

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF KASASA

Start earning a higher rate.

Open Your Account Today!

Ask For

free Kasasa checking

LIBERTY FIRST CREDIT UNION 402.646.9142 www.libertyfirstcu.com

SEWARD • COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Wednesday December 9, 2020

VOL. 124 NO. 50 Seward, Nebraska sewardindependent.com

SEWARD ONE-ACT PAGE 12A



SPORTS RETURN SECTION B



Dr. Bernard D. Bull is CU president-elect

by Brady Oltmans editor@sewardindependent.com

The Concordia University Board of Regents announced in a Tuesday morning release that Dr. Bernard D. Bull has accepted a Divine Call to become the university's 11th president, effective August 2021.

Dr. Bull is currently serving as president of Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont.

"Dr. Bull had the unanimous support of the Board of Regents," said Stuart Bartruff, Board of Regents chair. "He expressed a strong desire to return to serving in a Christ-centered Lutheran institution of higher learning. He has a strong commitment to Lutheran theology,

and he looks forward to faithfully fulfilling the Concordia University Promises of a Lutheran Education. Dr. Bull is known nationally for his innovative insights regarding Christian education at all levels. Concordia University will be well-served given Dr. Bull's leadership attributes and experience. The Lord has blessed us by raising-up Dr. Bull, a faithful servant."

Dr. Bull will succeed Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, who served as Concordia's president from 2004-19. The Rev. Dr. Russ Sommerfeld has served as interim president since Jan. 1, 2020.

Concordia offered

Dr. Bull the position in October. As part of the interview process, students were able to ask Dr. Bull questions during a virtual presentation in August.

Goddard College renewed its accreditation status from the New England Commission of Higher Education following a two-year probationary period under Bull's leadership.

"I'm humbled to heed God's call to serve as the next president of Concordia University, Nebraska," said Bull in a statement. "I've long admired Concordia's legacy of cultivating a rich, academically challenging, vibrant and Christ-centered higher education communi-

ty and its inspiring track-record of equipping men and women for lives of learning, service and leadership in the church and world."

Dr. Bull earned a bachelor's in education, theology and history from Concordia University Wisconsin in 1994 before earning a master's in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University Chicago in 1997, a Master of Liberal Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2005 and a Doctor of Education in instructional technology from Northern Illinois University in 2007.

Dr. Bull and Joyanna, his wife, have two children, Bethany and



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Bernard Bull has been named president-elect of Concordia University, with his tenure starting in August 2021.

Nathaniel. Dr. Joyanna Bull served as an adjunct instructor at Concordia University

Wisconsin, as well as a kindergarten-12th grade teacher in Lutheran and public schools.

Seward council passes mask ordinance

Hundreds watch, voice opinions as council calls special meeting

By Brady Oltmans editor@sewardindependent.com

Seward City Council members passed an ordinance requiring masks be worn in public within city limits at a special meeting Dec. 3. Ordinance No. 2020-33 was an amended version of the one presented during the regularly scheduled council meeting on Tuesday night. That ordinance took effect 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, and sunset Jan. 6, the day after the council's regularly scheduled Jan. 5 meeting. At that point the council can decide whether to extend the ordinance or not.

The special meeting began with council members waiving the statutory rule requiring three readings on an item by unanimous vote. That allowed the ordinance to be considered upon second reading. After that came discussion regarding the ordinance, which ultimately included multiple amendment votes before the ordinance itself passed.

Traction for the ordinance came by request from Four Corners Health Department and Memorial Health Care Systems. The cities of York and David City, both also in the district, have passed similar ordinances.

On Dec. 4 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention advised people to wear masks indoors when not at home.

Face coverings are defined as a covering which, when worn properly, covers the nose and

mouth completely. That can include paper or disposable face masks, a cloth face mask, scarf, bandana, neck gaiter or religious face covering. Masks that incorporate a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or vents are deemed not sufficient because they allow exhaled droplets into the air.

Premises open to the public are broadly defined by the ordinance. It applies to entities where employees works such as the private sector, public sector, non-profit, regular commercial or business establishments, private clubs, religious centers or buildings, public transportation and any place which is generally open to the public.

Businesses in public areas must display signs that state the requirement of face coverings.

The ordinance applies to those age 5 and older.

Multiple exceptions were defined. Exceptions include courts of law, public utilities or federal, state, county or city operations; medical providers, facilities or pharmacies; congregating living centers or facilities; group homes and residential drug and/or mental health treatment facilities; shelters; and residential dwelling units. Federal and state activities are also exempted so as to not prohibit or restrict activities by officials. Individuals at their workplaces are exempt when a face covering would create a job hazard. Those who work

alone or can maintain six feet of social distancing are also exempt. Those officiating religious services are also exempt, as are those communicating with those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Those swimming or showering in public spaces are also exempt. Public safety workers such as fire fighters, law enforcement or emergency personnel are also exempt when a face covering would seriously interfere with their performance or responsibilities. Those participating in athletic competitions or practices directly are exempted. Students of public or parochial schools, while on school premises, are designated exempt but must follow the school's guidelines.

Punishment in the ordinance was amended from its original amount to a \$50 fine. That does not include court fees for payment, which City Attorney Kelly Hoffschneider said amount to \$49 in Seward County. The council determined the fine amount through a compromise of not causing overwhelming financial burden on those who violate the ordinance but also was a sufficient amount to keep community members from essentially throwing money at non-compliance.

Seward Mayor Josh Eickmeier and City Administrator Greg Butcher explained the enforcement scenario. A complaint would have to be filed. Members of the Seward Police Department would be called to investigate. They would inform the subject of

(continued on 2)

Baker resigns from post

by Hope Moural hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners discussed updating its employee handbook and was presented a resignation from Veteran Service Officer/Public Transit director Jeff Baker during its Dec. 1 meeting.

The board held a discussion to contract human resources director Brea Ehmen to complete an update of the Seward County employee manual. Legal advisor Barb Armstead said she would like to take a closer look at wording of the contract before it is approved. Therefore, no action was taken.

Baker presented a written resignation during the latter half of the meeting, as he has accepted a job from the state Veterans of Foreign Wars in Lincoln.

"It has been a joy to work with you all and to do my job as well as I can," he said.

Acceptance of his resignation was added to the Dec. 8 agenda.

Also during the meeting, the board:

• heard from county officials regarding monthly department updates. Those present were Ann Dobesh of the Nebraska Exten-

sion, Jonathan Jank of Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership, county clerk Sherry Schweitzer and emergency services director Andrew Matney.

• adopted a resolution to approve the creation of a short-form plat addition brought forward by Mark Petri to add acreage to his house from his farmland.

• heard from Matney about an invoice issue with Motorola Services. He said there has been no success in contacting anyone for record of payment and requested the county attorney's help in receiving further communication.

• approved a surplus of \$20,000 from Highway Superintendent Terry Wicht after he sold a dump truck. The money will be added to his special road fund to be used when applicable.

• heard from Gary Petersen, the York/Seward Emergency Services manager, about signing a Nixle/Everbridge, an emergency alert notification system, quote. It was signed by board members and the cost share will be split between York and Seward counties.

• heard from Baker on updates for both county public transit and veteran affairs.



IMAGE CAPTURE

Marvin "PeeWee" Schulz talks about Christmas activities he's used to from his residence in Kinship Pointe during the latest installment of the "PeeWee's Predictions" video series.

PeeWee shares the meaning of Christmas

by Brady Oltmans editor@sewardindependent.com

At the end of both his Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 videos, viral sensation Marvin "PeeWee" Schulz of Seward delivered his now-trade-mark sendoff.

"Be sure to like us on Facebook," he says while the camera focuses on other events in the foreground.

The latest installments in his "PeeWee" video series on Kinship Pointe Seward's Facebook page have been warmly welcomed by his audience. Fans like and share the videos to spread levity during a hectic time.

Marilyn Schulz, Marvin's wife, moved to Kinship Pointe in February. He joined her a month later - just as various aspects of the state started shutting down

for the pandemic. A long-time volunteer and active community member, PeeWee needed an outlet. By August, Kinship Pointe administrators wanted to keep residents connected somehow. That's when "PeeWee's Predictions" were born.

Since the initial videos, PeeWee has talked Husker football, Thanksgiving, honored veterans

(continued on 3)

Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



Brady A. Johnson, AAMS® Financial Advisor 116 S. 4th St. • Seward 402-643-6651



John R. Owens, AAMS® Financial Advisor 445 N. 6th St. • Seward 402-643-6635



Adam R. Greenquist, CRPC® Financial Advisor 212 S. 1st St. • Seward 402-643-6689

Proudly helping you prepare for and live in retirement



Summary of Ordinance 2020-33

As of 10 a.m. on Dec. 5, 2020, the following will take effect. Everyone age 5 and older is required to wear a face covering indoors in areas open to the general public.

Exceptions would be if a person is:

- seeking federal, state, county or city governmental services;
- seated at a bar or restaurant to eat or drink or is consuming food or beverages;
- engaged in an occupation that prevents wearing a face covering;
- obtaining a service or purchasing goods or services that require temporary removal of the covering;
- asked to remove the covering to verify an identity for lawful purposes;
- unable to wear a covering because of medical or mental health conditions or a disability that makes it unreasonable.

Individual businesses may require their customers to wear a face covering.

Areas that are open to the public must post signs telling people to wear face coverings. Exempted areas/spaces/groups include:

- courts of law; Courts of law: public utilities or federal, state, county, or city operations; medical providers, facilities, including chiropractic care or pharmacies; congregate living centers or facilities; group homes and residential drug and/or mental health treatment facilities; shelters; airport travel; election offices; polling places on an election day; or to residential dwelling units.
- children under the age of five.
- federal and state activities. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit, prohibit, or restrict in any way the operations of the federal or state government or the movement of federal or state officials in the city while acting in their official capacity, including federal and state judicial, legislative, and executive staff and personnel.
- individuals at their workplace when wearing a face covering would create a job hazard for the individual or others.
- individuals who are alone in an office, room, a vehicle, the cab of heavy equipment or machinery, an enclosed work area, or in a cubicle with walls that are higher than face level when minimum social distancing of six feet or more is maintained.

- individuals who are officiating at a religious service.
- individuals communicating with other individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have a disability, medical condition, or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while hearing a face covering difficult, provided that minimum social distancing of six feet or more is maintained to the extent possible between persons who are not members of the same household.
- individuals who are engaged in activities such as swimming or showering, where the face covering will get wet.
- individuals who are exercising in an indoor business or indoor space such as a gym or fitness center, while the level of exertion makes it difficult to wear a face covering, provided that minimum social distancing of six (6) feet or more is maintained at all times.
- public safety workers actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement personnel, fire fighters, or emergency medical personnel, in situations where wearing a face covering would seriously interfere in the performance of the individual's public safety responsibilities.
- participants in an athletic competition or practice, but only while they are playing the game, if the school or sponsoring organization does not require facial coverings. Spectators, coaches, and non-participants are required to wear facial coverings.
- employees and students of public or parochial schools and universities while such employees or students are on public or parochial school and university premises. Those will follow the guidelines set forth by their respective educational institutions.

Anyone not adhering to these provisions may be subject to a \$50 fine per offense. Each 24-hour period counts as a separate offense. Failure to pay could result in jail time.

These requirements are set to end Wednesday, Jan. 6, unless the Seward City Council votes to extend them.

Appointments made in regular business

by Brady Oltmans
editor@sewardindependent.com

Seward City Council conducted procedural business outside of a long discussion over a proposed face covering ordinance at its Dec. 1 meeting.

Council members across the city's four wards took their oaths of office, none of whom were new to the council. Council members Jessica Kolterman, Chris Schmit, John Singleton and Jonathon Wilken all won reelection on Nov. 3, some in uncontested races.

Mayor Josh Eickmeier's appointments also cleared council votes. James Kimsey was reappointed as fire chief, Jonathan Jank was reappointed to the rail campus development review committee, Rick Endicott was reappointed to the cemetery board, Mel Varner (alternate) and Dr. Dan Ellis were reappointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Brad Bowen was reappointed to the Housing Appeals Board and Matt Stryson was reappointed to the Housing Authority Board.

Council members were also appointed to liaison roles for boards and committees. John Singleton (fire department, Seward and Saline County Solid Waste Agency), Sid Kamprath (cemetery board), Ellen Beck (Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership), Wilken (CDBG Application Review Board for Economic Development) and Alyssa Hendrix (tree board) all filed single-person roles.

Duos of Ellen Beck and Schmit (parks and recreation board), Kamprath and Singleton (civic center commission), Schmit and Kamprath (planning commission), Singleton and Kolterman (E911 Board) and Wilken and Kolterman (library board) were also appointed. Beck Miller, Schmit and Wilken were appointed to personal finance and audit committee; Miller and Kolterman were appointed to the Seward Foundation; and Schmit and Miller were appointed to Rail Campus Development Review Committee.

Schmit was reelected as council president.

In more standard business, the council also granted a Class C liquor license to Squire Ward's, to be located at 133 N. Sixth St. for sales of liquor, beer and wine.

The council also approved an ordinance for a lease-purchase agreement with Jones Bank for the financing of a Toro Reelmaster 3555-D Mower, as well as extended the Downtown Revitalization Grant Completion Deadline to Feb. 26, 2021, because of delays in contractor availability brought on by coronavirus.

District remains in risk dial's severe range

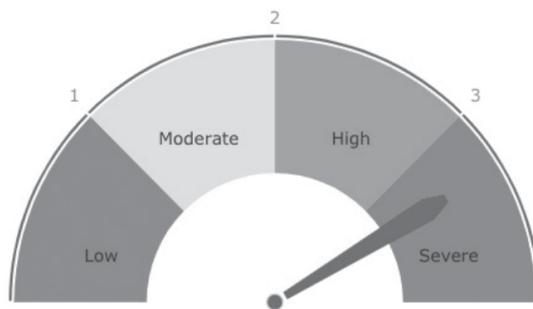
Dial slightly drops with community spread, hospital capacity still issues

Four Corners Health Department confirmed the district remained in the severe (red) area of the risk dial at 3.31.

District officials released that information in a press release dated Dec. 4.

Seward County accrued 67 new cases of the novel coronavirus from Nov. 28-Dec. 4, bringing the county's total case amount to 1,327.

Health officials once again urged community members to avoid the three c's: crowded places, close contact and confined spaces.



Seward County FSA reminds producers of Dec. 11 deadline for CFAP 2

Seward County USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director Jeff Peterson reminds farmers and ranchers the deadline to apply for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) is Dec. 11.

This program provides direct financial relief to producers due to market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

"Most of the crops and livestock raised in Nebraska, including many of them raised in our area, are eligible commodities for this program," Peterson said. "If you haven't already applied or contacted our office to learn more about the program, now is the time to do so. Our staff will help you through the application process."

Row crops, livestock, dairy, specialty crops, aquaculture and more all are eligible for the CFAP 2. Producers are encouraged to visit farmers.gov/cfap and click on the "Eligible Commodities Finder" to review eligible commodities and learn about the payment structure for each. CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration of the program (CFAP 1) and interested producers must complete a new application to be eligible for payment for CFAP 2.

Producers are encouraged to call the Seward County FSA office at (402) 643-4586, ext. 2 for guidance on the process to complete an application. Producers also have the option to visit farmers.gov/cfap and access the online application portal or learn about other application options. A call center is also available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

Ordinance

(continued from 1) the complaint about the ordinance. If that person were to relent, they would be subject to a fine. And if that person still refuses to leave, they could be arrested for trespassing and subject to further fines.

Eickmeier and Butcher both told the council that there won't be patrolling and that the focus of enforcement is on education.

Subjects of complaints could also cite medical reasons and religious beliefs. The subject of a complaint would be exempt for telling an officer they can't wear a mask for medical

reasons or religious beliefs. One council member voiced her unease to that leniency, to which Butcher replied they'd rely on the honor code.

He likened those issues to those who claim a service animal but do not need one – in that it does a disservice to those who do require those special accommodations.

The ordinance's purpose was stated to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus throughout Seward by requiring individuals wear facial coverings with exemptions, provide enforce-

ment of violations and penalties and establish a sunset provision.

Council presented the authority to make such an ordinance to promote the public health and safety, as well as general interests and welfare of its citizens. Legislative findings state exposure to the novel coronavirus presents a potential risk of death or serious long-term disability.

The wearing of face coverings by every individual while indoors in public places in city limits aims to reduce community transmis-

sion, resulting in fewer deaths, serious health complications and ease strain on hospitals and other medical offices and facilities.

Hundreds watched both Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 meetings. Public comment was only allowed on Dec. 1, and the council received more than 160 emails on the topic since.

Council members wanted to extend the implementation of the ordinance until 10 a.m. on Dec. 5 to give the public time to learn and prepare.

CARPET CLEANING

* Cleaning for Health and Maintenance *

What's hiding in your business?

- Commercial Janitorial Cleaning
- Commercial & Residential Carpet Cleaning
- Rug Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Odor Control
- Tile Restoration
- Water Damage Cleanup
- Construction Cleanup
- Move-outs

Campbell Cleaning
ECES INC.

Commercial / Residential Services
111 N. 3rd St., Ste. 2 - Seward, NE
402-643-6054 • campbellcleaning.com
Local & Veteran-Owned

Join us for our 1st **FREE Dental Day**
December 12th, 2020 9am-1pm

A DAY WE CAN GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN SO WONDERFUL TO US!

***Adults your choice of one: filling, extraction**
(excludes wisdom teeth)

***Children (17 and under) dental cleaning**
first come, first serve basis

Seward Smiles
FAMILY DENTISTRY

137 N. 7th St. • Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3909 • www.sewardsmiles.com

Don't miss our token specials!

Discounted to Lowest Price of the Year!

24 Tokens for \$50
50 Tokens for \$100

BEST VALUE! 102 Tokens for \$200

• Our tokens will be accepted in both our automatic and self-service bays
• No limit • Each token has a \$2.50 value • Token sale ends January 3, 2021

Also on Sale
VIP WASH PASSES
SEWARD CAR WASH
307 S. 6th St. • Seward
Call 888-999-3579

NEW CUSTOMERS WELCOME!

Former escapee back in jail

by Brady Oltmans
 editor@sewardindependent.com

A Bee resident is set to make his preliminary appearance in Seward County Court on Dec. 11 in relation to a total of eight felony charges.

Ty Sullivan faces two charges of first-degree sexual assault on a minor, two charges of third-degree sexual assault of a minor, two charges of intentional child abuse, one charge of possession of a firearm by prohibited person (first offense) and one charge habitual criminal.

Seward County Deputies were dispatched to Sullivan's home on Nov. 2 to investigate a report of sexual assault of a minor. According to court documents, following interviews with two

victims and Sullivan himself, he was arrested on charges of sexual assault of a minor.

After being advised he was being booked, Sullivan responded "I'll be the bad guy."

When deputies arrived at the residence, they were informed there was a shotgun inside the residence. According to court records, deputies observed the shotgun located in the unlocked gun cabinet in the living room with the glass pane missing out of its right door. A large black handled knife was also found in the cabinet that Sullivan immediately admitted ownership of.

This violated terms of his probation. Sullivan remained on probation stemming from

charges of burglary, theft by stolen property and theft by unlawful taking related to an arrest in 2000. Sullivan went to prison, where he escaped briefly in 2002. He and a fellow inmate escaped Jefferson County Jail by overpowering a jailer and stealing their keys. A pursuit ended when the car Sullivan was in rammed a patrol vehicle and went into a ditch. Sullivan and the other inmate fled on foot but were apprehended.

He received additional charges of escape and first-degree false imprisonment.

Sullivan spent 16 years in prison in total.

He remains in Seward County Jail while waiting to appear in court.

Big haul for Justice Center's toy drive



COURTESY PHOTO

The Justice Center toy drive, coordinated by the Seward County Diversion office, collected and delivered a stack of toys for the Seward Rotary Club's/Seward Police Department's Stuff the Crusier toy drive.



COURTESY PHOTO

Matching Donor Jones Bank presents a check in the amount of \$1,000 to CASA Executive Director Marci Fehlhafer. Pictured are, from left, Rick Gray, Nancy Cradick, Sue Tonniges, Jenn Marr, Marci Fehlhafer, Jill Kruse, Diane Holthorf and Derek Tesinsky.

'A CASA For Every Kid' campaign helps raise over \$20k

Southeast Nebraska CASA concluded its first online fall capital campaign, "A CASA for Every Kid," Dec. 1 with an online concert for CASA hosted on its Facebook page with local singer/songwriter, Hope Dunbar.

Their initial fundraising goal was \$10,190, but thanks to corporate donors, a matching donation from Jones Bank and an anonymous matching donation, service organization donors, churches and private donors from all across the nation, CASA not only exceeded their goal, they doubled it.

"Thanks to community support and

generosity, we received \$20,790 for the training, support and recruitment of present and future CASA volunteers," Marci Fehlhafer, executive director, said. "It's overwhelming the vote of confidence and support such an amount signifies and we are so thankful to our community and neighbors for their giving. It really can change a child's story."

Asked what the future holds for CASA, Fehlhafer said: "Well, we'll be focusing more than ever on building upon the mission we work toward every day, which really is based on the vision of a future where every child in need of CASA advocate has one."

To find out more about volunteering for CASA, go to southeast-nebraskacasa.org.

PeeWee

(continued from 1)

like himself, dressed for Halloween and hosted Election Day specials. He's also performed as a character akin to the old "Carnac the Magnificent" character performed by Nebraska native Johnny Carson.

In his latest videos, PeeWee discussed Christmas. In his PeeWee's Predictions video on Dec. 1 he talked about hectic Christmas events before asking Marilyn for her Christmas List. PeeWee was then given a list printed on toilet paper. The list itself includes a ruby necklace and robe, but PeeWee's attention stays on the material.

"Why did you write your list on such a hot commodity like this?" he asked. "Don't worry, we'll recycle it."

That video ended with PeeWee reminding viewers of the holiday's meaning, lifting



IMAGE CAPTURE

Marvin "PeeWee" Schulz shows off the items he advertised as featured on his website.

a Christmas present to show a desk-sized nativity scene.

In the Dec. 3 video he hosted "PeeWee's Shop" with Christmas gift ideas.

There's a slipper with a medical cover wrapped to its bottom. PeeWee quipped that the salesman told said the slippers were alligator but PeeWee thought that we'll recycle it.

The rest were even more related pandemic-related gifts like dual moisturizer and sanitiz-

er, a robe, a cap, gloves and face coverings with festive designs. PeeWee modeled a red-nosed Rudolph mask, a Santa Claus mask and a Frosty the Snowman mask. He also pulled out a pair of N95 masks fixed together to look like a bra.

"I'm a little uneasy where that goes," he said.

PeeWee then guided viewers to P.W.HappyHolidays.Net to order before signing off with his signature.



Wash your hands!



ALL TICKETS REGULAR PRICE

The Croods: A New Age PG • 95 mins. Fri, Sat & Sun: 7 p.m.

Wild Mountain Thyme PG-13 102 mins. Fri, Sat & Sun: 7:15 p.m.

For more movie information, please visit our Facebook page!

Movie Place Rental Hours
 Fri & Sat: 4-8 p.m.
 rivoliseward.com
 Thank you!
RIVOLI
 533 Main • Seward
 402-643-6195



KitchenAid Professional 600 Series Bowl-Lift Stand Mixer Flour Power™ 14 Cup

- Flour Power Index
- Soft Start Mixing Feature
- Electronic Speed Sensor
- Commercial Style Motor Protection & Locked Rotor System
- Accessories
- Direct-Drive All-Steel Gear Transmission
- 6-Qt. Stainless Steel Bowl
- 67-Point Planar Mixing Action
- Metal Construction

Really Good Candy! A family tradition!

- Clusters
- Creams
- Mints
- Alligators

One piece or 100 pieces!

Davisson Furniture Center
 The Magic Starts Here!
 A Member of nationwide west 58 Billion Buying Power
 2767 Progressive (South Hwy. 15) Seward, NE 68434
 www.davissonfurniture.com
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Deck the halls safely

During the most wonderful time of the year, displaying holiday lights and decorations is a time-honored tradition for spreading good cheer. Don't be naughty. Celebrate the season with electrical safety in mind.

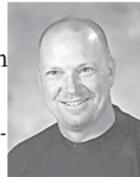
SEWARD NEBRASKA
 City of Seward Utility Office
 537 Main Street • Seward, NE 68434
 402-643-2928 • www.cityofsewardne.gov

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.

Care about others regardless

By Kevin Zadina
kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com

Well, Seward has joined many cities across Nebraska and approved an ordinance requiring people within the city limits in indoor public spaces to cover the face with a face covering because of the spread of Covid-19.



Kevin Zadina
Publisher

This was done at the request of Memorial Healthcare System, Four Corners Health Department and many citizens from Seward.

So, starting Saturday, Dec. 5 the face coverings are required or you will possibly face a \$99 fine. This will be the law at least until Wednesday, Jan. 6. There are exceptions to this if you have a health condition that prevents you from wearing a face covering or you or under five-years-old. There are many other exceptions which are posted in today's Independent.

The Seward City Council voted 6-2 during a special meeting Thursday, Dec. 3. I applaud council members Karl Miller and Alyssa Hendrix for voting no for their own reasons and not just rubber stamping a very important issue for the patrons of Seward and the surrounding area. I also applaud the rest of the council for voting for an issue that has been affecting people in the area, the state and country.

