



KNIGHT FEVER

Homer girls heading to state. Page 1B

Since 1909

DAKOTA COUNTY STAR

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www.dakcostar.com

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Thursday, March 6, 2025

STAR CALENDAR

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in last week's Dakota County Star that the City Council of South Sioux City will meet before the annual Joint Meeting.

The Council has moved its meeting to Tuesday, March 11 at 5 p.m. in City Hall.

Chamber Coffee Friday

Friday's Chamber Coffee will be hosted by the Siouxland Growth Organization. The meeting will be held at the Fire Department's Memorial Hall building at 215 West 16th St.

Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 10 a.m.

School Board will meet

The South Sioux City Community Schools Board of Education will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at 5 p.m. in the high school library.

An agenda is available at ssccardinals.com.

Financial literacy class

A financial literacy class will be held Thursday, March 6 from 6-7 p.m. in the Dakota County Nebraska Extension office at 1505 Broadway Street in Dakota City.

Cost is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple, and will address financial management skills.

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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Tourism touted at County Board meeting

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

The Dakota County Board of Commissioners got an update on tourism in Dakota County during Monday's meeting.

South Sioux City Area Chamber of Commerce president Lori Warner updated the board on some of the activities that will be held in South Sioux City and Dakota County in the coming months, including two dog shows and a bird-watching event.

Shows like these have a big economic impact on the community that brings tax dollars in the form of restaurant visits and hotel stays.

"We've had the dog shows here for 10 years now and it has done well for our market," she said. "There is a group coming here in May to do bird-watching and we'll see people coming from a 200-mile radius for that event."

A number of other events are planned in the area, from amateur boxing to the Dakota-Thurston County Fair, and Warner said they are trying to bring the Nebraska Cattlemen's Ball to the area as well.

Warner said the chamber is also looking at legislative issues involving tourism and expressed concern about some legislation that could cut tourism funding in the state.

"The Legislature is trying to cut \$3 million over the next two years and they don't realize that this brings money into state," she said. "We'll spend \$40,000-50,000 in advertising to get events to the area, and that comes back to us in hotel stays and other things that benefit the local economy."

Looking at the county's membership agreement with the Norm Waitt Sr. YMCA in South Sioux City, the board decided not to renew its



(PHOTO BY MICHAEL CARNES)

SEE TOURISM, 2A

DESTINATION LINCOLN: LADY KNIGHTS' TICKET PUNCHED



(PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CARNES)

Winning a district title is exciting, but to do it on your home court is even more of a thrill. The Homer girls basketball team experienced all of that excitement Friday as they won the C2-5 district title with a 65-55 win over Maywood/Hayes Center on Kevin Snyder Court at Homer High School. (top) Freshman Natali Looft cuts a string off the net after celebrating the big win. (right) The Lady Knights celebrate after being presented the district championship plaque for their efforts. (bottom) The Lady Knights players, coaches and student managers get the team photo taken with their fans celebrating in the background. Complete coverage is on the Sports page.



Part of old Dakota Avenue to close

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

The Public Works Committee passed along a recommendation to close part of old Dakota Avenue during its meeting Monday evening at City Hall.

The possibility of future development along that part of the street and limiting potential traffic issues were cited by City Administrator Lance Hedquist as reasons for the one-block stretch to be closed to traffic.

"We want to close it at Sixth Street and barricade it down to fifth," he said, noting that property owners have agreed to the closure and there could be plans for future development there as well.

The proposal received unanimous approval from the four-member committee and will be passed on for final approval at next week's City Council meeting.

Also approved were plans for future expansion of the city's new wastewater treatment plant.

Ethan Joy with JEO Consulting said that plans will be ready to be let out to bid in late April for an addition that will allow the plant to process domestic wastewater along with its current industrial use.

Early estimates have placed the cost of the expansion at \$49 million, most of which will be paid for through loans and state support.

Human Relations director Mary Clark presented an updated safety manual for the city that updates compliance to OSHA regulations. The manual was approved on a 4-0 vote.

The City Council will decide on the proposal during its next meeting, rescheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 5 p.m. due to the Joint Meeting scheduled for Monday.

City

County

Joint Meeting of Dakota County

Schools

Joint Meeting ready for 47th edition

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

A meeting that is one-of-a-kind in this country will have its 47th annual session here Monday evening.

The Joint Meeting, a gathering of each of the tax-supported boards in Dakota County, will have its annual get-together beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in South Sioux City. Representatives of the various city, school and county boards will meet for an evening of conversation and sharing of ideas and projects.

Since 1978, the councils of each of the communities in the county have met with the idea of building closer relationships and sharing ideas and projects that are going on in the communities of South Sioux City, Emerson, Hubbard, Homer and Jackson.

"This meeting helps build closer relationships with each other and helps us have a better understanding of what each other's roles are," said Dakota County Board of Commissioners chair Martin Hohenstein.

Direction of the meeting rotates between four different groups, and this is the county board's turn to run the meeting. Each governing body that has a quorum in attendance will take roll, as is required by state statute, before everybody shares their ideas and successes of the past year.

Getting these governing bodies together in one place is important, especially when some are holding down multiple responsibilities within their communities.

"In a lot of our communities, you have people on the city

SEE JOINT MEETING, 2B

PRINCIPAL GETS A PIE IN THE FACE FOR FUNDRAISER



(PHOTO BY LANCE SWANSON)

The South Sioux City High School Student Council recently held a fundraiser that ended with Freshman Academy Principal Vince Saviano getting a face full of cream pie, courtesy of Brock Anderson. Money goes to the official charity of Nebraska Association of Student Councils, Nebraska Make-A-Wish.

State USDA workers face unprecedented layoffs

By MARK MORAN
Nebraska News Connection
Mass layoffs by the Trump administration are cutting into essential services across the federal government. In Nebraska, that includes overseeing the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s response to the avian flu outbreak, working with state agencies that regulate large animal confinement operations.

“The folks who do the work and take the risk and produce our nation’s food and fiber and fuel are already in very vulnerable financial positions.”

— John Hansen

Nebraska Farmer’s Union president

One-third of the Nebraska workers across three USDA divisions have lost their jobs — including at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center. New U.S. Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins says the agency is “eliminating positions that are no longer necessary.” The USDA makes funds available to CAFO operators trying to implement more environmentally friendly practices and reduce toxic manure runoff that can affect air quality and groundwater. It isn’t clear what will happen to those programs or the people who

still work there. Hansen added that some Nebraska farmers decided to upgrade their operations because they had federal funds to help them. Now, he said they may no longer have access to that money, which leaves them in the lurch. “The folks who do the work and take the risk and produce our nation’s food and fiber and fuel are already in very vulnerable financial positions,” said Hansen. “All of these folks that are being terminated are part of the public-private partnership that we have between agriculture and our federal government.” The cuts across many high profile agencies are part of the Trump administration’s goal of reducing the size of the federal government.

TOURISM: County board meeting

from Page 1A

membership agreement, citing higher cost and the limited number of county employees who have taken advantage of the membership. “It just doesn’t make sense, dollars and cents-wise,” board chair Martin Hohenstein said, noting that average monthly usage was under 10 employees and the current membership cost of \$1,200. The board voted 4-0 not to renew the membership, with Commissioner Rick Bousquet absent from Monday’s meeting. In other action, the County: — meeting as the Board of Equalization, approved tax exemption requests for Siouxland Mental Health Center, Haven House Family Services Center, Nebraska Indian Community College and Arbor-Fin Investment, LLC/Regency Square Propco LLC. Rejected was a request by the Siouxland Tennis Association. — approved a bid of \$5,250 by Mainelli Wagner and Associates for 2025 bridge inspections. — approved six gravel pricing bids for the purchase of gravel from area companies as needed. The County Board’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17 at 3 p.m. at the Dakota County Courthouse.

JOINT MEETING: Scheduled Monday

from Page 1A

council who are also firemen,” Hohenstein said. “Dakota City’s mayor (Jerry Yacevich) is also a fireman, so we have a lot of people who wear a lot of hats in these small communities and discuss what is going on and what we can do to help each other.” Meetings like this have fostered solid relationships between each of the entities over the years, and many a time one has been able to help another in an emergency situation. Last year, a sewer backup in the Dakota County Jail came at a rather inopportune time. “It happened on a holiday weekend where we had a major sewer backup in the jail,” Hohenstein recalled. “We made a call to South Sioux City, and within an hour they had their trucks there to help us take care of it. The county didn’t have that equipment, but the relationship we’ve had with

the city, we were able to make a call and they got us out of a bind.” “With 100 people in the jail, it’s not like we could just put in a bunch of porta-potties,” Hohenstein added. “It was an emergency situation on a holiday weekend and we couldn’t have been happier with the response we got from them.” Each of the entities will discuss their achievements and what they are looking forward to in the coming year, and representatives from the county emergency management office and Heartland Counseling are also scheduled to offer updates as well. Hoheinstein said he was grateful that the Knights of Columbus were able to offer their facilities for Monday’s meeting. “They have done a great job for us with their meals over the years and agreed to interrupt their schedule to do this for us,” he said.

