baskets non-profit organization.

The volunteer-driven program is vital in assisting families who are going through some rough times financially, whether it's elderly residents living on fixed incomes or those who go through unexpected setbacks like the loss of a job or medical issues.

Financial donations were over \$24,000 as of last week, Garvey said, and with that money and funds that the group has in reserve, they were able to get most of what they need to fill the boxes.

"Grocery prices were up for a lot of the year, and our canned goods donations were down, but all in all it was sufficient for this year," he said. "We made their holiday better than if we didn't exist, so we can walk away knowing we've done something good."

Financial donations are taken throughout the year, with a special time designated the first Saturday in December as volunteers stand along Dakota Avenue and take cash donations from people driving along the road.

"We were blessed with some really good weather on that bell-ringing day this year," Garvey said.

The night before delivery, volunteers gathered at the Fire Department's Memorial Hall to start a continuous line that snaked around more than 20 stations where helpers placed items such as canned goods, ramen noodles and bread. More than 90 volunteers were involved in the 90-minute effort to fill the 273 boxes. Food items from HyVee — everything from pasta sauce and peanut butter to milk and potatoes — along with ground beef donated by Tyson Foods are taken to the homes the following morning, and Garvey said some volunteers who deliver to one or two houses end up being surprised.

"Some of the people who do it for the first time say they'll just do one or two houses, and when they go out and see the conditions some people live in, it's a reality check," Garvey said. "We had some new people who helped out on Friday night and Saturday morning, and they all said afterward that

SEE SUPPORT, 2A

SSC ROBOTICS TEAMS SEE ACTION



(PHOTO BY LANCE SWANSON)

SSC High School First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics were held on Saturday, Jan. 4, with league tournament qualification matches held in the Middle School Gym. The League Tournament will be on Jan. 18.

GARVEY NAMED



The Cardinal Education Foundation is proud to announce William "Bill" Garvey, Sr., as the 2024-25 Hall of Fame recipient. A 1973 graduate of South Sioux City High School, Bill has dedicated decades of his life to making a lasting impact on the community. The special presentation honoring Bill will take place at the SSC Mini-Dome on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at approximately 2:15 p.m., in between the girls and boys varsity basketball games against Norfolk. From leading youth programs to organizing food drives and reviving vital community services, Bill's selfless contributions have touched countless lives. Come out to cheer on the Cardinals and help us celebrate Bill's legacy as a true Cardinal and community champion!

GIESE: Stepping down after 24 years, five positions

from Page 1A

on that, but the thing is that I wasn't getting paid (by HyVee) during that time, and I also had to pay for my own insurance."

Giese also discovered that trying to get anything meaningful done in Lincoln was nowhere near as easy as it was back home, even on the most simple of bills.

"The Legislature is a whole different animal," he said. "What I found out in a hurry is that you need to do a lot of communicating with fellow senators to even get a simple bill passed or get it brought to the floor. It takes 25 votes to get it passed, and it's difficult to get something passed on even the little issues."

One experience he recalled was a bill that he introduced that would update the state's electrical code, requiring breakers to be installed in kitchens and bathrooms of houses.

"You'd think it would be a no-brainer, but then came opposition from the home builders' people who said it would cost more. I was amazed that there would be opposition," he said.

The Nebraska Legislature is the only one-house governing body in the nation, but Giese said there is no question that it is still a two-party governing body.

And he missed the local side of government.

"I was having a lot of fun as mayor and had good things happening, and I imagined how much fun it would be

"What I found out in a hurry is that you need to do a lot of communicating with fellow senators to even get a simple bill passed or get it brought to the floor."

— Bob Giese

Retiring from local politics after 24 years

in the Legislature to do what I was doing," he said. "It was just difficult to get anything done."

As it would happen, his father, Bob Sr., was ready to retire after more than three decades as the Dakota County Treasurer. A conversation between father and son led the younger Giese to run for and win his dad's seat in November of 2010.

"He asked me if I was having fun in the Legislature and I was, but it was a lot of work and a lot of travel was involved," he said. "Dad was turning 80 that summer and he said wouldn't it be something if I ran."

Moving to the treasurer's office in Dakota City meant an end to 30 years of employment with HyVee and he took over his dad's old spot, a position he held for 10 years when the opportunity to run for County Commissioner presented itself.

"I was 65 by that time and ready for retirement, but I needed something to do," he said on his decision to go for the county board spot. "Now I'm 69 and I'm done."

Two and a half decades after he was first approached, Giese said he

wasn't sure where he would have been in his life were it not for the question Sanders asked of him that fateful afternoon.

"I had absolutely no intention of going into politics, but that one question changed it," he said. "You never know what life is going to bring you, and you should get involved and do the best that you can do in whatever job or elected position you are in."

Recent elections have showed fewer people are running for public office, and Giese suggested that those currently in those positions need to do a better job of recruiting people in the community.

"My situation is a perfect example of one person coming up to me and saying 'Hey, did you ever think of running for . . .?'," he said. "Politics today have taken a real beating, and there are people in this community who I believe, if given the inclination to do it, would be willing to serve. Without a nudge, people aren't going to sign up for school boards or City Council or anything like that so I think the current officials need to do a better job of recruiting people."

SUPPORT: Volunteers make CCB program happen

from Page 1A

they were glad they helped out because it made them realize they have a lot to be thankful for."

The boxes that are delivered go to homes that the committee is made aware of through the schools or other agencies.

"We don't know if somebody was in the hospital for six months or may have lost their jobs. There are so many circumstances that put people in these situations," he said.

Cardinal Christmas Baskets receives financial donations throughout the year and collects food and other donated items as well. Students from Homer and South Sioux City public schools and St. Michael's Catholic Church participate in a drive for canned goods every year, and other donations come in as well — some of which are beyond the items needed, but find a home

nonetheless.

"Sometimes we get things that are too big or in glass jars or are in packages that won't survive handling," Garvey said. "People mean well with their donations, but a 96-ounce box of Corn Flakes takes up too much room. We have partnered with the Dakota City Food Pantry, the Senior Center, the Life Center, Haven House, the school's Blessing Closet and Siouxland Family Center, and if something doesn't fit into our distribution we pass those on to those groups and it helps supplement what they're doing so nothing goes to waste."

It's an effort that Garvey wishes didn't have to happen, but is thankful that the community supports the effort.

"Without the support of the community, this wouldn't happen," he said. "We wish that the need for our services would go away, but in these

times that is not going to happen, so we are grateful for the support we get from the community."

For more information on donating or volunteering support for Cardinal Christmas Baskets, contact Nanci Walsh at City Hall (402-494-7504) or write to Cardinal Christmas Baskets, P.O. Box 987, South Sioux City, Neb., 68776.

TRAFFIC: 31st Street discussed

from Page 1A

for the 5.9-acre property.

Discussion was also conducted on a road that would run from East 17th Street to the Oban Construction property that could help the company avoid traffic issues with vehicles entering in and out of the property, particularly during the beginning and ending of school days.

Brandon Victor, representing Oban Construction, said that the oversized loads they deal with can be slowed down by 15-20 minutes due to school traffic, and an entry/exit point on the back side of the property would help address the issue.

Andy Hovey, representing Hovey Construction, which owns a nearby development, said there would be concerns raised with noise and dust that would come into that development.

"We want to build \$300,000-400,000 homes on the property, and it wouldn't be a good look with heavy equipment going in and out," he said.

City Administrator Lance Hedquist

Celebrating 94th

The family of Joyce Williams is holding a 94th birthday party on Sunday, Jan. 12 at First Lutheran Church from 1-3 p.m.

No gifts, please.

Locals make Buena Vista honor roll

Buena Vista University congratulates more than 560 students who were named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes full-time students achieving a 3.5 grade-point average or higher for the semester.

Area students recognized include: South Sioux City — Alma DeArcos, Rosana DeArcos; Ponca — Summer Prokop

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Northeast Nebraska Senior Center Menu

1501 W. 29th St.

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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, Jan. 9 — Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit cocktail, cranberries

Friday, Jan. 10 — Sausage and potatoes, American fries, broccoli, carrots, pineapple

Monday, Jan. 13 (Evening meal) — BBQ ribs, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, baked beans, fruit salad, oranges

Tuesday, Jan. 14 — Tuna and noodles, peas, pickled beets, mandarin oranges, broccoli

Wednesday, Jan. 15 — Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, green beans, tropical fruit, cauliflower



www.dakotacountystar.net

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Current President should just go away

Don't Get Me Started

By Michael J. Carnes
Star Publisher



I'm still recovering from the holiday break, so here's a few leftovers from the "Bits and Pieces" file:

— In recent days, every time I see the soon-to-be ex-President of the United States speak, I'm reminded of the title of a Motley Crue classic tune: Don't Go Away Mad (Just Go Away).

The chorus of the song seems to be playing in the background every time the cadaver posing as our nation's leader opens his mouth and spits out his bitter vile to reporters. The guy who was in mental decline even before he was "elected" in 2020 and showed his worsening case of Alzheimer's (or dementia, or whatever it is that is eating at the space in between his ears) is obviously ticked off about being forced out of the 2024 Presidential race, a race he still believes he would have won (which tells you just how bad his mental decline is getting) and seems intent on making all of us feel his wrath in the final days before he finally leaves office on the 20th.

His recent decisions and executive orders are meant as nothing more than to hamstring the work of the incoming regime, from selling parts of the border wall to banning offshore drilling. The appalling pardons of his criminal son and countless drug dealers are yet another anti-American move that we will feel the impact of long after they finally bury his soulless, decaying body.

History has told us stories of some of the nefarious stunts outgoing administrations pull to make things inconvenient for the new group that voters replaced them with, but what Biden and his evil forces are doing is a step too far. The only thing he hasn't yet done is handed the keys to the country over to China — but I don't want to give him any ideas.

— Let's not let the opportunity to bring the incoming regime in line, though... I hope that the incoming Commander in Chief has learned his lesson from his first time in the Oval Office, particularly when it comes to his obsession with attempting to be funny while posting on social media.

Orange Julius' biggest downfall during his first term, in my opinion, was his inability to self-censor himself on Twitter. Some of his tweets were so jaw-dropping stupid that he actually made Joe Biden a semi-rational choice for the office in 2020.

He's already talking gibberish with his suggestion that Canada be-

come the 51st state (I'm not sure he's aware Canada is already split into several "states" on their own with provinces like Alberta, Ontario, etc.). Maybe that talk will cease now that Canada is getting a new prime minister, but that remains to be seen.

Rather than all this crazy talk, let's focus on what's ailing this nation right now and work on undoing all the crap that the present regime has done these last four years. Sensible leadership is more important right now than trying (and, mostly, failing) to be funny on social media. Leave the comedy to the experts... the Democratic Party's leadership already provides enough unintentional hilarity to keep us in stitches.