The engagement of the issue from a com-

munity standpoint was incredible, coming from people with very different views of wearing a mask or not. There were over 110 people on the Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, and almost 130 on the Zoom meeting for the special meeting on Dec. 3. The city also had well over 100 emails in support and in opposition to the new ordinance. The email response to the city was well over 90% in favor of the mask ordinance. This number wasn't given to me by the city administration, I read them all and calculated for myself. And whether you are for or against a face mask, nobody wants others to get the coronavirus.

This is where everything gets a little sticky. Many of the people who are opposed to the ordinance simply don't want our government telling them what they have to do. I know we hear the argument that we have laws like speed limits and on and on that we have to live by, but this one strikes home for people.

And on the other side, the argument is that we should be looking at one another during this pandemic. Well, we should be looking out for one another all the time and not just during this crappy year.

I do agree with our healthcare professionals who are telling us that we can't overwhelm our healthcare system. That doesn't just mean the facilities that house patients, but it's also the professionals who are being heroes every day taking care of not only Covid-19 patients, but

others who need medical care. I hope everyone stands in support of our healthcare professionals. They help take care of people in critical times of need.

And now I could go on in each direction, for or against this ordinance. Here is the good thing, our numbers in the Four Corners health district have gone down during the past two weeks (Nov. 20 - Dec. 3) compared to the two weeks before that.

So, I say hopeful, because I'm not a scientist, we are headed in the right direction. I keep hearing about the spike we are about to have because of everyone getting together during Thanksgiving. So, again, hopefully it doesn't happen. We will be seeing it shortly after you read this if it is going to happen. I noticed more people wearing a face covering in Seward before Thanksgiving without being told that they had to.

I see both sides of the issue. I do think we are at the top of a slippery slope when our government starts to govern by a somewhat unknown virus. I know here our city leaders were making their decision based on facts, science and a plea from our healthcare community. However, I think the government should be very careful how far they take issues like this.

Everyone should look out for one another. It's not that big a deal to wear a face covering. But just care about others even outside of the Covid-19 mask issue.

An opportunity for thank yous

by Brady Oltmans
editor@sewardindependent.com

Thank you for reading. I'll probably say that again in the next minute or so of reading, but it's important to me that you know that up front.

This is my last column and I'm leaving. It's with a weighted-vest of hearts that I bid you all a farewell.

The last seven months have been some of the more newsworthy in the history of modern humanity and I can only hope the history books somehow include all the world's events while still focusing on the main story - my time at this paper as managing editor.

Of course, I'm kidding. I spent my first 18 years on a farm in south central Nebraska. I spent the next several years running around the country only to inevitably anchor back in Nebraska. This state, and its neighborly inhabitants, have always and will always continue to hold a special place in my heart.

What pulled me away for a few years was opportunity. And excitement. A few of my columns have dealt with face coverings, kindness, going outside and even my affinity for hot sauces. Perhaps more than a goodbye, consider these jumbled words as a plea for opportunity.

Sometimes you have to seize

it when it comes. Sometimes you have to create it on your own. Just don't be complacent about it. If an opportunity arises that can give you something you otherwise didn't have - go for it.

This pandemic has taken far more than it's given. It's taken employment, income, safety, health, relationships and lives. It's taken the worlds we've known for years and flipped them around. There was a time when I heard people talk about finding opportunity in a pandemic and I scoffed.

How could someone find opportunity in a time of so much unrest? What I've realized is opportunity exists regardless of circumstances. Go after it. That thing you've been putting off doing - go for it.

And this last column is my final opportunity to speak directly to you, dear reader.

So I just want you to know I appreciate you reading. I truly, dearly appreciate your support for local news. Please, continue to support this paper. No other news source will ever care about your council meetings or pancake feeds the way the people who put together these pages do.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. Thank you to every other name etched into these pages for joining me in the quest to deliver news.

Archie says thank you too, but mostly for the treats any of you kind community members gave him after his relentless begging.



Brady Oltmans
Editor

Letter to the editor

Thank you

The Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership (SCCDP) would like to thank everyone who attended the 2020 Seward Christmas Festival on Nov. 28.

During an unprecedented year, the Christmas Festival Committee worked diligently

to ensure that events were safely planned and executed. Without these volunteers, this event would not have been possible.

A special thanks to the Seward Police Department for their help with traffic control during the very well attended reverse parade. Over 500 cars came through the

parade - a much higher number than expected as this was a set up unlike any other year. Thank you also to the locations that 'decked their halls' with lights and hosted additional parade entries.

The SCCDP team would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays!



— STAFF DIRECTORY —

Kevin L. Zadina, publisher • kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com
Brady Oltmans, managing editor • editor@sewardindependent.com
Stephanie Croston, assistant editor/sports editor • scroston@sewardindependent.com
Hope Moural, reporter • hope@sewardindependent.com
Tammy Leif, business mgr/bookkeeping • tammyleif@sewardindependent.com
circulation • subscriptions@sewardindependent.com
Monique Peetz, office assistant • monique@sewardindependent.com
legal notices • office@sewardindependent.com
Nichole Javorsky, advertising • nichole@sewardindependent.com
Dave Fiala, graphic artist • dave@sewardindependent.com
Hailey Behlen, graphic artist • hailey@sewardindependent.com

SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

USPS 491-500 • Postage paid at Seward, NE 68434
Published once a week • Owned by Rhoades Publishing, Inc.

129 S 6th St. • PO Box 449 • Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3676 • FAX 402-643-6774
www.sewardindependent.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$42.00 Seward County
\$44.00 Adjoining Counties (York, Lancaster, Saline, Butler, and Saunders)
\$56.00 Statewide
\$59.00 Out of State

A weekly newspaper published each Wednesday at 129 S. 6th St., Seward, NE 68434 by Rhoades Publishing Inc. Periodical postage paid at Seward, NE. Postmaster send changes of address to P.O. Box 449, Seward, NE 68434.

E-mail the news dept. at editor@sewardindependent.com, the ad dept. at kevin@sewardindependent.com or nichole@sewardindependent.com, the circulation dept. at subscriptions@sewardindependent.com.

Office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Normal deadline is noon Friday.

Library doors to close to public

The Seward Memorial Library Board and staff plan to continue to serve their patrons throughout the current upswing in COVID reports. To ensure ongoing access to the library collections, beginning Wednesday, Dec. 9, the doors will be closed to the public as they were in the spring.

The drive-up window will remain open all published hours as long as SML has staff available, and they will be happy to have items ready for you there. Changes in the local situation will be closely monitored so the library can fully reopen as soon as feasible, but it is possible these changes may extend into 2021.

Please feel free to call the library at (402) 643-3318, text them at (402) 260-2202, or email them at info@sewardlibrary.org with requests or questions. Keep informed by checking www.sewardlibrary.org or follow them on social media.

ESU 6 accesses website for hybrid learning

Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association and the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council teamed to create a website with compiled resources for schools to use in remote learning and hybrid learning settings.

Among the ESU Coordinating Council is ESU No. 6 based in Milford.

The website contains content, strategies and solutions for teachers, administrators and parents who've found educational settings change as a result of quarantines, closures or hybrid learning models. It's designed for ease of use and efficient accessing of content. It has an appealing visual interface and contains topically arranged windows to help the user navigate to the information needed.

Some of the resources offered include: programs for teachers, strategies for administrators to help teachers, professional development, evaluating the success of remote learning programs, strategies for providing special services, strategies for helping parents and connectivity.

"We are confident these resources will be tremendously beneficial for educators and parents across the state," ESU No. 6 Administrator John Skretta said.

Diabetes the theme of Rotary Club program

"A Type 1 Diabetes Primer" was the theme of the Seward Rotary Club program Nov. 25. The program was introduced by Rotarian of the Month and Program Co-Chair Kurth Brashear. He introduced three families who shared their journeys with living with Type 1 Diabetes.

The featured families included Lily Brashear and her mother Jessica Brashear, Hannah Helmer and her father Joel Helmer and Oskar Huntington and his father Dr. Tim Huntington, all of Seward.

Kurth Brasher, Lily's father, shared information on knowing the difference between Type 1 Diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes.

Type 1 Diabetes is an autoimmune disease with potential ties the genetic and environmental factors. People with T1D cannot produce insulin. It cannot currently be prevented nor can it be cured. Type 1 Diabetes requires insulin through multiple daily injections or infusion through insulin pump.

Counting carbohydrates in food and regular physical exercise are important in T1D management. There are 1.6 million Americans diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

Type 2 Diabetes is tied to metabolism and genetic susceptibility. People with T2D are insulin resistant. It can be

prevented or managed through diet and exercise. Treatment varies on an individual basis, often beginning with dietary modifications, exercise and oral medicines.

Some individuals with T2D take insulin shots or wear an insulin pump. Reducing carbohydrate intake and regular physical exercise are important in T2D management. There are 30-33 million Americans diagnosed with T2D.

Diabetes causes kidney, eye cardiovascular and nerve diseases. Complications are not inevitable, with tight blood sugar control as the only method demonstrate to reduce the risk of developing complications.

Brashear introduced Dr. Tim Huntington of Concordia University and his son Oskar, a fourth grader at St. John Lutheran School. Dr. Huntington shared his personal story of dealing with Type 1 Diabetes since he was diagnosed as a Concordia University student. He pointed out that "everything affects blood sugar" in dealing with Type 1 Diabetes.

His son Oskar was diagnosed with T1D at the age of three and he shared his go to bag of items. They pointed out that most are diagnosed between the ages of 5-14. Both are currently on insulin pumps and very healthy and active.

Seward High Senior Hannah Helmer addressed the members of the Seward Rotary Club on her journey of living with Type 1 Diabetes and she shared the podium with her father, Dr. Joel Helmer of Concordia University, who commented on the experiences of the parents coping with Type 1 Diabetes.

Hannah said that she was diagnosed with T1D at the age of ten and has learned to live with the disease. She commented on the 'lows and highs' resulting with the disease.

"It is life changing," she said, "but it has not slowed me down, as I am very involved in school and active in a variety of activities."

Dr. Helmer noted that "A positive of this disease is that Hannah has become very responsible, mature and flexible. Type 1 Diabetes has not slowed Hannah down at all and she even gave an informative speech on diabetes last year. She is always prepared, with 10 different purses ready to go with her diabetes materials in each bag! She is currently on an insulin pump and found it to offer wonderful flexibility."

The final family presentation featured Lily Brashear, a St. John Lutheran School in Seward seventh grader, and her mother Jessica, a youth counselor at St. John Lutheran School.

Jessica shared the story of Lily's recent T1D diagnosis and shared their family's story of dealing with a child who has the T1D diagnosis. Lily shared her experiences with the Rotary Club membership and showed her "go to bag" that she carries to assist her in controlling her disease. She commented on the side effects as a result of diabetes - such as mood swings and being tired.

Jessica pointed out that Lily has given herself shots since the first day of discovering that she has T1D and also stressed the importance of knowing the blood sugar levels. Lily is on an insulin pump and showed her pump on her arm which she has decorated. Having an insulin pump has created another learning curve.

They both thanked the Huntington and Helmer families who came to their assistance when Lily was first diagnosed with Diabetes. Jessica thanked the local families who have been most supportive and shared their firsthand knowledge and hints in coping with this disease.

Diabetes is the fastest growing chronic health conditions in the USA, both T1D and T2D. For more information on T1D, visit jdrf.org/donate or visit them on [facebook.com/myjdrf](https://www.facebook.com/myjdrf).

Unconventional homesteaders, Derbys important to Utica's start

by Joan Shurtliff,
Seward County Genealogical Society

Not the typical homesteaders when they came to Seward County in the early 1870s, George and Merinda Derby, with members of their family, were instrumental in the founding of Utica. The couple was not young with a long life ahead of them. They knew and understood some of the difficult experiences life could give them.

Born in Ohio in 1820, George Alvin Derby began his life modestly. Merinda Harriet Brown was born in Orange County, Vermont, in 1824 and moved to Ohio while still a child.

A carpenter by trade, George married Merinda in Licking County, just east of Columbus, in March of 1843. The couple's first child, Orin Alvin, was born later that year. Over the next 27 years, 13 more children joined the family.

In the mid-1850s, the growing family headed west, first settling the Indiana for a short time before making their home in Blakesburg, Wapello County (Ottumwa), Iowa, in about 1856. A hard worker with a mind for business, George valued his real estate at \$700 and his personal estate at \$250 in the 1860 U.S. Census. At that time the family consisted of George and Merinda and children Orin, Emily, Marilla, Lonzo, Clarissa, Mercy, George, Franklin, Scott and Eddy.

As with many households of that time, when the deci-

sion was made to move to Nebraska, children Edward Lincoln (1860-1863), Emily Esther (1845-1863), and Ermen Mastick (1862-1864) remained behind in Blakesburg Cemetery.

The call to move further west was strong. George continued to improve his household situation. He left carpentry and turned to selling implements to farmers. In the 1870 census, he listed the value of his personal estate at \$2,500. In the early 1870s with the homestead movement adding opportunities, the family decided to relocate to Nebraska.

In the late 1860s, a steady stream of settlers arrived in the eastern part of the Seward County. Railroads made a commitment to serve the area and by the early 1870s, the Burlington & Missouri R.R. reached Seward. Within a couple of years, line was laid west out of Seward to York.

In 1872, George, Merinda and an assortment of their children arrived in Seward. George and his daughter, Mercy, took out homesteads on the north half of section 30 in E Precinct just west of what would become Utica. They proved up in June 1878.

Satisfied with the country, George invited others from Wapello County to visit in a letter to the *Ottumwa Courier* in July of 1877: "Get off the train 80 rods (about ¼ block) from the corner of my place... Our town has just been laid out and building has commenced in earnest... As for our crops, this year they are as good as

the most greedy could ask." Crops included rye, barley and wheat.

George's interests and occupation changed as he gained a good reputation for his land and business dealings. He and Merinda built a fine home in Utica.

In the early days, the Derbys received a good number of visitors as their home was the only stopping place between Seward and the new town of York. A short time later, the family moved into Utica.

Daughter Clara taught at the first school in the area during the spring and summer of 1873. She married Charles Stewart and moved on. Daughter Mercy served as Utica postmaster from June 1876 to August 1877. She married Henry Frank Vanderhoof in 1878. Other family members included Scott, Will, Roderic and Marilla. At various times family members assisted in the businesses.

Shortly after their marriage, Mercy and Henry relocated to Seward where Henry had a business selling windmills. The couple went on to have four children - sons Hal (Harry), Thomas and Don and a daughter, Vesta.

Mercy, her children and her parents visited often - usually by a short train ride between Seward and Utica. One day in the spring of 1883, son Hal, who was about 3, decided he wanted to visit his grandparents. While his mother was busy and he should have been taking a nap, he walked down to the depot, caught the 1 p.m. westbound train, and

headed off to see grandparents George and Merinda. Upon arriving in Utica, he got off and walked to their house, surprising the household.

After his presence at home was missed, his parents searched all over Seward looking for him. About the time panic was to set in, they received a telegram from George informing them of his visitor. The newspaper editor relating the story expressed the thought that the young man was bound to be a traveler.

There were marriages in the 1870s and '80s. Daughter Marilla married Samuel Brown in 1870. The couple moved around a bit, but called Seward home. Son George went to work for the railroad, married Mamie Burkholder and went on to live in Missouri and Colorado. Son Scott married Mary Coughill in 1881 and youngest daughter Emma Marinda (Minnie) married Robert B. Carter in March of 1885. The latter couple relocated to Omaha. Finally, youngest son Roderic married Margaret Rider.

As happens, life takes unusual turns. Beginning in the late 1880s, sons Scott, Will and Roderic developed lung issues and consumption, what we now call tuberculosis. Scott's wife, Mary, died early in 1887. Broken hearted, Scott followed in the fall of 1888. The couple had two sons, Bert and Grant. The boys were raised by Scott's sister and husband, Marilla and Samuel Brown.

Slowing down, George left land dealings to others and

took the position of Utica postmaster from 1891-94.

Clara died during the summer of 1892 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She was buried in Utica Cemetery. George and Merinda lived long enough to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in March of 1893. Shortly after the celebration, Merinda became ill and died on April 29. She was remembered in the *Blue Valley Blade*: "In her long and happy life she was always adverse to ostentation, devoted to her husband and family."

Roderic married Margaret Maggie Rider and the couple had a son, Chester. The couple sought help for his disease, but he followed his mother with his life ending in the home of his father in June of 1893. Will died in March of 1894. Both Will and Roderic are buried in Utica Cemetery.

In September of 1895, the *Blue Valley Blade* made the announcement, "G.A. Derby, who has resided in Utica for over a quarter century, moved to Seward." He, too, became part of Marilla and Samuel's household. The household moved to Lincoln and it was there that George died in January of 1901. The *Utica Sun* reported that "the deceased was well like by all who knew him."

George and Merinda helped turn a place on the prairie into a thriving village. Through good times and sad times they persevered, cherishing family, supporting community and improving the lives of friends and neighbors.

Thank you to all the businesses, service organizations and private donors who made our fall capital campaign, "A CASA for Every Kid" a huge success! Not only did we meet our funding goal, but we doubled it!!!



A CASA volunteer can *change a child's story*.

To find out more, visit our website:

www.southeastnebraskacasa.org

On behalf of everyone at our office, we wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

CITY OF SEWARD 2021 DOG LICENSES

2021 dog licenses will be on sale beginning December 14, 2020, at the Seward Police Department, 148 S. 1st St.



Current veterinarian certificate including date of rabies vaccination must be presented for issuance of license.

Cost for male or spayed female is \$4.00; unspayed female is \$6.00.



Join us in welcoming **Natasha Andersen, PA-C**

Natasha will begin seeing patients at the Seward Family Medical Center mid-December.

Areas of interest include:

- Preventative Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Emergency Medicine



Memorial
Health Care Systems
Seward | Utica | Milford

Here for you | Here for life

Christmas Shopping Guide

**Remember to finish your Christmas shopping locally!
Stop by each of these businesses for some great in-store specials.**

Shop LOCAL

PLUM CREEK WAGYU

Give the Gift of Luxurious Wagyu Beef

20% OFF
w/ code SEWARD20

Supplies are limited—Reserve Yours Today!
Free pick-up/delivery in Seward & Lincoln

PlumCreekWagyu.com

SWEETS
to soothe the savage beast!

Davisson Furniture Center
402-643-3177

Really Good Candy!

Clusters • Creams • Mints • Alligators
One piece or 100 pieces!

A family tradition!

20% off
SNOWMAN-RELATED MERCHANDISE AND GARLAND

Merle's Flower Shop
828 Seward St., Seward
402-643-6618

For every \$50 in gift cards you buy, Valentino's will send you a \$10 gift card for free.

Discount applies only to gift card sales.

Valentino's
1519 W. Hwy 34 • Seward, NE
402-643-4264

PAC N SAVE PHARMACY

1519 W Hwy. 34, Seward
402-643-2918 • pacnsaverx.com

Leader Brand Vitamins
Buy One, Get One 50% Off

Redeem at pharmacy counter only.
Product of equal or lesser value.
Bring in coupon (ad).
Expires Dec. 31, 2020.

For every \$50 GIFT CARD purchase, get a \$10 GIFT CARD FREE

(Limit \$200 value)
Offer ends 12/24/20

SACK LUMBER
3269 PROGRESSIVE RD.
SEWARD, NE 68434

BUY YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATES NOW!

Stop at **ACE** **PAC'N SAVE DISCOUNT GROCERY**

The helpful place. We Are Local. We Are Family.
1519 WEST HWY 34 • SEWARD, NE • 402-643-6609

Gift Cards!

'Stuff the Cruiser' toy drive still accepting donations through Friday

The Seward Rotary Club and The Seward Police Department, along with the help of the Seward Blue Valley Community Action program, the Seward County Diversion Office and the Seward Concordia Rotaract Club, collected toys outside of businesses for their annual toy drive campaign to "Stuff the Cruiser" for disadvantaged/underprivileged children of Seward County for this Christmas.

The groups are still accepting new toy donations and cash gifts to supplement the campaign. The local campaign collected toys at the Seward Dollar General and Orscheln's in Seward Dec. 4, and there is also a box for toys in the store for collections after the fact. The team was at Walmart Dec. 4 and 5 and is still collecting toys for ages 1-12 at the Seward Civic Center or the Seward Police Department through this Friday, Dec. 11.

The Police Department is located at 159 S. First St. and the Civic Center is at 616 Bradford Ave. The toys are sorted, identified and bagged for the individual children, by the sponsoring organizations.

The toys are distributed to area children whose families may not be able to afford Christmas gifts this year. The groups plan to double their numbers of children served with the addition of several lists of families in need and is planning on many more this year, expanding to serve the Blue Valley Community Action families as well.

"The issue of Covid plays into this whole process too," said Shelly Nitz with the Seward Rotary. "We need to social

distance in the collection and distribution as well, and make sure the toys are new and ready for distribution. Masks will be required to attend. Hand sanitizer will also be on site. We want to stress that we will be following approved protocol and guidelines to promote safety for all spreading out the toy displays, so we are at a safe distance!"

"Our challenge is really difficult this year, as we are maybe expecting to serve twice as many children this year," Melanie Ayres with the Seward Rotary said. "We are adding and hoping to serve the families from Blue Valley Community Action and that will almost double the families we will serve this year, so we are encouraging donors to help with toy donations if it fits in their budget."

The parents of the children are given the opportunity to select the toys they'd like for their children during their scheduled shopping appointment on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Seward Civic Center. They cannot just walk in, but must have an appointment because of the Covid year. The Rotary can only allow a limited number to "shop" at one time. The program is for children that are newborn through age 12. If you are unable to come to the distribution site, the toys can be picked up at the Seward Police Station.

Co-chairs for the event are Acting Seward Police Chief Brian Peters for the Seward Police Department and Melanie Ayres and Shelly Nitz for the Seward Rotary Club.



Seward Rotarians Jill Johnson, Brady Johnson, Matt Dominy and Andy Hartmann accept gifts of toys from Walmart shoppers.



Seward Rotarians Greg Zabka and Todd LaVelle accept toys with Police officer Allison Sommerfeld from Seward Walmart shoppers.

Jenny's REESources

Extension training sessions planned

by Jenny Rees
Seward/York counties Extension educator

This week, I'm sharing more regarding certification trainings for ag professionals and master gardeners.

Meeting in 'hubs' has been our vision in the midst of covid to reduce the number of people attending any one location for larger programs such as crop production clinics and Nebraska on-farm research updates. Example: instead of one day where 200+ people meet in York for crop production clinics, attendees have the option of attending one of six days of central or eastern-focused crop production clinics hosted by several local county Extension offices each of those days, or they can attend virtually. As of current recommendations, if the risk dial is in the red, we can only meet virtually.

Pesticide training: For commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators with the 'ag plant' or 'demo/research' categories, the crop production clinics are your option for recertification. They will be virtual this year (and in person via 'hubs' if risk dial isn't red) <https://agronomy.unl.edu/cpc>. Initial certification is still via testing: <https://pestid.unl.edu/certification-and-training/#commercial>.

For private pesticide applicators, our goal is in-person training first. Should the risk dial be in the 'red zone' at the time a training is scheduled, the training will be

moved to a virtual option and those registered will receive the connection information. We also have a self-study option again which is an option provided by the local Extension office for those who are uncomfortable attending in person and/or have difficulty with using computers for virtual programming.

Depending on the risk dial, and also depending on the town, there may be a mask requirement in place. To follow directed health measures on meeting capacities, pre-registration is required. Not all county Extension offices are publicizing their meetings. You will need to call the county Extension office where you'd like to attend a meeting to preregister. My preference is to share my meeting dates:

York County: Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m., all at the Cornerstone Event Center at the fairgrounds in York. RSVP to (402) 362-5508.

Seward County: Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. all at Harvest Hall at the fairgrounds in Seward. RSVP to (402) 643-2981.

Chemigation training: For those desirous to apply pesticides and/or fertilizer through irrigation systems, a chemigation license is necessary. If this is your first time, it's helpful to have the books ahead of time and you can contact the York County office if you'd like them. Training for our area will be conducted by Steve Melvin on Jan. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cornerstone Event Center at the fairgrounds in York. Pre-registration is required to (402) 362-5508.

RUP Dicamba training is no longer being conducted by Extension. Nebraska Department of Ag is leaving training up to the registrants, and if I understand correctly, they will no longer require those trained to be listed on the NDA website.

Master Gardeners: If you have a strong interest in gardening and enjoy helping others, you are invited to become a Nebraska Extension Master Gardener volunteer. This program will increase your knowledge and understanding of best cultural practices for growing flowers, vegetables, turf, plant disease and insect pest identification, and much more.

One area training option is through Lancaster County Extension beginning in February 2021 via Zoom during the day. The fee is \$190. Application deadline is Jan. 15, 2021 at: https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_08OngDRFkSOJIRT. Call Mary Jane Froge at (402) 441-7180 for any questions. Current Master Gardeners can plan on recertification training via zoom on Feb. 16, 23, Mar. 2, and 9 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

What I did not learn in school...

by Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty
Lead pastor at Seward United Methodist

As a United Methodist pastor, my seminary education was invaluable — I learned so much about so many aspects of ministry.

What seminary did not teach was how to do church in the midst of a pandemic where health officials are encouraging folks to stay home. Seward United Methodist Church is taking to heart the wisdom of our medical professionals and scientists.

While we are in the "severe risk/red zone" on the Four Corners Health Department's Covid-19 Risk Gauge, Seward UMC will be doing ministry online and outside. How does a church communicate the good news when the traditional ways of doing so are not safe for the time being? How do we make sure there's a place for you this Christmas at Seward UMC?