Northeast Nebraska Senior Center Menu

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Please call the day before to reserve a lunch — (402) 494-1500

Thursday, March 6 — Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit cocktail, orange juice
Friday, March 7 — Fish sandwich, Au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, peaches, carrot sticks
Monday, March 10 (Evening meal) — BBQ ribs, mashed potatoes, baked beans, mandarin oranges, cranberry salad
Tuesday, March 11 — Meatloaf, stewed tomatoes, glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, fruit cocktail, broccoli
Wednesday, March 12 — Swedish meatballs, Au gratin potatoes, stewed tomatoes, lettuce salad, apricots

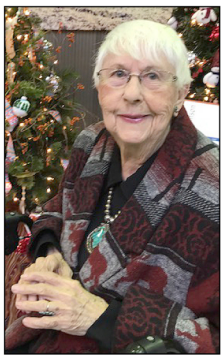
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shirley Knight

3-6-35

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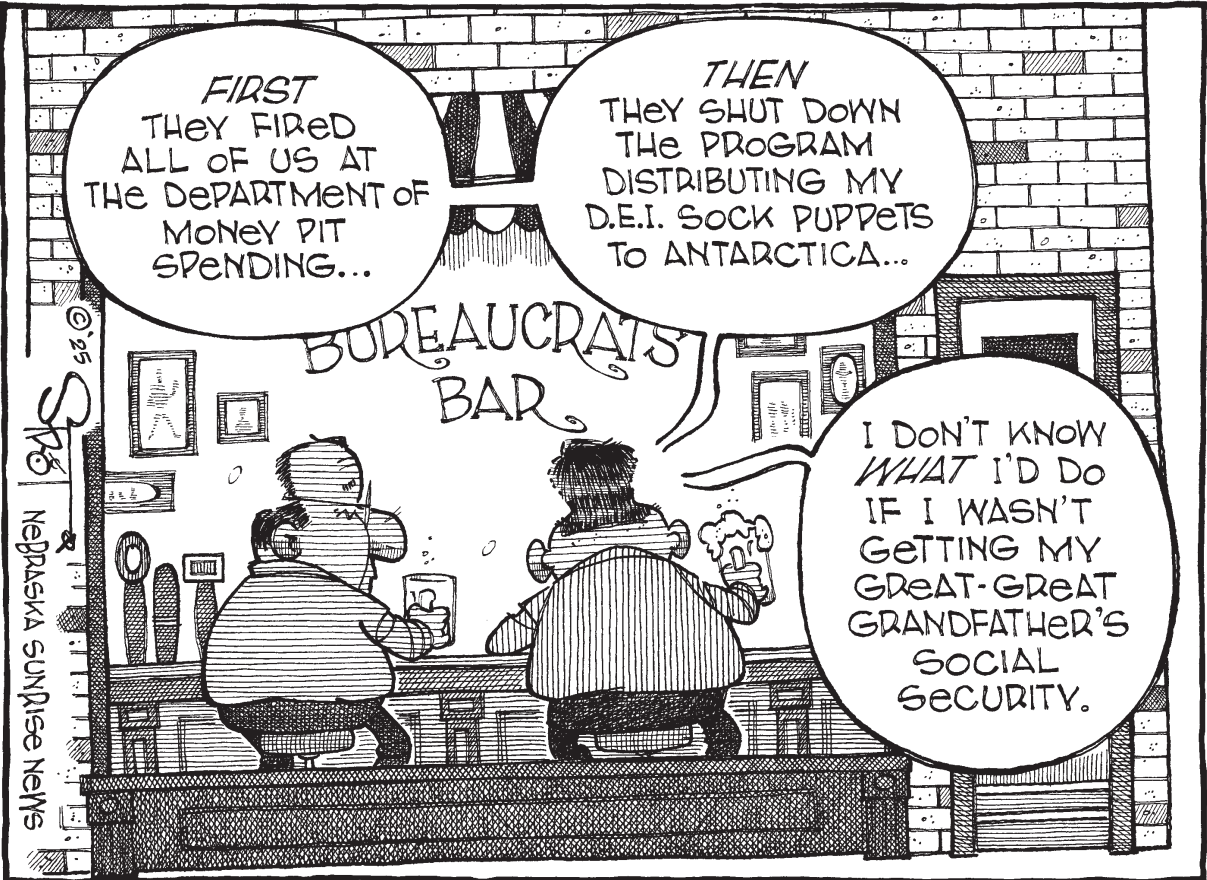
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Importance of state, national mottos

Last week, two of my bills advanced to Select File, which is the second round of floor debate. LB195, a bill to allow pharmacists to sell generic forms a Naloxone; and LB501, a bill to allow property owners to have their damaged properties reassessed for property tax purposes, were both debated on General File and advanced to the next round of debate unanimously without any opposition votes.

Last Tuesday, a public hearing was held on my bill, LB122, which is a bill to post the national motto and the Nebraska state motto in our public schools. This bill is needed for the simple reason that too many of our young people are graduating from high school without knowing our national motto or our state motto. For example, one person who testified for the bill online wrote, “I can’t even tell you what the state motto is, so apparently we didn’t have that growing up.”

This is no small matter because many people don’t know our national and state mottos, including some very important people. For example, former President Barack Obama twice mistakenly declared that “E Pluribus Unum” was our country’s national motto and a recent 2021 survey by Solitaire Bliss found that two in five Americans don’t know what their own state motto is. To further illustrate this problem, consider that in 2016 UNL student, Emily Kuklinski, published an article in the Daily Nebraskan under the title, “Nebraska Nice, Is Our State Motto A Warning Label?” Kuklinski had evidently confused the Nebraska state motto with a slogan being promoted by the Nebraska Tourism Commission.

The national motto, “In God We Trust” was first suggested by Sir Francis Scott Key in the fourth stanza of our national anthem, “The

Legislative Report

State Sen. Glen Meyer
District 17



Star-Spangled Banner.” In that fourth verse, Sir Francis Scott Key wrote, “And this be our motto - In God is our trust.” “In God We trust” first appeared on coins in 1864 and on paper money in 1957. Congress adopted “In God We Trust” as the national motto in 1956. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who signed the bill into law, said (and President Ford later repeated), “Without God, there could be no American form of government; nor, an American way of life.” President John F. Kennedy said, “The guiding principle and prayer of this Nation has been, is now, and forever shall be ‘In God We Trust.’”

Since its adoption in 1957, the national motto has been reaffirmed by Congress and upheld in the courts. The national motto was reaffirmed by Congress in 2002. More recently, under the Obama administration, in 2011 the U.S. House of Representatives passed on a vote of 396-9 a resolution reaffirming the national motto and encouraging it to be displayed in public schools.

My bill seeks to carry out the intention of that resolution. Although the United States Supreme Court has never ruled on the constitutionality of the motto, in the 1970 court case of Aronow v. United States, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of keeping the national motto on our U.S. currency, saying, “‘In God We Trust’ has nothing whatsoever to do with the establish-

ment of religion. Its use is of patriotic or ceremonial character and bears no resemblance to government sponsorship of a religious exercise.” This has been the long-standing opinion, tradition, and precedent set in the courts ever since.

The Nebraska state motto, “Equality Before the Law” was influenced by the outcome of the Civil War. In 1867 Congress rejected Nebraska’s original application for statehood because the proposed state constitution contained a provision that only white men could vote. Nebraska responded by changing its state constitution and reapplied for statehood. President Andrew Johnson vetoed the statehood bill, arguing that Congress had no right to tell states how to conduct their own elections. However, Congress overrode President Johnson’s veto and Nebraska became a state on March 1, 1867. Shortly thereafter, the Nebraska State Legislature adopted the motto, “Equality Before the Law” and Gov. David Butler signed it into law on June 14, 1867. The very next day, June 15, 1867, the Nebraska State Legislature ratified the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees to all Americans, “equal protection of the laws.”

Because these two mottos have been codified into law, students need to learn them at school and they should be reminded of them on a daily basis.

The two hardest words for youth to say

Gratitude is so easy to express, and yet — it seems some people wouldn’t know how to express it if the fate of the free world rested on their ability to do it.

Maybe I need to worry about other things like making sure the neighbor kids stop playing on my front lawn (or whatever it is old farts like me are supposed to be worried about these days — nobody keeps me updated on these things anymore), but it seems that the simple act of thanking somebody for something is a lost art.

Just the other day, I stopped at one of our local fast-food joints to pick up a quick dinner before going back to work. I paid for my meal and got a half-hearted “have a nice day” out of the young man as he handed me my bag full of food before closing the window and moving on to his next order.

Now when I was but a young boy growing up, as Johnny Carson did, on the plains of Nebraska, I was taught — rather sternly, I might add — that you should always say the words “thank you” when you are on the receiving end of a transaction, whether it’s cutting the neighbor lady’s grass or selling them something for a club or school fundraising effort.

Saying “thank you” is a simple act of gratitude, telling that person that you appreciate their patronage and are grateful that they were willing to help you out, whether you’re making money for the high school band uniform updates or saving money to buy your first car or pay for that upcoming basketball camp.

Maybe I was just fortunate, but I had the simple act of saying “thank you” to a customer drilled into me every month when I had to collect for newspaper subscriptions while delivering the regional daily newspaper (you remember those? Newspapers produced in a big city that came out EVERY DAY with all kinds of local news and information? Ahhh, those were the days . . . but I’m digressing).

I walked up to the door and rang the doorbell. Someone on the other side would answer and I’d announce that I was there to collect for delivering the newspaper to them (and I delivered in every kind of weather

Don’t Get Me Started

By Michael J. Carnes
Star Publisher



imaginable, from scorching heat to blizzard conditions). They would pay the subscription, I would give them a receipt and was always quick to say “thank you” for their patronage.

Walk into ANY local business today — from a mom-and-pop shop to the big-box stores in the local malls — and see if you get a “thank you” out of an employee for buying something in their store. Did an employee even bother to greet you as you walked in the door? Did one of the staff see that you were looking for something and offer assistance? Did you get a smile and a “thank you” as you completed your transaction?

Sadly, the odds are pretty good that you MAY have received one of those acts of gratitude. The mom-and-pop stores are usually pretty good at welcoming and offering help — but only if you ask.

But that “thank you” at the end of the transaction — how often do you hear it? When WAS the last time you heard it?

Now, being in the business that I’ve been in almost all of my adult life, I do receive a ton of “thank you” notes and greetings from people who read a story, or a column, or see the coverage of a certain event in this newspaper. “Thank you for covering my kid’s team,” a sports parent might say. “Thank you for writing that story about (random subject)” will come from a reader with an interest in the topic. “Thank you for writing that column calling out (random politician)” another will say after reading this column’s latest takedown of some bumblehead in Lincoln or Washington.

Want to know how I respond to those? With a “thank you” of my own — I thank them for taking the time to buy a copy of the Dakota County

Star or a subscription and reading the paper. This business doesn’t survive without readers who take the time to look at the paper, and if I’m providing something that they deem worth reading and responding to, they deserve my thanks for their patronage.

It’s not that hard, really — a simple “thank you” can not only show gratitude for patronage, it can make a person’s day. I know the “thank you” that I get always lighten my load a little and make me feel good about what I’ve done, and I would like to thank that my thanking them does the same as well.