— I had an interesting chat with retired county commissioner Bob Giese this week, and we talked about his brief stint in the Nebraska Legislature. He provided some insight into the politics that takes place in a governing body that was designed to be nonpartisan... but that would be the last thing you would call it today.

Giese mentioned that getting a simple bill that seemed like a no-brainer passed sometimes took a lot of work to get the needed votes for it to become law. Leadership (if that's the correct word) from the two political parties do a lot of work behind the scenes that affects the chances of ANY bill getting passed, and you have to be good at communicating with the other senators, some of whom already have their minds made up based on which side of the political aisle they are on.

The newest edition of the Nebraska Legislature is opening their 90-day session today (Thursday) and it will be interesting to see if this group can get more done than what has taken place (or NOT taken place) in previous sessions. They have a lot of work to get done this time around, from property taxes to taking care of the state's young people — the less politics gets played, the more that might get accomplished.

Quite frankly, considering the

leadership at the top and those who are still around from the clown show that was last year's governing body, calling me "cautiously optimistic" that a lot will get accomplished in Lincoln this time around would be a major stretch.

— The Dakota County Star will be hosting this week's Chamber Coffee, and as much as we'd like to do it in our home office and show the place off, our space is quite small and doing so might invite the Fire Marshal over for an unscheduled visit that, quite honestly, we'd like to avoid.

That said, we will be at the South Sioux City High School library on Friday morning for the weekly Chamber event, starting at 9:30 a.m. Cookies and coffee will be served, and it will be an opportunity for me to meet more of the great community that we are part of and you'll get a chance to hear more about what we do and, even more important, what we have planned for the newspaper in 2025 and beyond.

This newspaper has been a part of Dakota County for 114 years and I'm happy that I have the opportunity to carry on the paper's long tradition of covering South Sioux City and all of Dakota County. With no real daily newspaper in the region for the community to rely on, it is up to us to keep you informed on what's happening here in South Sioux City and in Dakota County and we want you to be proud of your area's newspaper and look forward to reading each edition, just as we are excited to cover the news and present it you here each week.

— If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the Star's website at www.dakostar.com. We are thrilled with the new look of the website and will be adding more to it in the weeks to come.

Something I've always enjoyed doing are podcasts, and we will be getting the equipment set up to start doing that every soon. There are a ton of stories to be shared here, and we'll feature local news on these podcasts.



Honored to serve Nebraskans

I'm humbled and honored to have the opportunity to continue serving Nebraskans in the U.S. Senate. President Trump's re-election, along with Republican majorities in Congress, provides a great opportunity to get our country back on track. We must deliver results for Nebraskans. This Congress, I'll continue to fight to make government work better. I will also work to keep Americans safe and support Nebraska agriculture.

I'm looking forward to working with President-elect Trump to make government work better. That means fixing the broken appropriations process and getting our spending under control. Families across the country must tighten their financial belts when times get tough. By contrast, D.C.'s bloated bureaucracy just uses taxpayer dollars to buy a bigger belt. It can't continue.

When I was Governor, we ran government more like a business. We improved services and reduced costs. I'm using that experience as a founding member of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Caucus. Working with Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), Elon Musk, and Vivek Ramaswamy, we will provide proven solutions to streamline government.

On the Environment and Public Works Committee I'll fight to end the overregulation that has driven up costs for families and businesses. The Biden-Harris administration finalized more than 5,000 new federal rules in four years. This includes their delusional EV mandate. I'll work with President Trump to repeal it.

This year alone about 100,000 pages of new federal rules were finalized. That's the most new pages of rules in our country's history. Stacked on top of each other, they would be 33 feet tall. This is as tall as a three-story building. Those rules

Washington Report

US. Sen. Pete Ricketts
(R) Nebraska



are estimated to cost an extra \$3,300 per household each year for as long as they're on the books. American families and job-creators deserve relief, not regulation.

President Trump campaigned on securing the border. I intend to help him get it done. Last year, I unveiled a comprehensive package of border solutions. I will fight to finish the border wall. I'll push for more resources to allow Border Patrol officers to do their jobs more effectively. I'll go after the drug cartels that push deadly drugs that continue to kill Nebraskans like Taryn Lee Griffith.

As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee I'll support President Trump as he restores American strength. Only through strength can we deter our adversaries and prevent future conflicts. The days of Biden's appeasement-first policy are coming to an end very soon.

I'll also continue supporting Nebraska agriculture. The outlook for a comprehensive five-year Farm Bill has increased with Republican leadership in the House and Senate. That's good for Nebraska's farmers and ranchers. Passing a Farm Bill is the best way to ensure they have the tools they need to navigate current and future challenges. I'm working to include my bills to improve flood protection and improve infrastructure resiliency. My priorities also include aid for rural microentrepreneurs and

giving a next step to workers on food stamps. It's essential we pass a good Farm Bill so producers can have the stability they need to make crucial decisions.

Finally, the Senate must exercise its "advise and consent" role and confirm President Trump's nominees. I'm excited about the change of leadership at many of these agencies. I'm also excited about the prospect of confirming judges that will defend our Constitution and protect the rule of law.

I'm pleased that the Senate will return to a more normal work schedule. There's no time to waste. Most Americans work at least five days a week. Under Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), the Senate will show up to work until the work gets done. That's the way it should be.

We have a lot of work to do. I'm committed to working with my colleagues to deliver meaningful results for Nebraskans. Thank you again for the opportunity to fight for our state.

My team and I are here to serve you. Contact us anytime by phone at 202-224-4224. You can also view my website at www.ricketts.senate.gov/contact.

the general practice of both civil and criminal law. Jewell, a partner in the firm, defended Kneiff in his dealings with the Nebraska Commission of Judicial Qualifications and subsequent struggle to avoid three month suspension without pay by the Nebraska Supreme Court for personal misconduct outside the courtroom.

50 YEARS AGO

JAN. 9, 1975

Apartment fire damage is extensive

A fire early Thursday morning gutted one apartment and damaged several others at the Interstate Apartments at 16th and C streets in South Sioux. Damage may exceed \$40,000. The fire started in Apartment 34, rented to Glen Paul. The Paul apartment was completely gutted while several others in the same building suffered moderate to severe smoke damage. No one was injured in the incident and all residents of the building were evacuated safely before major fire fighting efforts began. Fireman spent 30 minutes bringing the fire under control and about two hours at the scene overall.

10 YEARS AGO

JAN. 8, 2015

Gomez takes over as BOC chairman

Tony Gomez has been named the new chairperson for the Dakota County Board of Commissioners following a 5-0 vote during their meeting Monday night. Gomez, who abstained from the vote, will be taking over for commissioner Bill Rohde. Gomez will also be chairperson for the Board of Correction as well. Scott Love will be taking over as Vice-Chair for both boards.

30 YEARS AGO

JAN. 5, 1995

New Year Baby 1995

Mario Antonio Aldana made his entrance into the world three weeks before he was expected, but his early appearance won him the honor of the first Dakota County baby of the year. He was born at St. Luke's Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa, Sunday, Jan. 1, 1995, at 2:29 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 21 inches. He is the first child of Mario and Paulina Aldana of South Sioux City.

40 YEARS AGO

JAN. 10, 1985

Kneiff: no influence on successor

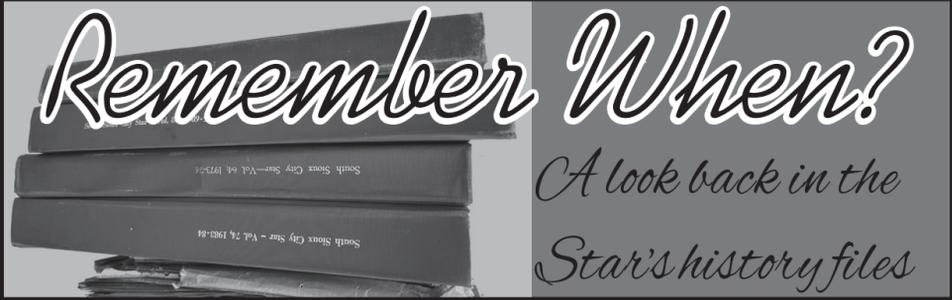
Last Wednesday, the same day the term of Kneiff's judgeship expired, Gov. Bob Kerrey announced the appointment of Otte to succeed Kneiff as District Court Judge in Nebraska's Eighth Judicial District. Otte, 53, has served as a practicing attorney with the Norfolk law firm of Jewell, Gatz and Collins since 1961, engaging in

20 YEARS AGO

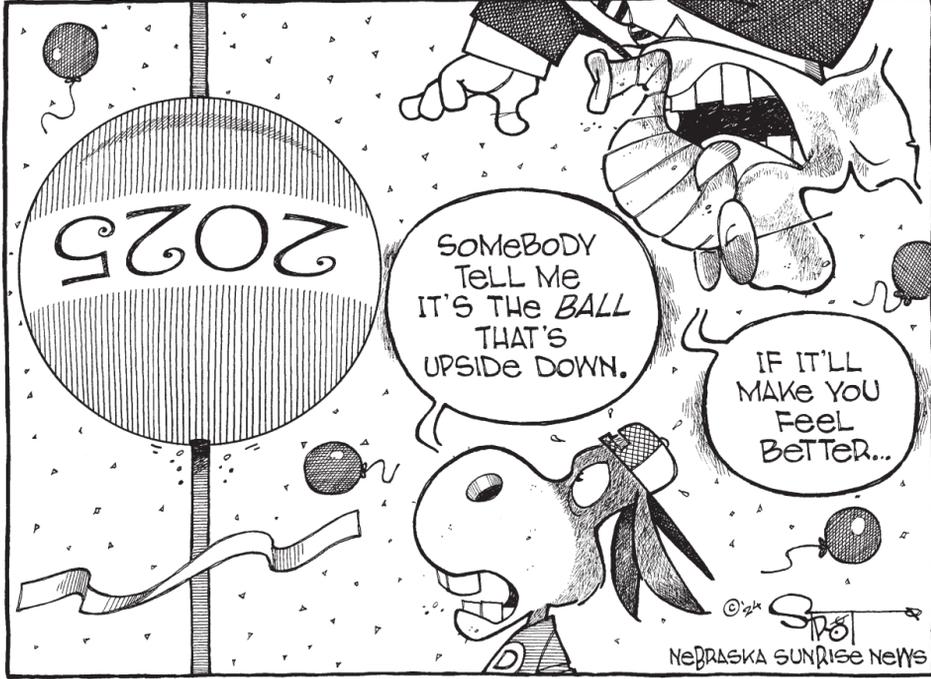
JAN. 6, 2005

Ice, ice baby

Dennis Bridge and Jason Miller from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission drill a hole into the ice at Crystal Cove where more than 4,300 rainbow trout were released on Monday. The fish are part of an annual release into Crystal Cove.