Every pastor and every congregation is struggling to figure this

out. For Seward UMC, we are taking advantage of the technology that is available these days so we can gather virtually in cyberspace. Additionally, we are thinking "outside" the box to come up with outdoor ministry possibilities that incorporate appropriate risk mitigation measures. We are doing worship online with a prerecorded service available Sunday mornings on Facebook and YouTube.

Yet we also offer a Zoom worship experience for folks who appreciate a more interactive worship experience. There's a place for everyone whichever worship format they choose. Thinking outside the box, we are planning several outdoor opportunities, including parking lot carols and a drive-in movie on Dec. 20.

We are thinking creatively so there is a place for you at Seward UMC. For more information about the ministries which are continuing, see the church website: www.sewardumc.org.

County election results certified

Election officials in Nebraska certified the state's 2020 election results on Nov. 30 without incident.

In a 5-0 vote, the Nebraska State Board of Canvassers certified the results that were largely known hours after polls closed on Nov. 3. Nebraska divided its Electoral College vote by congressional district for president, with President Donald Trump receiving two of the three votes and Joe Biden receiving the other. All other Electoral College votes from Nebraska went to Republican Congressional nominees.

Gov. Pete Ricketts mentioned his support for Nebraska returning to a winner-take-all district after the board's certification, saying it would

be "more fair to our voters in the state."

According to Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen, a total of 966,920 votes were certified from the Nov. 3 election.

Seward County had 9,285 votes for a 80.29% voter turnout — surpassing the state's turnout percentile of 76.33%.

The only race yet to be determined, on the local level, is the Subdistrict 5 seat for the Lower Platte North National Resource District board. Another full recount is yet to come in that race with David Lawrence receiving 9,821 votes and John Hannah receiving 9,820 votes as of the certification of results for the Wahoo-based district seat.

Scouler announces sustainability strategy

Scouler announced its new five-year sustainability strategy on Dec. 2 to provide sustainable solutions for and with customers and other third-party partners, including farmers.

The strategy consists of five pillars: reducing carbon footprint, fostering responsible marine sourcing, engaging in communities, promoting diversity and inclusion, and upholding work-

place health and safety. Progress against those outline goals will be reported annually to employees, customers, vendors, Scouler's board of directors and other stakeholders.

Scouler owns and operates the Petsource facility on the Seward Rail Campus.

Obituaries

Joshua P. Brumm

Sept. 23, 1996 – Dec. 2, 2020

Joshua Peter Brumm of Avon, Colorado, originally from Seward, was born Sept. 23, 1996, to Scott and Lynn (Baden) Brumm in Lincoln.



Joshua attended St. John Lutheran School in Seward from kindergarten through eighth grade. He then went to Seward High School, graduating in 2015. Following high school, Joshua attended Concordia University in Seward. In 2019, Joshua moved to Colorado to work at a ski resort as a snowboard instructor, which he greatly enjoyed. Joshua enjoyed many years of performing in various choirs, musicals, plays and theatre. He also loved playing guitar, listening to music and gaming with friends. Joshua spent three summers as a camp counselor at Camp Omega, Minnesota, Camp Perkins, Idaho, and Camp Southern Ground, Georgia. This past summer, Joshua volunteered as a Special Olympics coach, assisting with the cycling team. When asked to provide a bio for a theater performance, Joshua stated: "Professional scuba enthusiast, hobbies include, but are not limited to, grass smelling, consuming the solid state of the water cycle, lint and amateur garage door repair." This gives you a glimpse of how Joshua could light up a room with his humor and wit.

Joshua passed away Dec. 2, 2020, in Brighton, Colorado, at the age of 24 years, 2 months and 9 days, following a snowboarding accident. Joshua is survived by his parents, Lynn Brumm, Seward, Scott and Sarah Brumm, Seward; sisters, Morgan Brumm, Sky Brumm and Eve Brumm, Seward; grandparents, John Baden, Seward, and Robert and Lois Brumm, Stockbridge, Michigan; aunts and uncles, Connie Dahm, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, Nancy (Jason) Richters, Utica, Robert Jr. (Marilyn) Brumm, Stockbridge, Michigan, Dan (Sarah) Brumm, Seward, and Laura (Todd) Meyers, St. Clair Shores, Michigan; many cousins and friends. Joshua was preceded in death by his grandma, Sandy Baden, but that's OK, because they are now together eating mac'n cheese with hot dogs and playing on the slip and slide.

A funeral service was Dec. 9 at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward with burial in the Seward Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to Special Olympics Summer Camp Tuition Assistance Fund or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Bonita L. Smetter

March 9, 1947 – Nov. 24, 2020

Bonita Lorene Smetter of Grand Island was born on March 9, 1947, to Bertrun P. and Lorene (Dittmar) Barnes in Seward. She attended Utica High School, graduating in 1966. Bonita worked as a caregiver at Utica Nursing Home for 22 years, retiring in 2004. In her free time, she enjoyed doing crafts and reading. Bonita passed away Nov. 24, 2020, in Grand Island at the age of 73 years, 8 months and 15 days.



She is survived by her children, Mike Smetter (Teresa Umshler), York, and Jodi (Tony) Thoman, York; grandchildren, Robert (Shelby) Stolley, Latasha Stutzman and Jonathan Newman; great-grandchildren, Aydah Hein and Beckham Golter; brother, Phil (Judy) Barnes, York; sister, Connie Dornbargh, Bella Vista, Arkansas; many nieces and nephews. Bonita was preceded in death by her parents, Bertrun and Lorene Barnes.

A memorial service was Dec. 4 with inurnment at the Utica Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested in care of the Smetter family or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

William "Willie" F. Shonka

Oct. 19, 1938 – Dec. 6, 2020

William "Willie" Francis Shonka was born Oct. 19, 1938, and died Dec. 6, 2020. Arrangements are pending with Volzke Funeral Home in Seward. A full obituary may be found and condolences left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Marsha A. Towle

Nov. 17, 1955 – Dec. 2, 2020

Marsha Ann Towle was born Nov. 17, 1955, in York to Mervin and Donna Lee (Robinson) Ocken and passed away Dec. 2, 2020, in Lincoln, at the age of 65 years and 15 days.



Marsha grew up in the York and Waco areas where she attended Emmanuel Lutheran School in York and graduated from Centennial High School with the Class of 1974. She was very active in agricultural activities growing up and she loved showing her lambs at different competitions. While working on her nursing degree at York General Hospital, she met Tom Towle and they were united in marriage on June 2, 1978, at Peace Lutheran Church in Waco. To this union, three boys were born, Trevor, T.J. and Kyle. Marsha attended and graduated from Midland College with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. Her first job as a Registered Nurse was at Lincoln General Hospital. She later received her master's degree in management from Doane College.

Marsha enjoyed sewing and was a wonderful seamstress. She loved attending Husker football games and held season tickets for 30 years. She enjoyed helping the boys with their 4-H projects. Marsha worked at Bryan Medical Center for nearly 30 years. She was a member of Faith Lutheran Church for many years and enjoyed her mission trips to Mexico she attended for five years.

Marsha was preceded in death by her father, Mervin; son, Trevor; parents-in-law, Phil and Gayle Towle; and sister-in-law, Betsy Winquest.

Survivors cherishing her memory include her husband, Tom Towle, Garland; children, T.J. and wife Faith Towle, Seward, and Kyle and Raissa Towle, Seward; daughters-in-law, Kristi Medjo-Towle, Arvada, Colorado, and Christine Towle, Seward; seven grandchildren, Lilly Towle, Conner Towle, Hunter Towle, Griffin Towle, Scarlett Towle, Beckett Towle and Emerson Towle; mother, Donna (Bob) Ocken; brother, Mike (Mignon) Ocken, York; sisters, Kathy (Doug) Wyatt, Lincoln, and Amy (Mickey) Burruss, Clarks; brother-in-law, Ron Winquest; many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

A funeral service was Dec. 7 at Peace Lutheran Church in Waco with interment at the Greenwood Cemetery in York. Condolences may be left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Patricia S. Richert

Aug. 5, 1946 – Nov. 29, 2020

Patricia Sue Richert of Waco was born Aug. 5, 1946, to Harold and Ruby (From) Heins in David City.



She attended David City High School, graduating in 1964. On Sept. 10, 1966, Patricia was united in marriage to Albert Richert in Garrison. She was a homemaker who enjoyed taking care of her family. In her free time, she liked to read and attend church activities. She especially enjoyed attending her grandkids' sporting events, musical and fine arts performances. Patricia passed away Nov. 29, 2020, in Waco, at the age of 74 years, 3 months and 24 days.

She is survived by her husband, Albert Richert, Waco; children, Scott (Monica) Richert, Gresham, Eric (Patty) Richert, Lincoln, Lee (Chelsey) Richert, Overland Park, Kansas, Tammy (Kelly) Koepsell, Omaha, and Wendy (Chad) Colson, Lincoln; grandchildren, Melissa, Kyle, Amy and Trey Richert, Matthew and Aaron Koepsell, Dillon, Ryan and Morgan Richert, Makena and Kaijah Colson and Norah and Ivy Richert; brothers, Larry (Jeanette) Heins, David City, and Dean (Connie) Heins, David City; and sister, Beverly (Richard) Bennett, David City. Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Ruby Heins.

A funeral service was Dec. 3 at Faith Lutheran Church in Rising City with interment at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, rural Gresham. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, Waco, or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Elizabeth B. "Bess" Miller

Feb. 21, 1928 – Dec. 5, 2020

Bess was born in Huntingdon, England, to Alfred and Mary Cooper. As a teenager, she lived in a time when her country was immersed in World War II. By the early 1940s, the "Yanks" started to arrive. In 1944, she met the love of her life, Melvin - at her cousin's wedding. Melvin was the best man and serving in the 8th Airforce at a nearby airfield.



On Nov. 14, 1945, they were married in Meltham Mills, England. They lived in the small village of Bildenson near Melvin's base until his unit was returned to the United States in April 1946. Bess followed two months later on a ship filled with excited "war brides."

Bess and Melvin farmed near Norfolk for six years. During that time, they were blessed with three children, Caroline (who joined her Savior three months after her birth), Sally and Jim.

In 1953, the family moved to York. In 1962, they moved to England for two years to be with Bess' family. In 1964, the family moved back from England to Seward so Sally and Jim could attend Concordia High School and eventually Concordia Teacher's College.

In their early years in Seward, Bess worked at Seward Memorial Hospital, followed by decades of service to Concordia University - serving as the university's "Post Mistress." She was well known to everyone on campus. Students were excited when they received their letters and packages from Bess along with her kind words of interest and encouragement.

For more than 60 years, Bess was a gracious host at 144 E. Moffitt. She welcomed university presidents, faculty, staff, countless students and friends to their table for tea where they enjoyed her delicious baking.

When people mention Bess, they always mention her hospitality, smile and genuine interest in them. That carried over to years of dedicated service at St. John with the LWML, Altar Guild, Stephen Ministries, countless visits to shut-ins and so much more.

Bess was preceded in death by their daughter, Caroline and husband Melvin. She is survived by daughter, Sally Miller; son, Jim Miller, wife Sheryl; granddaughter, Katie Fremont, husband Scott; great-grandsons, Cooper and Teddy; grandson, David Miller, (Idania Oscari); great-grandchildren, - Damon, Jackie and Draven.

Visitation is 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at Volzke Funeral Home in Seward and the funeral service is at 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 14, at St. John Lutheran Church. Memorials in care of the Elizabeth B. and Melvin G. Miller Endowment Fund at Concordia University Nebraska. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Deneen S. Sperling

Aug. 22, 1964 – Nov. 29, 2020

Deneen Sue Sperling of Seward was born Aug. 22, 1964, in Fremont to Milo and Maureen Sperling. She passed away Nov. 29, 2020, at Bryan West Hospital in Lincoln at the age of 56 years, where she was surrounded by family. Deneen graduated high school in 1982 in Milford.



All whom loved her dearly knew she was the most loving and caring person, always putting others before herself. She worked as an aid in several nursing homes before finding a career in IT as a Senior Manager Global Mainframe of Operations. She always enjoyed teaching her granddaughter, Tatum, how to cook and bake. She had a passion for working on the family farm in Seward, where she moved in February 2018 with her fiancé Mike. There she loved to garden, take care of the ducks and chickens and she also loved working on the family's genealogy.

She was preceded in death by her father, Milo (Mike) Sperling. Survivors include fiancé, Mike Eich of Seward; mother, Maureen (Ahlschwede) Sperling, Lincoln; daughter, Chastidy (Cheever) Fischer, Eric Fischer; and granddaughter Tatum Fischer of Lincoln; sister, Darice (Sperling) Crews, Scott Crews; daughters, Brooke and Amber Crews of Omaha; brother, Darin and Nicole (Frerichs) Sperling; sons, Conner and Cody Sperling of Roca and Dana and LaDawn (Capek) Sperling of Lakewood, Colorado; uncle, Gordon Ahlschwede of Ontario, Canada; aunts, Ardeth Sperling of Arlington and Ardes (Ray) Vance of Alphagretta, Georgia; numerous cousins; and father of daughter, Tony Cheever of Chicago, Illinois.

A memorial service was Dec. 7 at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Orphan Grain Train or donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

*More obituaries
can be found on page 9A.*

Alvin G. Gruenewald

Jan. 3, 1932 – Nov. 26, 2020

Alvin G. Gruenewald was born in 1932 in Crete. Al entered heaven Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 26, 2020. He was the son of the late Gustave and Alvina Gruenewald.

Al graduated from Seward High School. He was a Master Chief entering the Navy Reserves in 1951, serving 41 years. He was a lifetime member of the American Legion. Al farmed and operated a crop-dusting company for 23 years and was an

electrician. Al served as president of the David City Schools and was active in the communities in which he lived. In 1987, Al moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a corporate pilot, mechanic, trainer and inspector for Bowman Aviation.

He was previously married to Geraldine (Miller). After moving to Ft. Wayne, Al and Karen (Girardot) were united in marriage. Karen and Al settled in Sun City Peachtree in Griffin, Georgia. Al had three sons, Mark of Omaha, Chris (deceased) and

James of McDonough, Georgia; three step-children, Earl Cameron Cook (Nevin) of Hickory, North Carolina, Dr. Sarah Cook (Kevin Byers) of Atlanta, Georgia, and Brian Cook (Dawn) of Shaker Heights, Ohio; and seven step-grandchildren. Surviving Alvin are two sisters of Seward, Norma Duer and Sandra Suhr; many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements for a memorial service will be made at a later date. Condolences may be left for the family at www.haistenmcculloughfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries

Debbie R. Fehlhafer

May 24, 1963 – Dec. 1, 2020

Debbie Rae Fehlhafer of Utica was born May 24, 1963, to Richard and Ardella (Brose) Schultz in Seward.

She attended Seward High School, graduating in 1981. On June 12, 1982, Debbie was united in marriage to Allen Fehlhafer at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward. Debbie worked for 2JF Poultry, LLC (2020), Pioneer, Mycogen and Cargill. She was most recently an egg room manager and previously was a seed research tech. In her free time, she enjoyed canning, sewing, gardening, puzzles and caring for her flowers. She especially enjoyed time spent with grandkids, family and friends. Debbie passed away Dec. 1, 2020, in Lincoln, at the age of 57 years, 6 months and 8 days.

She is survived by her husband, Allen Fehlhafer, Utica; sons, Joshua (Lindsey) Fehlhafer, Goehner, Joseph (Jessica) Fehlhafer, Friend, and Joel (Melissa) Fehlhafer, McCool Junction; grandchildren, Shelby and Wyatt Fehlhafer, Goehner; siblings, Mark (Barbara) Schultz, Lincoln, Cindy (Ron) Meyer, LaVista, Cathy (Tony) Peterson, Utica, Connie (Tim) Butler, Seward, Amy Walton (Paul Meyer), Round Rock, Texas, Cristy (Roy) Richters, Utica, and Peg (Randy) Baylor, Aledo, Texas. Debbie was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Ardella Schultz; father-in-law, Robert Fehlhafer; and sister-in-law, Jeanette Schultz.

A funeral service was Dec. 8 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Utica, with committal at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, rural Utica. Memorial contributions are suggested in care of Fehlhafer family. If you were unable to attend the service, you can watch it via livestream at live.stpaulutica.com. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Johnnie Boyd Gabel

Nov. 8, 1931 – Nov. 10, 2020

Johnnie Boyd Gabel of Seward was born Nov. 8, 1931, to John and Minnie Ione (Shirley) Gabel in Seward.

He graduated from Seward High School in 1951. Following high school, Boyd attended Southeast Community College for two years, graduating with an electrical degree. He served in the United States Air Force from Sept. 25, 1951, to Sept. 25, 1955. On Dec. 28, 1952, Boyd was united in marriage to Marlene "Molly" Hagemoser at United Church of Christ in Seward. He worked as an electrician for Southeast Community College in Milford for more than 20 years. In his free time, Boyd enjoyed fishing, playing cards, collecting things and watching Husker sports. He especially enjoyed attending his grandchildren's activities and watching high school sports. Boyd was a member of Legion Post 33. He served as color guard during many July 4th parades and Seward High School football games. Boyd passed away Nov. 10, 2020, in Lincoln at the age of 89 years and 2 days.

He is survived by his wife, Marlene "Molly" Gabel, Seward; sons, Gregory (Linda) Gabel, Greeley, Colorado, and Mitchell Gabel, Seward; grandchildren, Rachel Gabel, Kyle Gabel (Meagan Manning), Elizabeth (Andy) Koepp and Jaime Gabel (fiancé, Jason Orr); and great-grandchildren, Kaden Shepherd, Brenna Koepp and Karina Koepp. Boyd was preceded in death by his parents, John and Minnie Gabel, and stillborn sister, Shirley Gabel.

Services are pending until spring 2021. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Lela M. Benson

June 28, 1941 – Nov. 30, 2020

Lela M. Benson was born June 28, 1941, on a farm near Beaver Crossing to John and Elsie (Eicher) Troyer, the youngest of eight children, and went home to be with Jesus on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, at Bryan East Medical Center in Lincoln at the age of 79.

As a young girl, she accepted Christ as her personal savior and was baptized at West Fairview Mennonite Church. Lela attended country school and later Milford High School and was a graduate of the class of 1959. On Sept. 23, 1961, she was united in marriage to Gary Benson at the West Fairview Mennonite Church. They were blessed with two daughters, Lynette and Tamara. Before her marriage, she was employed with Continental Trailways in Lincoln, but her true passion was providing daycare to many, many children for more than 33 years. She truly enjoyed raising her daycare children as if they were her own and has had lifelong connections with many of them. After retiring from daycare, she worked part-time at Sister Act in Milford. Over the past several years, she had spent countless hours volunteering for the Foster Care Closet and Macie's Place, both in Lincoln. She was a member of the Beth-El Community Church. Lela's family was the center of her life and she was a favorite aunt to many of her nieces and nephews.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Gary; daughters and sons-in-law, Lynette and Tod Allen of Crete and Tam and Fred Roth of Milford; seven grandchildren, Claressa Allen and fiancé, Ryne Reeves of Lincoln, Andrew "AJ" Allen of Crete, Abigail Allen of Lincoln, Elizabeth Allen of Crete, Bryant and Sarah Roth of Clatonia, Taylor Roth of Lincoln and Ashley Roth of Seward; three great-grandchildren, Cooper, McKenna and Jameson Roth; brother, Lauren Troyer of Milford; sisters-in-law, Norma Jean Troyer and Barbara Troyer, both of Albany, Oregon, and Phyllis Troyer of Milford; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Marilyn and Alan Musil of Ravenna, Roger Benson of Grand Island, Sandra Benson, also of Grand Island, and Glenda and Bruce Rodabaugh of Marquette; nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

Lela was preceded in death by her parents; brothers and sisters-in-law, Milton and Betty Troyer, Royden and Doreen Troyer, Stanley and Darlene Troyer, Cloy Troyer and Kenneth Troyer; sister and brother-in-law, Grace and Robert Roth; sister-in-law Verba Troyer; brother-in-law, Dennis Benson; parents-in-law, Gale and Helen Benson; nephews, Joe Troyer, Robert Roth Jr, Ricky Troyer and Tony Troyer; and nieces Paula Pickerill and Jeanie Rouse.

A funeral service was Dec. 4 at Beth El Community Church in Milford with interment at the Milford Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested in care of the family for future designation. Condolences may be left for the family at www.lauberfh.com.

Ruth E. Olson

Oct. 24, 1935 – Nov. 20, 2020

Ruth E. Olson of Utica was born Oct. 24, 1935, to Jacob and Elsie (Jackson) Zurcher in Neligh.

On June 14, 1953, Ruth was united in marriage to Donald D. Olson in Albion. She worked at Lancaster County Bank as a bank teller. In her free time, she liked knitting and camping. She especially enjoyed attending the activities of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ruth passed away in Seward on Nov. 20, 2020, at the age of 85 years and 27 days.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Don Olson, Utica; children, Douglas (Dorothy) Olson, Columbus, Timothy (Kristy) Olson, Alvo, and Jeffrey (Teri) Olson, Hastings; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, Jacob and Elsie Zurcher; brothers, Carl Zurcher and Wayne Zurcher; and sister, Beulah Hansen.

A memorial service is at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, at the United Methodist Church in Utica with inurnment at the Utica Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Olson family or donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Kufeldts celebrate 50

Alex and Susan Kufeldt of Seward will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this month.

They were married Dec. 19, 1970, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Osceola.

To celebrate, their family requests a card shower. Cards may be



sent to the couple at 324 Ash St., Seward, NE 68434.

Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Nov. 16 – 27

David L. McCray Jr., 30, Lincoln, no operator's license waivable, \$75 fine.

Carol A. Walbrecht, 61, Friend, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Donald L. Freeman, 85, Seward, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

William D. Miller, 43, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Sean T. Hansen, 33, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Chayna L. Davidson, 20, Gretna, no operator's license waivable, \$75 fine.

Damien R. Sabin, 18,

Lincoln, speeding 21-35 mph municipal, \$200 fine.

Joel A. Giovanazzi, 51, David City, improper/defective vehicle lighting, \$25 fine; no license on person, \$25 fine.

Yalandra J. Chambers, 40, Kansas City, Missouri, no proof of ownership, \$50 fine.

Grant A. Collingsworth, 18, Lincoln, speeding 16-20 mph municipal, \$125 fine.

Mario L. Arango, 24, Lincoln, speeding 16-20 mph municipal, \$125 fine.

Ashley T. Schaaf, 27, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Choloe E. Griess, 18, Ulysses, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

More obituaries can be found on page 8A.

Marriage licenses

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County Clerk.

November

Dionna Schmidt, Seward, and William

Hudson, Seward
Ashley Schaub, Utica, and Bryce Steger, Utica
Ilene Buntmeyer, Pleasant Dale, and Charles Burgess, DeWitt.

Seward County EVENTS

Promote Your Event

Do you have an event coming up? Consider promoting it on the calendar at www.sewardcountyevents.com. 402-643-3676

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Friends of Pam Walz Kick Cancer Fund.

Also, thank you for the cards, gifts, prayers and well-wishes.

We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful community.



Pam and Greg Walz

Happy 50th Anniversary on December 20

David & Nancy Jurgensen of Cordova, NE!

Due to Covid-19, there will be no open house at this time. Cards can be sent to them at:

Box 136
Cordova, NE
68330



Much love from Mark & Jen, Paul & Amy, Christian, Katya, Emily, Timothy, James, Levi & Lynn!

"We Still Do"
Happy 70th Anniversary Eugene (Gene) and Marian Faszholtz!



These high school sweethearts were married on December 17th, 1950, after having to push the wedding date so Gene could head off to boot camp and the Korean War.

Marian, a registered nurse, worked at her alma mater, Samuel Merritt Hospital, and welcomed their daughter while Gene was serving in Korea.

Gene returned to join the Cardinals baseball organization and then attended Concordia Teachers College, making that his profession, teaching in California, Nebraska and Wisconsin.

Their marriage was blessed with three children—Jeanette, Gary, and Karen.

Please join us in congratulating our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandparents, Gene and Marian, with a card shower.

500 Heartland Park Dr. #113
Seward, NE 68434



Seward one-act earns distinction at conference, fourth at districts

Seward High School's competition one-act this year, "The Actors," earned an excellent rating at the Central Conference competition and placed fourth at districts.

Outstanding Actor awards at conference went to Owen Anson as Harbo, Nathan Roebke as William, Alyssa Borgman, Bailey Broadwell, Emma Lowther, Abby Wignall who are the Sweet Adelaines, Mason Larson for Charlie Chaplin, Jaina Johnson as the Stage Manager and Rachel Runyan as the Old Woman.

Cast and crew include:
 Lead—Harbo, Owen Anson; Sweet Adelaines Alyssa Borgman, Bailey Broadwell, Emma Lowther and Abby Wignall; William Shakespeare, Andrew Alley; actors, Landon Nelson, Sam Howell, Wyatt Swanson and Hannah Helmer; stage manager, Claire Novak; Edwin

Booth, Noah Fields; Charlie Chaplin, Mason Larson; and Woman, Rachel Runyan.

Understudies—Harbo, Jady Nelson; Sweet Adelaines Alyssa Borgman, Bailey Broadwell, Emma Lowther and Abby Wignall; William Shakespeare, Nathan Roebke; actors, Ethan Wilkinson, Emma Koos, Ross Brown, Audrey Wang and Korbin Opfer; stage manager, Jaina Johnson; Edwin Booth, Tristin Cutshall-Cherry; Charlie Chaplin, Julius Justice; and Woman, Hannah Roebke.