You won’t believe how far you’ll really go in life with the simplest expression of gratitude. If you work in a job that requires communication with a patron who is buying something at your place of employment — whether it’s chicken taco or a screwdriver — this simple phrase will open doors you don’t even realize. People remember those who say “thank you” in these situations a lot more than “have a nice day” or “yeah” or “OK, see ya.”

Maybe if we tossed out an extra buck for every time someone at the local eatery or the convenience store said “thank you,” it might light a fire under them and make them understand how simple -- and rewarding -- something so simple as the words “thank you” can really be.

It’s only two words and takes so little time out of your day — don’t waste an opportunity to show gratitude in everything you do, especially when you’re on the job representing not only yourself, but the company that writes your paychecks.

Go ahead — say it.

Thank you.

You’re welcome . . .

More transparency on improper payments

There is an inscription above an entrance to the Nebraska State Capitol. It reads: “the salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen.” Transparency is essential to watchfulness. Our \$36 trillion national debt is our greatest domestic threat. We must do all we can to eliminate waste and restore fiscal sanity. This week, I introduced the Improper Payments Transparency Act. My bipartisan bill will require more transparent and more accurate data about the scope of improper payments made by the federal government.

Improper payments continue to be a major contributor to wasteful spending. In Fiscal Year 2023, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimated that the federal government made \$236 billion of improper payments. That means “payments that should not have been made or were made in the incorrect amount.” In Fiscal Year 2024, agencies reported \$161.5 billion of improper payments. Since 2003, GAO estimates that the federal government has made \$2.7 trillion in improper payments. The true cost of improper payments is likely even higher than this. That’s because some federal programs do not report improper payments.

In Fiscal Year 2023, eight federal programs were flagged as having potentially significant improper payments. They were required to report but did not do so. They should have

Washington Report

US. Sen. Pete Ricketts
(R) Nebraska



been transparent with Americans.

Current law only requires agencies to consult with the Office of Management and Budget before deciding whether to report improper payments. This must change. Americans deserve to know whether our tax dollars are being misspent. They deserve transparent data.

My Improper Payments Transparency Act would require better reporting. This bipartisan bill, introduced with Democrat Senator Jacky Rosen of Nevada, would require the President’s budget to include the amounts and rates of improper payments at each executive agency. It would require a detailed explanation of yearly trends. It would also require a summary of corrective actions taken to reduce and stop improper payments. This data will help Congress and the American people see where money is being misspent. Transparency brings accountability. With this information, we can make better choices and save tax dollars.

Improper payments are not just numbers. They have real conse-

quences. When federal agencies waste money, it means less money supports essential services. It crowds out money for our national defense. It reduces the dollars for critical infrastructure and deficit reduction. Taxpayers deserve better.

Transparency and accountability shouldn’t be a partisan issue. Americans work hard. Their money should not be wasted. Waste undermines public trust and perpetuates our unsustainable fiscal path. If we want to fix our nation’s debt, we must stop wasting hundreds of billions of dollars each year, and trillions since 2003, in improper payments. It is time to find the mistakes, fix the problems, and save Nebraskans’ and taxpayers’ money. My Improper Payments Transparency Act will help us do that. I’m committed to improving transparency and ending wasteful spending.

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.

20 YEARS AGO

MARCH 3, 2005

A senior with the gift of gab

Ryan Moore has a heart of gold and a personality that doesn’t quit. He has more depth than most adults. He’s a super kid, Mark Casey, South Sioux City High School teacher, said. The self-proclaimed talker is an 18-year-old senior at South Sioux City High School, with a love for sports and journalism. Ryan, the son of Brian and Maria Moore, might be remembered for his physical characteristics, but it is his extensive involvement in school activities that make him a well-known name around school. Ryan was born with a rare form of dwarfism, commonly called SED, and has endured 20 operations.

30 YEARS AGO

MARCH 2, 1995

IBP outlines odor control

Local city and county officials and members of CITIZENS voiced cautious optimism Wednesday morning about a three-step plan introduced by IBP to reduce the effects of hydrogen sulfide (H2S) at the company’s Dakota City wastewater treatment

40 YEARS AGO

MARCH 7, 1985

Atokad officials optimistic

The 1984 racing season at Atokad was a good year, and the thoroughbred race track administration is looking forward to an even better year in 1985, says Ronald Rapp, Atokad Agriculture and Racing Association president. According to the quarterly newsletter, if LB 154 is passed intact and the exemption is raised from \$5 to \$7.5 million with no sunset, there is a chance Atokad could run there days a week in the fall of 1985 instead of two days.

50 YEARS AGO

MARCH 6, 1975

Junior High move coming

If the fire marshal gives the new Junior High School his seal of approval when he comes to town Thursday and Friday, the district’s seventh, eighth and ninth graders could be moved into the new building by March 17. That’s the word that comes from School Superintendent Dr. Ralph Weaver, who said a report would be presented to the School Board at their March 10 meeting.

65 YEARS AGO

MARCH 3, 1960

Local woman awarded \$8,000 by jury

A Dakota County district court jury returned a verdict of \$8,000 in favor of Mrs. Adrienne McDonald of South Sioux City for injuries suffered in an automobile accident. Defendant in the suit was Miss Eva Graham of South Sioux City. Mrs. McDonald was the driver of a car which had stopped before making a left-hand turn into the Harmony Lanes bowling alley. Miss Graham was driving her car and struck the rear of the McDonald car.



HIGH SCHOOL WINTER CHOIR CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS



(PHOTOS BY ZULEMA GODINEZ PONCE)

These are some scenes from the recent 9-12 Winter Choir Concert, held Feb. 20 at SSC Middle School auditorium.



Clean energy advocates seek saving tax incentives

By MARK MORAN
Nebraska News Connection

Lawmakers in Congress are considering repealing financial incentives for clean energy in order to fund other priorities of the Trump administration.

In Nebraska, startup funding for wind and solar projects is on the line, as well as hundreds of jobs. Right now, Nebraska is 47th in the nation for its amount of installed solar power infrastructure.

Liz Veazey, Omaha-based director of state policy campaigns for Solar

United Neighbors Action, said cutting the financial incentives for the state to expand solar would send Nebraska's environmental health in the wrong direction.

"As a state, we also don't have much natural gas or coal, and most of that has to be imported from out of the state," Veazey pointed out. "That requires us to send millions of dollars out of the state to import those dirty fuels."

Veazey added creating more solar and other clean energy infrastructure also creates more jobs and lowers consumers' energy bills. Right now,

expansion is underway in Grand Island on the second-largest solar farm in the state, which will provide power for 10,000 Nebraska homes when it comes online.

Research shows removing clean energy tax credits would increase residential electricity bills by 9% and cost the state more than 2,000 jobs.

Jack Pratt, associate vice president of political engagement for Environmental Defense Fund Action, said cutting the tax incentives could hobble recent high-tech investments in the Nebraska economy.

"There's been a ton of data centers in Nebraska," noted. "Those do create a lot of jobs and a lot of investment, but they also consume a lot of energy."

Pratt stressed the jobs make creating renewable sources of energy imperative. A 30 percent tax credit to retrofit a home with solar panels and a \$7,500 cash rebate to buy an electric vehicle would be eliminated. The U.S. House could vote on whether to keep the incentives this month.

Federal cuts jeopardize rural teacher training program

By MARK MORAN
Nebraska News Service

The future of a teacher training program in rural Nebraska is in danger since the Trump administration has cut diversity-related grants in its effort to shift the direction of the federal government.

The program is known as RAICES — or 'roots' in English. It's designed to recruit would-be teachers from rural Nebraska communities, train them and place them in their hometown classrooms.

Ted Hamann, an anthropologist

and professor in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who helps oversee the program, said it connects the communities to their schools and the people teaching their kids.

"Obviously it has teaching to read, teaching mathematics, academic content," said Hamann. "But it's also, you know, the friendly face that welcomes teachers at a parent conference. All of the features about making schools part of the infrastructure of a community being healthy."

The RAICES program aims to create and retain teachers who better reflect and understand the student populations they serve. But the recent federal cuts to diversity programs have placed it in jeopardy.

Hamann said the cuts will mean a loss of funding for 16 student scholarships — about \$450,000.

While Hamann said he's cautiously optimistic that RAICES organizers will be able to make up the funds from local donors, he admitted that the cuts create instability.

"We didn't think that we'd have to rally our troops in this way," said

Hamann. "We thought our work at this time was to implement the grant, not to go out looking for new resources to sort of keep it going. But, you now, you take adversity - you drop a couple swear words - and then you get on task and figure out, sort of, what's the way that we're going to go forward?"

He said should it continue, the RAICES program will recruit and train rural Nebraska high school students who are considering teaching careers.

HARNEY ELEMENTARY TEAM TRAVELS TO TEXAS FOR AWARD



(COURTESY PHOTO)

South Sioux City Community Schools is proud of Principal Mike Andreasen and the amazing team of Harney Elementary educators as they traveled to Texas to represent South Sioux City and Nebraska at the 2025 National ESEA Conference recently. They accepted the National ESEA Distinguished School Award, learning, and connecting with fellow educators from across the country. This recognition is a testament to their dedication to student success and excellence in education.

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FROM THE BLEACHERS



By Michael Carnes

Nothing like a trip to state hoops

I've been around high school sports for most of my life, from my hilarious attempts at being an athlete to this gig I've been calling work for the past four decades.

I've been at more sporting events than I could even begin to count, from pee wee baseball games to national wrestling tournaments. Each of them is special in their own way, and if you play the game of basketball in Nebraska, the ultimate has always been making it to the state basketball tournament.

It doesn't mater if it's your first time or your 50th time — watching the eyes and faces of the boys and girls who walk into a state tournament arena for the first time is always a fun experience for me to witness.

Kids like the girls from Homer, who will face Oakland-Craig in a 3:15 p.m. game Thursday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, have probably never played in an arena that seats almost 9,000 people (it used to be more than 12,000 before it was reconfigured for volleyball 10-15 years ago).

Sure, they may have played a game or two in the Tyson Events Center, but this is different.

The Devaney Center has long been considered the mecca for high school basketball. While the Pinnacle Bank Arena down the street is bigger and hosts the championship games, the place they used to call "Bob's House" has been home to many a hoops memory over the years — legendary games, legendary moments and so many stories that there isn't near enough space here to tell them all.