The 3rd Rail



The 3rd Rail



Somali immigrants help refugees moving to South Sioux City

By NATALIA ALAMDARI
Flatwater Free Press

SOUTH SIOUX CITY – In a small office, Abdikadir Moalim translates work documents from English to Somali, helping a Tyson employee who needs to take off work to visit her sick mother in Africa.

Tacked to the wall is a poster of the Somali coat of arms – two leopards on either side of the country's flag. A dry erase board breaking down English vowel sounds is propped against a shelf.

Across the room, Katie Hagen checks the status of someone's refugee application. A phoned-in relative helps translate between English and Oromo, the official language of Ethiopia.

The office is buzzing on this Sunday afternoon. The three donated couches that line the room are filled with people waiting for help submitting unemployment claims and job applications; navigating complicated immigration documents; translating legal letters from the government and emails from refugee resettlement case managers.

"Who's next!" Moalim shouts to the chattering room.

This rented space sits in a building where every closet and spare room is rented to a different Somali business. It's the current headquarters of Somali Community of Siouxland, a four-person nonprofit founded by Moalim last year to help support South Sioux City's steadily growing Somali population.

"Most of my people are refugees. They don't know the language, they don't understand the policies and rules from different institutions," said Moalim, an interpreter at the Tyson plant in nearby Dakota City. "People needed direction. They never had a place to go and ask for help."

In South Sioux City, the number of African immigrants has swelled in the past decade, nearly tripling from 330 in 2013 to 840 last year. Two out of three hail from Somalia, the easternmost country in Africa. South Sioux City, the small Nebraska part of the Sioux City metro area, is home to 13,856 residents. Nearly 1 out of every 15 residents are African immigrants.

Though still small, Nebraska's African population has exploded, too, nearly doubling since 2010 and hitting a new high of 16,078 in 2023. Pushed out of their home countries by civil war, drought and famine, this newer wave of immigrants come to join family members. They come to find jobs and a low cost of living; somewhere quieter and smaller than typical resettlement cities like Minneapolis and Columbus, Ohio.

And they're among the thousands of immigrants growing Nebraska's population. In 2024, international migration was the main driver of population growth, according to the latest U.S. Census estimates. An added 12,978 immigrants pushed the state's population past 2 million, as places like South Sioux City grew.

South Sioux's immigrant groups have come in waves. Before the East Africans, Tyson recruited Vietnamese and Laotian immigrants to staff its largest meatpacking plant.

And before them, it was a wave of Latin American immigrants in the 1980s, also recruited by Tyson. Today, South Sioux is 50 percent Latino.

Ed Mahon has watched all of those waves arrive during his 31 years with the South Sioux City Police Department. The arrival of Somali immigrants about 15 years ago brought new languages and an unfamiliar religion, said Mahon, now the police chief. The department would often get calls to the apartment complex where most Somalis lived.

"We didn't know them, and they absolutely didn't know us," Mahon said. "Our guys would go down there . . . and it seemed like the whole apartment complex would clear out and everyone would come down and surround us to see what's going on."

The scene would get tense, with officers nervous about being encircled as the strangers chattered in a language they couldn't understand.

Six months later, Mahon remembers asking an officer: "How's it going down there?"

Fine, the officer replied. We got to know them, and they've seen how we work. Not a big deal anymore.

In 2010, there were so few Somalis living in South Sioux that the U.S. Census didn't even designate them as a population group, instead lumping them with "other East African countries."

But the U.S. has admitted more and more Somali refugees as residents flee a civil war raging in the country. An estimated 3 million Somalis are now displaced within Somalia and refugee camps in neighboring countries like Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

From 2001 to 2023, more than 111,000 Somali refugees entered the United States, according to the U.S. State Department. An estimated 2,404 Somalis live in Nebraska.

South Sioux City's Dakota County is now home to 852 Africans, and 575 Somalis. Of Dakota County's foreign-born residents, 16.9 percent are African.

Across the river in Iowa's Sioux City, 1,607 Africans live in Woodbury County. But there's a key difference: Ethiopians and Eritrean immigrants are more likely to live in Iowa; Somalis more likely to live in Nebraska. The Sioux City metro – 144,007 total people, across three states, has three mosques. On Fridays, as many as 500 people crowd into the South Sioux mosque for noon prayers.

"We are seeing new arrivals all the time," said Heidi Oligmueller, an immigration attorney in South Sioux for 12 years. "Someone will come to the U.S. and end up in a refugee resettlement city . . . they move to South Sioux. Then, they're petitioning for their family to join them."

Often, it's jobs that attract people. Sake Barkhad, a Somali Community of Siouxland board member, was told by a friend that he should move to work at Tyson. He then told his brother to join him. Barkhad stayed because he liked the size of South Sioux – it was quieter and felt safer than Minneapolis, where he was before.

And when Somalis move to South Sioux, they work. Nebraska's foreign-born population outpaces native-born Nebraskans in work force participation, Schafer said. They often fill high-demand, physically strenuous jobs like construction and manufacturing. About a third of foreign-born workers in Nebraska work in production, transportation and material moving, compared to just 12 percent of US-born workers.

"The foreign-born labor force participation rate is higher than high . . . when people move here from other countries, they work at really high rates," Schafer said. "Wherever there are jobs, you should expect to see foreign-born populations there."

Job availability, paired with a lower cost of living, made South Sioux an ideal place to settle down, Moalim said.

"We all have families back in Africa. We do want to save money, but we also like to send money back home," Moalim said. "We saw this place as an opportunity."

Moalim came to South Sioux by way of Ohio. He came at the suggestion of a friend, who said there was good money to be made at Tyson.

He could immediately sense the difference between his old home and new, could see what South Sioux offered and also what it lacked as compared to Columbus, Ohio, which now has the second-largest Somali population in the country.

South Sioux has a mosque, restaurants and cafes that serve as gathering spaces. Most refugee resettlement services are concentrated across the river in Iowa. But, unlike in Columbus, Ohio, there was no central organization or community center here serving Somalis, Moalim said.

He talked with other Somali coworkers he'd met through Tyson. Let's start something, he urged.

In February 2023, Somali Community of Siouxland held its first meeting.

Since then, the small group has focused on filling gaps. On weekends, the office space hosts English classes. They connect newcomers with housing, sometimes just a couch to stay on until they get on their feet. They arrange rides to Omaha for green card interviews, so Moalim can help interpret.

"What happens here on weekends is the basis of why this organization was formed," Barkhad said through an interpreter. "There are some people who cannot even write their names or their numbers . . . they come here."

The group discussed cultural sensitivity with the local health department – differences like how in Somali culture, it's considered more respectful to lower your eyes in conversation instead of direct eye contact. Or how in Islamic tradition, there are strict rules about physical contact between people of opposite genders, a belief that extends to doctors.

They've acted as a middle man between schools and workplaces and Somali residents, helping to explain cultural misunderstandings and reach solutions. Recently, the school district hired three bilingual Somali community liaisons.

Lately, open office hours on the weekends have been filled with requests to help check the status of pending refugee applications, said Hagen, a board member.

"There's a lot of fear with Trump coming, about things being stopped, delayed, everything," she said. "There's not much of an update we can give, because it's out of our control."

Board members work full-time jobs in addition to their volunteer work. Since the nonprofit hasn't yet secured grant funding, they often find themselves paying the office rent out of their own pockets.



(JERRY L. MENNENGA FOR THE FLATWATER FREE PRESS)
Abdikadir Moalim, founder of the Somali Community of Siouxland, speaks with community member Mohammed Ali at the nonprofit's office. Moalim works as an interpreter at the nearby Tyson plant in Dakota City.

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Siouxland Foundation-Marshall Morris Grant

In 2008, Cardinal Christmas Baskets (CCB) stepped in to perpetuate the mission started by Pete's Feeders in 1945. Now in its 17th year, Cardinal Christmas Baskets works with schools, churches, and community organizations to locate financially challenged families in Dakota County and provide food assistance during the holiday season. Cardinal Christmas Baskets is run as a community assistance program of the South Sioux City Municipal Foundation, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. All work is done by unpaid volunteers, local civic organizations, and kind and compassionate community members.

Not counting the school students who collected food items for CCB, approximately 500 people donated time, resources, or funds to ensure the success of our project this year.

Every year, it is truly amazing to watch the community come together to brighten the holidays for some of our friends and neighbors. For those who volunteer, it is truly a heart-warming experience.

Tax-deductible donations of any size are always needed and appreciated. Donations can be sent directly to the South Sioux City Municipal Foundation, P.O. Box 987, South Sioux City, NE 68776. Please indicate the donation is for Cardinal Christmas Baskets.

FROM THE BLEACHERS



By Michael Carnes

Volleyball going pro in Omaha

Volleyball season is over in Nebraska, right?

As Lee Corso, ESPN's old codger on the College Gameday football pregame show, would say — not so fast, my friends.

College volleyball may have ended a month ago, but the pro game has taken flight here in the United States with not one, but two, leagues that include teams in Omaha competing.

Last year, the Professional Volleyball Federation debuted with six teams, including the Omaha Supernovas. The Supernovas were an instant hit, averaging an attendance of more than 9,000 for its first season, and the team treated volleyball fans to an outstanding season that ended with the team winning the league championship.

The Supernovas are back to defend their title and look to be the preseason favorite heading into the 2025 campaign that kicks off this Saturday against the Atlanta Vibe at the CHI Health Center.

And if that's not enough to satisfy your volleyball palette, a second league will be starting up later in the month — League One Volleyball (LOVB).

This league, which includes a franchise in Omaha, has a little different format than its older sibling. The league is working to build a foundation of junior volleyball clubs in the cities it competes in (Atlanta, Austin, Houston, Madison Wisc., Salt Lake City) and will kick off its season this weekend as well. The Omaha LOVB team will play its home games at the Liberty First Credit Union Arena in Ralston.

Nebraska has become the nation's epicenter for volleyball during the first quarter of this century, thanks mostly to the dominance and exposure of the University of Nebraska volleyball program. Under original coach Terry Pettit and current coach John Cook, the Husker volleyball program has won five national titles and been a constant contender for the title. The team is rarely out of the top 10 and their success has trickled down to programs at other college levels in the state. Wayne State College and Nebraska-Kearney are consistent powerhouses at the Div. II level (and Wayne State has a PVF connection with the recent signing of Tara Bellar by the Atlanta Vibe), and NAIA programs at Concordia (Seward), Bellevue and Hastings are frequent visitors to the national tournament that is held across the river in Sioux City each year. Community college programs at Northeast (Norfolk), Central (Columbus), McCook and Nebraska Western (Scottsbluff) also are highly-ranked at that level.