Sonnets—Grace Roberts, Nicole Kenney, Jaina Johnson, Emily Yeldon.

Crew—Director Patrick Runyan; Assistant Director Ella Gray; Stage Manager Ellen Klintworth; Tech Natalie Axt, Krystyn Harris, Lydia Lobmeyer, Damien Gligorevic, Nicole Kenney, Grace Roberts, Nixon Seegebarth and Emily Yeldon.



William Shakespeare (Nathan Roebke) and Edwin Booth (Tristin Cutshall-Cherry) come to blows as the stage manager (Jaina Johnson) tries to separate them in "The Actors," performed by Seward High.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI



Two actors (Hannah Helmer and Wyatt Swanson) act out a scene from Harbo's life in "The Actors," performed by Seward High.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI



William Shakespeare (Nathan Roebke) welcomes Harbo (Owen Anson) to the afterlife in "The Actors," performed by Seward High.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI



The Sweet Adelaines (Alyssa Borgman, Bailey Broadwell, Emma Lowther and Abby Wignall) welcome a woman (Rachel Runyan, center) to the afterlife in "The Actors," performed by Seward High.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Scooter's holding formal grand opening

The Scooter's Coffee location at 240 N Sixth St. in Seward will host its official grand opening on Dec. 11.

In order to celebrate the grand opening of the coffee chain's 112th location in Nebraska, the company is granting 50 bonus smiles for customers who pay or scan for loyalty on the Scooter's Coffee mobile app.

Recycle this paper when you're done!

TELESCOPING FLAGPOLES



**BUY NOW—
INSTALL IN
THE SPRING**

\$429

**A GREAT
CHRISTMAS
GIFT IDEA!**

**SOLAR LIGHT 1/2 PRICE WITH A
TELESCOPING FLAGPOLE PURCHASE
EXPIRES DEC. 31, 2020**

Contact
 Marv Taylor 402-643-1740
 or Ken Meyer
 402-641-6715

USDA alters service center status in response to coronavirus

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is temporarily restricting in-person visits for numerous service centers in Nebraska because of elevated rates of coronavirus community spread, but USDA employees will continue to assist agricultural producers with programs and services.

USDA is using a phased, data-driven approach to determine which service centers are open for in-person appointments. Field work, including conservation planning assistance, will continue with appropriate social distancing.

"While many of our service centers across Nebraska will be physically closed to visitors, we remain open for business," said Nancy Johnner, state executive director for USDA's Farm Service

Agency in Nebraska.

All USDA Service Centers are for open for business and service center staff members from FSA and NRCS will continue to work with producers by phone, email and digital tools like Microsoft Teams, Box and OneSpan. Producers can learn more about how to use these digital offerings by visiting www.farmers.gov/mydocs.

Producers wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS or any other service center agency should call ahead to confirm and schedule appointments. More information on service center status can be found at www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status.

Tree care during the winter

by Nicole Stoner
Gage County Extension educator

It's cold outside these days and our trees are still alive, they are just dormant. And even a dormant tree, still needs care during the winter months.

New pruning guidelines

We have always pruned deciduous trees in late winter, however new research shows the optimum time to prune is really in the late spring to early summer. It was determined that it is best to prune trees when they are most actively growing to promote quick wound sealing.

You may not always have a choice on pruning time based on the company you hire or if pruning is to repair damage from a storm. Also, some trees such as maples, willows, birches and others will produce a lot of sap if pruned in the late winter or early spring, they should be pruned in late fall. Oaks should not be pruned from April-July to avoid damage from oak wilt disease, they can be pruned in the late fall as well.

Winter watering

Ensure adequate watering throughout the entire growing season for all trees and shrubs, especially those recently planted. Water throughout the winter when the ground is not frozen, as necessary. Winter watering should occur around midday on days when the temperature is at least 40-45 degrees Fahrenheit and is only necessary one-two times per month until spring.

It is a good idea to test for soil moisture with a long screwdriver or soil probe prior to watering to determine if watering is necessary. If the screwdriver goes into the soil easily, watering is not necessary. However, if pushing the screwdriver into the soil is very difficult, plants should be watered.

Winter desiccation

Winter desiccation commonly occurs on evergreen types of trees and shrubs and is more common in winters with little or no snow cover when plants are exposed to cold, drying winds. All trees transpire, or lose water, even through the winter. Evergreens transpire at a higher rate than deciduous trees and therefore suffer more during winter. Winter desiccation occurs when the amount of water lost is greater than the amount of water the plant takes in throughout the winter.

The damage appears as brown needles on branch tips. However, the damage does not usually show up in our trees until early spring, so they will stay green through the winter. Winter desiccation can be managed through winter watering and anti-desiccant sprays.

Anti-desiccant sprays, or anti-transpirants, help reduce transpiration water loss from foliage. Most are an emulsion of wax, latex, or plastic to put a thin film on the foliage and reduce water loss. Plants such as arborvitae, pines, boxwoods and others can benefit from using an anti-desiccant spray to protect them through the winter.

Anti-desiccants should be applied after late November, once they have completely hardened off. Do not apply these products too early in the year. They can be reapplied through the winter or until mid to late February. Always read and follow the label for how to apply and how often to reapply.

Tree wraps

The trunks of young, tender barked trees are prone to winter sunscald until the tree is mature enough that the bark becomes thick and woody. Damage occurs to the south or southwest side of trees during warm winter days. Sun shining on the bark heats it up. Damage occurs when bark cells lose some of their cold-hardiness during the day, then are damaged as temperatures fall below freezing at night.

Damage can be seen as discolored and/or sunken bark, peeling bark or bark cracks in the years following the incident. Once the damage has occurred there is no cure for it. It is better to wrap the tree with a tree wrap through the winter months to protect it before the damage occurs. Remove the wrap in the spring to avoid other insect and disease problems from occurring under the wrap.

CFAP 2 application window still open

Applications for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 are available until Dec. 11. The program, overseen by United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, provides direct relief to producers facing market disruptions and associated costs because of the novel coronavirus.

Producers can visit farmers.gov/cfap to find eligible commodities, payment rates, calculations and options to apply. Those seeking one-on-one support throughout the application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee.

CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first iteration, now known as CFAP 1. Participation in the first is not a prerequisite for participating in CFAP 2, nor will those enrolled in CFAP 1 be automatically eligible for CFAP 2. A new application must be completed to be eligible for assistance.

Happenings

DURING DECEMBER

Santa makes plans to be in Seward

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in their house on the north side of the courthouse on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays in December. Hours are Thursdays, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, from 3 to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. Visits will be contactless, and masks are encouraged.

Library winter 'card' available now

Stop in Seward Memorial Library or print online the Winter Library 'Card' reading challenge. There are new suggestions and activities on the 16 square grid. Complete a column or row, or the entire card, and turn it in for the next random cash drawing provided by the Friends of Seward Library. You will have one entry for each row or column you complete. Have fun discovering new materials in the library and maybe you will be rewarded! All cards must be returned by Dec. 31. The drawing will take place in early January.

Memorial ornaments on display

Ornaments donated in memory of loved ones can be viewed in the display case at Seward Memorial Library during December. If you would like to remember someone special, the library will accept ornament memorials throughout the month. Ornaments and information about the deceased should be given to staff. The memorials will be available for viewing each December so the legacy of your special person will continue.

DECEMBER 12

Santa's coming for breakfast - CANCELED

The annual Seward Rotary Club Breakfast with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, at 9 a.m. in the basement of the Seward Civic Center. The admission fee for all attending is \$1 per person. Andrew Malan, "Seward's Mr. Magic," will again perform. The event is co-sponsored by the Seward Rotary Club and the Seward High Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. The event features a light breakfast of donuts, juice, milk, and candy. It will also include music, magic, singing, prizes, candy and of course a visit from Santa. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion. Contact Clark Kolterman with questions at clark.kolterman@sewardschools.org.

Stuff cruiser distribution planned

The annual Stuff the Cruiser toy drive will distribute toys Saturday, Dec. 12, by appointment.

Toys may still be dropped off at the Seward Police Department anytime. The Police Department is located at 159 S. First Street, Seward.

Parents of the children are given the opportunity to select the toys they'd like for their children during their scheduled shopping appointment on Saturday, Dec. 12, at the Seward Civic Center. A shopping time will be scheduled with the caller on Saturday, Dec. 12. The program is for children newborn through age 12.

THROUGH DECEMBER 13

Read and walk around square

Two holiday stories have been selected for families to enjoy through Sunday, Dec. 13. Readers will travel around the Courthouse Square to read the book pages

displayed in the front windows of businesses. Another book will be located around the inside of Seward Memorial Library. Not only will the children enjoy holiday stories, but they will also discover a secret message as they visit each page. Pick up a StoryWalk® card on Nov. 28 or any time after, and join in the holiday fun. Turn in your card with the hidden message and you could win a prize in the random drawing on Dec. 14.

DECEMBER 19

Winter farmers market planned

The Winter Seward Farmers Market will be Saturday, Dec. 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 612 Seward St.

JANUARY 29

Save the date and study up

The 11th annual PTL Trivia Night is coming to the Ag Pavilion on Friday, Jan. 29. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and trivia starts at 7:15 p.m. The team with the most correct trivia answers wins \$400; second place wins \$200. All proceeds will benefit the children of St. John. Cost is \$200 per table of eight players, and must be paid in advance. Registration opened Oct. 5, and closes Jan. 22. You may register your team at <http://www.tinyurl.com/stjohntrivia>. The event will follow public gathering guidelines from Four Corners Health Department. Participants will be asked to wear masks when away from their team table. For more information, email stjohntrivia@gmail.com or call Michelle Meyer at (402) 219-3008. Also, contact Meyer to be a corporate or memorial sponsor for a team or trivia round. The backup date is March 26.

THURSDAYS

Family history questions? Society can help

The Seward County Genealogical Society meets every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. downstairs at the Civic Center.

TOPS meets weekly

Take Off Pounds Sensibly, a nonprofit weight management organization, meets every Thursday in the Audio-Visual Room at the Seward Civic Center. Weigh-in starts at 11:15 a.m., with meetings from noon to 12:30 p.m. The first meeting is free. Masks are worn and social distancing is practiced.

FRIDAYS

Test Nebraska set in Seward

Test Nebraska will be available in Seward on Fridays in December from 9 to 11 a.m. in the west parking lot across the street from the Seward Family Medical Center. Individuals must register for testing. Visit testnebraska.com to take the online assessment to see if you are eligible to receive a free COVID-19 test. For more information, visit Test Nebraska.

Ricketts: Vaccine on the horizon

by Gov. Pete Ricketts

There is an old saying, "It's always darkest before the dawn."

It has two meanings. The first is that, despite difficulties, there is hope on the horizon. The second meaning is that circumstances can be at their very worst right before things get better.

As we enter December, there are reasons to hope an effective vaccine will become available soon—on a limited basis even this month. At the same time, we may be entering the toughest stretch of the pandemic this winter as people head indoors. It's time for all of us to put our trademark Nebraska grit and determination to work as we buckle up for the coming months of the pandemic.

On May 15, 2020, the Trump Administration announced Operation Warp Speed to rapidly develop a coronavirus vaccine. The program appears to be making remarkable progress. Two vaccines, one from Pfizer and one from Moderna, have proven to be highly effective in clinical trials. Both of the vaccines are being reviewed by regulatory agencies.

It's likely each of them will be authorized for emergency use by mid-December. Manufacturers have already produced millions of doses. Perhaps as many as 40 million doses will be available this month.

Initially, vaccinations will be limited to priority groups, such as

healthcare workers at hospitals and long-term care facilities. As manufacturing ramps up in 2021, availability will expand to more groups. Vaccines are expected to be widely available to the public by late spring. The State of Nebraska has posted its vaccination plan on the Department of Health and Human Services website at dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/COVID-19-Vaccination-Plan.pdf.

While the vaccine development offers hope, it's not time to relax our guard. The coronavirus is still spreading throughout our communities. In fact, December could be a very challenging month. As the weather gets colder, Nebraskans will be spending more time indoors. Typically, viruses spread more easily this time of year as people stay inside.

Over the next several weeks, it will be extremely important to avoid the "Three Cs." This means avoiding crowded places, close contacts and confined spaces.

Christmas season is usually a time to shop for gifts, host parties and travel to be with family. Churches and synagogues have special services. Friends go ice skating or caroling together. Folks go to

the movies to see newly released blockbusters.

We'll need to adjust our holiday traditions in 2020 in light of the pandemic. Consider postponing holiday parties at work or inviting over fewer friends. Be thoughtful about family get-togethers to protect at-risk family members.

As Nebraskans shop Main Street to support local retailers during the holiday season, it will be especially important to use tools to slow the spread of the virus. When you go out, wear a mask. Shop alone instead of taking the kids with you. Follow the six-foot rule when shopping. When possible, shop online.

This isn't the year to fight through a cold or cough while keeping with your usual routine. Stay home when sick. Quarantine immediately if you've been exposed to someone who has tested positive or shown symptoms of the coronavirus.

Take advantage of the opportunity for free testing. Test Nebraska will be in operation during the holiday season. Go to TestNebraska.com to fill out a short health assessment and schedule a time to get tested. In November, Test Nebraska delivered results 24-48 hours after the initial swab.

Nebraska's coronavirus hospitalizations have stabilized over the past week, but our hospitals continue to care for high numbers of patients. It's important that we all take respon-

sibility for slowing the spread of the virus to protect our healthcare system and support our healthcare workers. As I've announced, if Nebraska reaches 25% of staffed hospital beds with coronavirus patients in them, we'll move into the "red" phase of our pandemic response plan. If this happens, additional restrictions will take effect to help protect our hospital capacity. These restrictions include, but are not limited to...

- Returning to the 10-person rule for indoor gatherings and wedding/funeral receptions.
- Limiting outdoor gatherings to 25 people.
- Bars moving to carry-out, delivery and drive-thru only.
- Only licensed restaurants offering dine-in services with restricted hours.

Nebraskans should prepare for the possibility of these restrictions taking effect before the end of the year if hospitalizations grow.

If you have questions about Nebraska's coronavirus phases or vaccination plan, please email pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-2244. Progress on the vaccines is reason to hope, but I want to remind everyone that it will still be several months before widespread vaccination can take place. Until then, it's critically important for all of us to stay focused on doing what's right to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

SCC-Milford to hold virtual pinning ceremony

Southeast Community College's Milford Campus will conduct a pinning ceremony for graduates of the practical nursing program on Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. in the Welsh Center.

SCC's nursing programs have traditionally been offered at Beatrice and Lincoln campuses before Milford added its practical nursing program starting in the 2019 Fall Semester. Ten students are planned to graduate from the program this semester.

"The space for students on the Milford Campus was developed to include updated classroom and simulation/lab spaces so we could use high-fidelity mannequins to make the students' experiences as realistic as possible during their education at SCC and

beyond," SCC practical nursing program director Kristin Ruiz said.

SCC officials said the novel coronavirus pandemic presented challenges for students and faculty. It also intensified the demand for nurses.

"Dealing with the COVID crisis and switching to virtual learning during part of the program emphasizes that nurses need to be open to change and ready to adapt on short notice," SCC nursing instructor Diane Weber said.

The pinning ceremony is traditional among nursing programs and represents the official initiation into the nursing field. A live-stream of the event will be available at www.south-east.edu/pinning-ceremonies.

USDA alters service center status in response to coronavirus

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is temporarily restricting in-person visits for numerous service centers in Nebraska because of elevated rates of coronavirus community spread, but USDA employees will continue to assist agricultural producers with programs and services.

USDA is using a phased, data-driven approach to determine which service centers are open for in-person appointments. Field work, including conservation planning assistance, will continue with appropriate social distancing.

"While many of our service centers across Nebraska will be physically closed to visitors, we remain open for business," said Nancy Johner, state

executive director for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Nebraska.

All USDA Service Centers are for open for business and service center staff members from FSA and NRCS will continue to work with producers by phone, email and digital tools like Microsoft Teams, Box and OneSpan. Producers can learn more about how to use these digital offerings by visiting www.farmers.gov/mydocs.

Producers wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS or any other service center agency should call ahead to confirm and schedule appointments. More information on service center status can be found at www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status.



COURTESY PHOTO

First Place Award: The Culp Corner-3rd and Jackson Avenue-Judges' Choice Award-Sharon and Jerry Culp, 132 N. 3rd, and Jeff Neihardt family, 146 N 3rd



COURTESY PHOTO

One of the Top Home Decorated Lighting winning displays 2017 David and Michelle Dam Family at 1511 Ridge Run Road

Winners announced in Home Holiday Outdoor Lighting Contest

The annual Seward Rotary Home Holiday Outdoor Lighting Contest was held Sunday Dec. 6. The holiday outdoor lighting and decorated homes in the Greater Seward Area were judged by a group delegation from the Seward Rotary Club and the Seward High Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).

"We really had a hard time trying to decide," said project co-chairman Christian Fields with the SHS FBLA.

"There were so many great looking homes this year, both in Seward and in the surrounding area - we really appreciate all the work everyone did to make Seward a real Christmas wonderland. Thanks Seward. Everyone wins and the community of Seward is the winner this year," Rotarian Judge Zane Francescato said.

The following homes and families are recognized and thanked for their outstanding efforts to create a festive atmosphere for the 2020 Seward holidays. Winners were selected by nominations from phone in calls or emails by family, neighbors and

friends to the Seward Rotary Club and SHS FBLA and include:

The Grand Prize, Best Overall Award, voted No. 1 for 2020 - Culp Corner, Sharon and Jerry Culp, 132 N. 3rd, and Jeff Neihardt family, 146 N 3rd

The Judge's Choice Award - The David and Michelle Dam Family, 1511 Ridge Run, very east of Seward in the Ridge Run. A must see and well worth the drive to the edge of East Seward.

The Elf's Choice (People's Choice) Award - The Tom Reif Family, 105 Wildwood Road (Lights flash to the music--91.7 FM)

The Santa's Choice Award, the Mayor's Award - The Jerry and Tracy Rumery Family, 1540 North 1st Street (Be sure to see both their front lights on First and their back lights on Columbia Avenue).

The Rotary Club President's Award - The Gene Mayfield Family, Corner of South Third and Main Street

The 2020 Award A must see - The Tony and Karen Sabatka Family, 212 Hickory

The Historic Victorian Award - The Kurth and Jessica Brashear Family, 111 Seward Street

The Christmas Comet Award - The Mike Demuth Family, 1640 Edgewood Lane.

The Holiday's Finest Award - The Ron Schultz Family, 1442 North Columbia Avenue

The Christmas Message Award Best Home-made Display - The Jerry Kruttsinger Family, 154 Struthers

The First Christmas Display - The Phil Wurst Family, 2065 North Columbia Avenue

The Best Wreath Award - Tie: Greg Zabka Family, Karol Kay and Brad Bowen Family, 1269 Ridge Run (nice twin Christmas trees at Bowns-His and Hers.)

The First Noel Award - The Greg Austin Family, 1747 Edgewood Lane

The Christmas Spirit Award - The Bill Sleight Family, 2221 Hawthorne Avenue

The Peace on Earth Award - The Bob Urban Family, 1717 Eastridge Avenue

The Meaning of Christmas Display, Happy Birthday Jesus Award - The Terry Kamprath Family, 938 Cherry Lane

The Christmas Joy Award - The Sue Wickersham Family, 906 North 3rd Street

A Real Victorian Christmas - The Dean Roll Family, 422 Hillcrest Avenue

The Family Spirit Award - The Jeff Bohning Family, 1406 North 2nd

The Snow Family Award - The Kevin Fisher Family, 232 North 5th Street

The Home for the Holidays Award - The Dale Grimes Family, 926 Cherry Lane

The Best Decorated Clubhouse Award - Abby Wignall and her family, 139 Cedar Avenue

The Hanging of the Christmas Greens Award - The Jim Placke Family, 211 Struther's Place

The Christmas Castle Award - The Matt Stryson Family, 1039 North Fifth Street

The Christmas Cornhusker Award - Josh Fields Family, East Pinewood Avenue, Red and

White Lights Only. The Christmas Fun Award - The Jason Dillon Family, 1310 River Street

The Christmas Tradition Award - The Steven Brown Family, 416 South 5th Street

The Joy of the Season Award - The Wendy Eis Family, 168 East Moffitt

The Christmas Time Award - The Jonathan Curtis Family, 2200 Rainbow Avenue

The Pride of Pinewood Award - The Erik Kirby Family, 740 Pinewood Avenue

The Silver Christmas Award - The Cory Mueller Family, 238 South 2nd Street

The Holiday Fun Award - The Adam Pierce Family, 1657 North 2nd Street

The It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas Award - The Dennis Otte Family, 1650 Meadow Lane

The Candy Cane House Award - The Brent Royuk Family, 142 Seward Street

The Best Decorated Deck Award - The Joel Navis Family, 1077 Ridge Run

The Christmas Assortment (with music) Award - The Jeremy Borgmann Family, 1752 Karol Kay

The Christmas Classic Award - The Steve Steinauer Family, 445 N. 2nd Street

The Country Christmas Award - The Arnt Family/Radiant Heating, 1067 280th, South Highway 15, south of Seward

The I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas Award - April Hoffbauer Family, 2612 East Seward Road

The Holly Christmas Award - The Jerry Kremer Family, 2105 North First Street.

The Christmas Message - The Elizabeth Kozisek Family, 1750 Meadowlane

The Christmas Twinkle Award - The Scott Bruick Family, 1101 North 5th Street

Home For Christmas Award - The Chuck Matzke Family, 15 Seward Street, on Matzke Corner

The Christmas Story Award - The Tom Matzke Family, 116 South Columbia Avenue (Check out front window lamp and back yard)

The Christmas is for the Family Award - The Chuck Kotera Family, 1812 North First

Christmas is the Reason Award - Tie: The Steve Borer Family, 1955 Rainbow Avenue, and Courtney Meyer Family, Edgewood Lane.

The Christmas Angel Award - The Bob Daniels Family, 141 East Roberts

The Joy of the Season Award - Eddy Sander Family, 435 S. 2nd Street

The Peace on Earth Award - The Ron Viets Family, 646 North 2nd Street

The Hope of Christmas Award - The Craig Hanes Family, 228 Maple Street

The Is It Christmas Yet? Award - The Jim Wogahn Family, 1449 Kolterman Street

The Christmas WOW Award. - The John Owens Family, Ridge Run at 212 Goldenrod Lane.

Best Decorated/Lighted Halfa House Award, Longest Icicles Award/Duplex - Nate Buss Family, 1717 Plainview Avenue

Best Happy in the Country Home Award - Robert and Becky Reisdorff Family, 250

Goldenrod Best Christmas Family Award - The Keith Gardinere Family, 214 E. Roberts Street

The Dancing Christmas Award - The Gerald Homp Family, 1210 Eastridge Drive

The Christmas Everywhere Award - The Jon Marroquin Family, 202 Knotty Pine (North Seward)

The I Love Christmas Award - The Rob Pelster Family, 1686 Ridge Run Road

The Beautiful Holiday Award - The Jeff Boaz Family, 917 Bradford Street

The Happy Holidays Award - The James Sleight Family, 1407 N. 1st Street

The Oh Come Let Us Adore Him Award - Allen Bauer Family, 434 Lindell Avenue (Nice Nativity Scene)

The Spirit of Christmas Award - The Mark Nordmeyer Family, 244 E. Northern Heights

The Christmas Welcome Award - The Kevin Sagehorn Family, 194 Wildwood

The Christmas Mood Award - The Gerry Meyer Family, 325 Hickory Lane

The Christmas Forest Award - The Tony Rodocker Family, 325 Hickory Lane

The Peaking Santa Award - The Shelia Beins Family, 261 South 8th Street.

The Outlined Christmas Home - The Scot Nitz Family, 404 Bader Avenue

The Reason for Christmas Award - The Joe Huber Family, 1444 North First Street

The Happy Holidays Award - The Lane Hans Family, 2059 North Columbia

The A Charlie Brown Christmas - The Jamie Axthlem Family, 119 North Second Street

The Holiday Home Award - The Max Wake Family, Columbia Avenue

The Joys of Christmas Award - The Joyce Konopik Family, 637 South Columbia Avenue

The Christmas Silhouette Award - The Craig Williams Family, 455 East Star Street

The Christmas Pop Up Award - The Jon Kruse Family, 303 East Northern Heights

The Christmas Hospitality Award - The Bill and Lori Anderson Family, 1604 253rd Drive

The Fun at Christmas Award - The Gary Knickerbocker/Annette Covert Family, North First Street

The Christmas Promise Award - The Don Sylvester Family, 1060 Fairlane Avenue

Honorable mention awards were presented to homes including:

The Higgens Family, 1144 North 6th Street;

The Payne Family, 1167 North 8th Street; The Broadwell Family, 1210 North 7th; The Hunt Family, 1166 North 6th Street; The Rev. Paul Vasconcellos Family, 1480 Karol Kay Blvd; The Ben Earnest Family, 1710 Edgewood Lane; The Chris Miller Family, River Street Corner; The Van Valhe Family, 700 Pinewood Avenue; The Gil Daenzer Family, 540 East Hillcrest Avenue; The Rosie Westerhoff Family, 1216 Sunrise Avenue; The Jeff Volzke Family, 1226 North First Street; The Clark Koehler Family, 1050 North 5th Street; The Gary

Stutzman Family, 414 South Third Street; The Dan Janak Family, 318 East Roberts Street; The Charlie Haase Family, 861 Bradford Street; The Richard Novak Family, 901 Bradford Street; The Gerry Eikmeyer Family, 525 North Columbia Avenue; The Jim Eitel Family, 2005 Rainbow Avenue; The Don Suhr Family, 1431 Crestwood Drive; and The Jim Wogahn Family, 1449 Kolterman Street

Judges chairs for the Rotary Club delegation was Ken Schmieding and Zane Francescato.