One of my favorites was the 1992 Class B boys semifinals between Wahoo — a team that had won 114 consecutive games and was the clear favorite to win a fifth consecutive title — against Ogallala, a team that has never won a state title and hadn't won a game at state in almost three decades.

Ogallala came out on fire and were hitting 3-pointers like it was a Steph Curry shootaround. Wahoo got down big early and could never get within striking distance. A standing-room-only crowd saw the upset of the century as Ogallala beat Wahoo 84-68 and end that legendary winning streak.

Whether or not the Homer girls have some kind of magical moment like that remains to be seen — they got drawn into a meat grinder of a bracket facing an experienced Oakland-Craig team in the first round, with a matchup against one of last year's finals teams in the semifinals if they should win Thursday's "battle of the Knights."

But what the WILL experience will be the kind of eye-opening experiences that those of us in the stands don't get to enjoy.

The bus trip to Lincoln, the hotel stay, the pre-game meal and shoot-around, getting dressed in the Huskers' locker room, that special pre-game talk from the coaches.

And then — the steps from the locker room to the entrance to the arena. Everything seems bigger at this moment. The lights in the ceiling seem to be miles away. How can that rim only be 10 feet high when it looks much higher with all those seats behind it?

In those first few moments, it can be easy for these young ladies to lose themselves in all of the noise — the band seems louder, the fans cheer harder, their classmates showing up in all kinds of hilarious-themed attire — one's brain can explode with all of this suddenly in front of them.

And then — there's the game. You need to somehow corral all of that energy and emotion that has built up to this moment and remember your plays and your role and what the coaches are telling you from a location that might seem so foreign, yet is nothing different than playing on your home court.

Win or lose Thursday, the Lady Knights have had an outstanding season. They won conference and district titles and got to do something that a Homer girls team hasn't done in a while — make the trip to Lincoln to play in a state tournament. It's a week that will be here and gone in a moment — but the memories of this week are ones they will remember forever.

Lady Knights heading back to Lincoln

First state trip since 2014

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

HOMER — The last time Merlyn Tremayne took a team to state, most of this year's Homer girls basketball team was barely out of kindergarten.

The Lady Knights made sure the longtime coach got to make another trip to Lincoln, winning the C2-5 district title with an exciting 65-55 win over Maywood/Hayes Center Friday afternoon in front of a near-capacity crowd at Homer High School.

"It's really exciting," Tremayne, who is in his 25th year as the Lady Knights' mentor, said after the game. "I've been coaching a long time and this is one of the more special groups I've had. They weren't really around 11 years ago, so they're in for quite an exciting week."

It took quite an exciting game for the Lady Knights to punch their first state tournament ticket since 2014.

Coming off a loss to Humphrey-Lindsay in last week's subdistrict finals that they played without starting point guard Lilly Harris, who dislocated her elbow in the first subdistrict win over Ponca two days earlier, Tremayne wasn't sure he'd have his floor general on the floor until Friday morning.

"She just got cleared this morning about 9 a.m. to play today, and it obviously made a difference for us," he said.

Homer raced to a 6-0 lead and had several opportunities to put more points up early, but the adrenaline rush of the fast start created some uncharacteristic turnovers.

"Our adrenaline rush was going and we were going faster than our legs were taking us," Tremayne said.

"That was actually their style of play and we had to try to slow it down, because we knew they couldn't play snow," added senior Ali Albrecht, who scored a team-high 20 points in the win.

Maywood/Haydes Center shot themselves back in the game and rode on the back of sophomore Caylie Softley, who scored 16 of her game-high 23 points in the first half to keep the Lady Wolves close.

The visitors were able to get a seven-point Homer lead down to two after one period and led briefly at 24-23 with 5:19 to go in the half on a basket by Aubrey Broz.

Homer regained the lead but could

not shake the visitors who made the 335-mile trip to Dakota County. Albrecht hit a late 3-pointer before a free throw by Softley made it 40-38 at the break.

"Offensively we did well but they got comfortable in our zone defense," Tremayne said. "If you score 40 points in the first half of a girls basketball game and you're only up two at the half, that's not good."

Homer made some adjustments in the second half, going to more of a spread offense that opened the door for 6-foot-1 junior Janessa Overgaard. Held scoreless in the first half, she scored on back-to-back trips down the floor in the third period and scored all 10 of her points in the second half.

"She's the one to dish to in that spread offense and she finished really well and we were able to get her more opportunities in the second half," Tremayne said.

The Homer defense, meanwhile, was able to control Maywood/Hayes Center's outside shooting and limited Softley to six points.

"We knew that she was their top scorer and she had a good first half and we needed to stop her from scoring, and we did a good job of that for the most part," Albrecht said.

The game was still in the balance after the Wolves' Kesli Cox hit her third trifecta of the game to make it 57-55 with 1:43 left. Homer answered with a basket by Overgaard, and fast-break layups by Albrecht and Harris closed the deal for the 24-2 Lady Knights.

Albrecht led Homer with 20 points, followed by senior Tori Walker with 16, Harris and Overgaard with 10 each, senior Rylie Harris with five and Natali Loofe with four.

"I just can't believe it," Walker said. "I'm so proud of us. There are a lot of emotions and it's just so exciting,"

"It's unbelievable," Albrecht added. "It felt really emotional knowing that we're going to state and to do it in our home gym is just an awesome moment."

Homer 65, Maywood/Hayes Center 55
Homer 16 24 13 12 — 65
Maywood/HC 14 24 8 9 — 55

HOMER — Loofe 4, L. Harris 10, Walker 16, Albrecht 20, R. Harris 5, Overgaard 10.
MAYWOOD/HC — Stengel 4, Broz 2, Farr 6, Softley 23, Stengel 9, Cox 11.



Homer's Janessa Overgaard battles for a loose ball with Maywood/Hayes Center's Blayklee Farr during C2-5 district finals action Friday on Kevin Snyder Court at Homer High School. The Lady Knights outlasted the Lady Wolves 65-55 to earn the trip to state.

(PHOTO BY MIKE RASMUSSEN)

Class C-2 State Tournament

Thursday's Games
(all at Devaney Center)

9 a.m. — No. 1 Johnson-Brock (25-1) vs. No. 8 GACC (21-5)
10:45 a.m. — No. 4 Elkhorn Valley (26-0) vs. No. 5 Cross County (24-2)
1:30 p.m. — No. 2 Crofton (23-3) vs. No. 7 Yutan (18-6)
3:15 p.m. — No. 3 Oakland-Craig (23-3) vs. No. 6 Homer (24-2)

Friday's Games
(all at Devaney Center)

1:30 p.m. — J-B/GACC winner vs. EV/CC winner
3:15 p.m. — Crofton/Yutan winner vs. OC/Homer winner

Saturday's Games
at Standing Bear HS

11 a.m. — Third-place game
at Pinnacle Bank Arena
4:15 p.m. — Championship game

Battle of the Knights in Class C-2 opener

By MICHAEL CARNES
Star Publisher

If you're cheering for the Lady Knights in Thursday's Class C-2 finale, you won't lose either way.

Homer faces Oakland-Craig in the fourth game of the bracket in the Devaney Center at 3:15 p.m., and it will be an exciting trip for the Homer girls, who are back at state for the first time since 2014.

"It's really exciting," coach Merlyn Tremayne said. "I've had the luxury of coaching when we went a lot and I was excited. There's nothing like going to a state tournament and walking into those big arenas, and I'm really excited for them because these girls were like 5-6 years old the last time we went and probably have no idea what it's like."

The Lady Knights entered district as a probable No. 5 seed before falling to No. 6 after the final wild card points were figured up, and it dropped them into a district that, on paper, looks like a real meat grinder.

Homer faces an experienced Oakland-Craig outfit that was ranked No. 2 in the latest Omaha World-Herald ratings, and the winner of that game will play either Yutan or Crofton, who squared off in last year's championship game.

"We flipped from fifth to sixth at the end and that didn't help us any," Rremayne said. "Oakland-Craig puts a lot of pressure on and plays really good man defense, and they've played a tough schedule so they've been tested a lot and play at a high level."

Tremayne said his Lady Knights will need to do a better job of taking care of the basketball to overcome Oakland-Craig's pressure defense.

"We'll need to run our man offense and handle their full court pressure and make them earn their points, rather than getting cheap points off turnovers," he said.

Homer certainly has the talent to compete with Oakland-Craig. All five starters have scored in double digits several times during the season, led by senior Ali Albrecht (15.8) and junior Lilly Harris (12.7).

"We have four girls who can shoot in the mid 30's (percentage) from 3-point range, which is pretty solid for high school girls basketball," Tremayne said. "You never know who will be high point, which is a great thing to have. Ali will get a lot of the attention, but we still have a lot of other options and that's a luxury to not have to rely on one person."

Seniors Rylie Harris (9.2) and Tori Walker (7.9) and junior Janessa Overgaard (6.2), are also reliable scorers for the Lady Knights.

Oakland-Craig will also have a pair of double-digit sharpshooters to key on, including Briar Ray (13.8) and Sonya Guzinski (10.2), both of whom have scored 1,000 points in their high school careers and are still juniors.

"They have two 1,000-point scorers, so they have a lot of offensive manpower," Tremayne said. "They're also very experienced and have been to state a number of times, so they'll be tough."



(PHOTOS BY MIKE RASMUSSEN)

(top) Senior Ali Albrecht scored a team-high 20 points to lead Homer to state. (right) Junior Lilly Harris came back from a dislocated elbow to score 10 points and make several key defensive plays. (below) Freshman Natli Loofe found room inside to score two of her four points coming off the bench.



B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Book) at the South Sioux City Library

Cover to Cover is having a B.Y.O.B. (Bring Your Own Book) party at the library on Monday, March 10 at 3:30 p.m.

Bring a book you have recently read and share it with the group. If you loved it, talk it up. If you didn't love it, feel free to give it a big thumb's down. Cover to Cover is open to all readers who enjoy reading and discussing books.

Good Will Industries of the Great Plains will have their Career Cruiser in the library parking lot to help with your job search and job readiness skills on Friday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tea on IT: Have you heard? Tech Help went and got a new name! Services offered will consist of the following: mobile help, computer information, info on streaming devices, keyboarding and more. Walk-in availability! Drop in for all of your tech help on Monday, March 10 from 5-8 p.m.