Both leagues will have names on their rosters that Husker fans will easily recognize. The LOVB team features Olympic champions Jordan Larson (who played her high school ball just down the road at Logan View in the early 2000's) and Justine Wong-Orantes, along with Lauren Stivrins, Madi Kubik-Banks and recent addition Lexi Rodriguez, who finished a standout career at Nebraska recently. Creighton alum Jaali Winters is also on this team, and Kelsey Cook is a member of the Atlanta LOVB roster.

Not to be outdone, the Supernovas include recent Husker graduate Lindsay Krause, former Husker and USC standout Aly Batenhorst, and Husker alums Kaitlyn Hord and Kayla Caffey. Creighton grads Allison Whitten and Kendra Wait are also part of the Novas' 14-woman roster.

The Husker lineage in the PVF doesn't stop in Omaha — former Husker Kayla Banwarth coaches the Atlanta Vibe and the team selected Merritt Beason as its first pick in the recent league draft. Creighton's Nora Sis plays for the Orlando Valkyries, and Leyla Blackwell was picked up by the San Diego Mojo.

When the PVF announced its formation and that Omaha would host one of the franchises, I jumped at the opportunity to get season tickets. If you're a volleyball fan, don't miss out on the opportunity to check out either — or both — of the Omaha pro teams this season. It's high time this sport gets the attention and recognition at the professional level it has long deserved.



South Sioux City junior Madelynn Bohnet makes her move as she pins Alejandra Reyes of Johnson County Central to claim the 105-pound title at the Winnebago Invitational.

(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

SSC girls ninth in 40-team Winnebago Invite

WINNEBAGO — Three South Sioux City wrestlers came away with medals as the Lady Cards competed in a loaded Winnebago Invitational Friday.

Forty teams and more than 50 ranked wrestlers were part of a loaded field that saw three SSC girls make it to the medal stand at the end of the day's action.

Leading the charge was top-ranked Madelynn Bohnet, who won the 105-pound title with a win over Alejandra Reyes of Johnson County Central. The match was a tough one featuring two rated wrestlers, but Bohnet was able to work a power-half nelson in during third-period action to pin her opponent in the final minute of action.

Zulema Godinez earned consolation honors at 190 pounds, bouncing back from a semifinal loss to pin Raegan Mangelsen of Norfolk in the match for third place.

Rounding out the medal haul was senior Caitlyn Sohm, who finished sixth on the day. She suffered an injury and took an injury default to place sixth at 235 pounds.

In JV action, first-place finishes went to Aaliyah Barron (110), Ariadne Rocha (120) and Yesenia Reyes (170). Nyaguwa Biliuony was second at 115, thirds went to Esmeralda Munoz (120), Stephanie Salgado (145) and Valeria Hernandez (190), and Fatima Alvarez was fourth at 120.

Homer and Tri County Northeast both had wrestlers competing in the tournament, but neither team was



Homer's Lilyanna Dziurawiec tries for a pin during action at the Winnebago Invitational.

(PHOTO BY MIKE RASMUSSEN)

Winnebago Invitational Team Standings

Norfolk 193.5, Yutan 151, Omaha North 124, Battle Creek 103.5, Bon Homme/Scotland/Avon 103.5, Harrisburg 90, Omaha Westside 73, Summerland 72.5, South Sioux City 72, Omaha Westview 68, Johnson County Central 67, Boone Central 66.5, Conestoga 65.5, Wayne 65.5, Bennington 63, Stanton 61.5, West Point-Beemer 54.5, Winnebago 54, West Holt 49, Fremont 47.5, Fairbury 47, Tekamah-Herman 39.5, Lyons-Decatur NE 37, Scribner-Snyder 25.5, O'Neill 25, Hartington CC 20, Valentine 19, High Plains 18, Bancroft-Rosalie 14, Hemingford

13, NEN 13, Wakefield 13, Todd County 10, North Bend Central 7, Homer 6, Cedar Bluffs 3, Tri County Northeast 3, Randolph 2, Wahoo 2, Weeping Water 2.

Area Medalists

SOUTH SIOUX CITY — 105: 1. Madelynn Bohnet, SSC, pinned Alejandra Reyes, JCC, 5:29. 190: 3. Zulema Godinez, SSC, pinned Raegan Mangelsen, Norfolk, 2:18. 235: 5. Raina Krebs, Summerland, def. Caitlyn Sohm, SSC, medical forfeit.

SSC JV — 110: Aaliyah Barron, 1st. 115: Nyaguwa Biliuony, 2nd. 120: Ariadne Rocha, 1st; Fatima Alvarez, 4th. 120B: Esmeralda Munoz, 3rd. 145: Stephanie Salgado, 3rd. 170: Yesenia Reyes, 1st. 190: Valeria Hernandez, 3rd.

Area athletes earn academic nods

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) is pleased to announce the student recipients of the Fall 2024 Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association (NCPA) Academic All-State Awards.

Area athletes honored include:

- ALLEN Boys Cross Country — Jude Ridenour
- Football — Ben Jorgensen
- Play Production — Gabriel Olesen
- EMERSON-HUBBARD Football — Jackson Belt
- HOMER Boys Cross Country — Aayden Harris, Ethan Torticill
- Girls Cross Country — Lila Bolles, Lilyanna Dziurawiec
- Football — Isaac Barclay, Bodie Nelsen
- Play Production — Lilyanna Dziurawiec, Bodie Nelsen
- Volleyball — Annah Harris, Rylie Harris

PONCA

- Girls Cross Country — Ava Brennan, Addyson Chytka
- Football — Tucker McGill, Connor Schamp
- Play Production — Isabella Eifert, Josilyn Martin
- Softball — Jaeden Hughes, Cora Jackson
- Volleyball — Ellesyn Hrouda, Avery McAfee
- SOUTH SIOUX CITY Boys Cross Country — Leandro Magana Magana, Melusi Ngeleka

- Girls Cross Country — Alexandra Chavez, Kaiianne Norton
- Football — Kayden Melchor, Tony Palmer
- Girls Golf — Abigail Andersen, Madelynn Bohnet
- Play Production — Karlyan Santana Rivera
- Softball — Laela Montes, McKenzie Rager
- Boys Tennis — Jack Diaz, Edgar Romero
- Volleyball — Autumn Porter, Somarha Watts



Muskies Minute

Dakota County Star's weekly update of Sioux City Musketeers hockey

Goalie leads Musketeers to pair of wins

Courtesy Sioux City Musketeers

The Sioux City Musketeers grabbed five of six available points this past week and have climbed into fourth place in the USHL Western Conference standings from wins against Fargo and Omaha and a shootout loss to the Force.

A sold out Tyson Events Center crowd was treated to a wild game to ring in 2025. On New Year's Eve, the Fargo Force defeated the Musketeers 4-3 in a shootout that lasted eight rounds.

After falling behind 3-1 in the

first period the Musketeers scored a pair of goals late in the third period to pull into a 3-3 tie and sent the game to overtime.

A scoreless OT period then led to a shootout where after each team scored in the first three shooters it went to a sudden death for five rounds until Fargo punched one in to take the game.

Sioux City responded on Friday night with a 3-0 shutout over the Omaha Lancers. Bjorn Bronas collected his first career USHL shutout by stopping all 19 shots

he faced. Bronas has been the top goaltending option for Sioux City with Samuel Urban representing Slovakia in the World Juniors Tournament.

Bronas continued the strong play into Sioux City's dramatic 3-1 victory over Fargo on Saturday. Tied 1-1 late in the third it appeared the two teams were on their way to another overtime game before Nicholas Sykora slapped a one-timer past the Fargo goaltender with ten seconds remaining in regulation, followed by an empty

netter to put the game away.

Bronas once again was fantastic, turning aside 25 out of 26 shots to earn the win.

Sioux City now stands with a record of 15-13-1-4 and 35 points to stand alone in fourth place in the Western Conference. They undertake a cross-state road trip this weekend when they face the Cedar Rapids Rough Riders on Friday at 7:05 p.m. and the Dubuque Fighting Saints on Saturday at 7:05 p.m.



Homer's Natali Loofe is double-teamed as she tries to get off a shot during the Lady Knights' win over Bancroft-Rosalie in the Tekamah-Herman Holiday Tournament.

(PHOTO BY MIKE RASMUSSEN)

Lady Knights claim T-H tournament trophy

The Homer Lady Knights ran their winning streak to nine as they claimed the championship of the Tekamah-Herman Holiday Tournament over the weekend.

Homer opened play Friday with an 46-38 win over Bancroft-Rosalie in a game that was close throughout. The Lady Knights built a 10-point lead after one period, only to see that advantage cut in half by intermission. They were able to hold off the Lady Panthers in the second half to advance to the finals.

Three Homer girls finished in double figures, led by Ali Albrecht's 14 points. Rylie Harris added 13 and Janessa Overgaard tossed in 10, with Lilly Harris and Tori Walker both scoring four and Macy Vanschoiack putting in a free throw.

Overgaard grabbed a team-high 15 rebounds and Albrecht grabbed nine. Harris had six boards, three assists

and four steals, while Walker made three assists.

In Saturday's finals, Homer used an 18-7 third-quarter run to put things out of reach for a 65-47 win over Omaha Nation.

Four Lady Knights hit double digits in the scorebook, led by Lilly Harris' 22 points. Albrecht added 12, Overgaard had 11 and Walker put in 10. Rylie Harris scored eight points and Ainsley Spurrell added a bucket.

Overgaard grabbed eight boards and Rylie Harris had five to go with four assists. Lilly Harris led the assist effort with six and Albrecht had five.

The Lady Knights have a big week ahead, starting with Tuesday's game against Westwood. They travel to Archbishop Bergan on Friday and play two-time defending D-1 champion and top-ranked Pender on the road Tuesday.

Lady Cards fall to Oakland-Craig

South Sioux City's girls basketball team was matched up with C-2 rated Oakland-Craig on Friday, and the host Lady Knights came away with a 64-33 win over the Lady Cardinals.

The hosts dominated the game from the early going, building a 15-4 lead after one period and extending it to 25 points at the break, 38-13.

Bailee Durant led the way for the SSC girls, scoring 13 points on 4-of-11 shooting from the floor. Bayleigh Robinette added nine points.

Also scoring were Keyana Weaver

with four points, Autumn Porter and Olivia Arens both had two and Paizley Aldrich and Braelee Groves each had a free throw.