Judges chairmen for the SHS FBLA delegation were Christian Fields and Gracen Sommerer.

Questions can be directed to Ken Schmieding or Gracen Sommerer/Christian Fields-project co-chairmen.

It was noted by the judges that because of the recent beautiful weather, there were many beautiful home lighted displays and these names and addresses are only a few of the wonderful light displays in Seward that were nominated to the committee by families, friends and Rotarians.

While businesses were not judged, special recognition must be given to William Henry School of Arts, East Hill Motel and Suites, Merle's Flower Shop, Rivoli Theater, Allure Fashions, Mueri Drug, Chapter's Book's and Gifts, Blue Valley Community Action, Liberty House, Smile Dental, Volzke

Funeral Home, Zabka Funeral Home, Suhr-Lichty Insurance, Concordia University, Rock Lutheran Church, Red Path Gallery, Second Closet and the Rumery Lawn Service for their holiday window displays and outdoor decorations.

Many of the local churches also have beautiful, life size nativity scenes on their lawns.

The downtown Seward business area is aglow with holiday lights and creates a festive atmosphere for all who see it. A must see is also the beautiful tree and decorations inside and out at the local Seward Civic Center. They have a large, beautiful tree at 6th and Bradford Avenue.

Special honor the "Most Patriotic-Fourth of July City" Award to the Nebraska National Guard for their outstanding presentation of their front yard-featuring their decorated M-4 Sherman Tank.

Of special interest are the lights and displays at Memorial Park on the corner of Third and Seward Streets and the Optimist Club's Bemis Park lights on Highway 34.



Wondering about memory care?
We can help.

Our home-like community is tailored exclusively to caring for those with Alzheimer's and dementia. Whether you're just starting to research options or ready to make a move now, we can help you every step of the journey.

CountryHouse is also located in Kearney, Grand Island, Elkhorn, Omaha and Council Bluffs.



CountryHouse.net/Lincoln or (402) 853-7809

Three locations in Lincoln:

5720 S. 25th St | 6616 S. 84th St | 240 South 70th St



Kinship Pointe

Seward

Accepting New Move-Ins!

All the comfort and safety of your home with the peace of mind at our home!

Call today to find out how you can safely move-in to Kinship Pointe!

Phone: 402-643-6500

Eagle wrestlers win Friend Invite, dual

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The season got off to a great start for the Milford wrestlers. The Eagles beat Louisville 66-12 in a dual Dec. 3.

The evening was supposed to be a triangular with Lincoln Lutheran, but because Lancaster County pushed back the start of youth sports to Dec. 7, the Warriors could not compete.

Milford won all eight contested matches by pin.

"So it went pretty quick," Coach Joe Schluckebier said. "The guys didn't leave me

with much to critique from our opening act."

MHS headed to Friend for a modified tournament Dec. 5 and brought home the team title for the second straight year.

Milford had 11 wrestlers in the field and was back and forth with Fillmore Central, which had 14 wrestlers, and Yutan.

Ten Eagles placed in the top three, including four champions, and that pushed Milford over the top.

Konner Schluckebier at 126 pounds had a fight on his hands against Alex Schademan of



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON MOWINKEL

Carter Springer of Milford tries to force his opponent's shoulders to the mat in a dual against Louisville Dec. 3.

Fillmore Central in the finals and got the win by pin in 2:24.

Eli Vondra wrestled

Centennial's Ryan Payne in the 132-pound final and got a second-period pin to win the match.

Vondra was also voted the meet's outstanding wrestler. "I don't remember

the last time Milford has had the outstanding wrestler award, if ever," (continued on 4B)

Bluejays battle but fall in first games of season

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

New season, new coach, new system. And that was all before the first game.

The Seward girls' basketball team opened the 2020-21 season at Hastings Dec. 3 and came up short against the Tigers 53-29.

"It was a little rough," Coach Beth Bohuslavsky said, adding that the Jays had to work through first-game jitters and limited varsity experience.

Turnovers were a problem for the Jays, who committed 29 in the game. Bohuslavsky said the physicality the Tigers brought to the court was something the Jays weren't prepared for.

The team was more prepared Dec. 5 when it hosted North Bend Central.

"North Bend made us work for every point," Bohuslavsky said of the defending Class C1 state champions.

She was pleased to see the fight the Jays put up, however.

"We learned a little about ourselves," she said. "This laid the foundation. Now we know what we need to work on."

Senior Anna Hughes played a more physical game against North Bend, Bohuslavsky said. Freshmen Ona Stutzman and Dalaney Anderson also played well, and Ellie Greisen did a



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Anna Hughes of Seward (back) stretches for a rebound against North Bend Central in the Bluejays' home opener Dec. 5.

good job on the boards.

Greisen was the team's leading scorer against North Bend with six points. Hughes had four points and five rebounds.

Against Hastings, Tanya Miller scored six to lead the team.

The Jays (0-2) are scheduled to visit Lincoln Christian Dec. 15 and host Northwest Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2:30 p.m.

Hastings 53, Seward 29					
SHS	8	8	2	11	29
HHS	18	11	10	14	53
SHS—Tanya Miller 2-2 0-0 6, Dalaney Anderson 0-1 1-2 1, Tarryn Hartman 0-3 2-4 2,					

Eden Schulz 1-2 0-0 2, Hannah Benedict 1-12 3-5, Anna Hughes 0-3 0-1 0, Abbey Ringler 2-4 0-2 4, Madison Dominy 1-2 0-0 3, Ellie Greisen 1-4 0-0 2, Keira Litteras 1-2 0-0 3, Ona Stutzman 0-1 0-0 0, Ava King 0-0 1-2 1.

Three-point goals—SHS 4-16 (Miller 2-2, Anderson 0-1, Benedict 0-7, Dominy 1-1, Greisen 0-2, Litteras 1-2, Stutzman 0-1). **Rebounds**—SHS 20 (Ringler 4). **Assists**—SHS 5 (Benedict 4). **Steals**—SHS 5 (five with 1). **Blocked shots**—SHS 3 (three with 1). **Turnovers**—SHS 29. **Fouls**—SHS 14.

North Bend Central 59, Seward 28

NBC 18 14 16 11 59
SHS 5 9 9 5 28

SHS—Miller 2-4 0-0 5, Anderson 0-1 1-2 1, Hartman 1-4 0-0 3, Schulz 1-3 0-0 2, Benedict 0-4 0-0 0, Hughes 2-6 0-0 4, Ringler 1-4 0-2 2, Dominy 0-3 0-0 0, Greisen 3-7 0-0 7, Litteras 0-1 0-0 0, Stutzman 1-4 2-2 5.

Three-point goals—SHS 3-18 (Miller 1-2, Hartman 1-2, Schulz 0-1, Benedict 0-2, Ringler 0-1, Dominy 0-2, Greisen 0-3, Littera 0-1, Stutzman 1-4). **Rebounds**—SHS 24 (Ringler 6). **Assists**—SHS 8 (Benedict 4). **Steals**—SHS 5 (Litteras 3). **Blocked shots**—SHS 1 (Ringler 1). **Turnovers**—SHS 20. **Fouls**—SHS 14.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Seward's Hunter Novacek (left) looks for a shot against York in a dual Dec. 3.

Youthful Jays hit mats

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

A series of duals opened the 2020-21 season for the Seward wrestlers.

SHS was to host York and Norris in a triangular Dec. 10, but because Lancaster County delayed the start of youth sports, Norris was unable to participate. So the Jays hosted the Dukes and lost 57-24.

"We have a lot of new, young kids," SHS Coach Bob Core said. "I thought we wrestled alright."

Seward was open at four weight classes, giving York 24 points. Cash Duncan pinned his opponent, as did Conner Rosendale and Mason Bisbee.

Core said Nolan Hill wrestled a tough match against a state qualifier at 182 pounds. Freshman Xander Foulk wrestled a returning state medalist and did well, Core said.

"It was not bad for what we have," the coach said.

Eight Bluejays wrestled in a dual tournament at Cozad Dec. 5 and, although they didn't win any duals, Core said they wrestled well again, with everyone winning at least one match.

"You're probably not going to win a lot of duals with just eight guys," he said.

Duncan was 5-0 on the day with

four pins at 120 pounds. Conner Rosendale was 4-1 at 138 pounds, and Boone Duncan went 3-2 at 160 pounds.

Core said the Jays are still using their descent plans to get to their final competition weights, and that should be done after Christmas. Some wrestlers will move to other weight classes to fill in those gaps, he said.

"We will be better after Christmas," Core said.

The Jays are scheduled to host Milford and Centennial in a triangular Thursday, Dec. 10, starting at 6 p.m. Seward will wrestle Milford first, then Milford will wrestle Centennial. The Jays and Broncos will finish off the evening.

Seward will compete in Crete Saturday, Dec. 12, with matches starting at 9 a.m. The tournament has been divided over two locations, and fans will be limited.

"Every day we get to practice is a blessing," Core said. "We'll take it week by week."

The team will be back at work this week fixing problems brought to light in last week's competitions.

"We'll keep getting better," Core said.

(results on 2B)

Bronco wrestlers win dual meet, fifth at invite

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Centennial's wrestling team won the Freeman Dual meet Dec. 3 and finished fifth in the Friend Invitational Dec. 5.

The Broncos beat Tri County 33-30, HTRS 37-36, Palmyra 51-6, Freeman 42-30 and Wilber-Clatonia 43-42.

Four Broncos were 5-0 on the day – Garrison Schernikau (three pins), Keenan Kosek (two pins), Ryan Payne (four pins) and Carson Fehlhafer (three pins). Tyson Rodewald and Samuel Payne were 4-1.

At Friend, the Bron-



HOPE MOURAL/SCI

Tyson Rodewald of Centennial (top) sets up a move during the Friend Invitational Dec. 5.

cos finished with four in the top four at their weights.

Ryan Payne and Fehlhafer each finished second. Payne was 2-1 with a pin and lost in the final to Eli Vondra of Milford.

Fehlhafer was 2-1 with two pins and lost in the final to Connor Asche of Fillmore Central.

Schernikau finished third, and Rodewald was fourth.

The Broncos are scheduled to wrestle in the county triangular at Seward Thursday, Dec. 10, starting at 6 p.m. CHS will wrestle Milford first, then Seward. (results on 4B)



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Seward's Traetyn Schaefer puts up a runner the lane over the North Bend Central defense Dec. 5.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Abby Houk of Milford controls the ball as the Fillmore Central defense comes up behind her Dec. 4.

SHS falls in first two

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Seward boys' basketball team played a pair of Tigers last week and lost to both, falling to Hastings 50-38 Dec. 3 and to North Bend Central 69-55 Dec. 5.

Coach Trevor Menke said Seward made shots and had good energy early against Hastings but couldn't keep the momentum going. Hastings put together a run to end the third quarter that gave them a comfortable lead.

"We did a good job competing. We did a good job not giving up," Menke said. "We took a lot of good from this game."

The Bluejay defense was able to limit North Bend's Jackson Wietfield

early in Saturday's game, but the senior was able to get loose in the second half and help the Tigers pull away.

Menke was pleased with Seward's offensive rebounding against NB but said there are still some loose ends to tie up.

"It's been a group effort," he said. "Everyone is contributing at practice. The kids have rallied together."

Seward (0-2) are scheduled to visit Lincoln Christian Dec. 15 and host Northwest Saturday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.

Lincoln Christian returns a core of seniors from last year's team, and Northwest is coming off a good football season. The Vikings are one of the top teams in the Central Conference, Menke said.

Eagles open with victory

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford girls' basketball team got off to a good start Dec. 4, beating Fillmore Central 53-48.

Coach Phil Stauffer was pleased with the team's defensive play, especially early in the game, which led to easy transition points. MHS rebounded well, too, and those two areas showed the effort the Eagles gave, he said.

On the other hand, Milford committed too many turnovers and unforced errors.

"We will need to work on making better decisions with our passes, but we did do a great job of sharing the basketball and finding open

teammates," he said.

He was disappointed to see a 15-point lead shrink to just five by the end of the game.

As the game progressed, Milford got better at handling the defensive pressure from the Panthers, too, he said.

"Definitely have things to work on next week but lot of good things to build on. A little rust to shake off after not playing much over the summer, it's always easier to do that after a win," Stauffer said.

Hannah Kepler led the Eagles with 14 points and 10 rebounds for a double double and grabbed four steals. Makena Stutzman made four three-pointers in

the game – three of them in the third quarter – and finished with 12 points. Taylor Roth was big on the boards with 13 rebounds.

Milford (1-0) is scheduled to host Fairbury Friday, Dec. 11, starting at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 12, the Eagles are slated to visit Lincoln Lutheran with tip-off at 3:45 p.m.

Milford 53, Fillmore Central 48					
FCHS	9	9	15	15	48
MHS	13	13	11	16	53
FCHS—Totals 17-48 8-16 48.					
MHS—Makena Stutzman 4-10 0-0 12, Kaitlin Kontor 2-7 4-8 8, Hannah Kepler 4-14 5-5 14, Alayna Piening 0-4 0-0 0, Kaitlyn Klug 4-8 0-2 8, Taylor Roth 2-5 0-0 4, Abby Houk 2-6 1-3 5, Mariah Richards 0-0 2-4 2. Totals 18-54 12-22 53.					
Three-point goals—FCHS 6-22, MHS 5-22 (Stutzman 4-9, Kontor 0-5, Kepler 1-4, Houk 0-4). Rebounds—FCHS 30, MHS 46 (Roth 13). Assists—MHS 12 (Kontor 4). Steals—MHS 14 (Kontor, Kepler 4). Blocked shots—MHS 2 (Kepler, Roth 1). Turnovers—FCHS 23, MHS 24. Fouls—FCHS 18, MHS 16.					

Scoreboard

York 57, Seward 24
106 - Hudson Holoch (Y) win by forfeit; 113: Koy Gieck (Y) win by forfeit; 120: Cash Duncan (S) pin Jesus Rodriguez (Y) 4:58; 126: Kaleb Eliker (Y) win by forfeit; 132: Thomas Ivey (Y) pin Xander Foulk (S) 2:53; 138: Connor Rosendale (S) pin Nate Streeter-Myers (Y) 5:01; 145: Franklin Musungay (Y) win by forfeit; 152: Cameron Schrad (S) win by forfeit; 160: Kobe Lyons (Y) pin Boone Duncan (S) 1:48; 170: Mason Bisbee (S) pin Seth Erickson (Y) 2:56; 182: Kaden Lyons (Y) def. Nolan Hill (S) 5-2; 195: Chase Cotton (Y) pin Hunter Novacek (S) 1:46; 220: Morgan Collingham (Y) pin Dustin Hurley (S) 5:06; 285: Kadence Velde (Y) win by forfeit

JV: 132: Kohan Dye (Y) pin Treyton Hobson (S) 5:10; Hobson (S) pin Miguel Mendoza (Y) 2:35; 195: Trenton Arndt (Y) pin Ethan Woolard (S) 1:52; Peyton Albers (Y) pin Riley Prochnow (S) 0:47

Cozad Invitational Pool A/B Wahoo 35, Seward 23
106 - Jet Nuckolls (W) win by forfeit; 113 - Double Forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Isaiah Foster (W) 5:04; 126 - Drake Carlson (W) win by forfeit; 132 - Malachi Bordovsky (W) def. Foulk (S) 2:25; 138 - Sebastian Lausterer (W) pin Rosendale (S) 1:57; 145 - Griffin Lausterer (W) win by forfeit; 152 - Schrad (S) pin Brandon Hasenkamp (W) 1:52; 160 - B. Duncan (S) pin Kaleb Broome (W) 1:51; 170 - Hill (S) def. William Nielson (W) 20-5; 182 - Kyan Lausterer (W) pin Novacek (S) 1:02; 195 - Hurley (S) vs Noah Visger (W); 220 - Double Forfeit; 285 - Double Forfeit

Cozad 37, Seward 29
152 - Isaac White (C) def. Schrad (S) 7-0; 160 - B. Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 170 - Hill (S) win by forfeit; 182 - Kaleb Pohl (C) pin Novacek (S) 1:55;

195 - Hurley (S) win by forfeit; 220 - Chris Roano (C) win by forfeit; 285 - Jade Brown (C) win by forfeit; 106 - Double Forfeit; 113 - Bryson Bussinger (C) win by forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) def. Kooper Pohl (C) 19-2; 126 - Double Forfeit; 132 - Dreu White (C) def. Foulk (S) 14-1; 138 - Rosendale (S) win by forfeit; 145 - Camren Buesing (C) win by forfeit

Alliance 30, Seward 29
106 - Riley Picket Pin (A) win by forfeit; 113 - Tory Picket Pin (A) win by forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Tyler Cotton (A) 1:05; 126 - Double Forfeit; 132 - Jaxon Minnick (A) pin Foulk (S) 0:33; 138 - Rosendale (S) pin Zane Stoike (A) 0:43; 145 - Double Forfeit; 152 - Asa Johnson (A) def. Schrad (S) 7-3; 160 - B. Duncan (S) def. Josh Chavez (A) 17-1; 170 - Phillip Halstead (A) def. Reid Shanou (S) 4-2; 182 - Novacek (S) win by forfeit; 195 - Hurley

(S) win by forfeit; 220 - Matthias Benz (A) win by forfeit; 285 - Double Forfeit

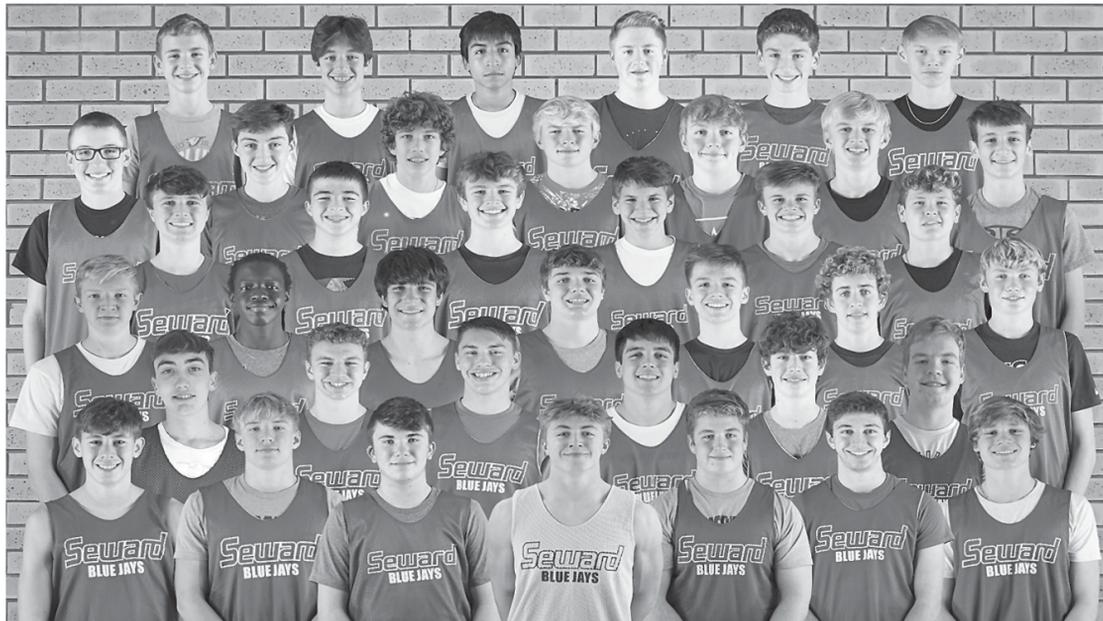
Ogallala 37, Seward 21
170 - Hill (S) def. Trae Skiles (O) 4-2; 182 - Novacek (S) pin Derek Fosbinder (O) 1:12; 195 - Landon Holecheck (O) def. Hurley (S) Maj 10-0; 220 - Bo Edmond (O) win by forfeit; 285 - Blake Messervy (O) win by forfeit; 106 - Double Forfeit; 113 - Double Forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Bronson Poppe (O) 3:23; 126 - Max Mueller (O) win by forfeit; 132 - Cole Stokely (O) pin Foulk (S) 1:21; 138 - Rosendale (S) pin Merritt Skinner (O) 3:56; 145 - Double Forfeit; 152 - Gage Stokely (O) def. Schrad (S) 4-3; 160 - Cameron Zink (O) pin B. Duncan (S) 1:11

Chadron 28, Seward 27
182 - Kade Waggner (C) pin Novacek (S)

1:26; 195 - Hurley (S) win by forfeit; 220 - Double Forfeit; 285 - Ryan Bickel (C) win by forfeit; 106 - Double Forfeit; 113 - Double Forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Braden Underwood (C) 1:07; 126 - Double Forfeit; 132 - Foulk (S) pin Dewey McMann (C) 2:43; 138 - Rosendale (S) pin Fia Rasmussen

(C) 0:23; 145 - Dalton Stewart (C) win by forfeit; 152 - Schrad (S) def. Daniel Wellnitz (C) SV-1 10-5; 160 - Rhett Cullers (C) pin B. Duncan (S) 0:32; 170 - Sawyer Haag (C) def. Hill (S) 3-2; Chadron's team score was adjusted by 1.0 for sixth criteria

Seward boys tip off season



COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

Correction: The 2020-21 Seward High boys' basketball team includes, from left: (first row) Cole Gray, Micah Hackbart, Drew Covalt, Gavin Sukup, Trevor Ruth, Bryce Piskorski and Jackson Trost; (second row) Dylan Read, Sam Schroeder, Leighton Limback, Dalton Burt, Traetyn Schaefer and Nathan Miller; (third row) Andrew Frazey, Sabit Duol, Luke Wegman, Braiden Herring, Jacob DeGroot, Sam Schrad and Kameron Dyer; (fourth row) Larson Goldsmith, Braden Hartman, Max Summa, Malachi Limback, Hank Hughes and Finn Hochstein; (fifth row) Cole Luebbe, Kyle Peery, Talan Schaefer, Andrew Gendron, Collin Nagel, Connor Matzke and Matthew Wegman; and (sixth row) Drew Collings, Caden Brooks, Kaydon Mueller, Josh Ringler, Evett Howe and Gage Smith-Voshell. Braeden Dey is not pictured.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Hannah Kepler, a senior at Milford, led the Eagles with a double double – 14 points and 10 rebounds – in their season-opening win over Fillmore Central Dec. 4.

Honorable Mention
Anna Hughes - Seward

Eli Vondra, a junior at Milford, was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the Meet at the Friend Invitational Dec. 5. Eli was 2-0 at 132 pounds and won the division with a pin in the finals.

Honorable Mention
• Cash Duncan - Seward
• Ryan Payne - Centennial

TEAM ELITE
DETASSELING & ROGUING

PROUD SPONSOR OF AREA SPORTS

Concordia University

Wrestling

It did not last long, but the Concordia University wrestling team got what it came for. In returning to action for the first time since Nov. 14, the Bulldogs won eight of 10 matches in a 38-7 GPAC dual victory at Midland Dec. 3. Four matches went uncontested.

The Warriors (0-3, 0-2 GPAC) got on the board first with wins coming via Tyson Beaupertuy (major decision) at 174 and Connor Rinn (decision) at 184 (dual began at 174). The forfeits then kicked in as the Bulldogs accepted freebies at 197, 285, 125 and 133. Over the final four matches, Concordia picked up wins from junior Mario Ybarra (decision) at 141, freshman Javeen Scdoris (decision) at 149, junior Issiah Burks (major decision) at 157 and senior Gabe Crawford (major decision) at 165.

The veterans Burks (11-1 MD) and Crawford (14-3 MD) went on the attack in the most dominant efforts of the night. Meanwhile, Ybarra (ranked third nationally at 133) found himself in a battle with the GPAC's second-rated 141-pounder in Conner Dalton. Ybarra, who wrestled up a weight, held off Dalton thanks to a late take-down in a 3-1 decision.

A Milford High School state champion, Scdoris moved his season record to 7-5.

Dating back to last season, the defending conference champion Bulldogs have won 10 straight GPAC duals. The program owns a conference dual record of 43-4 since the start of the 2014-15 season.

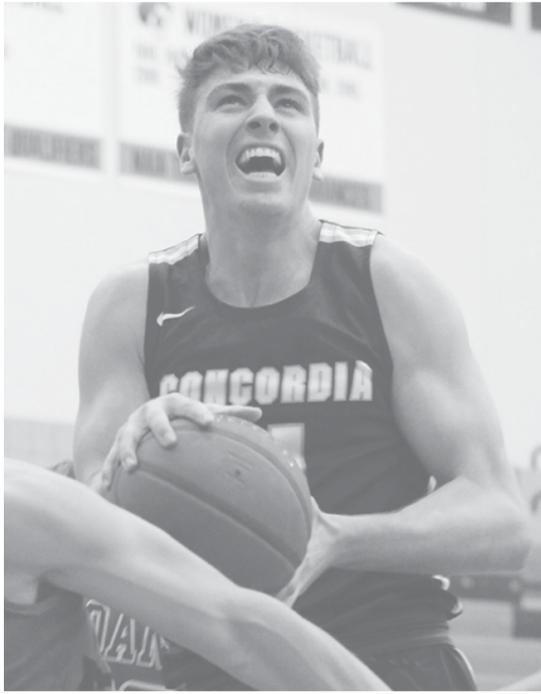
Indoor track

By the time the Concordia Early Bird got underway, it had been 272 days since the Concordia University track & field program had an opportunity to compete. The Bulldogs did not waste the moment. Over two days (Dec. 4-5) of action that played out inside the Walz Fieldhouse, Concordia athletes combined for a tally of nine automatic national qualifying marks, nine 'B' standard marks and five multi-event performances that met the minimum national qualifying standard.