Tangled Yarns meets each Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. Tangled Yarns is a time for anyone to come work on or ask questions about crafting projects that can be carried with you.

Digging into Your Irish Heritage is held on Thursday, March 13 at 6 p.m. Discover the resources available for you to dig into your Irish heritage in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Read a good book before you attend Cover to Cover's B.Y.O.B. party. The following are some of the bestselling titles available at the library.

"James" by Percival Everett FIC EVE). "From Percival Everett — a recipient of the NBCC Lifetime Achievement Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Booker Prize, and numerous PEN awards — comes James, a retelling of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view," — from the publisher.

"The Nightingale," by Kristin Hannah (FIC HAN). "An epic love story and family drama set at the dawn of World War II" — Provided by publisher.

"The Women," by Kristin Hannah (FIC HAN). "When 20-year-old



Dan Nieman

nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these unexpected words; it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life," — from the publisher

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

"The Housemaid," by Freida McFadden (FIC MCF). "Welcome to the family," Nina Winchester says as I shake her elegant, manicured hand. I smile politely, gazing around the marble hallway. Working here is my last chance to start fresh. I can pretend to be whoever I like.

"Three Days in June" by Anne Tyler (FIC TYL). "Gail Baines is long divorced from her husband, Max, and not especially close to her grown daughter, Debbie. Today is the day before Debbie's wedding. To start, Gail loses her job-or quits, depending who you ask. Then, Max arrives unannounced on Gail's doorstep, carrying a cat, without a place to stay and without even a suit in which to walk their daughter down the aisle," — from the publisher.

"Fourth Wing," by Rebecca Yarros (FIC YAR). A love story that sets the world on fire . . . literally. Elizabeth spent her life preparing for the worst. As one of the fiercest MMA fighters in the USA, nothing scared her. Until the dragons came to save her younger siblings, Liz makes a deal with the dragon prince sent to destroy them all. She also makes secret plans to take him down. But the more she learns and the deeper she gets, the more confusing things become. — from the publisher.

"Iron Flame," by Rebecca Yarros (FIC YAR). Everyone expected Violet Sorrengail to die during her first year at Basgiath War College — Violet included. But Threshing was only the first impossible test meant to weed out the weak-willed, the unworthy, and the unlucky. Now the real training begins, and Violet's already wondering how she'll get through. — from the publisher.

"Onyx Storm," by Rebecca Yarros (FIC YAR). "After nearly 18 months at Basgiath War College, Violet Sorrengail knows there's no more time for lessons. No more time for uncertainty. Because the battle has truly begun, and with enemies closing in from outside their walls and within their ranks, it's impossible to know who to trust. Now Violet must journey beyond the failing Aretian wards to seek allies from unfamiliar lands to stand with Navarre. The trip will test every bit of her wit, luck, and strength, but she will do anything to save what she loves — her dragons, her family, her home, and him. Even if it means keeping a secret so big, it could destroy everything. They need an army. They need power. They need magic. And they need the one thing only Violet can find — the truth. But a storm is coming . . . and not everyone can survive its wrath" — Publisher description.

"The Anxious Generation: how the great rewiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness," by Jonathan Hairdt (305. 2 HAI). an essential investigation into the collapse of youth mental health and a plan for a healthier, freer childhood. After more than a decade of stability or improvement, the mental health of adolescents plunged in the early 2010s. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide rose sharply, more than doubling on most measures

"On tyranny: twenty lessons from the twentieth century," by Timothy Snyder (321.9 SNY). A "bracing" (Vox) guide for surviving and resisting America's turn towards authoritarianism, from "a rising public intellectual unafraid to make bold connections between past and present" (The New York Times).

"The body keeps the score: brain, mind, and body in the healing of trauma," by Bessel A. Van Der Kolk (616.85 VAN). An expert on traumatic stress outlines an approach to healing, explaining how traumatic stress affects brain processes and how to use innovative treatments to reactivate the mind's abilities to trust, engage others, and experience pleasure. — Publisher's description.

Have a great week and visit us at the library.

OBITUARIES

Wilma F. Pallas, 87

Wilma F. Pallas, 87, of Emerson, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, at the Heritage of Emerson Nursing Home in Emerson. The visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 28, from 5-7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Emerson. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Emerson. Burial will be in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Emerson. Arrangements are under the direction of Munderloh-Smith Funeral Home in Emerson.

Wilma was born on March 24, 1937, to William and Edna (Haase) Stolz in Rural Dakota County. On Feb. 24, 1957, Wilma married Milton Pallas at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Emerson. Wilma was a member of the Red Hats, the Neighborhood Club, St. Paul's WELCA, and sewing group. She served on St. Paul's Church Council. Wilma farmed with Milton for many years. She loved gardening, flowers, and playing cards. Her hobbies included reading, sewing, knitting, canning and baking. She loved spending time with family, especially

her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wilma is survived by her daughters, Bonnie Clayton of Onawa, Iowa, Joyce (Michael) Sebade of Emerson, Janeen (Denis) Lueders of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Nancy McQuistan of Vermillion, S.D.; nine grandchildren, Samantha Clayton, Jeremy (Amanda) Sebade, Nicholas (Sophia) Sebade, Melissa (Phil) Hampson, BreAnn (Chad) Smith, Grant (Erica) Lueders, Austin (Nick) McQuistan, Nolan McQuistan, Katelin McQuistan; eighteen great-grandchildren; brother, Donald Stolz of Norfolk; sister-in-law, Elda Stolz of Pawnee City; and many special nieces and nephews.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Milton; son-in-law, Barry Clayton; brother, Russell Stolz; sisters-in-law, Loretta Stolz, Lauretta Pallas, Mary Ann Oetken, Helen Oetken, Mildred Oetken, Jean Messerschmidt; brothers-in-law, Joe Pallas, Jerry Pallas, Herman Oetken, Wayne Oetken, Arthur Oetken; and nephew, Ronald Pallas.



Pallas

Kenneth Dale Irey, 77

Kenneth Dale Irey, 77, of Laurel, NE passed away peacefully on Monday, March 3, 2025, at Arbor Care Center in Hartington, NE. The visitation will be on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Munderloh-Smith Funeral Home in Wakefield, NE. The funeral service will be on

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m. at Munderloh-Smith Funeral Home in Wakefield, NE. The burial will be in the Lyons City Cemetery in Lyons, NE. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Arrangements are under the direction of Munderloh-Smith Funeral Home.

DAKOTA COUNTY COURT NEWS

Keithen Kearnes Walker, 32, Winnebago; DUI.15+ or refusal (one prior conviction) fine \$1,000, jail 90 days, revoked license 18 months; operate motor vehicle, fine \$300
Tahrell F Bird, 34, South Sioux City; disturbing the peace, jail 2 days
Tyrone T Jefferson, 44, Winnebago; criminal trespass 2nd degree, jail 7 days
Ma Na Pe Xka Da Cleveland, 24, Winnebago; no valid registration, jail 1 day; fail to appear, jail 2 days
Andrew N Nelson, 43, South Sioux City, Iowa; fail to obey traffic officer, fine \$100
Steven E Schulze, 38, Dresser, Wi; defendant failed to appear
Steven R Lux, 62, South Sioux City; drive under suspension/before reinstated, jail 3 days; no operator's license; jail 14 days
Ronaldo v Carreto-Zacarias, 30, South Sioux City; defendant failed to appear
Artemio Castro, 24, South Sioux City; defendant failed to appear

Malcom U Ekeh, 34, Omaha; defendant failed to appear
Hamsa I Farah, 22, South Sioux City; leave accident-fail to furnish info 1st, fine \$750
Ma R Angeles Millan, 60, Sioux City, Iowa; nonresident violate 30-day immunity, fine \$150
Mario Gonzalez Mendoza, 27, Sioux City, Iowa; nonresident violate 30-day immunity, fine \$150
Ivan A Sanchez Acea, 34, Sioux City, Iowa; nonresident violate 30-day immunity, fine \$150
Dennis L Fischer, 78, South Sioux City; DUI.15+ (1 prior conviction), fine \$1,000, jail 30 days, probation 24 months, revoked license 3 years
Lydia A Rouillard, 39, South Sioux City; nonresident violate 30-day immunity, fine \$500, jail 7 days, fail to appear jail 7 days
Isaiah Knudsen, 19, South Sioux City; resist arrest 1st offense, jail 30 days, probation 18 months, community service 60 hours, criminal mischief \$1,500-4,999, probation 18 months, restitution of \$9,026

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Community Development Agency of South Sioux City, to Cider Mill Development LLC, S-T-R 7-88-47 W PT SW 1/4 NW 1/4
Berg Jack C Trustee, Jack C Berg Revocable Trust, to Gary Ogden construction Inc, Lot 10, 11,12 in block 26, Stanton of South Sioux City
Beebe Gary R, to Cardinal Capital Group LLC, to S-T-R 28-29-9 E PT SW 1/4 SE 1/4
Perez Maricela to vargas Rufino, Hernandez Dianelys, Lot 5 Florence Addition of South Sioux City
Pendersen Ryan T Trustee, Terry A Pedersen Revocable Living Trust, Pedersen Ryan T Trustee, Pedersen Farms Trust, to Pedersen Ryan t Trustee, Pedersen Farms Trust, S-T-R 23-29-7 E Pt SE 1/4 SE 1/4, E PT N 1/2 SE

1/4, E PT SW 1/4 SE 1/4, E S 1/2 NE 1/4, E PT N 1/2 NE 1/4, E Pt S 1/2 NW 1/4, E PT SE 1/4 SW 1/4
Munoz Epifania nka Epifania R May Pacheco, Recinos Lumus, to Recinos Rigoberto Lemus, Pacheco Epifania R May, Lot 13,14 in block 3, Second Addition South Sioux City
Purucker Rory d Trustee, Purucker Audrey M Trustee, Purucker Family Revocable Trust, to Gunderson Austin R, S-T-R 30-28 -7 PT NW 1/4 SW 1/4, S-T-R 30-28-7 E PT SW 1/4 SW 1/4
CDM Holdings LLC, to Romero Francisco J Nuno, Gomez Irene D, S-T-R 22-29-9 E PT NW 1/4 NW 1/4
Nelson Melanie, to Nelsen Todd C, S-T-R 11-27-7 E PT S 1/2 SW 1/4

MARRIAGE LICENSES

John Edward Hopp, 39, North Sioux City, S.D. and Brittany Marie Stoops, 37, North Sioux City, S.D.
Matthew Earl Gilbert, 49, Sioux City, Iowa, and Jamie Lee Wolfe, 46, Sioux City, Iowa

Thomas David Hecht, 40, Brookings, S.D. and Brenna Naomi Messier, 37, Brookings, S.D. 37
Tray Scott Ehlers, 31, Sioux City, Iowa and Amber Jo Byrne, 31, Sioux City, Iowa 31

NRD Recreation Exploration program offers contest to explore rec areas

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) encourage participation in the NRD Recreation Exploration program, which is designed to inspire individuals and families to venture into the great outdoors and explore the state's natural beauty. The program aims to foster a deeper connection with nature while offering participants the chance to win a grand prize of \$1,500 in Scheel's gift cards.