Durant had five rebounds while Weaver, Robinette, Aldrich and Ximena Nova Ramirez all had three boards. Weaver dished out three assists and Robinette and Porter each had three steals.

The Lady Cards were at Sioux City East on Tuesday and will host Norfolk in a boys-girls double-header Saturday at the SCC Mini-Dome.



Goaltender Bjorn Bronas had a solid week for the Musketeers last week, stopping all 19 shots by the Omaha Lancers in a 3-0 win and 25 of 26 shots in a 3-1 win over Fargo.

Nebraska 4-H Strong being celebrated

Nebraska will be celebrating a strong 4-H youth development program in February. 4-H offers many strengths for youth, volunteers, and communities such as building life skills through hands-on learning; growing confidence, resilience, and compassion while adults provide a positive strong environment. The theme for this year's Nebraska 4-H celebration is "Beyond Ready". There will be several opportunities for the 4-H members, volunteers, and supporters to celebrate across the state.

The 4-H Pledge is the strong backbone of the 4-H program that has been around over 120 years. The H's stand for head, heart, hands, and health. The pledge has been recited at 4-H meetings and events for over 90 years. Let's explore what the pledge has to offer youth and adults.

We pledge our heads to clearer thinking: Nebraska 4-H is committed to supporting the youth in our state with hands-on learning. Whether it be in a school classroom, a cafeteria, a gym, a living room, an outside

Extension Update







ANGELA ABTS
4-H & Youth Development
Extension Educator
Dakota County

space, or online, learning can happen anywhere. Be sure to sign-up for local workshops and classes coming in 2025 focused on Agriculture, Health & Wellness, STEM, and College/Career Pathways. Virtual learning experiences have increased through Nebraska 4-H. The resources can be found on the Nebraska 4-H website at 4h.unl.edu/virtual-home-learning.

We pledge our hearts to greater loyalty: It is important for youth to know they are cared about by others and feel a sense of connection to others in a group. Feeling nurtured in

a safe emotional and physical environment is essential to their development. It is also important for youth to see themselves as an active participant in the future.

Nebraska 4-H is committed to providing learning environments for youth that contain the elements which are essential to effective youth development programs. Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity, are integral to designing high-quality activities for hands-on learning. More information can be found at 4h.unl.edu/essential-elements.

We pledge our hands to larger service: 4-H civic engagement programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. Youth learn about civic affairs, build decision-making

skills, and develop a sense of understanding and confidence in relating and connecting to other people. Youth across the state have found new and unique ways to give back to their local communities. From sending cards and messages to residents of community care centers, growing vegetable gardens and donating produce, or designing painted kindness rocks with uplifting messages. More information can be found at 4h.unl.edu/civic-engagement.

We pledge our health to better living: 4-H healthy living programs empower youth to be health – body and mind – with the skills to make healthy decisions and lead healthy lifestyles. To assist caring adults who help young people cope, a series of articles focused upon "Supporting Young People Through Change" are available online. All who work with and/or care for youth can provide assistance in helping young people cope with the challenges and develop into caring, connected, and capable adults. More information can be found at 4h.unl.edu/youth-development/supporting-young-people.

How can you get involved in 4-H today? Consider enrolling today to find your spark. There are over 150 projects in which youth explore in 4-H. Please contact the Nebraska Extension Office in Dakota County at dakota.unl.edu or call 402-987-2140.



(PHOTO BY MIKE RASMUSSEN)

Axton Caskey goes airborne for a shot during Homer's opening-round matchup against Bancroft-Rosalie in the Tekamah-Herman Holiday Tournament.

Homer boys 0-2 in tourney play

The Homer boys basketball dropped a pair of games in the Tekamah-Herman Holiday Tournament, falling to Bancroft-Rosalie and the host Tigers.

On Friday, Homer ran into a buzzsaw as the Panthers rolled to a 61-15 victory.

Ben Roost led the way for the Knights with four points and Steve Harris added three. Also scoring were Jessup Snowball, Junius Snowball and Axton Caskey with two points each. Junius Snowball's three rebounds were tops.

On Saturday, the Homer boys got into an early hole and couldn't get

out as they dropped a 63-39 decision to Tekamah-Herman.

The Snowball brothers shared scoring honors with 12 points each in the loss. Reed Modlin had six points, Harris scored three, Aayden Harris had two and Caskey put in a free throw.

Aayden Harris led the rebounding effort with seven. Steve Harris had two assists and two steals, while Jessup Snowball made two thefts.

The 2-7 Knights hosted Westwood on Tuesday and will be at Archbishop Bergan Friday and Pender on Tuesday.



(PHOTO BY LANCE SWANSON)

Caitlyn Sohm gets her hand raised after winning a match at Friday's Winnebago Invitational. The defending state champion at 235 pounds bowed out early due to injury and finished sixth in her weight bracket.

Area basketball scores

(No statistics turned in at press time)

Boys Results

at Bergan Invitational
Archbishop Bergan 72, South Sioux City 51
CB St. Albert 77, South Sioux City 43

Girls Results

Battle Creek 66, Ponca 26

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Join a (book) club at the Library

Cover to Cover Book Club discusses Part One of "Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult on Jan. 13 at 3:30 p.m. In this book, "Alice Metcalf was a devoted mother, loving wife, and accomplished scientist who studied grief among elephants. Yet it's been a decade since she disappeared under mysterious circumstances, leaving behind her small daughter, husband, and the animals to which she devoted her life. All signs point to abandonment . . . or worse.

Still Jenna — now 13 years old and truly orphaned by a father maddened by grief — steadfastly refuses to believe in her mother's desertion. So she decides to approach the two people who might still be able to help her find Alice: a disgraced psychic named Serenity Jones, and Virgil Stanhope, the cynical detective who first investigated her mother's disappearance and the death of one of her mother's co-workers. Together these three lonely souls will discover truths destined to forever change their lives. Deeply moving and suspenseful, Leaving Time is a radiant exploration of the enduring love between mothers and daughters" — from the publisher.



Dan Nieman

If you like Leaving Time, you will love these books.

"Caught" by Harlan Coben (FIC COB). "Reporter Wendy Tynes has made it her mission to bring down sexual predators on national television, but she begins to doubt her instincts after exposing social worker Dan Mercer until she discovers a link between Mercer and Haley McWaid, a 17-year-old girl from suburban New Jersey who has been missing for three months," — from the publisher.

"Come Home" by Lisa Scottoline (FIC SCO). Jill Farrow is a typical suburban mom who has finally gotten her and her daughter's lives back on track after a divorce. She is about to remarry, her job as a pediatrician fulfills her — though it is stressful — and her daughter, Megan, is a happily over-scheduled 13-year-old juggling homework and the swim team. But Jill's life is turned upside down when her ex-stepdaughter, Abby, shows up on her doorstep late one night and delivers shocking news: Jill's ex-

husband is dead. Abby insists that he was murdered and pleads with Jill to help find his killer. Jill reluctantly agrees to make a few inquiries and discovers that things don't add up. As she digs deeper, her actions threaten to rip apart her new family, destroy their hard-earned happiness, and even endanger her own life. Yet Jill can't turn her back on a child she loves and once called her own. Come Home reads with the breakneck pacing of a thriller while also exploring the definition of motherhood, asking the questions: Do you ever stop being a mother? Can you ever have an ex-child? What are the limits to love of family?" — from the publisher.

"Daughters of the Bride" by Susan Mallory (FIC MAL). "As the awkward one, Courtney Watson may not be as together as her sisters, but she excels at one thing: keeping secrets, including her white-hot affair with a sexy music producer. Planning Mom's wedding exposes her startling hidden life, changing her family's view of her — and how she views herself — forever. When Sienna's boyfriend proposes — in front of her mom and sisters, for crying out loud — he takes her by surprise. She already has two broken engagements under her belt. Should she say "I do" even if she's not sure she does? Rachel thought love would last forever — right up until her divorce. As Mom's wedding day draws near and her ex begs for a second chance, she's forced to acknowledge some uncomfortable truths about why her marriage failed and decide if she'll let pride stand in the way of her own happily ever after," — from the publisher.

Technical Difficulties is on Monday Jan. 13 at 5 p.m. Do we blame technology when really it's just us? Do we avoid tasks at the mention of technology? Technical Difficulties offers anyone the opportunity to have their tech questions answered. Mobile device help, computer information, streaming devices, and more.

Tangled Yarns meets on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. This is a time for anyone to come work on or ask questions about crafting projects that can be carried with you.

Did You Know? AtoZ Databases Can Help You Land your Next Job: With AtoZ Databases, patrons can do it all — research companies, apply for jobs, and ace interviews — all in one place! They'll have access to

free, professionally designed resume and cover letter templates to download and use immediately. Plus, through our partnership with Monster, they can even apply directly on the platform. What They'll Find: 1) Over 7 million real-time job postings, 2) Direct applications via Monster, 3) Company overviews to gain an edge in interviews, 4) Career tools for interview tips and negotiation strategies, and 5) Advanced search options by skills, location, and more. AtoZ Databases is available on the library's website.

Newspaper Archive Database: The library has added to our databases the Newspaper Archive World Collection. Read and research newspapers from around the world. Read articles from the countries your ancestors left when they came to America. You need your library card to unlock this world collection of newspapers.

New in the Library: We have just added these titles to our collection.

"Generative AI" by Pamela Baker (006.3 BAK). "Generative AI tools capable of creating text, images, and even ideas seemingly out of thin air have exploded in popularity and sophistication. This valuable technology can assist in authoring short and long-form content, producing audio and video, serving as a research assistant, and tons of other professional and personal tasks. Generative AI for Dummies is your roadmap to using the world of artificial intelligence to enhance your personal and professional lives. You'll learn how to identify the best platforms for your needs and write the prompts that coax out the content you want. Written by the best-selling author of ChatGPT for Dummies, this book is the ideal place to start when you're ready to fully dive into the world of generative AI." — from the publisher.

"1000 Words: a writer's guide to staying creative, focused, and productive all year round" by Jami Attenburg (808.02 ATT). The book extension of the growing writer's movement and challenge to write 1,000 words a day helps readers and writers discover how to uncover their creative desires and stay motivated and offers advice from over 50 well-known writers.

Have a great week. Visit us at 21st and Dakota Avenue, or online at libraries.ne.gov/southsiouxcity.

OBITUARIES

Tamara Gill, 71

Tamara Gill, age 71 of Columbus, died Monday, Jan. 6, 2025 at her home.

before moving to Sioux City. They moved to Columbus where she received her LPN Degree at Central Community College. Tammy worked as a nurse for over 50 years including at the Columbus Manor for 25 years.