Head Coach Matt Beisel's program welcomed athletes from eight competing institutions to the meet. Due to capacity limits, the numbers of athletes had to be restricted and no spectators were allowed. Despite some of these abnormalities, the Bulldogs were thankful to do their thing once again.

"I cannot stop thinking about the tens of thousands of NCAA and NAIA athletes who haven't had a season and haven't had anything since February," Beisel said. "This is a special privilege - it's a blessing. It's something I've been praying to God about for a long time."

Seven 'A' standards were turned in by members of the powerhouse Bulldog women's team, which placed fourth in the NAIA at the 2020 indoor national meet. Of course that group includes returning national champion Rachel Battershell, who has again qualified in the 400 meters with her time of 57.46 on Saturday. Battershell and fellow junior Sarah Lewis form quite a 1-2 punch in the



Gage Smith of Concordia fights through Doane University players arms as he puts the ball up for a shot on Nov. 30. The Bulldogs came away with an 83-66 win against the Tigers.

400 and the 60-meter hurdles.

Lewis' day included and automatic qualifying time of 8.93 in the hurdles (first place) and a 'B' standard in the 400 meters. In the 4x400 meter relay, Battershell and Lewis grouped with Amy Richert and Kennedy Mogul on a winning time of 4:02.10. It seems likely there are better things to come from this group.

"In high school I didn't have teammates to push me, so coming to Concordia and having people like Rachel Battershell push me every single day in practice makes me so much better than I could ever hope to be," Lewis said.

In the field events, Anna Baack (pole vault; 11-6 1/2), Jamey Broman (long jump; 18-5), Morgan De Jong (weight throw; 55-2), reigning GPAC champ Josie Puelz (pole vault; 12-6 1/4) and Katie Severt (long jump; 18-7 1/4) all locked up spots at nationals.

The meet marked the swan song for assistant coach Wayne Earney, who will be moving to Wisconsin. Earney has overseen a jumps group that has continued to make big strides in recent years. A sophomore who reached nationals as a freshman, Severt is one of a number of Bulldogs who could challenge the school long jump record this season.

Beisel is glad to have 2019 GPAC Outdoor Athlete of the Year Cody Williams back in the mix after he missed nearly all of the 2020 indoor season. Williams surpassed 5,000 points (first place in the meet) in the heptathlon for a total that should put him in the national field. He achieved a 'B' standard (15' 3") in the pole vault as part of his two days of action.

Both automatic standards for the men were accomplished on the track, thanks to the work of sophomore Colton Meyer (60 hurdles, 8.17) and junior Xavier Ross (400 meters, 48.85). With his PR in the hurdles, Meyer inched closer to the school record of 8.14. The Lincoln Lutheran High School product is in the process of becoming a star. He also produced a 'B' standard in the 400 meters and as part of the 4x4.

"The biggest thing was just expecting to have a season," Meyer said of his preparation. "Really just had to do what the coaches told us to do. We stayed on each other really well to make sure we were giving a full effort every practice. A team mental-

ity, together kept us all focused."

Along with Williams, Jeremiah Reeser (4,449) also achieved a minimum reporting total in the heptathlon. On the women's side of the multi-events, the Bulldogs boast a deep group that includes returning GPAC champion Kennedy Mogul. Loy (3,146), Richert (3,137) and Mogul (3,112) placed 1-2-3 in the Early Bird pentathlon with totals that would have each ranked inside the top 15 of the NAIA last season.

There were plenty of other noteworthy performances up and down the roster. As host of the meet, Concordia had many more entrants than the other competitors. In the throws, Coach Ed McLaughlin is retooling with a younger group. In addition to De Jong's auto mark, Sarah Ragland and Christopher Wren turned in 'B' standards in the weight throw. Elsewhere, Bulldogs who formerly competed in other sports (such as Jacob Jennings and Sydney Schernikau) got acclimated to the track.

It will be 2021 when Concordia returns to competition. The Bulldogs are slated to be at both the Scott Nisely Invite (hosted by Doane) and the Dakota Wesleyan Invite on Saturday, Jan. 16.

Men's basketball

A layoff for the Thanksgiving holiday did little to slow the roll of the Concordia University men's basketball team. The Bulldogs won handily over host Doane, 83-66, in Crete on Nov. 30's makeup clash. Twenty-one of Concordia's 31 field goals were assisted in fueling the team's field goal percentage of 53.4.

"Any win on the road



Concordia sophomore Josie Puelz clears the bar during pole vault at the Concordia Early Bird Meet on Dec. 5.

in the GPAC is a big deal," Head Coach Ben Limback said. "I'm really proud of our mindset. I thought we played hungry and with an edge today. Give Doane a lot of credit. They fight you tooth and nail and they change defenses and pressure the ball well. I thought we had a good rhythm throughout the game."

Concordia had not shot well in recent trips to the black top in Crete. That was not the case on this particular night when the Bulldogs shared the ball nicely, allowing for four double-figure scorers. While playing in his hometown, Carter Kent was in total control. He scored 17 points, dished out eight assists and grabbed five rebounds. Just when Doane found a bit of momentum late in the ballgame, Kent dashed the hopes of the Tigers with a three-ball.

The Bulldogs continue to enjoy an advantage on the boards (34-29 on Monday), thanks in a big way to the hard work of Gage Smith. Smith (18 points, 10 rebounds) posted his fifth double double already this season. Justin Wiersema (12) and Klay Uher (10) also reached double digits in the scoring column. Another Crete native, Uher made all five of his shot attempts from the floor.

"Carter had a great night," Limback said. "It was fun to see him break out with eight assists. I thought he played a great second half and hit some big shots for us. Klay Uher off the bench played some great defense. He's one of those guys who just plays his role."

Limback seems to have a team full of players who are comfortable in their roles. Grant Wragge provided a personal 5-0 run off the bench as part of a team 10-0 spurt that pushed the lead to 23 (62-49) midway through the second half. Wragge and Ryan Holt finished with seven points apiece while AJ Watson added six.

Concordia went 11-for-29 (.379) from 3-point range and committed only 10 turnovers.

On the other end, Doane (3-5, 0-3 GPAC) shot 45.2% (28-for-62) from the floor. The Tigers continue to get the lion's share of their offensive production from Anthony Laravie, who wound up with a game high 22 points on 9-for-21 shooting from the field. However, Doane was dominated in the lane (40-20 in points in the paint).

Outsiders are beginning to take notice of the Bulldogs, who were off the national radar in the preseason. The NAIA Hoops Report ranked Concordia at No. 23 in the NAIA in its poll (not associated with the official NAIA coaches' poll).

CU 86, Hastings 77

The combo of Smith and Wiersema served as a two-man wrecking crew after halftime of Dec. 2's clash with Hastings. A closely contested matchup early in the second half became a runaway for Concordia, which continued its mastery of the Broncos. The Bulldogs won, 86-77, after leading by as many as 19 points on the road.

"I thought we settled in a little bit in the second half," Limback said. "They hit some threes early, but after halftime I thought our effort defensively was much better ... Justin is just kind of a machine. He scores inside, on threes and with free throws. If he wasn't in foul trouble, I think he would have had even more - tremendous effort again. He continues to elevate his game when we need him the most."

Wiersema finished with a career-high 27 points with 15 of them coming in the first 6:14 of the second half. During the run, Wiersema curled in two treys and notched three more points the old-fashioned way. In addition, Smith went off for 18 of his career-best 20 points over the final 20 minutes. Smith scored most

of his points from close range. Kent also added 13 points two days after a 17-point outing in the win at Doane.

With just under 16 minutes remaining in the game, the Bulldogs trailed, 45-44. Roughly 10 minutes later, Concordia had built a 19-point advantage (79-60) with a run capped by Jackson Hirschfeld's corner 3-point field goal. In one sequence, a blocked shot by Ryan Holt led to a runout featuring a perfect pass from Sam Scarpelli to Smith for an uncontested layup. A late run by the Broncos made the game appear more competitive.

Hastings (3-5, 0-4 GPAC) entered the night averaging 88.7 points per game. The Broncos were hot early, starting out 7-for-11 from the floor in grabbing a five-point first-half lead. Hastings has also suffered conference losses to Midland, Dakota Wesleyan and Jamestown.

Briar Cliff 89, CU 75

The Bulldogs ran into a buzz saw in the form of Briar Cliff Dec. 5. The host Chargers got comfortable from the outside and netted 18 treys while pulling away from the Bulldogs for an 89-75 victory inside the Newman Flanagan Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

It was just one of those days for Head Coach Ben Limback's normally stout defensive squad. The Bulldogs (8-2, 5-1 GPAC) had won eight in a row overall and 12 straight matchups against GPAC foes.

"We turned it over too much, and defensively, once they started hitting threes we got too spread out and we were getting carved up at the rim for layups," Limback said. "You have to hand it to Briar Cliff. They did a great job of executing today, but we're not going to win a lot of games on the road in the GPAC with 23 turnovers and allowing them to shoot almost 60% in the second half."

Concordia entered **(continued on 4B)**

DISABILITY Is Not 'Helpless'

How will you manage living on your own? Where do you find the resources you need? Who can you turn to for information and support?

The League of Human Dignity staff is skilled at helping people who have disabilities live in their own homes. Contact us to see how we can help.

LEAGUE OF HUMAN DIGNITY



Phone 833-800-5643

"OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS AND MANAGE YOUR OWN SCHEDULE"

If you don't have a K-Lawn Dealer in your area, we are looking to add a few quality dealers to our 10-state network. Key benefits include:

Contact us today at

800-445-9116

Or visit us online at **k-lawn.com/np**



K-Lawn Dealers earn the extra income that makes a great family life possible.

- Earn up to \$50,000 in supplemental income each summer
- Provide income stability for your family
- Manage your own lawn fertilization, weed and insect control business
- Part-time or full-time, you decide and manage your own schedule

K-Lawn

Milford wrestling

(continued from 1B)

Coach Schluckebier said. Carter Springer won gold at 160 pounds, pinning all four of his opponents.

Christopher Scdoris also won gold at 170 pounds.

“Christopher has fought injuries in years past, but having him at full strength is a big boost for our team,” Coach Schluckebier said.

Jack Chapman and Thomas Vance finished second, and Conner

Kohout, Trent Stauffer, Hunter Oborny and Lorenzo Temple each placed third. Kasen Petsch won sixth.

The Eagles are scheduled to wrestle in the county triangular Thursday, Dec. 10, in Seward, with matches starting at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 12, Milford is to wrestle at the Crete Invitational starting at 9 a.m.

Milford 66, Louisville 12
120: Garron Bragg (L) win by forfeit; 126: Nicholas McCaul (L) win by forfeit; 132: Konner Schluckebier (M) pin Niklas Sorensen (L) 3:20; 138:

Eli Vondra (M) pin Brock Hudson (L) 2:51; 145: Jack Chapman (M) pin Blake Dickey (L) 0:37; 152: Trent Stauffer (M) win by forfeit; 160: Carter Springer (M) pin Cody Gray (L) 1:31; 170: Christopher Scdoris (M) pin Reed Toelle (L) 0:49; 182: Thomas Vance (M) pin Jake Wood (L) 0:28; 195: Ethan Buchli (M) win by forfeit; 220: Hunter Oborny (M) pin Nash Callahan (L) 3:09; 285: Lorenzo Temple (M) pin Tommy Krejci (L) 1:37; 106: Double Forfeit 113: Conner Kohout (M) win by forfeit

Bob Arehart Invitational
Team scores—Milford 198, Fillmore Central 191, Yutan 174, Thayer Central 138.5, Centennial 102, Tri County 88.5, Palmer 87, Southern 43, Dorchester 13, Friend 13
106—Kohout (MIL) pin Lucas Lewandowski (TRI) 0:21; def. by Travis Meyer (FC) 6:3; pin Mason Creek (STH) 0:17; pin Janson Pilkington (YUT) 0:27, third
126—Schluckebier (MIL) pin Keilan Schultz (STH) 0:46; pin Keenan Kosek (CTL) 1:41; 4-0 pin Alex Schademann (FC) 2:24, first
132—Vondra (MIL) def. Brenner McLaughlin (THC) 8-1; pin Ryan Payne (CTL) 4:33, first
138—Chapman (MIL) pinned by Conner Nun (FC) 3:15; pin Jett Arenberg (YUT) 1:11; pin Grant

Nielson (PLMR) 1:08; pin Treyton Waldmeier (THC) 3:24, second
145—Stauffer (MIL) pin Jordan Lake (THC) 0:43; def. by Ruger Reimers (PLMR) 9-1; pin Treven Stassines (FC) 0:58; def. Caden Reedy (TRI) 3-0, third
160—Springer (MIL) pin Derek Wacker (YUT) 2:40; pin Kanin Baker (TRI) 1:13; pin Jackson Turner (FC) 1:20; pin Dominic Stewart (THC) 3:26, first
170—Scdoris (MIL) pin Marcos Berro (DOR) 1:38; def. Danny Hess (TRI) 7-0; pin Jacob Stoner (FC) 2:43, first
182—Vance (MIL) pin Jurgen Baker (TRI) 1:40; pin Tyson Rodewald (CTL) 3:31; def. by Caden Egr (YUT) 10-7, second
195—Oborny (MIL) pin Anthony Congdon (THC) 1:06; def. by Gunner Reimers (PLMR) 9-1; pin Hunter Lukes (FC) 0:47; pin Josh Fisher (YUT) 0:48, third
220—Temple (MIL) pin Karter Tyser (DOR) 2:45; pinned by Chet Wichmann (PLMR) 2:44; pin Samuel Payne (CTL) 0:40; pin Carson Adams (FC) 0:35, third
285—Kasen Petsch (MIL) pinned by Carson Fehlhafer (CTL) 0:19; pin Toby Ambrose (TRI) 0:22; pinned by Dahran Cast (THC) 1:00; pinned by Jacob Stromberg (PLMR) 0:35, sixth

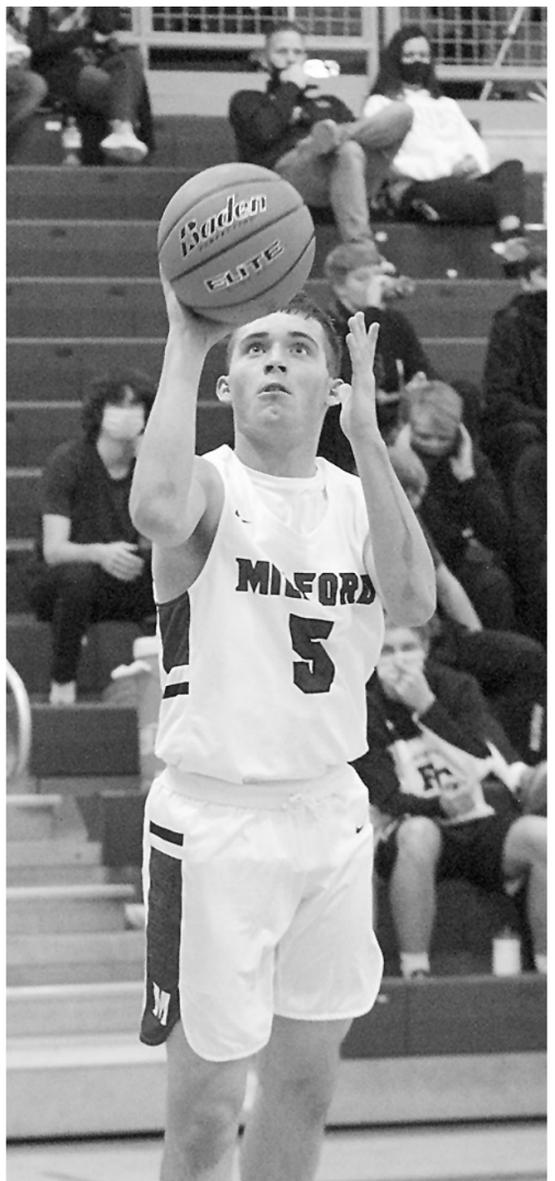
Scoreboard

Freeman Duals
Centennial 33, Tri County 30
160 - Grant Lewandowski (TCHS) pin Cyrus Songster (CHS) 2:36; 170 - Tyson Rodewald (CHS) def. Danny Hess (TCHS) 7-1; 182 - Jurgen Baker (TCHS) pin Garrett Schemnikau (CHS) 4:27; 195 - Brandon Beeson (TCHS) pin Austin Patchin (CHS) 0:35; 220 - Samuel Payne (CHS) pin James Kerns (TCHS) 4:00; 285 - Carson Fehlhafer (CHS) pin Toby Ambrose (TCHS) 0:45; 106 - Lucas Lewandowski (TCHS) pin Trayton Stewart (CHS) 1:17; 113 - Colton Placek (TCHS) win by forfeit; 120 - Garrison Schemnikau (CHS) pin Zach Colgrove (TCHS) 0:21; 126 - Keenan Kosek (CHS) win by forfeit; 132 - Ryan Payne (CHS) pin Zaid Martinez (TCHS) 3:00; 138 - Double Forfeit; 145 - Double Forfeit; 152 - Double Forfeit

(HTRS-PC) 0:51; 145 - Sean Long (HTRS-PC) win by forfeit; 152 - Marcus Bratsovsky (HTRS-PC) win by forfeit; 160 - Wyatt Anderson (HTRS-PC) pin Songster (CHS) 1:02; Centennial's team score was adjusted by 1.0 for Centennial wins tie breaker
Centennial 51, Palmyra 6
182 - Gare. Schemnikau (CHS) win by forfeit; 195 - Patchin (CHS) win by forfeit; 220 - S. Payne (CHS) pin Michael Bryan-Aldrich (PHS) 1:29; 285 - Fehlhafer (CHS) win by forfeit; 106 - Stewart (CHS) win by forfeit; 113 - Double Forfeit; 120 - Garr. Schemnikau (CHS) win by forfeit; 126 - Kosek (CHS) win by forfeit; 132 - R. Payne (CHS) pin Michael Gehring (PHS) 5:51; 138 - Double Forfeit; 145 - Double Forfeit; 152 - Double Forfeit; 160 - Dedrick Dowding (PHS) pin Songster (CHS) 1:37; 170 - Rodewald (CHS) def. Jarin Pope (PHS) 5-4
Centennial 42, Freeman 30
195 - Patchin (CHS) win by forfeit; 220 - S. Payne (CHS) win by forfeit; 285 - Fehlhafer (CHS) win by forfeit; 106 - Wesley Havelka (FHS) pin Stewart (CHS) 1:33; 113 - Double Forfeit; 120 - Garr. Schemnikau (CHS) win by forfeit; 126 - Kosek (CHS) win by forfeit; 132 - Double Forfeit; 138 - R. Payne (CHS) pin Gideon Connelly (FHS) 0:38; 145 - Judd Alberts (FHS) win by forfeit; 152 - Taylor Carnell (FHS) win by forfeit; 160 - Brody Dickinson (FHS) pin Songster (CHS) 2:55; 170 - Gabe Goes (FHS) pin Gare. Schemnikau (CHS) 3:04; 182 - Rode-

wald (CHS) pin Brett Hemminger (FHS) 1:55
Centennial 43, Wilber-Clatonia 42
220 - S. Payne (CHS) pin Stone Thelen (WCHS) 3:18; 285 - Fehlhafer (CHS) pin Keith Kvasnicka (WCHS) 0:36; 106 - Pedro Hernandez (WCHS) pin Stewart (CHS) 1:58; 113 - Ashton Keltner (WCHS) win by forfeit; 120 - Garr. Schemnikau (CHS) pin Riley Haack (WCHS) 0:14; 126 - Kosek (CHS) pin Jordan Marsh (WCHS) 3:56; 132 - R. Payne (CHS) win by forfeit; 138 - Tommy Lokken (WCHS) win by forfeit; 145 - Roberto Torres (WCHS) win by forfeit; 152 - Zander Baker (WCHS) win by forfeit; 160 - Layne Vesely (WCHS) pin Songster (CHS) 3:16; 170 - Gare. Schemnikau (CHS) pin Saul Sanchez (WCHS) 0:59; 182 - Rodewald (CHS) pin Allen Odvody (WCHS) 3:04; 195 - Hugo Pomajzl (WCHS) pin Patchin (CHS) 0:53; Centennial's team score was adjusted by 1.0 for first
Bob Arehart Invitational
Team scores—Milford 198, Fillmore Central 191, Yutan 174, Thayer Central 138.5, Centennial 102, Tri County 88.5, Palmer 87, Southern 43, Dorchester 13, Friend 13
106—Stewart (CTL) pinned by Janson Pilkington (YUT) 0:42; pinned by Mason Creek (STH) 1:32
120—Garr. Schemnikau (CTL) pin Jacob Weber (TRI) 2:31; pinned by Dylan Gewecke (FC) 1:22; pin Zach Colgrove (TRI) 0:30; def. by Ashton

Sinn (THC) 8-5, third
126—Kosek (CTL) pin Jesse Duba (FRI) 3:06; pinned by Konner Schluckebier (MIL) 1:41; pinned by Austin Forney (STH) 3:38; pin Duba (FRI) 0:55, fifth
132—R. Payne (CTL) pin Wyatt Rayburn (FC) 0:56; def. Doug Rainey (STH) 7-6; pinned by Eli Vondra (MIL) 4:33, second
152—Songster (CTL) pinned by Isaac Kult (YUT) 4:56; def. Jacob Hatfield (DOR) 8-7; pinned by Grant Lewandowski (TRI) 2:34; pin William Paiz (DOR) 0:25, fifth
170—Gare. Schemnikau (CTL) pinned by Danny Hess (TRI) 0:32; pin Marcos Berro (DOR) 5:43; pinned by Buchannen Tietjen (THC) 0:20; pin Brian Forke (STH) 3:55, fifth
182—Rodewald (CTL) pin Leonardo Guzman (PLMR) 3:00; pinned by Thomas Vance (MIL) 3:31; pin Blake Nun (FC) 1:51; def. by Gunner Mumford (THC) 2-1, fourth
195—Patchin (CTL) pinned by Brandon Beeson (TRI) 1:00; pinned by Hunter Lukes (FC) 3:41
220—S. Payne (CTL) def. by Carson Adams (FC) 8-4; pin Juan Basulto (STH) 5:20; pinned by Lorenzo Temple (MIL) 0:40; won by medical forfeit over Karter Tyser (DOR), fifth
285—Fehlhafer (CTL) pin Kasen Petsch (MIL) 0:19; pin Tyler Pinkelman (YUT) 2:19; pinned by Connor Asche (FC) 0:33, second



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Isaac Yeackley of Milford looks for the rim in the Eagles' win over Fillmore Central Dec. 4.

Concordia

(continued from 3B)

the weekend with the GPAC's No. 2-rated field goal percentage defense (.404). Briar Cliff (4-5, 2-3 GPAC) didn't seem to notice while shooting 50% (31-for-62) overall from the floor. Conner Groves (7-for-11), Nick Hoyt (6-for-8) and Jade Kleinhesselink (3-for-5) were nearly unstoppable from beyond the arc. They finished with 23, 22 and 19 points, respectively, to lead all players.

A trey by Justin Wiersema in the final minute of the first half actually gave the Bulldogs a lead, 39-38, at the break. Out of the gates in the second half, Groves initiated a 16-2 run with back-to-back triples. The Charger lead eventually grew to as many as 19 points.

Despite shooting 49.2% (29-for-59) from the floor, the Bulldogs were unable to keep up. Four Concordia players hit double figures in scoring: Carter Kent (15), Gage Smith (14), Wiersema (11) and Jackson Hirschfeld (10). Kent also paced the squad with eight rebounds.

Off the bench, Klay Uher (eight points (4-for-5 from the floor) and Grant Wragge (six points, seven rebounds) were big contributors. The Bulldogs owned a 42-22 advantage in rebounding.

In a GPAC race that could prove to be wide open, the key for CU is to bounce back quickly.

“How you handle losses is extremely important,” Limback said. “You have to learn from them. Our attitude needs to be really good on Monday at practice with how we respond. Every win of that streak, whatever it was at, we just took one game at a time. We have to keep doing that.”

The Bulldogs will be back inside Friedrich Arena on Wednesday, Dec. 9, when Mount Marty (6-4, 3-2 GPAC) will be in town for a 7 p.m. tipoff. The start time was moved up an hour because the women's game was postponed.

season's GPAC regular season and postseason titles renewed their rivalry Dec. 2 inside Lynn Farrell Arena. The result was a tense affair between two very different squads than the ones that met back in March. The 11th-ranked Concordia University women's basketball team closed the game on a 9-0 run and pulled a 73-66 victory out of the fire in Hastings.

This was easily the most nerve-racking of the six straight wins for Head Coach Drew Olson's squad. The Bulldogs (6-3, 5-1 GPAC) had been off since their 99-47 triumph at College of Saint Mary on Nov. 24.