The NRD Recreation Exploration Program invites participants to embark on an adventure through more than 80 diverse NRD recreation areas. From the rolling grasslands of the Sandhills to the tranquil shores of the Platte River, Nebraska boasts an abundance of breathtaking land-

scapes.

The program will run from March 1 to Sept. 19, 2025. By exploring a range of NRD recreation areas and documenting their visits, participants will be eligible for prizes. Whether biking scenic trails, fishing in lakes or rivers, or simply basking in the serenity of Nebraska's wilderness, each exploration offers a chance to connect with nature in a meaningful way.

To participate in the NRD Recreation Exploration Program, individuals can follow these simple steps:

- visit a NRD recreation areas across Nebraska.
- capture a photo while exploring.
- upload the photo using the

NRD Recreation Exploration form at www.nrdnet.org/recreation

By actively participating in the NRD Recreation Exploration program, participants not only stand a chance to win prizes but also instill a love for the outdoors, promote physical activity, and encourage environmental stewardship.

The NRD Recreation Exploration Program is supported by the Nebraska Association of Resources District's Foundation and Scheel's, a leading sporting goods retailer.

For more information about the NRD Recreation Exploration program, including a list of recreation areas and the prize structure, visit www.nrdnet.org/recreation.



Information for ready reference – Phone numbers in a HURRY!

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Homer News

By Stacie Johnson



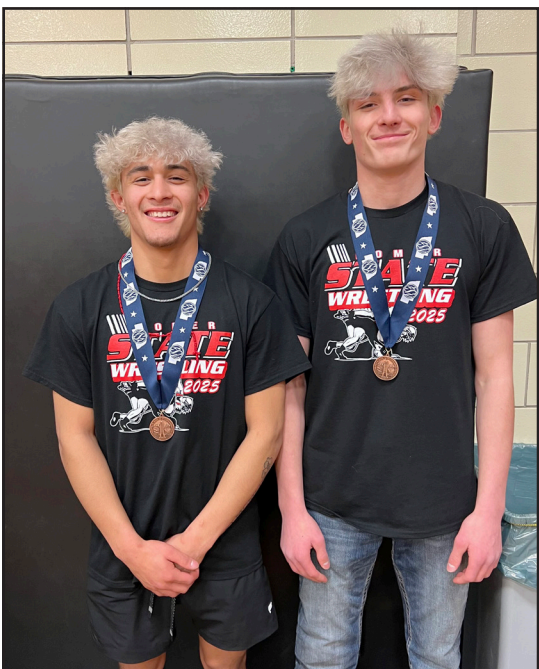
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Emerson News

By Lulene Sebade



(COURTESY PHOTO AT LEFT, RIGHT BY STACIE JOHNSON)
(left) Another family joining the costume contest during the Centennial Celebration back in 1975 included John and Julie Pigg and their daughter Heather Leigh. Looking at his proud stance, it's no wonder that John was the winner of the dress-up contest, according to the Centennial book. (right) Josue Munoz and Austin Pelster, third and fourth place state wrestling medalists for Homer, were honored at the all-school assembly last week.

State basketball and spring break

Students at Homer Community School will have no school on Thursday, March 6 to allow students, staff, and families to attend the state basketball tournament in Lincoln. The Lady Knights face off against Oakland-Craig at the Devaney Center with tipoff set for 3:15 p.m.

Spring Break begins after that with no school Friday, March 7 and Monday, March 10.

Remember that we'll be switching to daylight savings time on March 9.

When will there be fish?
We've got the details

Homer Volunteer has rescheduled their February Fish Fry, to be held this Friday, March 7 from 5-7 p.m. at the fire hall. Blame the Lady Knights basketball team as many folks were at the gym watching the girls defeat Maywood-Hayes Center to earn a spot in the Class C2 State Tourney in Lincoln.

Look for more fish fries to come quickly on the heels of this one, and as always, watch this space for updates.

Post-prom fundraiser

The junior class of HHS has only one fundraiser this year for their post-prom celebration. They'll be raffling off a three-night stay in the Black Hills with tickets set at \$25 each or five for \$100.

The package includes a three-night

stay at Iron Horse Cabin, located in the Gilded Mountain Community. The private cabin, which sleeps 12, has a private hot tub and access to a heated pool, is less than five miles from Terry Peak Ski Resort and 10 miles to Deadwood. (Excludes major U.S. holidays and Sturgis Rally dates).

Ticket numbers are limited. Contact daviddziurawiec@homerknights.org or alisharohde@homerknights.org for tickets.

The auction winner will need to contact Savannah Hinze at 712-212-3977 or savannah@lpercentlists.com to select and confirm travel dates.

Summer ball registration reminder

Deadline for softball and baseball registration is this Friday, March 7. T-Ball deadline is April 4. A registration link is available online on the Homer Community Club Facebook page or by contacting Cori at 402-404-9722 or Sam 712-251-1316.

150th Celebration meeting
Wednesday, plus more

The next anniversary-planning meeting is set for Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at Good Roots.

"We'd love to have you and anybody you want to bring along!" organizers said. "This is a super special event and a great way to be involved in the community, plus maybe meet some new people in town!"

The committee is seeking at least 10 raffle baskets for the Stews and

Brews event upcoming. If you have a business, a group of friends, or an employer who would like to put a basket together, there is a link in the Homer 150th Anniversary Facebook page. The baskets will go into a silent auction at the Stews and Brews event.

Also on tap that evening, Saturday, March 22 is a soup supper with sample soups from 5-7 pm. You can put your culinary talents on display by joining the menu and a chance to with \$50 cash prize. Entry forms must be submitted by March 12 to the village office. Check the bio or contact Amber at Good Roots.

Stews and Brews will have a cash bar and a not-to-be-missed lip-sync battle at Rohde's.

One more thing: a query went out last week for anyone with information about a time capsule that may have been buried at the time of the centennial celebration in 1975. If you have any information that might help organizers find such a gem, contact the Facebook page, Amber at Good Roots, or this writer at stacie-johnson@homerknights.org or 712-898-0721.

Keep watching this space for further updates.

School activities

Thursday, March 6 – GB State, 3:15 p.m. at Devaney Center
Friday, March 7 – GB State, TBD; No school
Saturday, March 8 – Speech at Creighton Monday, March 10 – No school; Conference Speech at Homer, 9 a.m.
Wednesday, March 12 – Wayne State College Middle School Music Festival

Fish Fry is Friday

Emerson Sacred Heart Fish Fry is this Friday night March 7 at Sacred Heart gym. Serving will be from 5-7 p.m. There will be dine-in or takeout. The menu includes fish, homemade bread, potatoes, beans and a variety of salads. There will only be three fish fries this year — March 7, 14 and 21.

Chalice paintings

All fifth-grade students who belong to St. Paul's Lutheran and St. Luke Lutheran are asked to meet each Wednesday after school at St. Paul's Lutheran church to paint their chalices. They will eat supper at church then attend the Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m.

They will join the seventh and eighth grade confirmation class to study the Sacrament of Holy Communion together at 7:45 p.m. at St. Paul's.

Jackson News

By Laura Sullivan

Jackson T-Ball Sign up

Time for T-ball! If you have a child going into kindergarten and up and want to play in Jackson contact Laurel DeRoin at 712-212-1686. Let's play ball!

Harty-McNally American
Legion & Auxiliary News

The next meeting of Legion and Auxiliary will be on Thursday March 13 at 7 p.m. The Legion will celebrate the Legion's 86th birthday. Post 175 was founded in 1939 and has stood as a pillar of support for veterans and our community. Our Auxiliary has judged the Americanism Essays written by 3rd-6th grade students at Ponca School. First place entries have been sent to state for further judging. Poppy posters will be judged at our April meeting. District 3 Convention will be held on Saturday, March 15 at the VFW in Hartington. Registration will be at 8 a.m. There will be a \$5 registration fee. A light breakfast will be served and meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. Auxiliary will join the Legion at 11:30 a.m. for the Post Everlasting and Memorial Services. There will be no noon lunch. All Legion and Auxiliary members from District 3 are welcome to attend.

Willis 4-H Feeders

The Willis 4-H Feeders are hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 23 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. The breakfast will be held at the Harty-McNally Legion Hall in Jackson.

Hubbard News

By Lori Overfelt



ACT test on Wednesday, March 26.

Book Blast coming

The Emerson-Hubbard Elementary is observing Book Blast during the month of March.

School start times

No school on Friday, March 14 and a two-hour late start on Wednesday, March 19.

Apply for student aid

Emerson-Hubbard school counselor Sandy Ahlers reminds college-bound students to apply for federal student aid. Please contact Ms. Ahlers for more information. Both parents and students are encouraged to contact her.

ACT test March 26

The Junior class will be taking the

Career simulation

The freshmen and sophomore classes will be attending a career simulation in Pender on March 11, and on March 12 they will be visiting the Pathways facilities in West Point.

After-school program
Emerson-Hubbard is starting an after-school program in the fall of 2025. Several positions will need to be filled. For more information, you may call Superintendent Dale Martin at 402-695-2621 or Principal Dustin Nielsen at 402-695-2654.