Gill

Graveside Services with Military Honors by the American Legion Hartman Post 84 Honor Guard will be held on Friday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. at Columbus Cemetery. Visitation will be on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 5-7 p.m. at McKown Funeral Home. At 7 p.m., Thursday there will be a service by the members of the Nebraska Nurse Honor Guard, also at the funeral home.

Tamara Gill was born in Ogden, Utah on July 2, 1953 to Warren and Connie (Pope) Ryden. She grew up in Utah where she attended schools. Tammy joined the U.S. Navy where she met and was united in marriage to John Gill on Feb. 29, 1972 in Elizabeth City, N.C. They lived in Pasco, Wash.,

band, John Gill; her parents and two brothers.

Tammy was a proud member of the Forty and Eight Club Veterans Organization as part of the American Legion.

Tamara is survived by son Cody (Alejandra) Gill of Columbus; Grandchildren Michelle and Atreyu; Sisters Melanie and Lisa.

Sylvia K. Stinger, 84

Sylvia K. Stinger, 84, of Sioux City, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, at Whispering Creek Retirement Home.

member of the PEO Chapter GX. Additionally, she was a member of First Presbyterian Church in South Sioux City.



Stinger

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Mohr & Becker-Hunt Funeral Home. Visitation with the family will be one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Dakota City Cemetery.

Sylvia was born on April 2, 1940, in Pender, the daughter of Clifford and Joy (Longe) Nixon. She graduated from Dakota City High School. Sylvia married Billie Lee Stinger on May 24, 1958, in Dakota City. He preceded her in death on April 23, 2018, in Sioux City. Sylvia was a dedicated individual who spent 41 years as an export coordinator for Tyson Foods, exemplifying a strong work ethic throughout her professional life.

She was an avid fan of Nebraska Husker football and was actively involved in her community as a

Sylvia is survived by her sons: Larry (Julie) Stinger of South Sioux City, and Russell (Charlene) Stinger of Elizabethtown, Ken. Her legacy continues through four cherished grandchildren: Kylie (Nick) Horan, Dylan (Kayla) Stinger, Colton Stinger, and Grayson Stinger. Sylvia also took great joy in her three great-grandchildren: Lilly Stinger, Sloane Horan, and Adeline Horan. She is also survived by her brother, Bill (Donna) Nixon of Springfield, South Dakota, and her sister, Judy Barker of South Sioux City, Nebraska.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents, Clifford and Joy Nixon; her husband, Billie Lee Stinger; her brother, David Nixon Sr.; and her brother-in-law, Lloyd Barker.

Michael Ronald Edler, 75

Michael Ronald Edler, (Mike), "EZ" passed peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 30, 2024 at his home in Kansas City, Mo., after a long illness.

on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 10 a.m. at Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Olathe, Kan. Burial, Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Overland Park, Kan. To view the full obituary, or to leave a special message for the family, please visit www.penwellgabelkc.com.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, Jan. 7 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Penwell-Gabel Olathe Chapel, with Rosary at 5 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will follow

David L. Rasmussen, 77

David L. Rasmussen, 77, of Homer, passed away Dec. 29, 2024 peacefully at his home after a lengthy health battle.



Rasmussen

David was born June 2, 1947, in Sioux City, Iowa to Donald Rasmussen and Margaret Gotch Rasmussen. David attended country school and graduated from Homer High School in 1965. He graduated from trade school in Milford, and was later drafted into the Army. He served in the military police during the Vietnam era. David was very proud of his military service and was a 50-year member of the American Legion Buckland Post 97 and served as Commander for 16 years.

David married Della Lindahl Sept. 1, 1973, and they recently celebrated 51 years of marriage. David

and Della had three children. They resided on the family farm and David farmed as his health allowed.

David is survived by his wife Della, daughters Linda (Brent) Meyer and Lisa (Josh) Harral, son Dave Rasmussen, and grandchildren Emelia, Colton, Carson and Evan. He is also survived by his brother Kent Rasmussen, sister Rita (Chuck) Peterson, sister-in-law Eileen Rasmussen, brothers-in-laws Larry (Mary) Lindahl and John (Diane) Lindahl, special nephew Mike Lindahl, and nieces and nephews.

David was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Russell Rasmussen.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Bracht Properties LLC, to Jensen Luke, Lot 1 Bracht Commercial Park Phase 2 of South Sioux City
 Mari Properties LLC, to Wilmes Properties LLC, Lot 9 Mari Addition of South Sioux City
 Stieneke Gary T, Stieneke Jon L, to Bracht Contracting LLC, Lot 8 South Ridge Estate First Filing of South Sioux City
 Martin Kevin J aka Kevin James Martin, Martin Maureen E, to Martin Kevin J, Martin Maureen E, S-T-R 26-27-6 E SE ¼, 35-27-6 E Gov Lot 1, 25-27-6 E Pt SW 1/4, 36-27-6 E Lot 2
 Aitken Matthew J Personal Representative Joseph L

Aitken Estate, to Ogas Tamam, Pt Lot 9,10 in block 1, Haynes First Addition of South Sioux City
 Mahnke Jason A Personal Representative, Stephen Mahnke Estate, to Mahnke Jason A, Oldenkamp Cheryl J, Pt Lot 7,8 in block 17, Original Addition South Sioux City
 Martin Kevin J aka Kevin James Martin, Martin Maureen E, to Martin Kevin J Trustee, Martin Maureen E Trustee, Kevin J & Maureen E Martin, Joint Revocable Trust, S-T-R 26-27-6 E SE ¼, 35-27-6 E Gov Lot 1, 25-27-6 E PT SW ¼, 36-27-6 E Lot 2, Lot 1 and Pt Lot 2 in block 22, North Addition Emerson

DAKOTA COUNTY COURT NEWS

German Aguilar-Azpeitia, 40, Sioux City, Iowa; possess marijuana 1 oz or less 1st offense fine \$300, fail to appear jail 7 days

Itzel Marin, 19, South Sioux City; transport child intoxicated fine \$500, probation 11 months DUI.15+ fine \$500, probation 11 months, revoked license 1 year

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Eduardo Garcia Luna, 51, South Sioux City, and Bertha Ines Hernandez Funes, 54, South Sioux City

Karina Munoz, 30, Sioux City, Iowa, Rahmaan Manzar El Herman, 43, Sioux City, Iowa and Tanya Jean Brocks, 47, Sioux City, Iowa

Dakota County's home for news

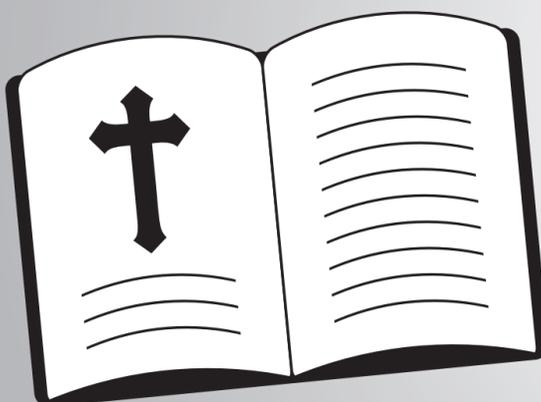
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GONZALEZ IS STUDENT OF THE MONTH

(COURTESY PHOTO)
 The South Sioux City Optimist Club Student of the Month for December is Arlet Gonzalez. She is the daughter of Leticia and Roque Gonzalez and is a Junior at South Sioux City High School. Arlet was nominated by Kayla Meins who is a Math Instructor. Ms. Meins commented, "Arlet is a very hard worker. Even with how busy she is with activities; she continues to maintain straight A's. Arlet comes to class every day prepared to learn and has her work completed. When Arlet misses class for activities, she always returns to class ready to get her missing work." Arlet is involved in marching band, student council, yearbook, book club, robotics, bowling, tennis, FBLA, Skills USA, and IDEA Alliance. Outside of school activities, she enjoys reading, drawing and spending time with family.



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

Rev. Beth Hamilton

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Sunday School..... 9 a.m.
 Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Patti Meyer

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Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service..... 10:35 a.m.
 Wed. Prayer/Bible Study..... 6:30 p.m.

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 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

GLAD TIDINGS LIGHTHOUSE

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

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OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, JAN. 11 • 12:30-1:30 PM

317 5th Street Sloan, IA
3BR, 2BA \$178,000

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

25 Quail Court Sioux City, IA
6BR, 3.5 BA \$540,000

713 E. 12th Street South Sioux City, NE
3BR, 1 BA \$174,950

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Legal Notice

**Notice of Meeting
Village of Hubbard
Nebraska**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Village of Hubbard, Dakota County, Nebraska, Board of Trustees will be held at 7:00 P.M. January 8th, 2025, at the Village of Hubbard Community Center. This meeting will be open to the public.

An agenda for such meeting will be kept continuously current. It is available for public inspection at the Office of the Village Clerk. Subjects not included on a current agenda at least twenty-four hours prior to a Board of Trustees meeting cannot be approved at said meeting.

**Lisa Bousquet,
Village Clerk/Treasurer**

Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF GUARDIANSHIP
PROCEEDINGS
IN THE COURT (PROBATE
DIVISION) OF DAKOTA
COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

To: Any interested party with respect to the Petition for Appointment of Permanent Guardianship filed by the Petitioner, Marleny Rigoberta Mendez Hernandez, for appointment as permanent Guardian of Alina Marialisa Mendez Martin, case PR 24-62.

You are hereby notified that on November 27, 2024, a Petition was filed to appoint a Permanent Guardian for Alina Marialisa Mendez Martin, that the hearing on appointment of a permanent guardian will take place on February 10, 2025 at 3:00 P.M. in Dakota County Court, 1601 Broadway Street, Dakota City, NE 68731, the object of which is to have Petitioner appointed as the Permanent Guardian of Alina Marialisa Mendez Martin. You are required to answer this Petition on or before that date or the Court will proceed with the appointment of the permanent guardian.

**Marleny Rigoberta
Mendez Hernandez, Petitioner**
By:

**s/_Tyler D. McIntosh
Tyler D. McIntosh
Attorney at Law
ROTH WEINSTEIN, LLC
713 S 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
Ph: 402-800-6690**

Attorney for Petitioner
Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, December 26, 2024 and
January 2 and 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

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, January 13, 2025, in the South Sioux City High School Library, 3301 G Street, South Sioux City, Nebraska, this meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting, kept continually current, is 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, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF CUSTODY
PROCEEDINGS
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

To: Geremias Martin Perez, Defendant, whose whereabouts are unknown and upon whom personal service of summons cannot be had.

You are hereby notified that on November 27, 2024, Plaintiff, Marleny Rigoberta Mendez Hernandez, filed a Complaint for Custody and Paternity against you in the District Court of Dakota County, Nebraska, case CI 24-209 the object of which is to establish custody, and paternity of a minor child.