“We knew it was going to be a great battle,” Olson said. “Hastings is so good defensively. They're a gritty team, but I really liked how we fought back. We just found ways to win. It was awesome to see our team grow in that way.”

The win streak appeared to be in jeopardy in the final minute of Wednesday's white-knuckler. That's when freshman Taysha Rushton emerged with a driving three-point play that edged Concordia in front, 67-66. Averie Lambrecht followed with one of the game's key efforts when she stole the ball and took it in for two. A series of empty Bronco possessions and four straight free throws put the game on ice. Hastings went without a field goal in the final 2:27 of game time.

After taking a backseat from a scoring perspective in recent outings, Taylor Cockerill ramped things up with a game-high 18 points (to go with seven rebounds and two steals) against a solid, mostly man-to-man Hastings defense. Cockerill again showed an ability to get into the lane on a consistent basis. Other double-figure scorers for the victors included Rushton (13), Rebecca Higgins (12) and Mackenzie Koepke (10).

“I thought she had a really good attack early on,” Olson said of Cockerill. “They did a nice job defensively against her in the second half. Part of that was our rhythm offensively just

wasn't very good, but she had a great game and we needed it from her ... We had a lot of players step up and make big plays for us to win that game.”

Concordia led by as many as 10 points in the first half, but trailed for a good portion of the fourth quarter. Hastings (2-3, 2-2 GPAC) was flustered into 25 turnovers, but it also forced 22 by the Bulldogs. The two teams were almost dead even in field goal percentage (41.1 to 41.0 in Hastings' favor).

Off the bench, sophomore Taylor Farrell (six points) equaled Cockerill for a team high with seven rebounds. Koepke swiped five boards and three steals. Cockerill, Lambrecht and Rylee Pauli added two thefts each and Mackenzie Toomey chipped in with five points.

Briar Cliff 69, CU 59
The six-game win streak fell by the wayside Dec. 5 at Briar Cliff. The Bulldogs were limited to 23.1% shooting in a 69-59 loss at the hands of the Chargers.

The 11th-ranked Bulldogs leaned heavily upon the scoring exploits of Cockerill (game high 22 points) in a contest played at the Newman Flanagan Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

Olson's squad had not suffered a defeat since Nov. 10 versus Midland. Concordia (6-4, 5-2 GPAC) did not get it done on the offensive end this time around while up against an improved Briar Cliff squad.

“They have a good team and they play hard,” Olson said of the Chargers. “Konnor Sudmann's a really, really good player. You just look at the box score – we shoot 8-of-42 from three. We couldn't make a basket. We have

to have people step up. It's part of the process. We're learning and growing.”

The Chargers (7-1, 5-1 GPAC) have reversed their fortunes under the direction of Head Coach Brita Hand. In this particular outing, Briar Cliff followed the lead of the likes of Sudmann (22 points, 14-for-14 from the foul line) and Madelyn Deitchler (16 points and 18 rebounds). Sudmann and company enjoyed a large advantage at the free throw line, where they went 29-for-33 (.879).

Foul shooting and impressive results on the defensive end made the difference for the host. The Bulldogs dug a 10-point deficit early in the second quarter and did not have the offensive production to recover. Concordia shot 25.7% (9-for-35) in the first half and even worse (20.9%; 9-for-43) over the final 20 minutes. The Chargers maintained a lead of 10 or more for the entire fourth quarter.

Cockerill's afternoon included 12 rebounds and four assists in 36 minutes of action. Taysha Rushton (14) and Mackenzie Koepke (10) were the only other double-figure scorers for the Bulldogs. A plus-eight advantage in turnover margin (21-13) played a role in Concordia having 31 more field goal attempts than Briar Cliff. The Bulldogs managed to make only 18-of-78 tries from the field.

Because the scheduled home game versus Mount Marty on Dec. 9 was postponed (makeup date will be Dec. 30), the Bulldogs will wait until next Saturday, Dec. 12, to return to play. On that date, Concordia will be back in Sioux City to take on 24th-ranked Morningside (6-1, 4-0 GPAC).

Eagles soar past Panthers

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Milford's boys' basketball team held off a barrage of three-pointers by Fillmore Central to win the season opener Dec. 4, topping the Panthers 63-44.

Fillmore Central was 10-25 from beyond the arc, including four in the second quarter. Isaiah Lauby connected on four in the first half and had 14 points at halftime. The Milford defense, however, held him to two points in the second half, MHS Coach Tony Muller said.

The Eagles got off to a quick start, leading 8-0 before Fillmore Central got on the board. Milford led 30-24 at halftime.

Milford had 10 different players record statistics for the game. Muller said they need to get a consistent rotation so the team can get comfortable with each other.

He was pleased with the defense, which forced 19 turnovers. The Milford offense only committed six turnovers and played smart, he said.

“Overall, it was a pretty good first game,” Muller said.

Junior Seth Stutzman led the Eagles with 26 points on 11-15 shooting and grabbed nine rebounds. Micah Hartwig, another junior, added 15 points and nine rebounds, and senior Isaac Yeackley scored 12 and snatched four steals.

Milford (1-0) was to play Raymond Central Dec. 5, but because Raymond Central is in Lancaster County, that game was postponed.

MHS is scheduled to host Fairbury Friday, Dec. 11, at 7:45 p.m. and travel to Lincoln Lutheran Saturday, Dec. 12, for an afternoon game.

Muller said the players have been really smart about doing what they can to stay healthy. In fact, he said, Friday night's game was the first time the Eagles had played without masks.

Milford 63, Fillmore Central 44				
FCHS	10	14	10	10
MHS	14	16	16	17
FCHS—Totals 14-37 6-11 44.				

MHS—Isaac Yeackley 4-8 4-5 12, Micah Hartwig 4-10 6-10 15, Bryce Jakub 0-1 0-2 0, Cason Tucker 1-1 0-2, Jaxon Weyand 3-7 1-2 8, Kaleb Miller 0-2 0-2, Seth Stutzman 11-15 3-5 26, Cobe Schluckebier 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 34-47 14-26 63.

Three-point goals—FCHS 10-25, MHS 3-16 (Yeackley 0-3, Hartwig 1-4, Jakub 0-1, Weyand 1-4, Miller 0-1, Stutzman 1-2). **Rebounds**—FCHS 21, MHS 30 (Hartwig, Stutzman 9). **Assists**—MHS 13 (Yeackley 5). **Steals**—MHS 11 (Yeackley 4). **Blocked shots**—MHS 2. **Turnovers**—FCHS 19, MHS 6. **Fouls**—FCHS 20, MHS 13.

Save Time & Money!

Advertise in this amount of space for only \$975*. Reach over 490,000 Nebraska readers! Contact your local newspaper for more information or call 1-800-369-2850.

*Statewide coverage for less than \$6.41 per publication. Regional ads also available in Central, Northeast, Southeast or Western Nebraska.

Nebraska 2x2 Display Ad Network
www.nebpress.com

Women's basketball

Two programs that battled closely for last

Alaska 7 Day Cruise + 7 Day Land Tour = Best of Alaska!
June, July, & August - 2021 Departures

See More - Tours Included EVERY DAY - No Surprises or "Optional Tours" needed
Panoramic Glass-Dome Railway • Commercial Vegetable Farm • Dinner Theater
Extended Denali Park Tour - See More Wildlife! • Mt McKinley • Trans-Alaska Pipeline
Gold Dredge • Pan for Gold • Trolley Tour • Whitehorse Pass • Boeing Factory • More!

Mississippi River Memphis to New Orleans Graceland • French Quarter Bayou Airboat Ride	California Giant Redwood Trees • Napa Farm & Technical Visits San Joaquin Valley Agriculture	Southern Charm Farms Growing Cotton, Rice, Peanuts, Onions, Tobacco, & Great Southern Meals!
National Parks Grand Canyon • Zion Park Antelope & Bryce Canyons Farm & Ranch • Yellowstone	Midwest Badlands • Buffalo Roundup Mt. Rushmore • Corn Palace Feedlot • Iowa Farms	Fall Colors Boston • Berkshire Mountains Cranberry Farm • Cape Cod

Call for Brochure 1-888-414-4177 RuperTours.com

SPECIALIZING IN QUALITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS

Commercial
Equestrian
Hobby Shops

Agricultural
Garages
And More!

Eastern CO
970-230-2052

NE and Western IA
402-426-5022

Wisconsin
608-988-6338

GINGERICH STRUCTURES www.GingerichStructures.com

Edward Jones: Consider these year-end financial moves

by Edward Jones of Seward

We're nearing the end of 2020 and, for many of us, it will be a relief to turn the calendar page on this challenging year. However, we've still got a few weeks left, which means you have time to make some year-end financial moves that may work in your favor.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Add to your IRA. For the 2020 tax year, you can put in up to \$6,000 to your traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older. If you haven't reached this limit, consider adding some money. You actually have until April 15, 2021, to contribute to your IRA for 2020, but the sooner you put the money in, the quicker it can go to work for you. Plus, if you have to pay taxes in April, you'll be less likely to contribute to your IRA then.

- Make an extra 401(k) payment. If it's allowed by your employer, put in a little extra to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. And if your salary goes up next year, increase your regular contributions.

- See your tax advisor. It's possible that you could improve your tax situation by making some investment-related moves. For example, if you sold some investments whose value has increased, you could incur capital gains taxes. To offset these gains, you could sell other investments that have lost value, assuming these investments are no longer essential to your financial strategy. Your tax advisor can evaluate this type of move, along with others, to determine those that may be appropriate for your situation.

- Review your investment mix. As you consider your portfolio, think about the events of these past 12

months and how you responded to them. When COVID-19 hit early in the year, and the financial markets plunged, did you find yourself worrying constantly about the losses you were taking, even though they were just on "paper" at that point? Did you even sell investments to "cut your losses" without waiting for a market recovery? If so, you might want to consult with a financial professional to determine if your investment mix is still appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance, or if you need to make some changes.

- Evaluate your need for retirement plan withdrawals. If you are 72 or older, you must start taking withdrawals – technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you must take these RMDs by Dec. 31

every year. However, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Act suspended, or waived, all RMDs due in 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

- Think about the future. Are you saving enough for your children's college education? Are you still on track toward the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned? Or have your retirement plans changed as a result of the pandemic? All of these issues can affect your investment strategies, so you'll want to think carefully about what decisions you may need to make.

Looking back – and ahead – can help you make the moves to end 2020 on a positive note and start 2021 on the right foot.

Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Nov. 25 – Dec. 3

Merle A. Schmeding and Janis K. Schmeding to Shawn A. Schmeding, a tract of land in the NE1/4 26-12-1. DS exempt

Douglas R. Semler and Jessica L. Semler to Douglas R. Semler, Trustee of the Douglas R. Semler Trust, SW1/4 31-9-3. DS exempt

Clint A. Ratkovek and Jill D. Ratkovec to Clueless, LLC, south 20 acres of the NE1/4 and the N1/2 SE1/4 and the SE1/4 SE1/4, all in 17-12-4. DS \$1,338.75

Jacob J. Eckles and Heather E. Eckles to Bethany Jackson, Lots 5-6, Block 1, Goehner. DS \$380.25

Erik L. Kirby and Crystal C. Kirby to Jacob J. Eckles and Heather E. Eckles, Lot 5, Block 1, Bader's Second Addition, Seward. DS \$553.50

Helen C. Duffek, Mark Anthony Duffek Judith Marie Barber

and Bruce Barber, Daniel David Duffek and James Dean Duffek to James Dean Duffek, Lot A, Duffek Subdivision, a subdivision of Tax Lots 14 and 46 in the SW1/4 14-12-3. DS \$42.75

Mary J. Poe and Robert C. Poe to James Hassebrook, Kathleen A. Mitzel and Fred A. Mitzel, a tract of land in the SW1/4 36-12-4. DS \$1,161

Michael E. Tomes and Dawn Tomes to Michael E. Tomes and Dawn Tomes, A tract of land in the SE1/4 31-11-1. DS exempt

Shirland, Inc., to Susan I. Thomas, Lot A, Administrative Replat of the West 92 feet of Lot 2, Block 1, Bader-Jirovsky Fifth Addition to Seward. DS \$157.50

Clyde Tyndall to Andrew L. Baker, a tract of land in Lot 4 in Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Subdivision of the SW1/4 SW1/4 21-11-3. DS \$193.50

Julie L. Johnson and Bryan A. Combs to Steven K. Johnson, Kath-

erine L. Cahill, John C. Evans, Mary Ann Sausotte, an undivided one-sixth interest in the SE1/4 SW1/4 and the N1/2 SW1/4 and Tax Lot 2 of the SW1/4 SW1/4 21-12-4. DS exempt

Rachelle Brown and Brian Brown, Rosalind Eldridge and Randall Luft to Rodney Luft and Patricia Luft, Tax Lot 38 in the SE1/4 5-11-4, Garland. DS \$202.50

Melissa Kratochvil and Shawn Schmieding to MPR Properties, LLC, a tract of land in Lots 1-2, W.W. Cox's Addition to Seward. DS \$333

Ross W. Wilcox and Judy A. Wilcox to JRA-CL, LLC, NE1/4 18-12-3 along with the NE1/4 and the E1/2 NW1/4 22-10-3. DS exempt

Police

Information provided by the Seward Police Department.

Nov. 20

1:03 p.m.—A caller in the area of Highway 34 and Matzke Highway reported a very large, bright purple pickup had run the caller off the road and into the ditch. A passerby helped the driver out of the ditch.

Nov. 22

3:42 p.m.—A caller in the area of Lindell Avenue reported people in the street being loud, partying and drinking.



ONLINE FOOTBALL CONTEST

PLAY EACH WEEK AT ONE OF OUR WEBSITES:

sewardindependent.com • milfordtimes.net
friendsentinel.com • wilber-republican.com
cretenewsonline.com

Weekly prize for most correct picks and grand prize for best season record. Grand prize valued at over \$100.

Sponsored by:

Pac 'N' Save – \$75 prize value
Sparetime Lounge – \$75 prize value

Week 12 Winner:

Jeff Placke

\$20 Pac 'N' Save gift card

Note:
Two games were removed from the contest due to their postponements/cancellations caused by COVID-19.

MARKETPLACE

REAL ESTATE

PIVOT IRRIGATED CROPGROUND
140.36± ACRES LANCASTER COUNTY, NE

BigIron REALTY
[EXPERTS IN SELLING LAND]

LAND FOR SALE

Location:
From Crete, NE, go 6 miles east on West Sprague Road to Southwest 72 and then 1 mile south to Stagecoach Road, which will be the northwest corner. Or from Sprague, NE, go 4 miles west, then go south on SW 72nd to Stagecoach Road, the farm's northwest corner. The power line borders the east edge of the farm but is not on the subject property.

Legal:
The NW ¼ of Section 1, Township 7, Range 5, Lot 8, Lancaster County, NE, containing 140.36± acres.

Sellers: Ronald & Linda Meyer

Contact Your Listing Agents
Marilyn Ann Gray 308.520.0456 | John Buhl 402.649.3750

CALL FOR DETAILS

Drone Tour



UNDER CONTRACT

201 S. A St. • Milford
\$250,000 • 5 bd; 3 baths



UNDER CONTRACT

1014 1st St., Unit 2
Milford • \$152,500
2 bd; 2 baths



PRICE REDUCED

308 Ash St., Seward • \$210,000
Town home with finished basement. 3 bd; 3 baths; open floor plan; granite counter; tile backsplash, stainless appliances, two-stall garage.



SOLD

248 N. 2nd St.
Seward • \$170,000

Stacy HARTGERINK HOME REAL ESTATE
402.450.9800

Your Seward County Real Estate Expert | No matter the sign, Stacy has the key.

LOCAL REALTORS THAT FRIENDS RECOMMEND TO FRIENDS.

Just A.S.K. ANGELA • SHELLY • KELBY



Angela Mueller
402-646-8826
angela.mueller@woodspros.com



Shelly Nitz
402-641-0698
shelly.nitz@woodspros.com



Kelby Nitz
402-646-0429
kelby.nitz@woodspros.com



1749 Meadow Lane Dr • Seward
3 BR, 2 BA, All Brick
\$179,500



NEW LISTING!
SOLD

431 South St • Seward
3 BR, 2 BA, 1.5 Story
\$175,000

LAND/BUILDING LOTS

335-409 S 3rd St • Seward
5 Residential Lots • \$154,000

336-346 Ash St • Seward
3 Residential Lots • \$92,400

105 Dakota Cir • Utica
1 Acre • \$27,500

Help! WE NEED LISTINGS!

Are you thinking of selling?
Do you have a friend that wants to sell?

WE HAVE MANY BUYERS!



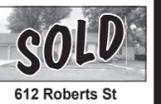
SOLD

1250 Augusta Dr
\$325,000



SOLD

1748 N 1st St
\$299,000



SOLD

612 Roberts St
\$224,500

WOODS BROS REALTY
112 S 4TH | SEWARD, NE 68434
402.643.2541
WWW.WOODSBROS.COM

HIT THE BULLSEYE WITH TARGETED ADVERTISING
Advertise in the Seward County Independent

HOME REAL ESTATE

402-643-3300

655 SOUTH ST. SEWARD, NE

www.UnderwoodTeam4You.com



UNDERWOOD TEAM P.C.
AI Underwood
Ashley Crowdell



\$23,500

200 Montana Circle • Utica



6 Commercial Lots Available

\$49,500/lot

Pine St. • Seward



\$76,400

2867 Progressive Rd. • Seward



NEW LISTING!

\$135,000

20 Depot St. • Seward



Agent/Owner

\$246,000

1171 Ironwood Dr. • Seward



SOLD

\$375,000

1791 154th Road • Garland



SIMULATED

\$465,000

113 Goldenrod Ln. • Seward



\$84,500

420-430 1st St. • Utica



PRICE REDUCED!

\$194,000

629 Jackson Ave. • Seward

In print weekly and online.

Ads must be prepaid unless you have pre-approved credit.
Cash, personal check, Visa, Mastercard or Discover are welcome.

CLASSIFIED LINE AD RATES

25 words or less: \$19 per week for three weeks; fourth week is free.
Includes placement in online classifieds.
FREE "For Sale" ads for subscribers.
Private party ads • \$200 or less • One/customer/week
Contact our office for classified display ad pricing.

HOW TO PLACE YOUR AD

Call: 402-643-3676 • Email: office@sewardindependent.com
Online: sewardindependent.com • In person: 129 S. 6th St., Seward, NE

**AD DEADLINE:
NOON FRIDAY***
FOR ALL PUBLICATIONS

* Subject to
change on
holidays

POLICIES: Advertisers should check their advertisements in the first issue and report any error to the Seward County Independent at 402-643-3676. We will be responsible for only a one-time error or omission.

Your ad appears in SIX newspapers and reaches readers in two counties!

SEWARD COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
sewardindependent.com

THE
CRETE NEWS
cretenewsonline.com

THE MILFORD
Times
milfordtimes.net

Friend
the Sentinel
friendsentinel.com

THE
WILBER REPUBLICAN
wilber-republican.com

CONNECTION

HELP WANTED

FARM HAND/MECHANIC
FULL-TIME, CORDOVA, NE.
CALL FOR INTERVIEW. 402-641-7120.

Saline County is accepting applications for a **MOTOR GRADER OPERATOR** in Crete, NE. Application forms may be obtained from the office of the Highway Supt., Courthouse, 204 South High, Wilber, Ne. 68465. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday December 21st, 2020. For more information call Bruce Filipi at 402-821-2737.

MAINTENANCE PERSON NEEDED. Apply at the office. 2245 Heather Drive, Crete. 402-826-2568.

Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE!
Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent • Hire

Veterans' Service Officer

Seward County Veterans Services Office is now accepting applications for a Full-Time Veterans' Service Officer. Must be an honorably discharged Veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of United States, as indicated and provided by DD-214. Must have been a resident of the State of Nebraska for at least the past continuous five years. Must have a high school diploma/GED & have a valid driver's license.

Job description and application can be found online at www.countyofsewardne.com.

For questions, email hr@co.seward.ne.us.

Closing date: December 11, 2020

Seward County is an EOE. This position is subject to Veteran's Preference.

Memorial Health Care Systems

WE ARE RECRUITING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

RN/LPN - Days: Full-time day position, 5 am - 5 pm. Acute Care, ER and OB experience preferred. Flexible scheduling includes every third weekend with holiday rotation. RN/LPN licensure required and ACLS required for RNs only. -*Memorial Hospital*

RN/LPN - Nights: Full-time night position, 5 pm - 5 am. Acute Care, ER and OB experience preferred. Flexible scheduling includes every third weekend with holiday rotation. RN/LPN licensure required and ACLS required for RNs only. Position includes night shift retention bonus. -*Memorial Hospital*

RN-LPN: Full-time Clinic RN/LPN Day Nurse position available, Monday-Friday with Saturday rotation. This position requires good communications skills between you and the provider. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential to providing excellent customer service and communicating with our patients. Computer skills are required. Previous Clinic Nursing experience and Chronic Care Management experience preferred. Current licensure required. -*Seward Family Medical Clinic*

RN-LPN: PRN (as needed) RN/LPN. Candidate must have excellent customer service skills, able to multitask. May require working at Seward, Milford or Utica Clinics. Previous clinic nursing experience preferred. RN/LPN licensure required. -*Seward Family Medical Clinic*

Please visit our website <http://www.mhcs.us/about-us/employment> for a listing of the Temporary - As Needed (PRN) positions available at Memorial Health Care Systems

For immediate consideration, complete an application at or send your resume to:



Memorial
Health Care Systems

HR Dept., 300 N. Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434

or visit www.MHCS.US to complete an online application. For more information call 402-646-4618. EOE



FOOD SERVICE POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The School District of Seward is accepting applications for food service positions for the 2020-2021 school year.

Applications are available at the District Office, 410 South Street, Seward, NE • 402-643-2941 or on our website at www.sewardpublicschools.org under employment opportunities.

The position is subject to a veterans' preference.

Aramark Facility Services

ARAMARK Facility Services, located at Concordia University in Seward, NE, is seeking applicants for the following position:

Maintenance Technician

Drug screen and background check required. Full-time benefits include ten paid holidays, optional health/dental insurance, paid vacation and PTO. Applicants can apply at the Concordia University Buildings and Grounds office, 700 E. Lincoln St., Seward, Nebraska, or online at www.aramark.com/careers.

Aramark is an EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran

- Nurse: (LPN/RN) FT Day & Evening Shifts (M-F Only) & Weekend Only RN
- CNAs: FT & PT Day & Evening Shifts
- MedAide: FT Evenings
- Cook: FT Evenings
- Activities Director
- Dietary Aide: FT



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
SUNRISECOUNTRYMANOR.COM
610 224th Road, Milford
Ph: (402) 761-3230 ext. 224

Applications at www.sunrisecountrymanor.com/careers.html

Greene Place

Senior Living

• 3 Part-time medication aide; 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts

You will primarily be responsible for administering or assisting in the administration of medication and treatments in accordance with a resident's health care provider's orders. You will also be responsible for assisting residents with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs), providing general supervision, and respecting residents' rights and needs of choice.

• 3 Part-time caregiver; 1st, 2nd & 3rd shifts

Caregiver, you will be responsible for assisting residents with their daily routines while treating all with dignity and respect. You will provide person-centered care that is tailored to meet the needs of each resident in a fun and friendly community. Responsibilities:

- Provide quality resident care as indicated on the care plan
- Promote residents' independence
- Provide assistance with housekeeping and laundry
- Participate in community's Life Enrichment Activities, events, and outings, while encouraging residents to attend
- Additional duties as assigned

We are passionate about providing quality care for our residents and offer competitive wages and benefits.

Apply online at www.enlivant.com or call Greene Place at (402) 643-9111. Greene Place is an equal opportunity employer. 600 Church St., Seward

SERVICES

GUITAR, UKULELE, DRUM & BASS LESSONS: Give the Gift of Music! Professional Studio. Over 30 years of teaching experience. Call Jim Krutz Today! 402-450-0282, Seward.

Oatman Paint & Repair

All your home interior & exterior needs

Jeff Oatman
402-540-5473
Milford, NE

MARTIN EXCAVATING INC.

(FORMERLY LEICHTY EXCAVATING, INC.)
TROY MARTIN, OWNER
802 3RD ST. MILFORD, NE 68405
(402) 761-3059 HOME (402) 641-6821 CELL
BASEMENTS/DEMOLITION/FILL SAND/BLACK DIRT/CLAY/TREE REMOVAL/LAGOONS

WENDY'S Premier PAINTING

Interior Home or Business
—and—
Refurbished Furniture
402-641-6092
Find me on f too!

Schweitzer Auction Service

Brian D. Schweitzer
402-641-1266
Estates, Antiques & Collectibles, Firearms, Farm & Acreage Equip, Vehicles, Coins & More
Premier Real Estate Broker • 402-761-2291
Milford, NE • www.neauction.com

STELLING CARPENTRY LLC
Custom cabinets & trim work, finish work, remodeling, subcontracting, soffit, siding & fascia, replacement door & windows, any residential needs
Ryan Stelling 402-761-2869

DURRE'S PLUMBING
• New Construction
• Remodeling • Water Heaters
• Water Treatment Products
— Service and Installation —
Phone 402-643-9327

Lee's Refrigeration Heating & Air Conditioning
24/7 Service-Sales-Installation
— Commercial & Residential —
734 Seward St. • Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3644 • 800-274-3644

FOR RENT

Rent Sokol Hall for various social and business functions. Hall is air-conditioned and handicap accessible. Contact Lumir Sukovaty at 402-821-2429 or Leon Slama at 402-239-2857. For kolaches, contact Joan Kotas at 402-821-2971.