St. Luke/St. Paul's Church

Sunday: Worship at St. Paul's, 9 a.m.; Sunday school at 10 a.m.
Monday: Bible Study at 1 p.m.; Council meetings.
Wednesday: Friends at 3:45 p.m.; Supper at 5 p.m. Church at 6 p.m.; Confirmation 6:30 p.m.

Spring Break
Pre-School Enrollment – April 3, 6-7 p.m. at Jackson Public School
Jackson Elementary School lunch menu for the week March 10-14:
Monday – Spaghetti, cheese bread-stick, green beans, fruit
Tuesday – Grilled chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, roll, fruit
Wednesday – Uncrustable, chips, carrots and ranch dip, fruit
Thursday – No school – Spring Break
Friday – No School - Spring Break

Hours of Operation

Bank of Dixon County – Monday through Thursday, drive-through 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Lobby is open 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.
Lunch Box – Tuesday through Saturday – 7:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company – Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
United States Postal Services – Monday through Friday 12-4p.m., Saturday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Pump and Pantry - Daily 4:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Morrow's House Moving – 402-632-4555 - for estimates and appointments.
Bridal Sweet - by appointment
Jackson Public Library open Mondays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m.
St. Patrick's – Sunday 9:15a.m. services
MC Salon – Men's day every Thursday. No appointment necessary. Call 632-2011 for appointments.
Palermo Italian Cuisine and Bar – Monday closed, Tuesday through Thursday 4-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 4-10 p.m.

Dakota City News

Pancake Breakfast Sunday

The monthly breakfast at American Legion Post 376 in Dakota City will be held Sunday, March 9 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Legion, located at South 21st and Walnut streets.

French toast, biscuits and gravy, eggs, sausage, coffee and juice are offered.

The Legion also reminds readers that Vietnam Veterans Day is Saturday, March 29.

Dakota City Public Library

Book Club met on Monday, March 3 to discuss "The Prayer Box" by Lisa Wingate. The next book, "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain was distributed. The group meets

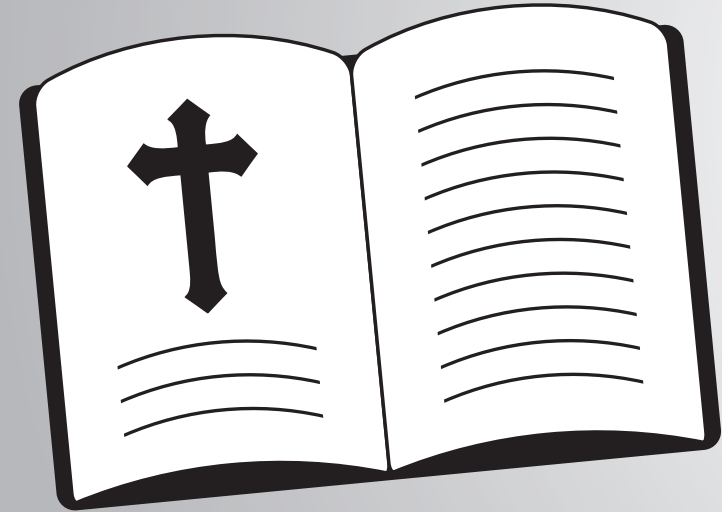
on the first Monday of each month and reads a selected book for the month. New members are welcome to join anytime. Extra copies are available. For more information, contact library staff.

Story Hour for March will be Thursday, March 20 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. with the theme of kites. Story Hours are programed for all area school age children and include a story, craft, snack, and games and activities.

Linda made a visit to the Head Start classrooms and read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" by Eric Carle to the preschool classes and "ABC Look at Me" by Roberta Grobel Intrater and "Animal Sounds" by Aurelius Battaglia to the younger children.

The Library Board of Directors will meet on Monday, March 31. Meetings are open to the public.

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Julie Raridan

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Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Beth Hamilton

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3601 Dakota Avenue
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Sunday School 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Patti Meyer

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www.scbible.org

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

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LOCAL ADS

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Legal Notice

Bid Solicitation

Lime Sludge Removal and Cleanup
Sealed bids for Lime Sludge Removal and Cleanup. Bids should be sealed and marked "Water Plant Project Bid #25-1" must be received by the City Clerk at 1511 Broadway Street P.O. Box 482, Dakota City, NE 68731, no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 13th day of March 2025 and thereafter will be read aloud.
Bids will be taken for said construction work listed above by unit prices, as an aggregate bid for the entire project.
Copies of the bidding documents are on file with the City of Dakota City, NE, 1511 Broadway Street, for examination by bidders.
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 27, and March 6 and 13, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF SSP PROPERTIES, LLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SSP PROPERTIES, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office at 2296 Hwy 35, Hubbard, NE 68741 and registered agent, Daniel L. Starzl, at 2296 Hwy 35, Hubbard, NE 68741. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska and for all other purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. The limited liability company was formed on February 10th, 2025, and its existence shall be perpetual. Its affairs shall be conducted by the members pursuant to an Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company.
SSP PROPERTIES, LLC
by its members:
Daniel L. Starzl
Cody M. Papesh
Jysse A. Sleister
Maul & Bodlak, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 490
Pender, NE 68047
(402) 385-3016
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 20 and 27, and March 6, 2025 — ZNEZ

Legal Notice

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 Tuesday, March 11, 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 a 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, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF HWY. 20 SALES, LLC
Notice is hereby given that a Nebraska limited liability company has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, as follows:
1. The name of the limited liability company is HWY. 20 SALES, LLC (the "Company").
2. The street and mailing address of the initial designated office of the Company is 615 Old Hwy. 20 W, South Sioux City, NE 68776.
3. The street and mailing address of the Company's registered office in Nebraska is 1419 Dakota Ave., P.O. Box 215, South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776, and the name of the Company's registered agent at that office is John C. Ehrich.
4. The company was organized and commenced on February 25, 2025, the company shall be Manager managed, and its duration is perpetual.
HWY. 20 SALES, LLC
By: /s/ Chance Bracht, Organizer
John C. Ehrich (Bar # 24140)
Buchheit & Ehrich Law, PLC
1419 Dakota Ave.
P.O. Box 215
South Sioux City, NE 68776
Phone: (402) 412-2080
jack@buchheit-ehrich.com
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 13 and 20, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

Filed in Dakota District Court *** FILED ***
Case Number: D70CI250000028
Transaction ID: 0022892362
Filing Date: 02/26/2025
03:38:26 PM CST
LEGAL NOTICE – ADULT NAME CHANGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA
Case Number: CI25-28IN
RE NAME CHANGE OF:
Cody Allen Barnett Cain
Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of February, 2025, a petition was filed in the District Court of Dakota County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name from, to Cody Allen Cain.
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Bryan C. Meisner, in courtroom no. 1, 1601 Broadway St. Dakota City, NE on the 15th day of April, 2025 at 1:00p.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Cody Allen Barnett Cain to Cody Allen Cain.
Cody Allen Barnett Cain
Petitioner
Jackson, NE
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Neb.Rev.St. §§ 21-193 & 21-117, notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a limited liability company under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.
The name of the Limited Liability Company is La Perla Del Mar Bar & Grill, LLC
The street address and mailing address of the Company's initial registered office in Nebraska is 217 W 30th Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776 and the name of its registered agent at such address is Alejandro Macias Lopez.
The street address and mailing address the Company's initial designated office in Nebraska is 618 Dakota Ave., South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776.
This company is organized to engage in and to do any lawful business for any lawful purpose, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.
The Company's duration is perpetual beginning on the date the Certificate of Organization was filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Nebraska.
The affairs of the limited liability company are conducted by managers, members and such other officers as may be provided for in the Operating Agreement.
Alejandro Macias Lopez
Manager/Member
Camille S. Brown, Organizer
700 4th Street, #300
Sioux City, IA 51101
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 20 and 27, and March 6, 2025 — ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the Board of Education of the Homer Community School will meet for regular session on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Library at the Homer Community School, Homer, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting and public hearings, which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours; however, the agenda may be modified at such meeting.
Amy Brand
School Secretary
I hereby certify that the above notice was posted by me in three public places in the city as follows:
Homer Post Office
Pronto
Homer Community School
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

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Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Village of Pender
Pender, Nebraska

Village of Pender (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
Pender, NE - 2025

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Village Hall located at 614 Main Street, Pender, NE, 68047 until Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:
Select demolition, influent channel and grinder equipment, associated site concrete and/or structures, grating, stairs, associated piping, valves, and controls; miscellaneous mechanical/electrical equipment, and site modifications. Construction of two final clarifiers and installation of final clarification equipment. Influent pump station replacement of pumps and piping, installation of open channel equipment and structural modifications.
This project involves STATE REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM/FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENT SECTION

1. DAVIS-BACON ACT WAGE DETERMINATIONS
"Contractors and subcontractors on USEPA federally assisted construction projects are required to pay their laborers and mechanics wages not less than those established by the U.S. Department of Labor. A current wage decision containing the appropriate building and/or heavy type rates is included in the specifications for bidding purposes."
2. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION
"The prospective participants must certify by submittal of EPA Form 5700-49, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency."
3. NONDISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
"Bidders on this work will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246. Requirements for bidders and contractors under this order are explained in the specifications."
4. DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)
"Each bidder must fully comply with the requirements, terms and conditions of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements, including the fair share objectives for disadvantaged business participation during the performance of this contract. The bidder commits itself to the fair share objective for disadvantaged business participation contained herein and all other requirements, terms and conditions of these bid conditions by submitting a properly signed bid."

5. AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS
"On January 17, 2014, H.R. 3547, "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014," was enacted. Section 436 of the Act requires that none of the appropriated funds may be used for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States, unless a waiver is provided to the recipient by EPA. Conditions for the waiver are found under the Information for Bidders. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials."

For more information on AIS, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/state-revolving-fund-american-iron-and-steel-ais-requirement>.
6. BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA
"On November 15, 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)) was passed. Section 70901 of Public Law 117-58, et seq., as amended, and Section 70914(a) of the IIJA require that Federal funding for infrastructure, including Wastewater Treatment and Public Water System projects, complies with the Build America Buy America (BABA) Act. Absent a waiver, all iron, steel manufactured products, and construction materials permanently incorporated into an infrastructure project receiving BIL funding or are an SRF Equivalency project as match for Federal funding, are subject to the BABA requirements and must be produced in the United States.