You are required to answer the Petition within 30 days of the last publication of this notice or the Petition will be taken as true.

**Marleny Rigoberta
Mendez Hernandez, Plaintiff**
**s/_Tyler D. McIntosh
Tyler D. McIntosh
Attorney at Law
ROTH WEINSTEIN, LLC
713 S 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
Ph: 402-800-6690**

Attorney for Plaintiff
Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, December 26, 2024 and
January 2 and 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LIQUOR LICENSE
APPLICATION
CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Mayor and City Council of the City of South Sioux City at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 13th, 2025 at the South Sioux City Council Chambers, 1615 – 1st Avenue, which meeting will be open to the public in the matter of El Rey Polos AL Carbon LLC, 1920 Dakota Avenue. Class C Spirits, Wine, Beer on and off Sale

s/_Nanci Walsh, City Clerk
Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, January 9, 2025. - 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 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 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 112 E 19TH STREET SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE 68776.

**CHRISTINA HERNANDEZ
VILLALPANDO
Organizer**

Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, January 2, 9 and 16, 2025.
- ZNEZ

Legal Notice

**MEETING NOTICE
DAKOTA COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that the regular meeting of the Dakota County Planning Commission will be held at 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at the Dakota County Road Department, Hubbard, NE. An Agenda for this meeting kept continuously current is available for public inspection at the Office of the Zoning Administrator. The agenda may be modified prior to such meeting.

Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF AMENDED
CERTIFICATE OF
ORGANIZATION OF
JAMES L. GABEL, LLC**

Notice is hereby given that James L. Gabel, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, filed an Amended Certificate of Organization with the Nebraska Secretary of State on March 27, 2024. The Amended Certificate of Organization amends the name of the entity from James Gabel, LLC to James L. Gabel, LLC. The designated office is located at 305 Southfork Place, South Sioux City, Nebraska, 68776. The agent for service of process of the Company is James Gabel, 305 Southfork Place, South Sioux City, Nebraska, 68776.

**James L. Gabel, LLC
f/k/a James Gabel, LLC**

Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, January 2, 9 and 16, 2025.
- ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that That One Hair Extensions LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The address of the designated office of the Company is 601 West 29th Street, South Sioux City, Ne. The initial agent for service of process is Amira Mari, 458 Red Rock Lane, 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 Dec 1, 2024 and its duration shall be perpetual. Organizer Name: That One Hair Extensions LLC.

Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, December 26, 2024 and
January 2 and 9, 2025. - ZNEZ 25

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Neb.Rev.St. §21-2,229 notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a domestic corporation under the Nebraska Model Business Corporation Act in Chapter 21 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska.

The name of the corporation is **8 Auto Sales, Inc. with its initial principal office at 1019 6th Avenue Sioux City, Nebraska 68776.** The street address and mailing address of the Company's initial registered office in Nebraska is **202 East 17th Street, South Sioux City, Nebraska 68773** and the name of its registered agent at such address is Efrain Tostado.

This company is organized to engage in and to do any lawful business for any lawful purpose, for which a corporation may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The Company's duration is perpetual beginning on the date the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State of Nebraska with an effective date of January 1, 2025.

The affairs of the corporation are conducted by the board of directors and shareholders and such other officers as may be provided for in the By-Laws. The Company has 10,000 shares of common stock with the par value of \$10.00 per share.
Efrain Tostado, President
Robert J. Rehan, Incorporator
Attorney at Law
700 4th Street, Suite 300
Sioux City, IA 51101

Publish in the Dakota County Star
Thursday, December 26, 2024 and
January 2 and 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

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CITY OF SSC RENTAL BOARD

City of South Sioux City, Nebraska Rental Board Agenda City Hall Chambers 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776
Date of Meeting:
January 2, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
 Roll Call: board members:
 Randy Meyer, Monty Peters, Jeff Lantz and Josiah Boneschans.
EXCUSE ABSENCES:
 1. Consent:
 a. Minutes - December 5, 2024
 2. PROGRAM UPDATES:
 a. Inspections update.
 b. Fire Department updates
 3. NEW BUSINESS:
 4. MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS:
 a. Consideration of Rental Board meetings changing from monthly to quarterly.
 5. ADJOURNMENT

given in advance by publishing notice in the Dakota County Star and Mundo Latino. Notice of the meeting and agenda were simultaneously given to the Media, Chairman and members of this committee. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.
 Chairman Randy Meyer stated that a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall in the Council Chambers and was available for review by all citizens in attendance. A sign-in sheet is available at the entrance to the Council Chambers. We ask your assistance by signing in as this is a Federal Grant requirement. It is strictly voluntary to complete the sign-in sheet.
Program Updates:
 Staff presented the board with inspection updates. Staff stated numbers remain the same from past meeting, still have property owners that are continuing to work on the issues on the properties. Staff discussed the Masters' s properties that still need corrections on his properties since 2023 and have yet to respond to numerous communication attempts made by staff. Chairman Randy Meyer motioned to have the City Attorney send out a letter, board member Josiah Boneschans expressed his hesitation regarding the cost and if there would be a second option on how to proceed; hearing

no second motion, motion dies. Staff stated they will visit the county Attorney and discuss different options there may be on how to proceed and discuss it with board members at the next meeting. Present at the meeting was Doug Koopman to give an update on the commercial rentals.
New Business:
 Discussion was made by the board in regard to consideration of rental board meetings to go from monthly to quarterly, some members discussed their hesitations in regards to much time passing in between meetings. Board Members will think about it and will come to a decision for next meeting.
Adjournment
 Being no further business to come before the Rental Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Residential Inspection Board of the City of South Sioux City, Nebraska hereby certify that all of the subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to said meeting, and that said minutes were in written form and available to the public for inspection within ten (10) working days and prior to the next convened meeting.
SECRETARY
 Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

City of South Sioux City, Nebraska Rental Minutes December 5, 2024 City Hall Chambers 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776
 A meeting of the Rental Board of the City of South Sioux City, Nebraska, was held in the Council Chambers at City Hall on December 5, 2024 at 5:01 p.m. Present were Randy Meyer, Jeff Lantz, Monty Peters and Josiah Boneschans. Media present: None. Notice of the meeting was

Emerson News

By Lulene Sebade

Community Coffee Jan. 15

The January Community Coffee will be held Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the new shop on the north side of the Emerson-Hubbard High school at 10 m.

Food Pantry Jan. 21

The Food Pantry distribution will be Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 2-5 p.m.

EBC Banquet is set

The fourth-annual EBC Banquet and auctions will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25 at Sacred Heart Gym. Doors will open at 4 p.m. Please note change of time.

Thanks for the notes

Thanks to all who sent me notes and verbal remarks as to how they

enjoyed my article on my 60 years of reporting for the newspapers. Thanks to those who sent copies of the article and thanks to Duane!! Duane is a former Emerson resident who lives out of state and is present at various Emerson events and never forgets to visit with me — AND he reads my article so he always knows what is going on in Emerson!! Thanks, Duane, I appreciate your loyalty!
 I don't know how long I will continue with the job, but as long as my health holds out I will be at the computer on Monday morning to report on the Emerson happenings.

School Board to meet

Emerson-Hubbard school board meets Monday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m.

Emerson-Hubbard schools

Thursday: JH Boys Basketball at Homer,

3 p.m.; JV girls/boys and Varsity girls/boys vs. Wynot at Allen.

Friday: Varsity boys wrestling at Winside, 9 a.m.

Monday: Girls wrestling at Summerland, 1 p.m.; JH girls/boys basketball at Ponca, 3 p.m.; JV boys wrestling at Oakland/Craig, 4 p.m.

Tuesday: Boys/girls basketball vs. Winnebago at Emerson, 4 p.m.

Jan. 16: Basketball at Allen vs. Hartington-Newcastle.

St, Luke/St. Paul's Church

Sunday: Worship at St. Paul's 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.

Monday: Worship/Music at 10:30 a.m.; Council meetings at St. Luke

Wednesday: Friends at 3:45 p.m.; Supper at 5 p.m.; Bible church 5:45 p.m.; Confirmation 6:30 p.m.

Jackson Elementary School

Back to School – Mondays – One hour late start for teacher in service

Jackson Elementary School lunch menu for the week Jan. 13-17:

Monday – Pizza, lettuce, corn, fruit

Tuesday – Cheesburger, green beans, pickle, fruit

Wednesday – Eggs, ham, breakfast potatoes, muffin, fruit

Thursday – Taco in a bag, corn, jello, fruit

Friday – PB&J, carrots and ranch dip, crackers, pickle, fruit

on Wednesday, Jan. 8 with mass for all students. Everyone from the community is invited to attend.

Pickleball

Jackson Pickleball is now using Playtime Scheduler to schedule pickleball. Log in an see when everyone is meeting.

Book Club

It is here, we are discussing "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes at the January meeting. The January meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 21. February books are "The Diary of Mattie Spenser" by Sandra Dallas and "Alternate Side" by Anna Quindlen.

Jackson News

By Laura Sullivan

Happy New Year Everyone!

Knights of Columbus SSC

The Knights of Columbus Father Treacy Council 3844 is having a membership drive on Jan. 19 at 1 pm. The requirements include being a practicing Catholic man at least 18 years of age. This Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity of the Knights of Columbus will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 1805 West 29th St. in South Sioux City. If you are interested please contact Glenn Sedivy at 712-898-4676 to RSVP.

St. Patrick's

Religious education starts back up

Dakota City News

Dakota City Public Library

Book Club discussed "Inland" by Tea Obreht on Monday, Jan 6. New books were passed out at the meeting. The group will be reading "When I Found You" by Catherine Ryan Hyde during the month of January and will discuss it on Monday, Feb. 3. This story is about a man who finds an abandoned newborn in the woods and when the baby's grandmother steps forward to claim him, he asks the grandmother to bring the boy to meet him one day. As the boy becomes an angry teenager, he is rescued once again. This is a poignant tale of love, pain, and trusting people to stay by your side in a world where leaving is easy. Join in on reading this novel. Extra copies are available during the month of January and a copy belongs in the library collection.

January is National Pizza Month. It is a great time to make homemade pizza with your family. Pie tins make great individual pizzas and everyone can choose their own toppings. This will also be the topic of this month's Story Hour. The children will listen to a few stories about Pizza, make a craft, participate in some fun games and activities and enjoy a snack together. Each Story Hour is held on the third Thursday of each month and all area school age children are invited to attend.

The Friends of the Library will meet on Monday, Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. and the Library Board of Directors will meet on Monday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. Both meetings are open to the public. To become a member of the Friends of the Library group, contact a Friends member or ask library staff for more information. The group meets in January, April, July, and October for one hour.