AVAILABLE NOW. One bedroom house. Main usage on first floor. \$800 rent plus utilities. Located on acreage close to Crete. Ideal for one person or couple. No smoking or pets. 402-826-6289 leave message.

1, 2 and 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. 30-day lease. No pets. No smoking. Also garages for rent. Located at 22nd and Ivy-Crete. 402-310-8030

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT
New kitchen, dishwasher, stove, refrigerator, fireplace & A/C. Laundry available. \$475 p/mo. No Pets. No Smoking. 515 South 2nd St-Seward. Call 402-641-2584.

1 & 2 BR Garden level APARTMENTS. Call for details. 402-641-2580

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Family status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

The Independent will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-642-6112. <http://www.nol.org/home/NEOC>.

MILFORD AIR CONDITIONING

309 1st Milford 402-761-2433
• Air Conditioning
• Heating
• Sales & Service
Bill Saltzman **DAIKIN** Air Conditioning & Heating

BOB'S HANDYMAN

- ✦ Home Repair
- ✦ Indoor/Outdoor Painting
- ✦ Fans & Lighting
- ✦ Carpentry
- ✦ More

BOB HRNICEK
402-641-8474 | hrniecek@neb.rr.com
Seward, NE
www.facebook.com/bobshandymansevices

GOLDEN RULE EXCAVATING, LLC

Call us for all farm and ag-related dirtwork
402-641-4064

Dave & Matt Burkey Owners
Randy Ulrich Owner/Operator
20+ Years Experience

LEARN
Something New
Every day in the
NEWSPAPER!

SEWARD COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

129 S. 6th St. • Seward, NE 68434 • 402-643-3676

HEARINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on the Seward County General Assistance Guidelines in the Seward County Commissioners Room in the Seward County Courthouse, Seward, Nebraska, on December 22nd, 2020, at 9:15 A.M.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to generate public opinion and comment in regard to the General Assistance Guidelines. Notice published by order of the Seward County Board of Commissioners of Seward County, Nebraska on December 3rd, 2020.

A copy of the proposed General Assistance Guidelines are available for public inspection at 320 South 14th Street, Seward, Nebraska. Written comments for consideration by Seward County will be accepted at 320 South 14th Street, Seward, Nebraska 68434 for a period of 10 days ending December 18th, 2020.

Jeffrey M. Baker
General Assistance Director
Seward County, Nebraska
SCI — December 09, 16, 2020

NOTICE

A total of 163 cases will be heard by the Board in December 2020. The following case(s) sentenced in Seward County will be seen by the Board of Parole.

December 17, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.
Nebraska State Penitentiary, Lincoln, Nebraska
Koch, Jeremy, 87735
Assault 1st Degree

December 22, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.
Lincoln Correctional Center, Lincoln, Nebraska
Woodrum, Leonard, 69811
Manu/Dist/Del/Disp or Poss W/ Due to COVID-19, NDCS has temporarily suspended visitation at its facilities.

<https://corrections.nebraska.gov/facilities/visiting-hours>.
Consequently, the process for public participation in parole hearings has been modified.

<https://parole.nebraska.gov/public-hearings>.
You are welcome to direct any statement to the Board concerning the merits of this offender by submitting your comments via the Board website at:

<http://www.parole.nebraska.gov/contact>.
ROSALYN COTTON, CHAIR
NEBRASKA
BOARD OF PAROLE
SCI — December 09, 2020
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to construct a 198-foot monopole telecommunications tower in the vicinity of 1493 210th Road, Seward, Seward County, Nebraska 68434, (lat/long 40 deg 54 min 1.65 sec N, 97 deg 0 min 24.74 sec W). The height of the support structure is 190-feet above grade surface (AGS). The overall structure height is 198-feet AGS. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to:

Terracon Consultants
ATTN: Matthew Harbeck
15080 A Circle
Omaha, Nebraska 68144
(402) 330-2202
matthew.harbeck@terracon.com
SCI — December 09, 2020
ZNEZ

ESTATES

NOTICE

In the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska Estate of Alan L. Carter, Deceased Case No. PR 20-66

Notice is hereby given that on November 17, 2020, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Deceased and that Lana R. Carter, whose address is 814 4th Street, Milford, NE 68405, has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before January 25, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins
Clerk of the County Court
Address of the County Court:
Justice Center
PO Box 37
Seward, NE 68434

Andrew M. Loudon
(Bar Id. #21511)
Kara E. Brostrom
(Bar Id. # 26013)
Attorneys for
the Personal Representative

Ball, Loudon, Ebert & Brostrom, LLC
5733 South 34th Street
Suite 500
Lincoln, NE 68516
402.420.6091 (main office)
402.495.5500 (facsimile)
aloudon@blawgroup.com
kbrostrom@blawgroup.com
SCI — November 25, December 02, 09, 2020

NOTICE

In the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska Estate of Michael M. Mundhenke, Deceased Estate No. PR20-69

Notice is hereby given that on November 20, 2020, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Court entered an Order that Karen Mundhenke, whose address is 723 Fairway Dr., Milford, NE 68405, was formally appointed by the Court as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 2, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins
Clerk of
the Seward County Court
Courthouse
Seward, NE 68434

Gregory C. Damman #19030
Blevens & Damman Law Office
Box 98
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3639
SCI — December 02, 09, 16, 2020

NOTICE

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of LOIS G. LUEBBE, Deceased Estate No. PR20-70

Notice is hereby given that on December 2, 2020, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Kathryn M. Klundt, whose address is 823 North 2nd St., Apt. 3, Seward, Nebraska 68434, 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 February 9, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins
Clerk of the County Court
261 S. 8th St.
PO Box 37
Seward, NE 68434

Prepared By:
James T. Blazek #16518
Blazek & Gregg, P.C., L.L.O.
1405 N. 205th Street, Ste. 120
Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022
(402) 496-3432
SCI — December 09, 16, 23, 2020
ZNEZ

MINUTES

Proceedings

from the Village of Bee Board of Trustees Regular meeting November 4, 2020

The following is a condensed form of minutes from the general meeting of the Village of Bee Board of Trustees held via conference call. A complete copy of said minutes is on file in the office of the Village and is available for public inspection. The general meeting of the Village of Bee Board of Trustees was called to order by Board Chair Shipley at 6:59 p.m. Shipley, Slack, Timblin, Roberts and Holloway answered roll call. Village Attorney Damman was on the conference call. Village Clerk Lavicky, and a few residents were present. Notices were posted in three locations. The following motions were made, seconded, and carried by unanimous vote: approve both of October minutes, to approve resolution 2020-08 approving the 1 and 6-year street plan, to close the 1 and 6-year open meeting, to approve the treasurer's report, to approve resolution 2020-09 reapproving the Duffek subdivision to table the plan to paint the jail building, to start the process changing the ordinance for the regular meeting to be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, to file for an audit waiver, to not transfer funds between equity accounts, to pay the following claims: Bee VFD truck fund \$10,000 transfer; Black Hills \$121.64 Village use utilities; Card Service \$997.84 continuing ed. and supplies; Constellation \$14.75 Village use utilities; Damman \$45 legal; General Fire & Safety \$478.90 annual fire extinguisher inspection; Hawkins \$108.50 supplies; Jeff Klement \$6,050 tree & stump removal; Mustang Graphics \$80.75 dump sign; Norris PPD \$852.93 Village use utilities; One Call Concepts \$2.31 locates; Sam's Club \$45 membership; Recycling Enterprises \$400 recycling pickup; Seward County Independent \$4.91 publishing; Seward County Sheriff \$104.50 monthly contract; Sewer Reserve account \$115.50 transfer; State of Nebraska \$291.32 sales tax and withholding; \$55 stamps; Walmart \$58.95 supplies; Waste Connections \$959.85 Village purchased utilities; Windstream \$223.549 Village use utilities; payroll & reimbursements \$2,72547. and to adjourn.

Resa Lavicky
Village Clerk/Treasurer
SCI — December 09, 2020

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Boards of Commissioner Meetings are held each Tuesday morning in the Seward County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m., except for the first Tuesday of each month when meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. **The Commissioners will be meeting at 8 a.m. on Friday, December 18, to approve Seward County Claims.** Notice of each meeting is posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and on the Commissioner's room door. The agenda for all meetings is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The agenda is held open until one business day prior to the meeting for appearance before the Board. The Board has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

CLAIMS ALLOWED DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Seward County Board of Commissioners convened on December 1, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Becky Paulsen

County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer
Approved the minutes of November 20 & 24, 2020.

Jonathan Jank, Executive Director of Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership, updated the Commissioners on activities of his organization.

Commissioners gave an update of their activities. Approved short form plat in H precinct.

Approved Jones Bank to withdraw pledged securities. Approved chairman to work on contract to update Employee Manual.

Andrew Matney, 911 Director, was present to discuss Motorola invoice.

Approved deposit of surplus property proceeds into Special Road Fund.

Authorized chairman to sign Nixle/Everbridge Quote as presented by Gary Petersen, Seward/York Emergency Manager.

Jeff Baker gave an update of the Veterans Service and Public Transit Programs.

Adopted the agenda for December 8, 2020, and adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk
SCI — December 09, 2020
ZNEZ

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:

Seward County Ag. Society
Tuesday, December 15, 2020
7 p.m.

Ag. Pavilion
Seward County Fairgrounds
Michael J. Flyr
Secretary

Seward Co. Ag. Society
SCI — December 02, 09, 2020
ZNEZ

ORGANIZATIONS

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the limited liability company is DEVOUR, LLC.

2. The address of the designated office of the company is 1965 S. Imig Drive, Seward, Nebraska 68434.

3. The name and address of the company's registered agent in Nebraska is: ALISON SUE MEYER, 1965 S. Imig Drive, Seward, Nebraska 68434.

4. The purpose for which the company is organized is to engage in any lawful act or activities for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, specifically, bakery & patisserie services;

5. The company commenced its existence on November 18, 2020, and the period of duration is perpetual.

6. The affairs of the company shall be conducted by its Members/Manager.

Egr. Birkel & Wollmer, P.C.
465 4th Street
P.O. Box 46
David City, NE 68632
Tel: 402-367-3139
Fax: 402-367-3900
SCI — December 02, 09, 16, 2020

KNUDSEN BERKHEIMER
RICHARDSON &
ENDACOTT, LLP
ATTORNEYS

3800 VerMaas Place, Suite 200
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

FITZ-IT AG WORKS, LLC
Notice is given that Fitz-IT Ag Works, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 1621 Agnew Road, Valparaiso, NE 68065. The name and address of the initial agent for service of process on the Company is Benjamin Fitzwater, 1621 Agnew Road, Valparaiso, NE 68065.

Fitz-IT Ag Works, LLC
SCI — December 02, 09, 16, 2020

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

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 company is BEAVER HARDWARE & SUPPLY, LLC

The address of the designated office is 808 Dimery Ave., P.O. Box 115, Beaver Crossing, NE 68313. The registered agent and address for service upon the company is Kenneth Pankoke, 808 Dimery Ave., P.O. Box 115, Beaver Crossing, NE 68313.

The company shall engage in any lawful business and act for which a Limited Liability Company may be organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

MICHAEL G. MULLALLY
MICHAEL G. MULLALLY,
P.C., L.L.O.

Attorney at Law
510 Seward St.
Seward, NE 68434
(402) 643-4581
SCI — November 25, December 02, 09, 2020
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE

A Public Meeting of the Seward County Planning Commission will be held, December 15th, 2020, 7:30 pm, on a zoom telephone or video conference online.

Please use:
<http://zoom.us/j/9421681714>
online Password 768261

Notice of said meeting will be posted in the Courthouse North Door. The agenda for said meeting will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the Zoning Office during normal business hours. The agenda will be held open until 4:00 p.m. of the day, two days before the day of the meeting. The Planning Commission has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such meetings.

Seward County
Zoning Administrator
SCI — December 09, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Four Corners Board of Health meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Agenda and connection information available upon request at (877) 337-3573 or email: info@fourcorners.ne.gov
SCI — December 09, 2020

PROPERTY SALES

SouthLaw, P.C.
13160 Foster Suite 100
Overland Park, KS 66213-2660
(913) 663-7600
FILE NO. 227102

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
For default in the payment of debt secured by a deed of trust executed by Shelby Lynn Criner, dated August 9, 2019, and recorded on August 9, 2019, Document No. 2019-01684 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Seward County, Nebraska, the undersigned Successor Trustee will on December 22, 2020, at 10:00 AM, at the North Doors of the Seward County Courthouse, Seward, Nebraska, sell at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash:

Lots 13 and 14, Block 16, Lars Jorgensen's Addition to the Town of Staplehurst, Seward County, Nebraska, commonly known as 120 S 3rd St, Staplehurst, NE, 68439

subject to all prior easements, restrictions, reservations, covenants and encumbrances now of record, if any, to satisfy the debt and costs.

Liliana Shannon, Successor Trustee
First Publication: November 11, 2020

NOTICE

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose (No. 227102). For more information, visit www.Southlaw.com

SCI — November 11, 18, 25, December 02, 09, 2020
ZNEZ



**Don't Bury
Your Head
In The
Sand...**

**...Read
Public Notices
Each Week And
Stay Informed**

SEWARD COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

129 S. 6th St.
P.O. Box 449
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3676
Fax 402-643-6774

MARKETPLACE

STATEWIDES

LIFE ALERT, One press of a button sends help Fast, 24/7! At home and on the go. Mobile Pendant with GPS. Free First Aid Kit (with subscription). Call 855-663-0118. Free Brochure.

DIRECTV - EVERY live football game, every Sunday - anywhere - on your favorite device. Restrictions apply. Call IVS, 1-855-977-3794.

DIAGNOSED WITH Lung Cancer? You may qualify for a substantial cash award - even with smoking history. No obligation! We've recovered millions. Let us help!! Call 24/7, 855-795-0956.

THE GENERAC PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. Save money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a Free, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-513-0190.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS! For \$225/25 word classified you can advertise in over 150 Nebraska newspapers. For more information contact your local newspaper or call 1-800-369-2850.

APPLYING FOR Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-866-818-0868. Free Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St. NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar)].

UP TO \$15,000.00 of Guaranteed Life Insurance! No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses. Call Physicians Life Insurance Company, 866-982-2256 or visit www.Life55plus.info/ne

COMPUTER ISSUES? Geeks on Site provides Free diagnosis Remotely 24/7 service during Covid-19. No home visit necessary. \$40 Off with coupon 86407! Restrictions apply. 855-668-1997.

EARTHLINK HIGH Speed Internet. As low as \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months). Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic technology. Stream videos, music and more! Call Earthlink today, 1-844-254-0368.

BANKRUPTCY - FREE consultation. Lowest rates. No office visit required. As Nebraska's #1 bankruptcy firm, we have helped thousands of clients file bankruptcy in all 93 Nebraska counties. We can Stop garnishments and foreclosures fast. www.SamTurcoLaw.net. Call 402-965-0424 or send e-mail to info@SamTurcoLawOffices.com.

PITTMAN & DAVIS. Mixed-fruit medley for the Holidays! Give the gift of Winter Sunshine! 6 Rio Ruby Red Gems. 4 Tiny Tim Navels. 6 Mini Fuji Apples. Call Now and Save 33% off. Pay just \$19.99. Free Shipping! Call 1-888-461-1368 to order item MXSP and mention code PNVH-E167 for savings or visit pittmandavis.com/ME167.

DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels. Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/month (where available). Switch & Get a Free \$100 Visa Gift Card. Free Voice Remote. Free HD DVR. Free Streaming on All Devices. Call today! 1-877-688-4784.

DOES YOUR basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair. A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. Free Inspection & Same Day Estimate. Call 1-844-958-3431.

NEBRASKA PROFITABLE essential businesses for sale by Owner. Various sizes, types, terms. Some with owner financing. Priced from \$100k to \$15 million. bizsale.com/1-800-617-4204.

ENJOY 100% guaranteed, delivered to-the-door Omaha Steaks! Get 4 Free Pork Chops and 4 Free Chicken Breasts. Order The Omaha Steaks Classic - Only \$129.99. Call 1-855-993-6208, mention code 66762AVC or visit www.OhamaSteaks.com/dinner43.

AMAZING ORANGE gift for the Holidays. Delicious oranges fresh from the grove! Four favorite varieties. High in Vitamin C. December holiday delivery. Save 43%! Just \$19.99 (plus s/h). Call 1-888-660-2316 to order item 496X and mention code HNVH-N191 for savings or visit www.HaleGroves.com/halegroves.com/MN191.

HIGH-SPEED Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-888-326-3360.

DIRECTV NOW. No Satellite needed. \$40/month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. Call 1-855-417-4299.

BECOME A Published Author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing - trusted by authors since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for your free Author's Guide, 1-877-858-2822 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/Nebraska>.

Santa, Mrs. Claus host drive-up, ride in parade



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

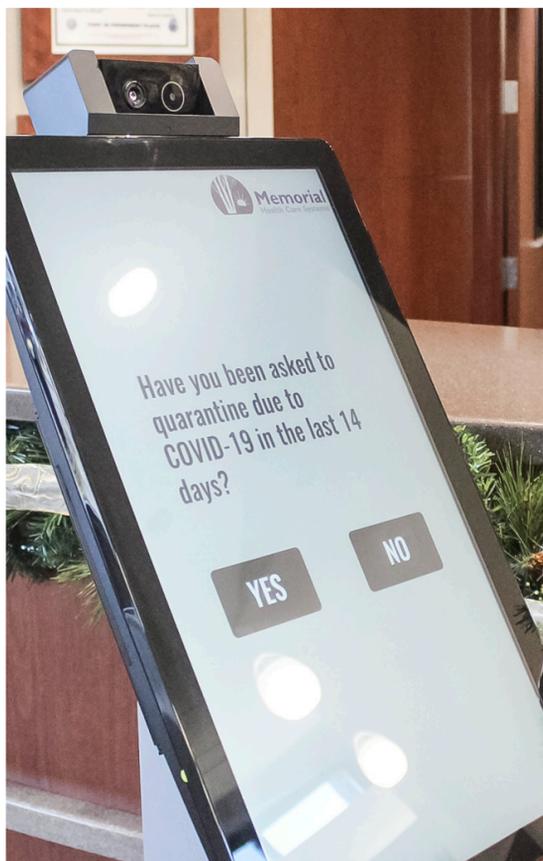
Children gather along the street to catch treats during the Santa parade throughout Milford on Dec. 5.



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Santa and Mrs. Claus wait for another car to drive up during the drive-through visit with Santat event at Milford Elementary on Dec. 5.

New kiosks installed at MHCS



BRADY OLTMANS/SCI

Memorial Hospital in Seward implemented kiosks last week. The kiosks conduct screenings and provides directions to visitors.

Justice for Black Farmers bill introduced

The National Farmers Union, as well as Nebraska Farmers Union, endorsed a bill introduced by New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker on Nov. 30 to address the history and discrimination against Black farmers and ranchers. The bill would require reforms within the Department of Agriculture to prevent future discrimination and serve other purposes.

That bill has since been dubbed the "Justice for Black Farmers Act."

National Farmers Union President Rob Larew emphasized the bill's importance and the organization's support in a statement.

"It isn't a coincidence that there are about 95% fewer Black farmers than there were just a century ago. Due to structural racism within the USDA and other government agencies, Black farmers have historically not received the same level of financial and technical support that their white peers received, putting them at a significant disadvantage," Larew's statement read. "Ultimately, decades of discrimination and the abuse of property law loopholes has dispossessed Black farmers of millions of acres of land and pushed hundreds of thousands to leave the industry altogether, with staggering costs to individual families and Black communities."

The bill would enable Black farmers to acquire up to 160 acres each at no charge through a USDA system of land grants.

Black farmers accounted for 17% (925,708) of U.S. farmers in 1920. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Black producers accounted for just 1.7% (35,470) of the U.S. Total. That same census counted 46,332 farms in Nebraska – just 22 Nebraska farmers were listed, according to the Ag Census.

New ag policy to be implemented in 2021

by Bradley D. Lubben
UNL Extension policy specialist

Agricultural producers, along with almost everyone else, are looking forward to 2021 and putting the challenges of 2020 behind them. With hopes for COVID-19 vaccines and improved public health, many are looking for a further rebound in economic activity in the new year. For agriculture, some of the improved prospects have already been realized with improved exports and farm income levels, and further recovery could provide some improved stability.

However, for agriculture, 2021 will also shake up the current policy landscape in Washington, D.C. Pending the resolution of final challenges to the 2020 election results, and also the Jan. 5 runoff election for both Georgia Senate seats, there could be substantial changes ahead with major implications for agriculture.

New secretary of agriculture

One of the first changes will be a new nominee for secretary of agriculture. While still awaiting any official announcement as of this writing, the general speculation has centered on three names, ranging from former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) or former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, a Democrat from Iowa, to current Rep. Marcia Fudge of Ohio.

Fudge is the only one of the three to openly signal her interest in the position, and she has garnered support from a number of organizations and fellow members of Congress. Fudge has represented a mostly urban and suburban district from Cleveland south to Akron since 2009, and she currently serves as chair of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operations.

With her background and focus, Fudge has been a champion of the nutrition and food assistance programs within USDA and would certainly bring a new perspective to the role of ag secretary. By com-

parison, either Heitkamp or Vilsack would bring a more traditional ag-centric perspective to the position. This potential choice between an ag perspective and an urban and nutrition focus could be an early indicator of Biden's efforts to juggle the priorities and preferences of his Democratic base, vs. his outreach to an agricultural and rural sector that largely voted for Trump in the election.

New ag committee leaders

Capitol Hill will also look very different for agriculture, with three new ag committee leaders out of four following retirements and election results. In the Senate, Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) returns to serve as ranking member of the ag committee, pending the outcome of the Georgia runoff election and the balance of control in the Senate. On the Republican side, Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) retired after many years of service, including the unique experience of chairing both the Senate and the House ag committees through the writing of (separate) farm bills. John Boozman (R-Ark.) is the presumed replacement.

In the House, Democrats held control of the House in the 2020 election, but the current ag committee chair, Democrat Rep. Collin Peterson, lost his bid to continue serving his district in west and northwest Minnesota. Rep. David Scott (D-Ga.) has been announced as the incoming chair, bringing his longtime experience on the committee to the position as well as his attention to a range of issues, including food assistance. On the Republican side, Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Texas) the ranking member, also retired, opening the door to a longer list of potential replacements — including Republican Reps. Glenn Thompson of Pennsylvania, Austin Scott of Georgia, and Rick Crawford of Arkansas, among others.

The pending changes in ag committee leadership suggest a big shift in perspective from Midwest and

Great Plains agriculture (Roberts, Peterson and Conaway) to other regions of the country. That is not to say that the new leaders won't bring a broad ag perspective, but the program crop mix in the Southeast or the diversified crop and livestock perspective in Pennsylvania could all change the tenor of discussion. As noted, Stabenow will inherit seniority among the "Big Four," but she, too, brings a different perspective to the discussion with more attention on specialty crops, dairy and conservation.

The changes in committee leadership may not imply significant changes in ag policy immediately, but they will set the stage for the coming debate on what should be the 2023 Farm Bill. Before then, the ag committees may be most involved in addressing the ag impacts and opportunities of broader policy initiatives and issues, including environmental, climate, biofuels and trade policies, among others.

Changes in policy

There are general expectations that the administration of President-elect Joe Biden will push environmental policy to reverse some or the regulatory rollback of the Trump administration, particularly the Waters of the United States/Navigable Waters Protection Rule (WOTUS/NWPR). The Trump administration pushed to roll back the WOTUS definition implemented by the Obama administration, and now the new White House could push to roll back the rollback.

There are also expectations that the new administration will push for significant climate policy both internationally and domestically, including legislative proposals for greenhouse gas emissions regulations and limits. Congress last seriously considered climate legislation a decade ago, but seems ready to do so again, with ag interests and the ag committees looking closely at impacts on agriculture and the potential opportunity to earn and sell carbon sequestration

credits.

Biofuels face a crossroads at the present time, with questions about enforcement of the biofuel usage mandate legislated by the Renewable Fuels Standard weighed against exemptions granted to refineries that effectively reduce the mandate. This issue has dogged the outlook for the ethanol sector for some time, particularly now in an era where motor vehicle fuel usage seems to be trending down, and further ethanol usage gains would only come with increased use of higher blends. As of late 2020, we were still waiting for EPA to set usage requirements for the coming year and address pending exemption requests, but the issues could easily roll over into 2021 for the new administration to address. Add to that the potential legislative debate ahead of the future of the RFS after 2022, and the topic will be high on the radar for the administration and for this new session of Congress.

Trade is also an area where the Biden administration is expected to dramatically change course, addressing current trade conflicts through allied global efforts instead of the unilateral sanctions and confrontation of the Trump administration. That doesn't mean that tariffs would be repealed and new agreements would be negotiated immediately, but the tone of discussion and level of conflict is certainly expected to change.

Beyond these issues, there are numerous other policy areas that the incoming Biden administration and a new Congress will need or want to address, including immigration, health care, tax policy, federal spending and potential further COVID-19 assistance, among others.

Regardless of the issue, agriculture will be impacted, and the changes in leadership and policy directions will affect the outcome. The only constant is the need for agriculture and other interests to continue to be informed and engaged in the process.