This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58, §§ 70901-70953.
The following waivers apply to this Contract: BABAA De Minimis, Small Grants, and Minor Components
Bidder shall be registered on Sam.gov in order to submit a bid.
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. on site, in Pender, Nebraska. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.
Engineer's Estimate: \$2.8 million dollars
A complete set of plans, specifications, contract documents and proposal form MUST be obtained from either: 1) www.questcdn.com for a fee of \$22 (nonrefundable). Once logged into the site, insert eBidDoc project number 9519495 Pender, NE, Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, Pender, NE - 2025; OR 2) Olsson at 1707 Dakota Avenue, South Sioux City, NE, for viewable only.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:
Olsson
1707 Dakota Avenue
South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776
Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders. The check(s) or bond(s) shall be made payable to Owner as security that the bidder(s) to whom the award(s) are made will enter into contract to build the improvements bid upon and furnish the required bonds and insurance.

The Owner reserves the right to accept any bid which it deems most advantageous to the Owner, and to reject any or all bids submitted and to hold as many bids as it desires for consideration for a period of sixty days after the bids are open.
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.
This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: Village of Pender, Nebraska
By: Glen Gralheer
Title: Administrator
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 27, and March 6 and 13, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF MEETING
DAKOTA COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT 011
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an **Assembly of the Board of Education** of Dakota County School District 011, will start at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, March 10, 2025, at the Knights of Columbus, 1805 W. 29th Street, South Sioux City, Nebraska, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such a meeting, kept continually current, is available for public inspection at the School Administration Building 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, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

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. March 12th, 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
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY

CITY OF SOUTH SIOUX CITY
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 24, 2025

A meeting of the City Council of the City of South Sioux City, Nebraska, was held at the South Sioux City Council Chambers, 1615 1st Avenue in said City on the 24th day of February 2025, at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Rod Koch and Council Members: Jasper Kriens, Dan Bousquet, Ben Schultz, Monty Peters, Mahamud Osman and Yahaira Schultz.
Absent: Randy Meyer, James Gunsolley

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

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

Kriens motioned to excuse Meyer and Gunsolley from the meeting, the motion was seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0
B. Schultz motioned to approve the following items on the consent

agenda, the motion was seconded by Bousquet.

MINUTES: Council - 02.10.2025, Public Works – 02.18.2025, Finance – 02.19.2025

CLAIMS: March 24th, 2025
Renewal Quotes for Mimecast - Data Center Warehouse - \$35,935.00
2025 Plumbing renewals.

INVOICES:
Langenfeld Contracting, \$28,344.50;
Olsson

• \$1,150.00, New Water Treatment Plant. Invoice 527525
• \$4,278.33, Hovey Development Phase III. Invoice 527546
• \$5,120.00, Interconnect Water Main. Invoice 527551

Voting Yes: 6, No: 0
Engineers from JEO Consulting Group and Olsson were present to give updates and to answer any question on various projects in the city. No Action taken.

Kriens motioned to approve invoice from Verathon, \$3,089.00 for Fire Department equipment, the motion was seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0
B. Schultz motioned to approve CMBA Architects for \$1,951.00 for the South Sioux City Library using ARPA Funds. The motion was seconded by Osman. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

B. Schulz motioned to approve Jeff Lantz to be appointed to Planning and Zoning Committee and to stay on the Rental Board and Bart Sivill and Rod Bligh to be appointed to the Rental Board. The motion was seconded by Bousquet. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

Bousquet motioned to approve CDA / City Loan Agreement for lift station, seconded by Kriens. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0
Kriens motioned approval of requesting surplus military equipment

from Freedom Park, seconded by Schultz. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

Information only – City Administrator Lance Hedquist stated that Siouxland Cares will be ending operations, and that the city appreciates all that they had done.

Kriens motioned to approve purchase of salt truck for Public Works (2025 International / HV507 – 1,362 miles for \$123,815.38). Motion was seconded by Bousquet. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

Peters motioned to approve Olssons recommendation on using bid from Sargent Drilling for Municipal Well Test – bid amount price \$74,183.00 for one hole. Motion was seconded by Y. Schultz. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

Kriens motioned approval of bid for hoist at auto maintenance shop, Equipment Unlimited Inc. - \$13,270.00 and installation of power for new hoist from R. Rohan Electric - \$995.77, motion seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0
Kriens motioned at 5:17 p.m. to go into closed session regarding discussion on litigation, seconded by B. Schultz. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

Kriens motioned at 5:47 p.m. to come out of closed session, motion seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

Being no further business at 5:48 p.m. B. Schultz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Peters. Voting Yes: 6, No: 0

These minutes are subject to city council approval
A copy of the minutes in their entirety is available at City Hall, 1615 1st Avenue., Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and the City's website at www.southsiouxcity.org

Nanci Walsh – City Clerk
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

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

TO: UNKNOWN FATHER AND ANY INTERESTED PARTY WITH RESPECT TO THE PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR ISRAEL ROJAS, A MINOR CHILD.

You are hereby notified that on December 17, 2024, a Petition was filed in the County Court of Dakota County, Nebraska, Probate Division, Case No. PR 24-65, the object and prayer of which is to appoint a guardian for Israel Rojas, a Minor Child. A hearing on the appointment of a guardian will take place on April 11, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in Dakota County Court, P.O. Box 385 Dakota City, Nebraska.

You are required to appear at the hearing or file a response to this Petition with the Court prior to said hearing or the Court will proceed to consider the relief requested by the Petitioner herein.

JAIME BARBOZA CRUZ, PETITIONER,
By: Bassel El-Kasaby
Kasaby Schmoke
308 S. 19th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
Ph: 402-884-0700
Attorney for Petitioner
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 20 and 27, and March 6, 2025 — ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the City/County Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Board of South Sioux City/Dakota County will be held on 03/11/2025 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the L.E.C. at 701 W 29th St, South Sioux City, NE with entry through the north door, east side.
A current agenda is available for inspection at the City/County L.E.C.
Chief Edward Mahon,
Co-Director
Sheriff Chris Kleinberg,
Co-Director
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Shane Stapleton,
Deceased
Estate No. PR 25-5

Notice is hereby given that on February 6, 2025, 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 Bobbi J. Stapleton whose address is 970 Ithaca Way, Dakota City, NE 68731, 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 April 23, 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

s/ John C. Ehrich
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, February 20 and 27, and March 6, 2025 — ZNEZ

Legal Notice

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA
IN THE INTEREST OF I.S.

**A CHILD UNDER 18
YEARS OF AGE**
CASE NO. JV25-5
NOTICE

TO: CHRISTINA DWARF
TAKE NOTICE that a juvenile court petition has been filed by the State of Nebraska in the above-entitled Court in an action regarding the welfare of Isabella S. who, at the time of the filing of the juvenile court petition, resided in Dakota County, Nebraska, born 2013 to CHRISTINA DWARF, and is in the care and custody of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Dakota County, Nebraska. A First Appearance hearing in this matter is scheduled for the 26th day of March, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. in the Dakota County Courtroom located in the Dakota County Courthouse, 1601 Broadway Street, Dakota City, Nebraska. You are required to accept or plead to said Petition on or before the above date or the allegations of said Petition may be taken as true and judgment rendered accordingly.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2025.
By Sarah Hammond, #27048
Deputy County Attorney
P.O. Box 117
Dakota City, NE 68731
(402)987-2151
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 20 and 27, and March 6, 2025 — ZNEZ

Legal Notice

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The City of South Sioux City is accepting sealed bids for asphalt replacement of one basketball court at Covington Park and the installation of a new basketball court at Baumer Park.

Scope of Work:
Covington Park is located at 501 W. 4th Street, South Sioux City, NE. The city will be responsible for tearing out the existing court and creating the foundation area. The bidder will be responsible for installing rock and 3" asphalt court surface measuring 45' x 90' court with a 12" subgrade prep.
Baumer Park is located at 900 E. 25th Street, South Sioux City, NE. The bidder will be responsible for installing a new court with rock and 3" asphalt court surface measuring 45' x 90' with a 12" subgrade prep.

All contractors who intend to bid the project must inform the South Sioux City Parks Director Gene Maffitt at gmaffitt@southsiouxcity.org or call 402-494-7540. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Parks Director.
Bids shall be clearly marked "Basketball Courts" on the outside and submitted to the City Clerk's office: ATTENTION: Nanci Walsh, City Clerk at South Sioux City, 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776 by 12pm on Thursday, March 20, 2025. Completed bids will include pricing for each park marked as Covington and Baumer that includes the following costs: (1) Mobilization, (2) 12" Subgrade preparation, (3) 3" Rock, (4) Asphalt surface 45'x90' (5) Total each park, (6) Total both parks combined and (7) Construction completion date. Bid bond of 5% is required and must be submitted with the bid. Contractor selection will be approved at the Council meeting scheduled for March 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Bids will be selected based on the following: 1) Lowest price, 2) Past performance, 3) Technical expertise of firm, and 4) Date of completion for the two basketball courts.

The Mayor and City Council reserves the right to waive informalities and irregularities and the right to reject any and/or all bids. The City of South Sioux City is an EOE and encourages women and minorities to submit bids. State acquisition regulation rules require contractors to use E-Verify to electronically verify the employment eligibility of employees working under covered federal/state contracts in Nebraska.
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

Legal Notice

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
DAKOTA COUNTY, NEBRASKA

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
SHANNON L. BARTLE,
Deceased
NO. 24-61
AMENDED**

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL
PROBATE, APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that on December 5, 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 Lee Ann Bowman, whose address is 3062 Rebecca Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51103 has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before April 20, 2025 (2 months after date of first publication Neb. Rev. Stats. 30-2483) or be forever barred.

Kerri L. Wiese
Clerk/Comptroller of
County Court
1601 Broadway Street
Dakota City, NE 68731
Bryan E. Shusterman NE #27444
Heidman Law Firm
1128 4th St
Sioux City, IA 51101
(712) 255-8838
Publish in the Dakota County Star Thursday, February 20 and 27, and March 6, 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, March 18, 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, March 6, 2025. - ZNEZ

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