New items added; "The Diamond Eye" by Kate Quinn, "The House in the Pines" by Ana Reyes, "The Story Collector" by Evie Woods, "The Mirror" by Nora Roberts, "Bellevue" by Robin Cook, "Christmas in Bethel" by Richard Paul Evans, "The Burning of Rosemont Abbey" by Naomi Stephens, "Brave" by Mesu Andrews, and Shippnapped" by Jan Fields.

Legal Notice

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY SUBDIVISION REQUEST Bloch Addition

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the City of South Sioux City, will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the South Sioux City Council Chambers located at 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, Nebraska. This meeting will be open to the public in the matter of Bloch Addition, a 1 lot subdivision located near 1491 Lake Avenue, legally described as follows:

THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 88 NORTH, RANGE 47 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE S01°26'19"E (ASSUMED BEARING), ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER, A DISTANCE OF 174.71 FEET; THENCE S88°32'28"W, A DISTANCE OF 300.91 FEET; THENCE N01°27'16"W, A DISTANCE OF 361.71 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TRACT 4, FILED FOR RECORD ON MAY 16, 2024 BY LS #408 IN THE NEBRASKA SURVEY RECORD REPOSITORY; THENCE N88°32'28"E, ALONG THE SOUTH

LINE OF SAID TRACT 4, A DISTANCE OF 301.05 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID TRACT 4 AND THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE S01°25'31"E, ALONG SAID EAST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 187.03 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 2.50 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

Notice of Renewal of Retail Liquor License

Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 53-105.01 that a liquor license may be automatically renewed for one year from May 1, 2025, to the following retail liquor licensee:

K&K Mini Mart LLC
 1553 164th Street
 Jackson NE 68743

Premises:
 K&K Mini Mart
 319 Main St (Dakota)
 Hubbard NE 68741

Entire building
 approximately 35' x 45'
 Excluding car wash

Notice is hereby given that written protests to the issuance of automatic renewal of license may be filed by any resident of the village on or before February 10, 2025, in the office of the Village Clerk and that in the event protests are filed by three or more such persons, a hearing shall be had to determine if continuation of the license should be allowed.

Lisa Bousquet, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners is seeking residents interested in serving on the Dakota County Planning Commission. Three appointments will be made, one from each of the following geographical areas: Rural/Village of Homer; Village of Hubbard; and the Village of Jackson. Please contact the Dakota County Road Shop-Hubbard at 402-632-5006 or email dakotacoroads@dakotacounty.ne.gov or County Clerk at 402-987-2130 or email cconley@dakotacounty.ne.gov for an Application for Membership. Deadline to submit a Membership Application is January 24, 2025.

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, January 9 and 16, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF TRIUNITY INVESTMENTS, LLC

1. The name of the company dissolved is TRIUNITY INVESTMENTS, LLC, hereinafter referred to as "Company".

2. The date dissolution of the Company was authorized was December 19, 2024, and the effective date of dissolution shall be December 31, 2024.

3. Any claims against the Company shall include the name of the claimant, the date and description of the actions and situations surrounding the claim, and the amount of such claim.

4. Claims must be mailed to 1419 Dakota Ave., P.O. Box 215, South Sioux City, NE 68776.

5. A claim against TRIUNITY INVESTMENTS, LLC, will be barred unless an action to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after the publication date of the third required notice.

BY: John C. Ehrich (Bar #24140) Ehrich Law Office, P.C., L.L.O. 1419 Dakota Avenue, Box 215 South Sioux City, NE 68776 Phone: (402) 412-2080 jehrich@ehrichlawoffice.com

Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, December 26, 2024 and January 2 and 9, 2025. - ZNEZ 38

Legal Notice

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADE NAME

TRADE NAME: Stepping Stone Apartments
 NAME OF APPLICANT: Canterbury Housing Associates LP
 ADDRESS: 2515 Willow Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776
 APPLICANT IS: Limited Partnership

IF OTHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL, STATE UNDER WHOSE LAWS ENTITY WAS FORMED: Montana
 DATE OF FIRST USE OF NAME IN NEBRASKA: December 15, 2009
 GENERAL NATURE OF BUSINESS: Apartment Complex
 APPLICANT OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: Erica Coate
 Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, January 9, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA
 Estate of Katherine J. Shelly, Deceased

Estate No. PR 24-66
 Notice is hereby given that on December 20, 2024, in the County Court of Dakota County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Elizabeth A. Anderson, whose address is #8 Crystal View Court, South Sioux City, NE 68776, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate.
 Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 3, 2025, or be forever barred.

/s/ Kerri L. Wiese Kerri L. Wiese Clerk of the County Court P.O. Box 385 Dakota City, NE 68731

JOHN C. EHRICH, (Bar #24140) Buchheit & Ehrich Law, PLC 1419 Dakota Avenue P.O. Box 215 South Sioux City, NE 68776 Ph: (402) 412-2080 Fax: (402) 412-2082 Jack@buchheit-ehrich.com
 Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, January 2, 9 and 16, 2025. - ZNEZ

Women in Ag Conference registration is open

The 40th Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference will be held Feb. 20-21, 2025, in Kearney, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 110 Second Ave.

Attendees can look forward to hearing from keynote speakers Elaine Froese, Emily Reuschel, Leah Peterson, and Jena Oschner.

In addition to the keynote speakers, participants will select from over 20 workshop options that cover the five areas of agricultural risk management: production, market, financial, human and legal. Selected workshops will offer Continuing Education Credits for Certified Crop Advisors.

The photography exhibition, "Legacy of Leadership: Faces of Nebraska Women in Agriculture," will be on display at the event to help celebrate 40 years of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Nebraska Women in Agriculture program.

"We are thrilled to present such a diverse and inspiring lineup of

speakers at this year's conference," said Jessica Groskopf, director of the Nebraska Women in Agriculture program. "The experts, innovators, and leaders joining us are truly exceptional, and their insights will provide invaluable knowledge for everyone involved in agriculture. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss."

Registration opened on Jan. 1, 2025. The cost for a two-day registration is \$150 for participants who register on or before Feb. 7. The two-day registration fee increases to \$175 on Feb. 8. A one-day registration is available for \$90.

The Nebraska Women in Agriculture program and the Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition are offering scholarships for students and producers to attend this year's conference. The deadline for these applications is Feb. 1.

To learn more, visit the Nebraska Women in Agriculture website at wia.unl.edu.

Subscribe Today!

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Homer News

By Stacie Johnson



Lauritsen Insurance
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(COURTESY PHOTO)

(above) Great turnout in Pender Saturday. The kids wrestled hard, coach said, and ended up fourth in team points. (right) This group of girls won the New Years Bash basketball tourney at Siouxland Sports Academy this past weekend. Well done!



Fall academic all-state awards

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) is pleased to announce the student recipients of the Fall 2024 Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association (NCPA) Academic All-State Awards.

Since 2006 this NSAA Awards Program has recognized students who meet the criteria for nomination by their school in the season of their activity.

Each year the NSAA and the NCPA recognize students during fall, winter, and spring seasons who are nominated by their schools for their individual excellence, leadership, and significant contributions in their NSAA activity.

Homer students receiving this award include the following:

Boys' Cross Country – Aayden Harris, Ethan Torticill; **Girls' Cross Country** – Lila Bolles, Lilyanna Dziurawiec; **Football** – Isaac Barclay, Bodie Nelsen; **Play Production** – Lilyanna Dziurawiec, Bodie Nelsen; **Volleyball** – Annah Harris, Rylie Harris.

Congratulations to the scholar-athletes.

Any news to share?

If you've got an upcoming event, a new grandchild, a milestone birthday or anniversary to celebrate, please let me know so I can share your good news here in the Star. Pretty please!?

Contact staciejohnson@homerknights.org or text/call 712-898-0721.

TeamMates Fun Night approaches

Homer mentors and mentees will enjoy a Fun Night on Thursday, Jan. 9 at the school, meeting in the art room at 6 p.m. for Daga's Mexican food and sugar cookie decorating.

Matches will be recognized at halftime of the girls' varsity game that evening with Homer facing off against Randolph.

TeamMates, wear your TeamMates shirts to get in free to the game. Also, so meals can be ordered, please RSVP by Jan. 10 to katiecurry@homerknights.org.

Yoga with Tammy

Looking to improve your flexibility, strength, posture, or digestion? Then look for Yoga with Tammy.

Tammy Mohanson hosts yoga ses-

sions out of her home studio on Thursdays with 9 a.m. Chair Yoga an 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Gentle Yoga. Drop in price is \$15 or you can participate in 6 classes for \$75.

Preschool enrollment open

Homer Community Schools has opened enrollment for the 2025-26 4-year-old preschool class. Your child must be 4 years old by July 31, 2025, and be fully potty trained.

The preschool class, held Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-3:20 p.m., offers play-based learning, outdoor play, and developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Email or call Lynn or Hollie in the office to get signed up today: 402-698-2377 or office@homerknights.org.

Youngsters fare well on the court and mat

Congrats to the fourth-grade girls' basketball team on winning their pool in Siouxland Sports Academy's New Year's Bash tourney last weekend: Lyla Carlin, Henley Kirkholm, Alayna Jensen, Kinleigh Estothen, Hayslee Kluver, Kinlee Dunn, Kinley Eriksen, and Leah Bousquet. The

girls are coached by Sarah Jensen and Tyler Kirkholm.

"I'm so proud of our team this weekend," Coach Sarah said. Many on the team were recovering from illness, "but everyone stepped up and worked hard to cover for each other."

Congrats also to members of the Junior Knights wrestling program for earning an impressive, history-making fourth place as a team at the Pender meet on Saturday.

School activities

Friday, Jan. 10 – B WR at Winside, 10 a.m.; G/B BB at Archbishop Bergan in Fremont, G JV starts 4 p.m., rolling schedule.

Saturday, Jan. 11 – Speech meet at Fremont, 8 a.m.; G WR at Winside, 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13 – G WR at Summerland; JH GB at Pender, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 14 – Golf team meeting during homeroom; JH BB vs. TriCounty NE; G/B BB at Pender, JV games 4:45 p.m. rolling schedule.

Thursday, Jan. 16 – G/B BB vs. Randolph, JV games 4:30 p.m. rolling schedule; TeamMates recognition night at half time.

Friday, Jan. 17 – B WR at Archbishop Bergan, 4 p.m.; Lewis & Clark Conference Honor Band; Speech meet at Wisner, TBD.



(COURTESY PHOTO)

Meet TeamMates newest mentor-mentee match of Joey and Buddy. January is TeamMates Month, so it's a great time to jump in and impact a life.

LOCAL NEWS

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